

FREE

RAKE IN THE FUN PUZZLE BOOK



Don't miss our fall puzzle book, free inside this week's paper...

the TIMBERJAY



VOL. 31, ISSUE 41 October 16, 2020

\$1⁰⁰

COVID-19

Visitor rules eased for care facilities

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Ely coronavirus testing event results in one positive case

REGIONAL- Since the beginning of Gov. Tim Walz's emergency response to the coronavirus pandemic, no settings have experienced tighter restrictions than long-term care facilities. For months, residents of such facilities faced nearly total isolation from the outside world.

Those restrictions were eased somewhat when health officials allowed facilities to establish plans

for outdoor visitation, while still enforcing masking and social distancing. Tightly-controlled indoor visits from people designated as "essential caregivers", which could include limited numbers of



family members and others, were also allowed.

This week, with temperatures growing colder and COVID-19 case rates again on the rise, the Walz administration took its biggest leap yet in ending the social isolation and loneliness of residents and the frustrations of families by issuing new guidance to expand indoor visits even more.

In fact, indoor visits are now

Just one out of 493 tests were reported positive for COVID-19 at an Ely testing event. photo by K. Vandervort

the default mode for long-term care facilities. Per the latest guidance issued by the administration: "If a facility has had no COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days and

See...COVID pg. 9



SEASONAL TRANSITIONS



Tamarack trees glow in the sunlight near Gheen this week as the color of fall fades into winter. Right on cue, snow flurries are on the way to the North Country this weekend. photo by D. Colburn

TOWER

Council rejects use of taxpayer funds for private development

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — The city of Tower won't use taxpayer funds to advance development of a private RV park or other prospective development along the East Two River.

The city council, on Monday, voted unanimously to reject a request by developer Geoff Griffin to pay for one-third of the cost of enrolling a formerly city-owned parcel in a brownfield program overseen by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, or MPCA.

The site in question once housed a city dump, although the city paid to remove years of accumulated trash back in the 1990s as part of a remediation effort there. But some restrictions on the type of development allowed at the site remain, unless developers enroll the site in a brownfield program designed to ensure that the clean-up did not leave any lingering contamination.

The status of the former dump site has stalled development of an RV park proposed by Dave Rose, who owns adja-

See...TOWER pg. 7

ELECTION 2020

Stauber and Nystrom compete for 8th District House seat



Rep. Pete Stauber

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- In the race for the Eighth Congressional District seat, there have been moments when incumbent Rep. Pete Stauber and challenger Quinn Nystrom seem oddly compatible, mostly when they're talking about broad, conceptual goals they hold for quality, affordable health care or economic prosperity.

But underneath the general-

More elections

Minneapolis unrest dominates Ecklund-Manninen forum Page 8

ities lie significant differences in how each would go about achieving those goals for constituents living in a politically-divided district that's larger in area than ten U.S. states.

Shortly after World War II, the Democratic-Farmer-Labor

Party (DFL) took control of the seat in Congress and held it for more than 60 consecutive years. Republican Chip Cravaack broke that string for two years, defeating Jim Oberstar in 2010. DFLer Rick Nolan reclaimed the seat for three terms, but his announced retirement from Congress in 2018 opened the door for Stauber, a St. Louis County Commissioner and retired police lieutenant, to flip the seat back to the Republicans.

See...ELECTION pg. 10



Quinn Nystrom



Canoes and kayaks are in stock! Visit us for all your paddling and gear needs. 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. 218 - 365 - 6745

Outlet Store OPEN for the season. 10a.m. - 6 p.m. every day.

Thank you for your continued support, The Piragis Staff

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950
editor@timberjay.com



Community notices

Dream Quilters meeting canceled

REGIONAL- The Vermilion Dream Quilters continue to cancel in-person gatherings to maintain the health and safety of all. Therefore, there will be no meeting on Nov. 5. Members are encouraged to keep in contact with others virtually and share projects and at-a-distance learning opportunities. We look forward to the time we can meet face to face.

#Beasouperhero for North St. Louis County Food Drive

REGIONAL- The North St. Louis 4-H County Ambassadors and the Youth In Action program invite you to join them as they partner with St. Louis County Extension, Rutabaga Project and AEOA for a Food Drive on Monday, Oct. 5 through Friday, Oct. 30.

Looking for a great way to pledge your hands to larger service and help North St. Louis County communities? Here's how to help:

►Give nonperishable food items. They will be placed in the Rutabaga Project's Little Free Pantries. Donations can be dropped off between Monday, Oct. 5 and Friday, Oct. 30 at the back door of the Virginia AEOA building, at Super One South in Virginia, or Zup's in Tower or Ely.

►Make a monetary donation. They will be donated to NE MN Food Shelves. To make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency and mail them to Kelsey Gantzer, Food Access Manager, AEOA Rutabaga Project Manager, 702 Third Ave S, Virginia, MN 55792.

Fall 2020 Virtual Job/Career Fair for the Northeast Minnesota Region

REGIONAL- Despite the layoffs and furloughs that the pandemic has caused, many companies throughout Northeast Minnesota are looking for candidates to fill open positions. Hiring during this time can be even more challenging and the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training (NEMOJT) is offering an innovative way for employers and job seekers to connect.

The virtual career fair will be held on Tuesday through Thursday, Oct. 27, 28 and 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. Employers won't have to get up early, fight traffic, and stand in a crowded hall to speak to job seekers. Instead, they will be able to connect with job seekers by phone, tablet, or computer and speak directly with recruiters. Job seekers can apply to open positions and research companies all in one location.

The Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training helps businesses with their employment and training needs every year. Local, professional career counselors work with people ranging from those just starting out in the labor force to seasoned professionals who may be facing change in their chosen field and need a new start. The Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training provides a wide range of free services to businesses, including wage reimbursement for hiring eligible individuals, coordination of screening, hiring, and testing applicants, and advancing the skills of your existing workforce.

If you would like to learn more about the Virtual Career Fair, call Teri at 218-499-6092. Employers can register for this three-day event by visiting the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training website at www.nemojt.org.

WOLVES

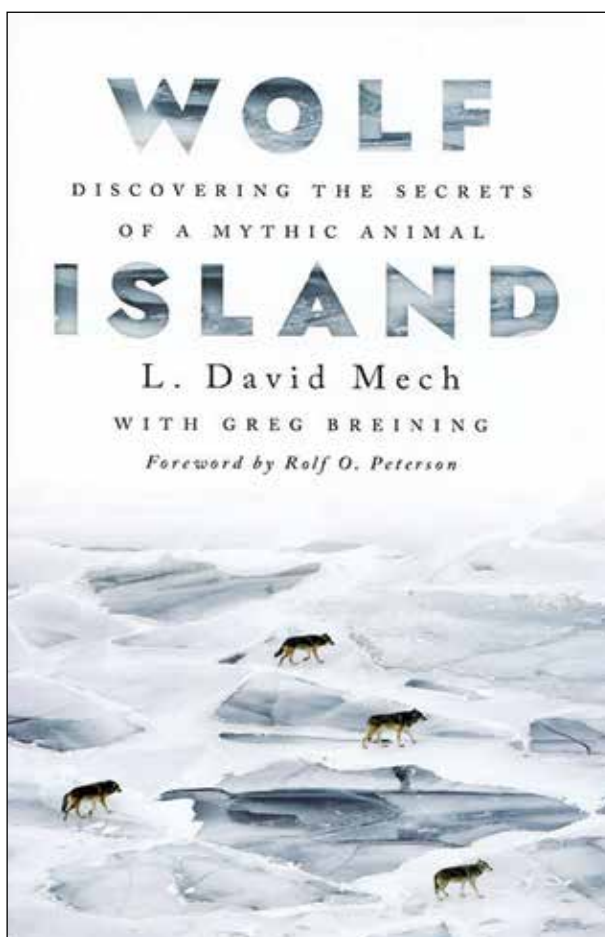
Virtual book launch, Oct. 27

ELY- On Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 5 – 6 p.m. on the website of The International Wolf Center, join authors L. David Mech and Greg Breining in celebrating the release of their new book, "Wolf Island: Discovering the Secrets of a Mythic Animal." This virtual event will include remarks by Mech, followed by a conversation moderated by Breining and audience Q&A. International Wolf Center Executive Director Grant Spickelmeier will offer introductory remarks, with the audience Q&A moderated by IWC's Interpretive Center Director, Krista Harrington. To register, go to www.wolf.org.

Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase via the International Wolf Center's Wolf Den Store at shop.wolf.org. A portion of the sales of Wolf Island will be donated to the International Wolf Center to help them continue their work to educate the world about wolves. Mech founded the Center in 1985.

About Wolf Island:

In the late 1940s, a few wolves crossed the ice of



Lake Superior to the island wilderness of Isle Royale, creating a perfect "laboratory" for a long-term study of predators and prey. As the wolves hunted and killed the island's moose, a young graduate student named Dave Mech began research that would unlock the mystery of one of

nature's most revered (and reviled) animals. Mech eventually became an internationally renowned and respected wolf expert. This is the story of those early years.

Wolf Island recounts three extraordinary summers and winters Mech spent on the isolat-

ed outpost of Isle Royale National Park, tracking and observing wolves and moose on foot and by airplane—and upending the common misperception of wolves as wanton killers of insatiable appetite. Mech sets the scene with one of his most thrilling encounters: witnessing an aerial view of a spectacular hunt, then venturing by snowshoe (against the pilot's warning) to examine the carcass in the face of fifteen hungry wolves. Wolf Island owes as much to the spirit of adventure as it does to the impetus of scientific curiosity. Written with science and outdoor writer Greg Breining, who recorded hours of interviews with Mech and had access to his journals and field notes from those years, the book captures the immediacy of scientific fieldwork in all its triumphs and frustrations. It takes us back to the beginning of a classic environmental study that continues today, spanning over sixty years—research and experiences that would transform one of the most despised creatures on Earth into an icon of wilderness and ecological health.

Northland Foundation receives \$520,000 for small business lending

REGIONAL- The Northland Foundation has been awarded a \$520,000 grant from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund). The award will provide a new injection of loan capital into the Foundation's small business lending.

"Once in the door, the

funds will be available immediately for lending to start-ups and existing businesses in the seven counties we serve in northeastern Minnesota," stated Michael Colclough, Director of Business Finance at the Northland Foundation.

The Northland Foundation was one of three certified CDFIs in northeastern Minnesota

awarded funding, including The Entrepreneur Fund and One Roof Community Housing.

"Between our three organizations, nearly \$1.9 million in federal funding will be available for nontraditional lending in northeastern Minnesota communities at a time when the need is great," added Colclough.

The Northland

Foundation established its Business Finance Program in 1988 and has lent over \$70 million through more than 720 loans to northeastern Minnesota businesses and nonprofit organizations. For more details about the program, potential borrowers or lending partners are encouraged to visit northlandfdn.org.

Safely dispose of unused medications on Oct. 24

REGIONAL- Oct. 24 is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. It's a day aimed at providing a safe and convenient way for people to dispose of prescription drugs, while also raising awareness about the potential for misuse of medications. Improperly discarded medications have long posed environmental threats. In recent years, they have also led to an increase in accidental poisonings and overdoses.

Anyone with old or unused prescription medications in their home can drop them off Saturday,

Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Louis County Sheriff's Office locations in Hibbing (1810 12th Ave. E) and Virginia (300 S 5th Ave.), and at the Public Safety Building in Duluth (2030 N Arlington Ave.) in partnership with the Duluth Police Department. This is a no-questions-asked event.

Numerous law enforcement agencies, as well as CVS, Walgreen's and Essentia pharmacies in St. Louis County, offer secure disposal boxes where medications can be disposed of anonymously year-round. A list of loca-

tions, along with information about what is or isn't accepted, can be found online at stlouiscountymn.gov/medwaste.

"The opioid epidemic has taken a toll on communities throughout the country and we want to promote responsible and timely disposal of medications," said Anna Clough, who is helping coordinate the local events for St. Louis County Public Health. "Rather than flushing medications down the drain, taking them when you shouldn't, or having them used by someone else, this is an easy way

people can help fight against the opioid epidemic."

Anyone may request a mail-back envelope. The pre-addressed postage-paid envelopes are free for people to use.

Medications are sent directly to an approved facility for safe disposal. To request an envelope, contact Anna Clough at 218-471-7362 or email CloughA@StLouisCountyMN.gov.

SAVE BIG • BUY LOCAL

2019 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 Crew Cab Short Box 4x4

NEW



All Star Edition!
MSRP \$50,470
Waschke Discount -\$7,975
Sale Price \$42,495

2019 Model Year Clearance!!!

2020 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT AWD



MSRP \$32,440
Waschke Discount -\$1,075
Customer Cash -\$4,750
GM Loyalty Bonus -\$750**
Sale Price \$25,865

SAVE \$6,575 +3.29% APR up to 72 Months and No Payments for 120 Days*

DISCLOSURES: *On approved credit with GM Financial. 3.29% APR available up to 72 months AND 120 day payment deferral on new vehicle purchase and approved credit. Not compatible with some other offers. **GM Loyalty offer applies to current GM owners/lessees of 2006 or newer GM vehicles. Restrictions apply see dealer for details. Must take delivery from dealer stock by 11/2/2020.

PREOWNED DEALS!

2020 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT...New Arrival!.....	\$20,990
2019 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT AWD..GM Certified.....	\$24,990
2019 NISSAN VERSA SEDAN...Great Gas Mileage.....	\$13,990
2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LT CREW 4X4.....	
Fresh Trade-In.....	\$38,990
2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LT DBL CAB 4x4.....	
Just In!.....	\$35,990
2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4X4.....	
Loaded With Options!.....	\$29,990
2017 NISSAN ROGUE SV SPORT AWD..Tackle Winter!.....	\$18,990
2017 BUICK ENCORE PREFERRED AWD...Stylish, Capable!.....	\$17,990
2016 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SPORT...Heated Seats!.....	\$16,990
2014 CHEVROLET MALIBU LS...Low Miles!.....	\$11,990
2013 CHEVROLET IMPALA LTZ...Fresh Trade-In!.....	\$ 8,990
2012 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE...Stow-N-Go Seating!.....	\$10,990



WASCHKE FAMILY
CHEVROLET • COOK





Les Hujanen Lori Koski Calvin Jolly

HOURS: M-F 8am-6pm, Sat. 9am-2pm
126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, MN • 218-666-5901 • 1-800-238-4545

Need a *Wedding* DJ?

Eric

dj



www.ericthedj.net




Local arts and crafts
for viewing and sales

210 S River St, Cook MN 55723
Open: Thur-Fri: 10 AM-4 PM, Sat: 9 AM-1 PM
nwfamn.org@gmail.com • www.nwfamn.org

fine

EDGE

custom framing

FALL SHOP HOURS:

TUES & THURS 10-5
FRI 10-2

(Open Hours/Walk-ins Welcome)

MON, WED,
WEEKENDS & EVENINGS
-BY APPOINTMENT-

107 north 4th avenue virginia, mn
218.749.3377

CRIME

Juvenile charged in Ely stabbing incident

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – A 13-year-old boy, rescued from near Miners Lake after he was stabbed last week, remains hospitalized and is in stable condition, while the 16-year-old suspect has been charged with attempted murder.

The suspect, identified as Michael William Haapala, remains at Arrowhead Juvenile Center in Duluth and was charged Monday with attempted murder in the second degree, according

Michael Haapala charged with attempted murder

to the Ely Police Department. A 911 caller told dispatchers just after 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8 that he was hiking and found an individual who appeared to have fallen down a ravine near Miners Lake.

The caller reported the patient had a leg injury, according to the EPD. The patient, a 13-year-old juvenile male, was conscious but confused.

Initially, the patient was unable to provide specific details of what happened. Police and Ely first responders arrived on scene and began patient treatment. Medical responders observed additional injuries that were consistent with stab wounds, police said.

The patient told personnel on scene that he was assaulted. Soon after, police located the suspect at his residence and he

was taken into custody without resistance.

The victim was taken to the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital and later transported by air ambulance to Essentia Health St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. According to family members, the 13-year-old was initially in critical condition but expected to make a full recovery.

The Ely Police Department

was assisted by the Babbitt Police Department, St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, Lake County Sheriff's Department, MN DNR Enforcement Division, Ely Fire Department/First Responders and the Ely Area Ambulance Service.

The case is still under active investigation, according to EPD Sgt. George Burger.

ISD 696

Ely School District adjusts to ever-changing budget in COVID era

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – For most businesses, households, families and individuals, the coronavirus pandemic wreaked havoc with incomes and expenses this year, and blew up any semblance of a balanced budget.

Imagine trying to run a school district these days.

Since last March, ISD 696 school administrators have continually been adjusting maintaining an education system while juggling abrupt changes to learning plans, evolving enrollment numbers, technology needs, meals and transportation, maintaining adequate staffing and supplies to keep buildings sanitized, keeping athletes safe, and all while keeping the budget from spiraling out of control.

School board members were updated Monday night by administrative staff on how COVID-19 adaptations are impacting the district's financial picture.

Right off the bat, Superintendent Erik Erie told school board members that the number of families in the district opting to home school their children for the 2020-2021 school increased from 17

last year to 31 students this year. Most, if not all, of the home-schooled students are being kept out of the school buildings this year out of an abundance of caution.

With that decrease in the number of students in the Ely educational system comes a decrease in state funding.

"Just that basic formula aid, per pupil, is \$6,567," school board chair Ray Marsnik said. "Multiply that by the 14 additional students (lost to home schooling this year), and you can see that is quite a sum of money. And that isn't all. That is just the basic formula. There is quite a bit more to it than that."

In total, the 31 students in the Ely school district, at \$6,567 per pupil, means \$233,577 in lost state aid.

Erie noted that a few families that just moved into the district this year chose to home-school their children.

"Ideally, we would like to see them here. Potentially, there are some students that maybe will join us later on," he said.

"Our home school numbers have been going down until this year," Marsnik said.

Later in the meeting, Erie provided

See BUDGET...pg. 5

BROADBAND

First look at broadband cost: 6.3 million Greenwood seeking help from grant writer

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- A preliminary proposal from CTC, a broadband (high speed internet) supplier, puts the cost of bringing broadband-level service to as many as 1,370 residences in the Greenwood Township area at around \$6.3 million dollars. The project would include the installation of almost 106 miles of fiber optic cable, which would be buried underground.

Greenwood is currently served by Frontier Communications, offering a lower-speed DSL service, which is not sufficient for those wishing to telecommute. The company is also unreliable, often requiring long wait times for repairs.

Chairman Mike Ralston said costs for similar projects in northeastern Minnesota were in the same ballpark. One recent project, he said, was funded almost entirely with grant dollars, with a cost of just \$100,000 to the township.

The cost estimate, Ralston said, is preliminary, and would change once actual groundwork and mapping is done.

Ralston said estimates of monthly costs for broadband customers would be

between \$60 and \$100, depending on the speed of service.

The project would be done in conjunction with expansion of broadband service to the Vermilion Reservation.

The board, at Tuesday's meeting, passed a motion to continue working with CTC. They also passed a motion to search for and hire a grant writer to work with the township to apply for available federal, state, and local grant programs.

The proposal would not include bringing broadband service to island properties.

"This is a starting point," said Ralston. "We can use these numbers in our grant application to move forward... this is a good first step."

The township had initially been soliciting proposals from a second company, Paul Bunyan from Bemidji, but they hadn't yet responded to township requests for preliminary cost estimates, Ralston said.

Byron Beihoffer pushed back against reports that he was against broadband.


At last month's meeting, Beihoffer said he wasn't hearing any enthusiasm for

See BROADBAND...pg. 5

REAL ESTATE



a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate



TIM LILLQUIST, Realtor
Serving Lake Vermilion, Tower, Soudan, Breitung, Cook, Ely and surrounding communities
612-834-5769 (cell)
timlillquist@edinarealty.com

Sales are great!
WE NEED NEW LISTINGS!
Thinking of selling?
Contact us for a free property evaluation.



218-666-5352
info@bicrealty.com
www.bicrealty.com



218-757-3233
www.TheLakeCountry.com

Crane Lake-\$79,900 16 wooded acres bordering public lands near the Nelson Rd. MLS#140346



VERMILION LAND OFFICE
Real Estate • Appraisals

**Looking To Buy Or Sell?
Give Us A Call!**

www.vermilionland.com • info@vermilionland.com
Tower: 218-753-8985

LAKE VERMILION 3 BR, 4 BA home on 230 ft lakeshore and 2.4 acres. Vaulted ceiling in MBRS, lower-level walk out. Attached 4-stall garage. Maintenance free steel siding, 30-year shingles. MLS# 132235 **\$795,000**

LAKE VERMILION Black Bay Lot 10, 3 acres w/ 220 ft lakeshore. Secluded south-facing lot. MLS# 135551 **PRICE REDUCED! \$109,000**

ELBOW LAKE Pine covered lot w/panoramic vistas. Approx. 388 ft lakeshore, 3.67 acres, Norway and white pine. Premium vacation home site for a log cabin. MLS# 137273 **PRICE REDUCED! \$165,000**

LAKE VERMILION Secluded south-facing lake lot in Black Bay, the quiet spot on far NW portion of lake. Great spring walleye fishing. Nice tree cover with large pines near the water. MLS# 135550 **\$119,500**

We sell the North!

Lake Vermilion-\$137,500 3.2 acres on Lake Vermilion with 204 ft of shoreline. MLS#136286

Gheen-\$395,000 3 BR log home with garage on 40 acres adjoining public lands. MLS#137120

Crane Lake-\$230,000 10 wooded acres with 485 ft of shoreline on Crane Lake. MLS#137906

Ban Lake, Orr- \$89,000 550 ft of shoreline and over 6 acres on Ban Lake. MLS#132788

#1 NOBODY IN THE WORLD SELLS MORE REAL ESTATE THAN RE/MAX

"As measured by residential transaction sides."

NEXT TIME COME HOME!



JANISCH REALTY 218-780-6644

Let's Make Sold Happen For You Too!

OPINION

“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...
ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM
OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;”

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Election disinformation

A new study suggests the major media play the biggest role in disseminating misinformation

A group of Harvard-based researchers has provided an important counterpoint to the ongoing concern over how misinformation surrounding the security of mail-in voting has become so widespread in recent months.

While many commentators have pointed to social media platforms, like Facebook, or foreign social media trolls or bots, as the primary purveyors of false claims about the security of mail-in voting, the Harvard researchers found that mainstream, or “elite” media, were, unintentionally, the single biggest purveyors of the Trump campaign’s propaganda efforts to undermine the legitimacy of the Nov. 3 election. Social media played only a secondary and supportive role.

With the latest polls now showing Democratic Vice President Joe Biden potentially headed for a landslide victory just over three weeks from today, the Trump campaign is increasingly desperate to mobilize its supporters for demonstrations and potential violence in response to an electoral defeat by portraying the election as fraudulent. That’s why it’s up to those media sources who are, intentionally (in the case of Fox News) or unintentionally, bolstering Trump’s message to recognize how they’ve become unwitting distributors of a false narrative.

The Harvard researchers found that the Trump campaign and the Republican National Committee have taken advantage of three primary factors to mount what polls suggest has been an effective disinformation campaign.

First, the president has taken advantage of the media’s longstanding focus on the president as inherently newsworthy (for example, if the president says it, it’s news), its predilection for sensational headlines, and its inherent tendency to resist taking a side on an issue, thus appearing to be neutral.

Because President Trump’s claims about election fraud met the first two criteria, the Trump campaign has found elite news organizations, like the Washington Post, the New York Times, and CNN, to be remarkably effective at disseminating his words. In fact, the researchers found that these three leading news organizations have been more effective than Trump’s own Twitter account in some cases at spreading his message.

While the major media routinely cite elections experts

who debunk the president’s claims, the Harvard study found that the mere citing of opposing views left many readers or viewers more confused than informed.

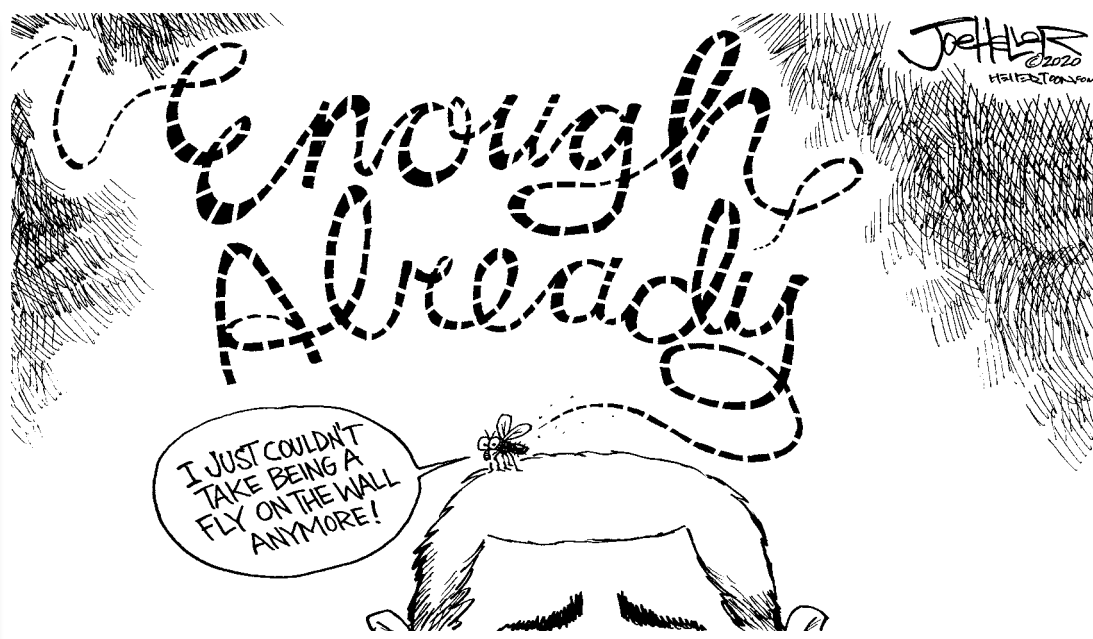
The researchers concluded that the major media’s perennial quest for “objectivity” limited their ability to essentially call-out the Trump team’s messaging for what it is: a disinformation campaign.

President Trump is waging a coordinated propaganda effort against the American people and the major, mainstream media are helping him do it by not explicitly informing their readers and viewers of what is actually true. This has been a weakness of American journalism for decades, as we have noted here before. The reluctance of major media, for example, to challenge the false claims about Iraqi involvement in the 9/11 attacks, helped the former Bush administration make the case for a costly war.

For too long, mainstream media have treated virtually every issue as a kind of he-said, she-said encounter, in which the reporter’s job is merely to accurately parrot what the two sides in any debate have to say. Where the truth might actually lie is, too often, not even up for discussion.

This approach to journalism provides an advantage to the side that is most willing to discard the truth and spread the most appalling or destructive falsehoods. In the current political context, there is no force in the country more prone to dishonesty than Trump and his political allies. Trump benefits not only because he is president—so whatever false claim he makes is automatically amplified—but the more outrageous his claim, the more attention it actually receives. So, when he claims that American elections are rigged, it’s huge news despite the fact that overwhelming evidence suggests exactly the opposite.

That’s where this latest study is useful. The major media can’t blame foreign operatives for the misinformation currently pulsing through the U.S. political campaigns. The major media, more than any single source, are spreading that message. And they’ll continue to do so until these organizations are willing to drill down and focus not on what the politicians say, but on what is actually true. Granted, that’s harder work. But the future of our democracy may depend on it.



Letters from Readers

We should lead our own mineral development

It would seem we have all missed a salient point on the issue of mining.

Minnesota once had the world’s premier school of mining. It is gone now. And it leads to questions on the mining issue.

As to whether the larger society actually requires the mineral contents is left to the economists and industrialists. We seemingly take them at their word. So, let us accept for the moment the need is real.

Outside interests, i.e. PolyMet et al, promise jobs. Good on that point. But when the mining plays out some time in the future they will have left with the cream, while unemployment and waste will be the legacy left to the region.

So, let us ask ourselves as Minnesotans, why do we need these outside interests?

We can do this for ourselves, keep the cream, and know precisely who is responsible for the waste and troubles that may erupt from it. The pro-mining community has yet to ask our Legislature to mount a Minnesota-based effort to own and control this endeavor.

Why let someone from the outside take the cream? Why

not turn instead to your fellow Minnesotans and ask them to participate in keeping the cream right here in the state? Relying on the outsider is like expecting a sugar daddy to cover your rent. That is hardly self-independence, in fact it is the opposite. The existence of a benevolent employer in the private sector is mythical, like Santa or the Easter Bunny.

If you’re fighting for mining, it should encompass more than local jobs. It should include the societal-established need for the minerals and not some intent by outsiders to walk away with the cream and leave the mess.

We once had the premier school of mines. Minnesota supported that institution. Perhaps it would again if the mining advocates made their case to their fellow citizens who have serious trepidation about these outside cream skimmers.

The environmentalists also seem to miss this aspect, meeting societal needs, and the prospect of using the cream to preserve what little is left, and controlling the prospect of waste issues as a community, not leaving it to lawsuits and the benevolence of some outsider. The environmental side should be pressuring the University of Minnesota to re-engage and the Legislature to take control.

We need each other more than we need the outsiders.

There exists a compromise position if the need is real.

Jeff Wilfahrt
Ely

The red herring in chief

The image is chilling. A leader standing on a balcony overlooking a mask-less crowd, his arm in the air, his fist clenched, a gesture of victory.

215,000 people have died from COVID. And the nation watches its leader, in complete denial, puffing out his chest, boasting how he, the great warrior, overcame COVID.

215,000 deaths. We listen. Not one word of concern comes forth. The “warrior” has not uttered a single word of condolence or concern for all who have lost loved ones, all who have died. Instead, he puts the spotlight on himself. The greatest warrior ever. He makes the deadly pandemic only about himself.

Hospitals now are overflowing. ICU beds are filled. The death count mounts daily. Yet, the leader arrogantly stands, ignoring the reality, creating a false reality. His minions laugh and cheer in crowds and without masks.

Ellie Larmouth
Tower

COMMENTARY

Elections are fundamental

Elections are the hallmark of representative democracy. As a nation, we put a great deal of faith in elections, and the voting process. We abide by their results. Elections are fundamental to our system of government. We commit to a peaceful transfer of power to the election winners. Elections are the way we do business and make many key decisions.



LEE HAMILTON

We have hundreds of elections to choose candidates for public office. They occur at all levels of government: municipal, county, district and state as well as national.

We have primary elections within political parties and elections to choose leaders of corporations and nongovernmental organizations.

Just as we cast ballots in elections, our core institutions rely on voting. The U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate enact legislation by voting. Supreme Court decisions are approved by voting among the justices. Your local city council or township board votes to approve budgets and tax rates.

Elections generally reflect the principle of majority rule, but not always. Sometimes a plurality of voters decides, as

See ELECTION...pg. 5

An open letter to potential COVID-19 spreaders

One recent morning, I awoke with my whole body aching. When this happens, I can usually identify an activity I dove into the previous day and presume that I did too much. We all go “gung-ho” sometimes and pay for it the next day. But that was not the case on this particular morning.



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

I thought. Lying on my side with my neck cranked funny, or too long in one position. Nothing a little stretching wouldn’t take care of. But that day, the body aches were accompanied by a minor sore throat and a sneezing spell that wouldn’t quit. “Hmm” I thought.

“Where have I been lately and what were the circumstances?”

Instantly an answer swept in, gripping me in the pit of my stomach. The vet’s office!

A few days earlier, I had taken my dog in for a tick check that included shaving a small spot on his neck and drawing blood for a Lyme test. As you can imagine, he wasn’t hep to this, wiggling like an angworm and ready to jump from the exam table. So, the troops were called in to hold him while the doc did his work. The job got done with no major calamities, thank goodness, and I was then instructed to wait in the lobby for “ten or

fifteen minutes” until the test results were available.

I took a seat with my fur baby on my lap, feeling relieved that the worst part of the process was over. From behind my mask I glanced around the room. Suddenly, a light bulb went on. “Oh, no!” To successfully complete the blood draw, it had taken three of us, huddling face-to-face, mere inches apart, holding Duffy firmly in our clutches. In the midst of that scramble, I’d noticed that the professionals around me wore their masks dangling loosely from their ears

and below their chins. In that moment, I thought to myself, “It’s too late now. We can’t stop mid-shave!” But there in the lobby, I had suddenly “come to”. I realized that I’d taken part in one of those potential COVID “super-spreader events” that I’d heard so much about lately!

With that, I arose from my seat and announced to the unmasked receptionist and her assistant, “I need to go wait in my car.” Off I scurried, mildly freaking out. After months of being

See MASKS...pg. 5

ELECTIONS...Continued from page 4

when an election includes multiple candidates, and no one wins a majority. However, we agree on the rules by which elections are conducted and accept their results.

Representative government works because of our support for elected leaders. We choose, as a society, to be governed by them. It's frightening to think of governmental decisions being made by a handful of unelected people.

Elections serve at least four important functions. First, they allow us

to express policy preferences across a wide range of issues. Voters try to push government in certain directions. We use elections, for example, to signal our leaders how to manage the economy or conduct foreign affairs.

Second, and most obviously, we use elections to choose our leaders. Candidates work hard to get our support, but, ultimately, the voters decide. We support the individuals we want in office and the party whose ideals and values align with our own.

Third, elections help

us enforce accountability, which is essential to democratic government. Elections are the way we ensure our government officials answer for their actions. We use the vote to express approval and disapproval.

A fourth function, I believe, is that elections confer legitimacy to our system of representative government, giving our leaders the authority to act through the consent of the governed. Through elections, we delegate responsibility for officials to act on our behalf.

In the United States, the world's oldest constitutional democracy, we expect that elections will be free and honest and that votes will be tallied without prejudice or manipulation. Because of the importance of elections, we should be concerned about voter turnout. Only about 55 percent of eligible adults vote in U.S. presidential elections; turnout is much higher in most other advanced democracies.

New developments have emerged to shake our faith in elections.

Russian forces have tried to influence American voters. Russian, Chinese and Iranian hackers have reportedly tried to hack election-related computer accounts. President Donald Trump has questioned the validity of voting by mail and suggested, without evidence, that the election may be rigged against him.

The integrity of the electoral process is tremendously important. Free, honest and transparent elections are essential for maintaining the public's faith in government.

Abraham Lincoln

famously asked whether a nation conceived and dedicated to the principle that all people are created equal could long endure. His answer was that America needed a "new birth of freedom" to deliver on its promise. Free and fair elections, conducted in accordance with accepted rules and procedures, are the way we ensure that freedom is continually reborn. We need to treasure and protect them.

BUDGET...Continued from page 3

a COVID-related budget report. Federal CARES Act funds for ISD 696 total \$94,503. Another pot of money, Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF), amounts to \$142,054.

"We still must accept those funds and provide a budget for those," Erie said. CRF funds must be spent by the end of the calendar year.

The district is purchasing new Chromebooks for all students with the CRF to facilitate distance learning, according to Erie. The new computers, quoted at \$145,800, have not yet arrived.

"An earlier reserve-fund budget transfer of \$300,000, originally earmarked for use on the 1:1 initiative, can now be spent for other COVID-related expenses," he said.

In addition to the known funds coming from the federal Department of Education, \$236,557, the school district also applied for a grant of \$76,000 from St. Louis County.

"We just applied for that last week and don't know yet if we are going to get it," Erie said.

The total funds earmarked by the school district for response to the coronavirus stands at \$613,257.

On the expense side of the ledger to date, \$424,948 has been spent responding to the pandemic. Expenses include COVID-response supplies for 2019-2020 of \$12,172 and \$42,697 so far for the 2020-21 school year, 1:1 initiative devices, \$145,800, WiFi access points, \$81,468, and additional personnel costs, IT hours, \$8,057, nurse hours, \$47,420, custodian hours, \$47,333 and supervision hours, \$40,000.

Remaining funds available, assuming the St. Louis County grant is awarded, is about \$188,000. The addition of a third-grade teacher to maintain social distancing requirements, totaling \$64,000 for salary and benefits, is not accounted

for in the budget report.

"Subtract out the (possible) county grant and add the (additional) teacher, our remaining funds are closer to \$47,500," Erie said. "We will continue to incur more expenses."

Outgoing school board member James Pointer expressed his continuing disappointment and frustration with the administration's murky budget picture for the school district. He maintained that the lost state aid from the increase in home-schooled students should be included in the budget report. He also took issue with the number of custodian hours reported.

Erie noted that necessary custodian hours are unknown.

"It wouldn't surprise me if our facilities director will ask for more help now that we are having spectators in for (sports) events," he said. "We are also projecting using the arena for (elementary student) recess, and that

has never been part of our responsibility before as the arena manager was responsible for that."

Pointer pressed his point.

"This is why I get frustrated with your budget. You put in things that you want in but you leave out things that you don't want in there," he said. "You are counting on a county grant. I don't see any training for the 1:1 initiative training."

Pointer demanded a full-blown budget from the superintendent.

"It seems to me that the school is spend, spend, spend, but where is the fiscal responsibility. I don't see it. I am very disappointed," he said.

Later on the agenda, the Ely school board agreed to support the Minnesota School Boards Association in proposed legislation to hold school boards harmless as a result of busted budgets due to reduced pupil enrollment leading to reduced revenue and unanticipated layoffs

because of the pandemic.

Other business

In other business, the board:

- Approved the summary of the superintendent's performance evaluation that praised Erie who "jumped into a role new to him, with huge responsibilities," and for leading the passage of the bonding referendum that "was a major accomplishment." In addition, the evaluation noted "leadership and communication with future facility planning and promoting appropriate financial control are potential challenges for Erik as we move forward."
- Approved Autumn Boedeker's medical leave request for Jan. 4 to Feb. 19, 2021.
- Accepted the resignation of Kris Winkelman as cafeteria aide.
- Accepted the resignation of Jayne Dusich as girls track coach.
- Hired Sarah Spate and Erika Peterson as para-

professionals, and Nick Jones and Caleb Cowden as temporary paraprofessionals.

➤ Hired Jessica Stott as noon supervisor.

➤ Approved the following assistant coaching positions: Corey Musel, junior high football, Matthew Koch and Tim Singleton, volunteer football assistants, and Kalley Fischer and Randi Walker, junior high volleyball.

➤ Ratified a master agreement with the district's Confidential Supervisory Employees Association.

➤ Approved coaching compensation and purchasing clerk memorandums of understanding.

➤ Agreed to a project labor agreement with the Iron Range Building and Trade Construction Trade Council.

BROADBAND...Continued from page 3

broadband, and he speculated that the community wasn't "gung-ho" on proceeding, and that "a lot of people...are happy with the internet they have."

Beihoffer called the reporting that he was against broadband "fake news."

"I was in support of the \$50,000 proposed in the levy for broadband," he said. "The people who voted against the \$50,000 are against it."

"I will continue to work for it," he said.

Other business

In other business, the

board:

- Approved the 2020 Tower Area Ambulance Commission contract and will make their second payment to the subsidy account. The township pays \$15 per resident towards the fund. The 2021 agreement will be worked on at the next commission meeting in January. Supervisor Carmen DeLuca said the new agreement will include new language that specifies the service set up an enterprise fund as specified by township attorney Mike Couri.
- Heard an update

by Tammy Mortaloni on spending of CARES Act funding. The township has spent \$13,300 so far, and has \$9,188 in funds available, but funds must be used by Nov. 15.

The township also can get \$764 in special funding from St. Louis County to use for any COVID-related election expenses such as face masks, sanitation supplies, and cleaning costs.

➤ Discussed a letter from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry telling the township the department was closing the discrimination complaint filed by Jeff

Maus in December 2017. Maus had claimed the fire department had discriminated against him because he had filed complaints against the department under the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Ralston said, "This is good news once again." But he added the township has expended "considerable dollars to defend ourselves and there are still two claims out there to respond to."

➤ Reported that the board had met in a special meeting the previous week to approve the new errors and omissions insurance

policy. The township has to find private insurance after the Minnesota Association of Township's insurance arm stopped insuring the township about six years ago for errors and omissions coverage due to the number of claims being filed.

Ralston said the policy cost has increased by about \$1,800 from last year.

"We hope to get back to MATIT insurance in the future," he said, but the fact the township is still dealing with claims makes it unlikely.

➤ Approved a quote from Ferrellgas for

propane at \$1.02 per gallon for up to 5,000 gallons. DeLuca noted the township has been happy with the service from Ferrellgas this past year.

➤ Reminded residents that the polls will be open at the town hall on Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Ralston said there were rumors that the town hall was not going to be open on Election Day, but he said that was not the case.

The board also heard that election judges were ready, and head judges will again be Carol Maus and Kathy Lovgren.

MASKS...Continued from page 4

vigilant, I could picture all my precautionary efforts going right down the drain. Once in the parking lot, I slid in behind the steering wheel and propped open the driver's side door. I took a deep breath and gazed up at a brilliant blue sky and the golden crown of aspen leaves fluttering overhead ... a soothing balm for my troubled mind. I could gradually feel myself calming down, recognizing this moment of perfection in the here and now.

After a while, the doctor, wearing his mask per the protocol, finally came out to talk with me. He explained that the results were negative, "Nothing to worry about at this point, but in light of the two deer ticks you found, I recommend we give him some prophylactic antibiotics." Seemed like a good plan to me. Truth is, I will never deny my gratitude

for his valuable services. BUT... I also won't deny my anxiety over being inside his non-protective environment! So, I mustered my courage and made a respectful request. "Considering that we're living in the midst of a serious global pandemic, could you and the staff start wearing your masks as recommended? It's for your safety as much as mine!" He hesitated for a second, perhaps a little taken aback, but then I heard him utter a subdued "yes". I then thanked him while handing him my check and drove away with the necessary pills in my purse.

Now, revisiting the incident days later, I'm feeling as much or more concern for my own health as I had been for Duffy's. I don't think that was the intended goal.

Despite our better understanding of this

truly challenging virus, Minnesota's mandatory mask order, and COVID cases continuing to increase, these situations of unsafe exposures continue to occur. What's especially worrisome to me is that some of the people in leadership roles are modeling unsafe behavior and even mock those who are trying to stay safe. I'm especially baffled when I see people who've been educated in the sciences not taking the risks more seriously! What is leading them to doubt scientific data or unabashedly refuse to apply it? How does one deny the spread of a known virus that's taken over 215,000 lives in the U.S. alone and now has surpassed 20 million known cases worldwide?

I don't want to pick on anyone. Nor do I want to sound disrespectful. I heartily defend the right to our own opinions. But

there are plenty of examples of contagious diseases becoming public health crises. Think about HIV/AIDS, Ebola, bubonic plague, and cholera, not to mention bouts with other serious strains of influenza that have taken millions of lives. People are often reluctant at first to follow prevention protocols. But as conditions worsen, we eventually accept the reality and give it "our all" in hopes of gaining control over its spread. I wonder how "non-compliers" rationalize their own vulnerability and that of their families, friends, and customers?

I want to be clear. I genuinely appreciate and care about my veterinarian, my pharmacist, our store clerks and neighbors. That's why I am making this public request. Please accommodate the people in the community who don't feel safe and secure

in your presence. We too miss the way it was and wish this wasn't happening. But we may have to sacrifice what we long for now if we hope to ever

have it back again at some point down the way.




Wear a mask in public spaces.



Get tested if you have any symptoms.



Answer if your health department calls.

Week of Oct. 19

Monday

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

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

Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 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.

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.

Subscribe to the
TIMBERJAY!
Call
218-753-2950



Three vying for two open four-year seats

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

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing 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* introduce the candidates for the two-year openings last week; this week we introduce you to the three candidates for the two open four-year seats.

Serving as a member of a small-town city council isn't supposed a full-time job, but at times it has seemed that way for some members of the Tower City Council. In the past two years, the council has attempted to work its way through a laundry list of challenges, including upheaval at city hall, a severe cash flow crunch, a longstanding lack of clear policies, minimal record-keeping for the past several years, and unrestrained spending.

For Dave Setterberg, who was appointed to the council last January after the resignation of council member Steve Abrahamson, the time involved has been the biggest surprise of his time in the hot seat. Setterberg is one of three candidates now vying for election to two four-year seats. Two two-year seats are also up this fall, posing the possibility of significant turnover on the council come November.

Council member Kevin Norby, who was



Dave Setterberg



Kevin Norby



Steve Altenburg

appointed in July after the resignation of Rachel Beldo, is vying for one of the four-year terms, hoping to extend his stint on the council. Setterberg and Norby will face a challenger in Steve Altenburg, the city's former fire chief and ambulance director, who was fired from his city employment in March. These are their stories.

Dave Setterberg

Dave Setterberg may not be working full-time as a member of the city council, but he estimates he's been putting in 30-60 hours a month since he was appointed to his position early this year. He's taken the lead in addressing several major issues, including re-vamping the city's emergency medical services to operate more efficiently, developing human resources policies, and addressing the city's acute lack of sewage treatment capacity resulting from the previous administration's decision to connect the city's campground to the municipal treatment system. He's also pushed for greater online access to city council information to provide more transparency and he assisted with the selection of a security system for the fire hall and airport facilities.

Despite the time commitment, Setterberg said his time on the council has been satisfying and has given him a greater appreciation for those who served on the council in the past. "Meeting people and becoming more familiar with the community has been very satisfying, as well," he said. "I have met more people in the last nine months than I have in the last 20 years and hope to meet many more."

His top priority for the next four years is continuing to fix the city budget. "We need to make sure we're getting the most value for our dollars." He said everything is on the table as the council looks for ways to keep spending in line with the actual needs of the city.

Setterberg said he's been pleased with the city's progress on finances during his nine months on the council. "We have been working down our list of audit points and hope to have many of them off the list for next year," he said. The city's auditors had noted 18 separate management concerns during the 2018 audit. That was reduced to 12 concerns in last year's audit and the council is working to eliminate most, if not all, of those points in the 2020 audit.

Setterberg said his flexible work schedule and background in mechanical engineering and information technology give him the flexibility

to devote time to city affairs. "My career has given me the skills to interact with people and understand needs. I have run projects and understand how to track progress to completion," he said.

Kevin Norby

Kevin Norby wasn't sure what he was getting into when he volunteered to fill a vacancy on the city council back in July, but he's learned quickly that it's a bigger job than he thought. "There are more moving parts and more homework than I expected," he said. Even so, he said he has no regrets. "Absolutely not. I enjoy learning more about the city I plan to live and die in, and we can make it better and more stable."

Norby, a resident of the Mill Point neighborhood, is a business technology consultant with Securian, a large St. Paul insurance company. Like a growing number of area residents, Norby said he's able to work remotely and that makes communities like Tower potentially attractive to new residents.

He said his top priority for a first term is simple: "Learn fast, contribute, and watch spending." He also advocates positioning Tower to take advantage of the greater interest in moving out of major cities. "I think the city should focus on sustainable projects that increase livability," Norby said. "There is a land boom across the state now because of COVID where people are moving to smaller towns, lake homes, and out of the suburbs and cities. This boom would really help this town with more residents and a bigger tax base." Norby notes that most white-collar jobs can be done anywhere now and that successful cities will be those that welcome professionals and add more families. "More local jobs will be created as more residents come here to live, too," he said. "We lose a lot of bright local kids to better jobs elsewhere. Now more people like me are ready to move back home, back up north."

While he's only served on the council about two and a half months, Norby said he likes what he's seen so far. "I have a lot of respect for the work that Victoria [Ranua] does to pull together information we need for the meetings," he said. While he acknowledges that the city has struggled in the past, he said the city is making progress in establishing a firmer foundation for success. "The city is doing a much better job of becoming more standard instead of just making it up on the fly," he said. Given his financial background, he said he's happy to see im-

proved transparency in the way city funds are disbursed. "I think previously money was moving around like a shell game. Victoria is bringing more standardized processes with

better accountability," he said.

Norby believes his professional background can help him contribute to better decision-making for the city. "I work with projects, proposals, contracts and business plans every day," he said. "I'm keenly interested in proposals and what is the value the city gets, how will it be paid for, and what are the costs, where are the risks."

His background has him looking for a return on investment from the city's harbor. "All the money granted to us for the harbor development project needs to show some results," he said. "Grants are some of the best ways for us to go forward with improvements and still keep taxes down, but we need credibility to keep getting access to grant money. Good projects earn the right for more grants."

Steve Altenburg

This year marks Steve Altenburg's third attempt to win election to the city council, so far without success. Despite that, he does bring considerable experience in city affairs, having served on several city committees, mostly under the prior administration, including the harbor committee, the charter commission, the police commission, the grievance committee, and planning and zoning commission. He's also served as an EMT for the Tower Area Ambulance Service and as a firefighter with the Tower Fire Department, including serving stints as both the fire chief and ambulance director before he was dismissed from those positions in March following an investigation by the city's law firm into allegations of improper conduct.

Altenburg says he's running "to restore trust in the elected officials to make decisions, especially financial, that serve the citizens' best interests," and he calls for better stewardship of tax dollars. "I have been faithfully serving the community for over 14 years and would continue to do so as a city councilor," he said.

Altenburg said he favors economic development in Tower "as long as it does not burden the taxpayers with continued increased debt and spending that we can no longer afford."

When asked where the city might save money, Altenburg said that a lack of financial data makes it "impossible to say where any savings might be achieved." Altenburg said the city is troubled financially, although he doesn't dwell on the origins of those troubles. "The city is in the worst shape it's been in for decades," he said.

"We have seen only increased spending, taxes, and debt," he said. Yet Altenburg was the force behind the city's most significant increase in the city's operational spending in years, when he implemented a paid on-call program for the Tower Area Ambulance Service in 2018. That added between \$90,000-\$120,000 a year to the city's payroll and reduced operating margins for the TAAS.

Altenburg has been a controversial figure throughout his time with the city, and especially since his 2018 election loss to Mayor Orlyn Kringstad. Since then, Altenburg has portrayed himself as an independent "journalist," despite no apparent previous background in the field. Using both the city website, for a time, and a continuing media platform provided by the *Tower News*, Altenburg has made unfounded accusations against city employees and others in the community who spoke out against him to the city's investigator earlier this year. He has also been highly critical of clerk-treasurer Ranua, who replaced Altenburg's longtime political ally, Linda Keith. Altenburg continues to write reports on city council actions and city affairs for the *Tower News* even as he runs for city office, an action which most journalists would avoid as an ethical conflict. Altenburg confirmed to the *Timberjay* that he would discontinue reporting on city affairs if elected.

Altenburg also has a history of filing complaints against political opponents. He filed two complaints against Kringstad, including one that alleged Kringstad had called him "sexist" during a conversation he had with two female council members before Kringstad took office. The city council later dismissed Altenburg's complaint as meritless.

Shortly after, Altenburg filed a second complaint against Kringstad this time with the state auditor, over a loan that Kringstad's company received from the city's economic development authority. That loan, which totaled \$125,000, was in support of a city-backed development project that Altenburg supported and Kringstad had spearheaded prior to becoming mayor, but the project was unable to move forward due to years of delay surrounding the completion of a new plat for that portion of the city. That plat is now expected to have final approval by the end of October and the project may yet move forward.

Nothing ever came of Altenburg's complaint to the auditor. The Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation provided the funding for the loan as a grant to the EDA, so no city tax dollars were involved.

the TIMBERJAY

The *Tower-Soudan Timberjay* and *Cook-Orr Timberjay* are published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950], and PO Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website at www.timberjay.com.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher	Marshall HelMBERGER
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook-Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Staff Writer	Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager	M. M. White
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports	Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:

City of Orr, City of Tower, Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, ISD 707.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce, Orr Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:

St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.

Read the entire paper on-line every week. Online subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

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

Libraries

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

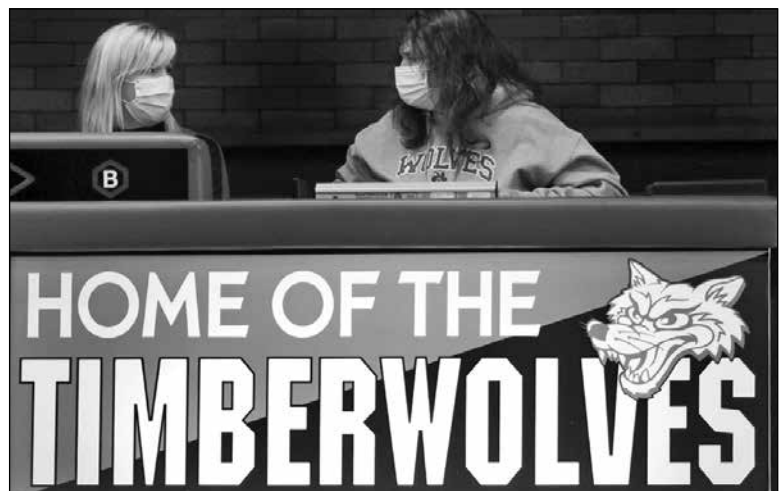
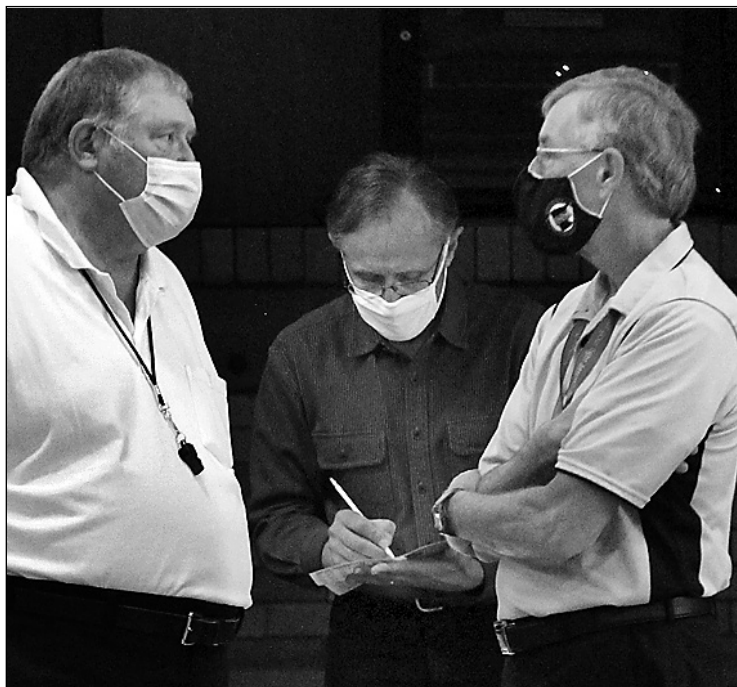
Babbitt library
Monday Noon-6 pm
Tuesday Noon-6 pm
Wednesday Noon-6 pm
Thursday Noon-6 pm
Friday Noon-5 pm
Phone: 827-3345

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 Ledgerrock
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,
218-827-3232, or
1-800-662-5711.

Face masks required



As indoor sports return for high schoolers, protective face masks are required because of the coronavirus pandemic. The Ely girls volleyball team wore their face coverings during introductions for their first home game last Saturday. Fans, referees and scorekeepers were all masked up. A limited number of fans are allowed. photos by K. Vandervort

the **TIMBERJAY**

The Ely Timberjay is published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950], and PO Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website: www.timberjay.com.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher	Marshall Helmsberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Cook-Orr Editor	David Colburn
Staff Writer	Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager	M. M. White
Graphics	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales	Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:City of Tower, City of Orr, Townships of Bearville, Crane Lake, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, ISD 707.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce, Laurentian Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:
St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.
Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

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

© Copyrighted in its entirety 2020

OUR COMMUNITY



The Ely Nordic Ski Club volunteers gathered recently for a work bee along the Hidden Valley Road to make improvements so it will be a safer road for all visitors in the winter. The group also held their annual meeting last weekend that included additional tree work on the trail system. submitted photo

Ely Food Shelf re-opens building

E L Y - Next Wednesday, Oct. 21, is Ely Area Food Shelf Distribution Day, and marks the re-opening of their building to shoppers who choose to come in and

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



as summer's reward remnants remaining in jars radiant color



After a one-year delay, the trees on the first three blocks of Pattison Street, from Central to Third avenues, were planted last Saturday. Ely Tree Board members and Vermilion Community College Forestry students volunteered to help plant the new trees along the reconstructed street. After lunch, they group helped mulch the trees at the Veterans Memorial and on Chapman Street. Passive watering systems were installed to keep the trees thriving. Land owners can help keep the black diapers on the trees by keeping mowers, weed whips, and small children with pokey sticks away from them, so they don't tear. submitted photo

Thank You

Thank you to all those who were involved in the rescue of our 13-year-old son James from a ravine by the Miners Lake Trail: the hiker who found him, the law enforcement and first responder members involved in the rescue, and the ambulance and medical team who have been treating him. James is expected to make a full recovery.

James and his family

ORR CITY COUNCIL

Clean-up of Wally's Auto fire begins soon

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- A little more than a year after a devastating fire at Wally's Auto in Orr left behind a burned-out skeleton of a building and mounds of debris, it appears the eyesore will soon be disappearing.

Saving the announcement for the end of the Orr Council Meeting on Tuesday, Councilman Tom Kennebeck, standing in for absent Mayor Joel Astleford, conveyed the latest update.

Kennebeck said that owner Mark Mankus has finally received the settlement paperwork from his insurance company and has obtained two estimates for cleanup.

The prepared statement said that Mankus indicated one of the contractors could start working on the site in a couple of weeks. However, multiple people at the meeting said they believe the work could start as soon as the end of the week.

If the insurance set-

tlement doesn't cover the full cost of the cleanup, Kennebeck said the city can request financial assistance from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board.

No information was provided about any possible plans for the site once clean-up is completed.

Council members briefly discussed a pending license agreement with Lake Country Power for use of the company's poles. LCP will be replacing its power lines along King Road, and the city has a communication and control conductor line that controls the pump-house on O'Connell Lane that needs to be attached to 3.2 miles of the LCP line.

The estimated cost to transfer the wire to the new line is \$3,218, and LCP wants to charge an annual license fee of \$152.35 to piggyback on the new line. Upon learning that LCP has not responded to a request by the city for modifications to the agreement, council members tabled the matter.

In other business, the council:

➤ Voted against applying for a CARES Act election grant from the county for \$459, given the strict limitations on how the grant can be used.

➤ Approved an increased cost estimate of \$1,482 for carpeting in the apartment at the airport. The original estimate was based on inaccurate measurements.

➤ Received information about the dissolution of the Greaney-Rausch-Silverdale Fire Department and the possibility of Orr taking on responsibility for a portion of the uncovered unincorporated area. A meeting of area departments will be held later in the month to review options.

➤ Accepted a \$200 donation for the bog walk renovation project.

➤ Scheduled a Board of Canvass meeting for Monday, Nov. 9 at 5 p.m., to be followed by the regular council meeting.



A FACE A SPONSOR COULD LOVE

The recent annual meeting of North Star Credit Union employees and board members didn't take place in a traditional board room, as this picture of board member Vicki Schelde holding Screech the Tortoise would suggest. The group of 20 met at Cook's Country Connection, and 14 of them signed up for \$25 animal sponsorships. Lois Pajari's unique critter farm welcomes sponsors of anything from alpacas to Zuko the Yak, and therefore anything from A to Z. courtesy photo

FIRE BENEFIT



Family, friends, and community members filled the Cook VFW on Saturday for a pulled pork meal and a raffle to benefit Tadd Eisner and Jana Hoyez of Cook, who lost their home, belongings, and pets in a Sept. 17 house fire. D. Colburn photo

PARK PROGRESS



The Veterans Riverfront Park development project took another leap forward on Tuesday as volunteers poured concrete slabs for picnic tables. Momentarily finished with his job, Bob Ulrich observes from behind as Marty Walker, left, and Ralph Norrgard, right, prep the fresh concrete for finishing. Other volunteers not pictured were Eric Tripp, Steve Kajala and Rob Joki. Cook Friends of the Parks is sponsoring the development and continues to accept donations for park improvements. D. Colburn photo

Credit union staff gives back to local charities

COOK- North Star Credit Union employees joined 4,000 volunteers across Minnesota on Monday, Oct. 12, to dedicate the day to giving back to local charities.

"The annual 'CU Forward Day' in Minnesota is an opportunity to work cooperatively to spread the credit union philosophy of people helping people in our communities," said Jennifer Stedt, NSCU chief operating officer.

NSCU donated \$2,200 to 17 charities chosen by staff members in their Cook, Nashwauk, Duluth and Brooks offices.

NSCU will be mak-

ing an additional donation of up to \$1,000 to one of four charities chosen randomly by staff. The amount given will depend on the number of likes and shares the post announcing the donation on the credit union's Facebook page receives.

The four charities that have the opportunity to receive up to \$1,000 are First Witness Child Advocacy Center, Kids Kare Fund, Lifecare Pregnancy Center, and Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

The chosen charity and gift will be revealed on Facebook around noon on Monday, Oct. 19.

Other charities who received \$100 or more

include Chisholm Food Shelf, Cook Community Food Shelf, Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability, LSS Family Resource Center, Minnesota Lions Diabetes Association, Nashwauk Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Shelf, National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota, North St. Louis Habitat for Humanity, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, Precious Paws, Ronald McDonald's Charity House, Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank, and United Way of NE Minnesota Buddy Backpack Program.

Community drive-thru meal set for Oct. 22

COOK- There will be a free community meal on Thursday, Oct. 22 from 4 to 6 p.m at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the meal will again be served drive-thru style from the front parking lot facing American Bank. This month's meal is a pasta bake with sides. A community meal open to the public is offered at Trinity on the fourth Thursday of every month, except November.



the TIMBERJAY

The Cook-Orr Timberjay is published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950] and Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website: www.timberjay.com.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Cook/Orr, Tower/Soudan, and Ely.

Publisher Marshall Helmerger
General Manager Jodi Summit
Cook-Orr Editor David Colburn
Ely Editor Keith Vandervort
Staff Writer Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager M. M. White
Graphics/Ad Sales Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:
City of Orr, City of Tower, Townships of Bearville, Crane Lake, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, ISD 707.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Orr Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:
St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year Online web-only \$29.95. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

Thank You

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone for all the help with Tadd and Jana's benefit. We are so thankful for all of the generous donations and priceless volunteers that made the whole event possible. Thank you all for coming out and showing your support. We appreciate all of your generosity more than you can imagine.

Benefit Planning Committee

Subscribe Today
(218) 753-2950

CITY OF ELY

CARES Act funding available for Ely businesses

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY—Federal funding made available to the city of Ely is being passed along to local businesses in this year of unpredictable and unprecedented financial disruptions due to the coronavirus pandemic.

City officials announced last week that as much as \$50,000 in federal CARES Act funding is available in the form of business grants. Time is of the essence as the deadline for applying to city staff for the funding is Friday, Oct. 23.

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski updated city council members last week on the progress of his committee, consisting of Ely Economic Development Advisor John Fedo and council members Paul Kess and Heidi Omerza, to identify and directly contact local

IRRR steps up with help for VA clinic expansion

businesses about the grant initiative.

“We came up with a list of those businesses that were most affected by the economic shutdown and divided them into different tiers,” Langowski said. “We had some difficulty in determining an assistance level based on the type of business and size and what the effects were from the COVID-19 pandemic, and especially from the Governor’s executive orders.”

The committee divided the local businesses into three tiers: restaurants, bars, hair salons, gyms and medical clinics; lodging and outfitters; and general retail.

“We put together a mailing list and sent application letters to each of our businesses,” Langowski said. “The application

process is very simple, and includes a one-page form. Let us know what your impacts and hardships were. Get them returned to us by Oct. 23. We will review all the applications, get approval by the city council and could be awarding funds by early November.”

Langowski was not sure how much money would be available to each business, as it depends on how many businesses are approved.

Funds can be spent to cover any operating expenses, including utilities, rent/lease payments, mortgages, or payments made to suppliers, he said. Funds are not eligible to recover lost revenue.

“We are trying to do as much outreach as we can,” Langowski said. “It is just recently that people are

starting to realize the programs are out there and are starting to ask questions.”

“We don’t know what the future may bring or if there will be additional CARES Act funds. We certainly want to give it out so we don’t have to give any back. That has been the concern all along.”

The economic impact of the coronavirus has already been acknowledged by the city council. They recently approved refunding liquor license fees paid this year by license holders who were closed temporarily earlier this year.

Local business owners were able to apply for forgivable loans through a program funded by the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

“We have as many as

five local businesses that are looking to take advantage of that program,” he said.

Council member Paul Kess admitted that the funding mechanism is “uncharted territory” for local economic development.

“We did our best to try and create a system that would work and benefit the businesses that were affected by the COVID virus,” he said.

Eligible businesses must be in good standing with the Minnesota Department of Revenue, Secretary of State and St. Louis County, and demonstrate a financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

VA clinic funding

In another funding windfall, late last week

IRRR members granted almost \$250,000 to the city for the Veterans Affairs Community Clinic remodeling project.

The city-owned building, locally known as the Sato Building, is set to undergo a \$3 million expansion project next year with help from a \$247,918 grant from IRRR to be used for site development and infrastructure work, including utility replacement and sewer line relocation.

Remodeling of almost 2,400 square feet at the current facility and new construction will double the size of the VA Clinic portion of building. Approximately 20 construction jobs will result from the project, according to Langowski. The expansion comes with a 20-year lease with the VA. The project will begin this fall and is expected to wrap up by the end of next summer.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

cent property and recently swapped land with Griffin that includes part of the former dump site. The city, at the insistence of the MPCA, has called a halt to any development on Rose’s property until the brownfield process is completed. The cost of the work, which would include a phase I and limited phase II study, is approximately \$9,000. That could be the total cost assuming that no major contamination is discovered. Under Griffin’s proposal, the city would pay one-third of the cost, while Griffin and Rose would split the remaining two-thirds.

Rose, who spoke at Monday’s meeting, argued that the city had a responsibility to help finance the studies. “The city advertised this land for sale for development property,” Rose stated, “and put the price at eight or nine times what it was assessed for.”

He cited letters from the MPCA to former clerk-treasurer Linda Keith, which recommended that the city enroll the site in the brownfield program. “The city ignored those letters and, instead, advertised it for development property.”

“It’s true that the MPCA recommended it, twice,” acknowledged council member and zoning administrator Mary Shedd. “But the city of Tower chose not to enroll, which is typical.” Shedd said such studies—particularly the more-involved phase II portion—are typically undertaken by developers, since the parameters of the study depend on what the developer wants to do with the property.

After a bit more back and forth, council member Kevin Norby motioned to deny any cost-share by the city. Council member Dave Setterberg seconded the motion and the rest of the council agreed.

In other action, the council approved a resolution to assess overdue utility bills from seven property owners onto their property taxes. The resolution won’t include overdue bills from Karel Winkelaar, who spoke to the council last night. Winkelaar argued that the

bills had been assessed against a commercial property he owns that was not utilizing the service. “I’m having to pay between \$2,800-\$2,900 for no services rendered,” he said. “How would you feel?” he asked.

Clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua pushed back, noting that the city continues to incur the cost of maintaining the infrastructure that makes the service available, and that those services increase the value of his property. She noted that Winkelaar was sitting near RV developer Dave Rose. “He would love to have water and sewer available on his property,” she said, referring to Rose.

Winkelaar noted that he had set up a payment agreement with the previous city clerk, under which the city took five dollars a month from his bank account. “And I agreed to that under protest,” said Winkelaar.

Ranua said she could find no supporting documentation of that agreement. While she agreed that the city has continued to take five dollars monthly from Winkelaar’s account, she said that action was being taken by the deputy clerk, who she said was simply following direction that had been given by the previous clerk. And Ranua noted that the arrangement was inadequate to ever address the overdue amount in a reasonable time frame.

Regardless, the council agreed to look into Winkelaar’s situation before assessing the overdue bills onto his property taxes. Because of a county-imposed deadline for assessing property taxes, Winkelaar will have another year before the council can take action on his overdue account.

In other business, the council:

- Formally set the hourly pay for EMTs and EMRs serving with the Tower Area Ambulance Service at \$11.50 for EMTs and \$10.50 for EMRs for paid on-call and \$25 for EMTs and \$15 for EMRs for responses on a paid-per-call basis. Ranua had asked for the clarification

tion after she discovered that the city council had never set pay rates for paid on-call ambulance staff.

- Authorized development of a new contract with grant writer and manager Nancy Larson, limited to 100 hours, at \$75 an hour, for next year. Larson gave a report on the work she completed this year, including salvaging several grants mismanaged by the previous clerk-treasurer. “The backlog of work on the grants was extensive,” noted Larson in her report to the council. Larson estimated her work either brought in new grant dollars or reclaimed dollars that the city was at risk of losing totaling \$1.325 million. She also has pending grant applications submitted totaling just over \$850,000. The city had contracted for 200 hours last year, but the backlog of grant management took up much of that time, which won’t be required under the new contract. The new contract should be ready for council approval at their November meeting.

- Approved a motion to remove the clerk-treasurer from most city committees as a means of allowing her to focus on higher priority work. Ranua has contended for months that the long list of responsibilities that come with the clerk-treasurer position, many of which are mandated in state law or in the city’s charter, makes it impossible to do the job well without assistance or more focused assignments.

Council member Dave Setterberg said he had analyzed an informal time report that Ranua has been providing council members for several weeks and he said the basic must-do items already consume 40 hours a week. “That doesn’t include dealing with the 40 emails a day, the phone calls, and numerous other interruptions,” he said.

Setterberg said the issue has been a long-standing one with the city. “Things just didn’t get done in the past,” he said, “and that’s still happening at times.” In addition to her routine work require-

ments, Ranua has had to find time to address years of financial mismanagement and lack of clear standards and policies at city hall.

- Denied a request by Keith Schweiberger for a five-year renewal of a dockage lease he has maintained since 1986 at Hoodoo Point. Schweiberger’s was the last such lease still in existence.

- Approved, on a 4-1 vote with Mayor Orlyn Kringstad voting no, a

motion to accept the low bid for propane for the 2020-21 heating season from Superior Fuel at a price of 95.9¢ per gallon plus a \$3.98 delivery fee. Como Oil and Propane had bid \$1.049 per gallon without a delivery fee.

- Authorized seeking grant funding from the state fire marshal for the purchase of a gear washer and dryer for the fire department.

- Approved a low bid of \$5,000 from C&C Winger for replacement of

an eight-inch sewer main on North Third St.

- Approved a motion to investigate applying for an aquatic invasive species control grant for the possible purchase of a boat wash for installation at the Hoodoo Point public access.

- Approved a motion to establish an absentee ballot committee.


- Set a special meeting to work on the city’s 2021 budget for Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 5:30 p.m.

ROB ECKLUND

SUPPORTS LAW ENFORCEMENT

"Your State Representative for District 3A has never once advocated for defunding or disbanding our police forces."

- Rob Ecklund, State Representative



ECKLUND is endorsed by The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association

RE-ELECT ROB ECKLUND, OUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE.

Mail ballots are available now for everyone. Visit mnvotes.org to request yours. Or vote in-person on Election Day, Nov. 3rd.

(218) 341-6133 | RobEcklund.com | [RobEcklund](https://www.facebook.com/RobEcklund)

ROB ECKLUND

STATE REPRESENTATIVE: 3A

VOTE ECKLUND NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Paid for by the committee to re-elect Rob Ecklund. Treasurer Dave Peterson 2823 Crescent Drive, International Falls, MN 56649

ELECTION 2020

Minneapolis unrest dominates Ecklund-Manninen forum

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — International Falls may be nearly 300 miles north of the Twin Cities, but that didn't stop this past summer's unrest in Minneapolis from dominating a candidates' forum here earlier this month that included third-term Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls, and his youthful challenger, Thomas Manninen.

Manninen is a 2015 graduate of Littlefork High School, who went on to earn a bachelor's degree in political science and criminal justice from Minnesota State University in Moorhead. He's since studied law at Hamline in St. Paul as part of his goal of a career in politics.

Ecklund, by contrast, recently retired as a longtime employee and union member at Boise in International Falls. He previously served on the Koochiching County Board before running for the Legislature in a 2015 special election to fill the seat vacated by the death of David Dill.

The Oct. 1 forum, sponsored by the International Falls Chamber of Commerce,

highlighted some of the differences between the two candidates in their views of DFL Gov. Tim Walz and their economic solutions for rural Minnesota.

Last summer's violence in the wake of the death of George Floyd was a focus of the forum. Manninen said the issue has surprising resonance with voters he's met during the campaign and he said he would have supported sending in federal law enforcement or troops to quell the violence, which resulted in the destruction of large areas of the Lake Street neighborhood in Minneapolis. "For three days, the governor did nothing in the face of insurrection," said Manninen. "The federal government, if the governor abdicates his responsibility, should intervene."

Manninen also took issue with Ecklund's support of legislation that tapped \$160 million from the state general fund and raised the sales tax in the seven-county metro area to pay for rebuilding those areas destroyed in the rioting.

Ecklund responded that Gov. Walz had called out the state's national guard, although he acknowledged that,

in hindsight, it might have been better to have deployed the guard sooner. "But we first need to talk about what prompted the situation," said Ecklund. "We had a law enforcement official kneel on the neck of a citizen of Minnesota for eight and half minutes. The root cause of what happened still needs to be worked on in Minnesota and in the United States."

And Ecklund defended the use of state resources to help with rebuilding damaged neighborhoods in Minneapolis. "Whenever we have disasters in Minnesota, no matter the cause, the citizens of Minnesota pitch in and help repair what went on," he said, adding that state resources helped Koochiching County repair damage from flooding not that long ago.

Manninen disagreed and cited a comment he heard from a constituent that he thought expressed a widely-held sentiment. "It would be a completely different story had the governor and the state of Minnesota done everything they could have to defend Minneapolis," he said, arguing that Greater Minnesota should not be forced to pay for repairs stemming from the violence, although he did not

have a clear answer on where the funds to rebuild should come from. The Trump administration, earlier this year, refused to release FEMA disaster funds to help pay to rebuild damaged areas.

Ecklund noted that the Twin Cities generates the bulk of the tax revenue that supports operations and projects throughout the state. "The seven-county metro is the economic engine of Minnesota, far more money flows north to northern Minnesota than flows from northern Minnesota to the metro," he said.

On the subject of the pandemic, Ecklund defended the governor's use of his emergency powers under the constitution to address the public health risks associated with COVID-19. "I think the governor has done a terrific job," he said. "If we were the only state in the country that had governor's executive orders, you're darn right I'd be pretty concerned about it, but right now, 49 of the 50 states are under some kind of emergency orders," he said.

Manninen accused Walz of taking "unilateral, unconstitutional action," which he said has harmed businesses and communities in the region. He

said Walz was making decisions without consulting the Legislature, who represent Minnesotans across the state, and he called on the Legislature to "take back its authority as a co-equal branch of government."

Ecklund noted that legislators are part-time, and so not in a good position to be legislating responses to a rapidly evolving public health threat.

On the economy, both candidates expressed support for non-ferrous mining projects, although Manninen tried to tie Ecklund to a late August decision by the DFL Central Committee to call for a moratorium on copper-nickel mining in the state. The measure was approved by a razor-thin 126-122 margin and it was opposed by DFL legislative leaders, but it's been a talking point for Republican legislative candidates in northern Minnesota ever since.

"If elected, I will defend the right of every Minnesotan to utilize the natural resources beneath our feet," said Manninen, who argued that both the mining and timber industries are currently struggling. He blamed an "unfriendly business climate" in Minnesota

for the struggles of those industries. Most economists view the downturn in those industries as related to broader issues in the global economy.

Ecklund, as he has done throughout his tenure in the Legislature, emphasized the importance of expanding broadband connectivity to rural parts of the state. "I believe that providing broadband is the true new economy of the north," he said. "Every city in the state has an empty industrial park. We're all fighting to get industry here, but if we bring true border-to-border broadband to every house in the district, just like rural electricity was in the 1950s, that's where we'll see the boom in jobs."

Ecklund said that people are looking for alternatives to life in urban areas and that northern Minnesota is looking increasingly attractive, provided there is broadband capability.

Ecklund has also consistently spoken in favor of passage of a bonding bill this year as a way to address the state's facility needs while creating jobs in construction and the building supply sectors.

EDUCATION

Judge denies request to dismiss campaign finance complaint

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — An administrative law judge has denied a request by representatives of the former Virginia and Eveleth-Gilbert School Districts to dismiss a campaign finance complaint filed by residents of the two former districts.

In an Oct. 5 ruling, ALJ Barbara Case found evidence to support the claims of district residents who contend that flyers and newspaper advertising paid for by the two school districts ahead of a 2019 bond referendum were promotional, rather than purely informational, and so funds expended on those materials should have been reported as campaign expenditures.

The judge noted

that school districts had, historically, been considered exempt from campaign finance reporting requirements. "In 2012, however, the Minnesota Supreme Court held in Abrahamson v. St. Louis County School District that, where a school district goes beyond informing the public about a bond referendum and 'acts to promote or defeat a ballot question,' it meets the definition of a 'committee' for purposes of campaign financial reporting requirements."

Campaign finance laws require reporting when total expenditures exceed \$750, and the judge noted that invoices showed the districts had spent many thousands of dollars. Eveleth-Gilbert School District officials

contended that they never actually paid for the promotional materials and advertising, and so weren't subject to the requirement, but the judge noted that disclaimers on the ads and invoices produced by the school districts indicate otherwise.

At the same time, the judge did dismiss two other claims made in the complaint, filed by the group Concerned Citizens of the Eveleth-Gilbert and Virginia School Districts, for lack of evidence. The judge found insufficient evidence to support a claim that the district had coordinated its campaign with the local citizens committee backing the referendum. It also found no evidence that the districts had intentionally failed to keep account of

campaign spending with the intent to conceal.

The judge, at the same time, rejected the contention of the newly-consolidated Rock Ridge School District (comprised of the two former school dis-

tricts) that the case should be dismissed as moot since the two districts no longer exist.

The complaint was handled by attorney Erick Kaardal, who had pled the groundbreaking

Abrahamson case back in 2012. The case, unless it is settled, will most likely be heard before a three-judge panel of administrative law judges who would issue findings of fact and rule on the matter.

ELY FLOWER & SEED

Pumpkin Patch IS HERE!

Huge Supply of Hay & Straw

Plant your BULBS before the ground freezes.

OPEN: M-Sat 9-5:30, Closed Sundays
145 W. Camp St, Ely • 365-6555

Flu Shot Clinics in Cook

Oct. 6th - 8:00-12:00

Oct. 12th - 12:00-4:00

Oct. 21st - 8:00-12:00

Doug Johnson Community Ctr.

By Appointment Only

Call 218-666-5941 to set up an appointment

Bring Photo ID

Please wear a short-sleeved shirt

Regular and High-Dose shot available

www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

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.

Cook Medical and Behavioral Health

20 5th St SE

Open Monday - Saturday

(218) 666-5941

Cook Dental

12 S River Street

Open Monday - Friday

(218) 666-5958

Tower Medical, Dental, and Behavioral Health

415 N 2nd St, Suite 2

Former High School Building

Open Monday - Friday

Medical/BH: (218) 753-2405

Dental: (218) 753-6061

1-877-541-2817

24 Hour Emergency Care Available Through Cook Hospital

www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

SAFE LEARNING

VCS staff member tests positive for COVID-19

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

School shifts to distance learning for at least two weeks

TOWER - The Vermilion Country School has shifted to distance learning for a two-week period after a staff member tested positive for COVID-19.

The staff member started feeling ill and left midday on Wednesday, Oct. 7. They were subsequently tested and received a positive diagnosis on Friday. A second staff member was informed on Wednesday that a family member had tested positive, so

they left to quarantine at home. That staff member has tested negative.

“Because our kids move throughout the building all day,” said school administrator Frank Zobitz, “it is impossible to say who had contact with the teacher and who didn’t.”

Zobitz said the Minnesota Department of Health is recommending that all staff and students be tested for COVID-19 even if no symptoms are present, and to isolate at

home if they test positive.

“If the test results are positive, follow recommendations for cases of COVID-19. If students or staff start feeling ill, isolate at home and away from other household members as much as possible right away. The main symptoms to watch for are fever, cough, difficulty breathing, muscle aches, feeling tired, loss of taste or smell and diarrhea and vomiting,” Zobitz wrote in a letter home to students and their families.

Two VCS transportation drivers who had no contact with the staffer who tested positive will be delivering/picking up school work, as well as meals for students, while the distance learning shift is in place.

Teachers and staff have been working from home while in quarantine, including the staff person who tested positive. During the first few weeks of school, teachers and students worked on the skills they would need

if and when the school had to shift to distance learning.

The school has been thoroughly cleaned. Senior dining carry-out meals are still available while the building is closed.

The school is set to reopen on Thursday, Oct. 21. School was not scheduled to be in session on Oct. 15-16 for MEA weekend, so only eight school days were switched to distance learning. The school also had switched

to distance learning for a week earlier this fall when two staff members fell ill with symptoms of what might have been COVID-19, but then both staff tested negative and in-person classes resumed.

“Once school resumes,” said Zobitz, “there will be an increased focus on safety measures. This drives the point home. We need to be washing hands, wearing masks, and social distancing.”

COVID...Continued from page 1

its county positivity rate is low or medium, an assisted living facility must facilitate in-person visitation consistent with the regulations.” Based on the last two weeks of testing results, that should allow most care facilities in St. Louis County to open for public visits— and Ely’s Boundary Waters Care Center announced Wednesday that they will be opening to the public later this week, pending negative test results from residents and staff. Masks and social distancing will be required, per state and federal guidelines.

The move comes at a time when positive COVID-19 test rates have been rising across the state and in St. Louis County, and an increasing number of facilities have been reporting positive COVID cases. State officials said on Friday that the number of facilities with at least one confirmed infection in a resident or worker in the past 28 days has surged from 239 on Sept. 1 to more than 340. Five more facilities in St. Louis County were added to the list last week, bringing the total number of such facilities in the county to 15.

County Public Health Division Director Amy Westbrook said on Tuesday that the change brings the state in alignment with national guidelines from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, but is also responding to concerns about the effects of social isolation on the elderly.

“Mental health concerns and meeting mental health needs are really important,” Westbrook said. “They haven’t seen loved ones or visitors for quite some time. COVID-19 and the pandemic will be going on quite a while. We’ll see case rates through the winter and spring. This is a

recognition that we want long-term care facilities to allow visitation and to do it in a safe way as much as possible.”

Westbrook said the regulations are similar in many respects to the approach used for reopening schools. The goal is to use count and local data to determine the safest level for a facility’s indoor visit plans. In all cases, facilities must ensure the standard precautions of masking, social distancing, and limiting group sizes. The presumption is that facilities should strive to provide the greatest level of access possible, relative to local conditions and protecting residents. “I think facilities have learned a lot and have taken COVID-19 seriously,” Westbrook said. “I think there are some really good things that have happened that have put facilities in a good place to open up visitation a little more. We’ve been asking a lot of long-term care and assisted living facilities, and hopefully we won’t see an increase in cases.”

Ely testing event

Westbrook had positive news to report about the results of the recent drive-through COVID testing event in Ely. The town is still coping with the impact of positive

COVID-19 cases discovered in recent weeks in two local long-term care facilities and the school system, including numerous deaths linked to the virus, and the change from in-person learning to a hybrid model in Ely schools.

Of the 493 tests administered at the event, only one tested positive for COVID-19.

“We hadn’t seen a case in Ely for probably a week and a half prior to the testing event, so we weren’t certain what we would see,” Westbrook said. “We were surprised we only saw one positive.”

Given the rise in cases across the county attributed to known and unknown community spread, Westbrook said one possible explanation for the unexpected finding could be how community members responded to the long-term care facility and school exposures.

“I’m guessing that was part of it,” she said, “that the community responded by doing what’s effective

— wearing face coverings in social gatherings, social distancing, and staying home when you’re sick.

I’m hoping that’s what happened because that’s exactly what we want to see, a community coming

together to do what’s necessary to control the spread of the virus.”

Fog free contacts



Your contacts go-to-guy

Eye exams and contact fitting appointments available five days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call for your appointment.

Mountain Iron/Virginia
741-3000
advoptical.com



Call
753-2950
to subscribe
to the
Timberjay!



VOTE
TOM BAKK
Nov. 3

A candidate everyone can agree on.



Endorsed for re-election
by the state Chamber of Commerce,
AFL-CIO, the Minnesota
Police and Peace Officers Association &
Conservation Minnesota

BAKK
YOUR STATE SENATOR

Paid for by Bakk for Senate; PO Box 444, Cook, MN 55723.

Thank You Cheryl!

We appreciate your good work with the Ely Area Food Shelf. Your leadership together with all of our wonderful volunteers has enabled us to accomplish great things. We wish you much happiness in your retirement.

With Gratitude,
the EAFS Board of Directors:
Sue, Kathy, Mary, Joellyn, Pam



EDUCATION

Survey: Teachers 'overwhelmed,' considering options

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

Nearly one in three look at leaving because of COVID challenges

REGIONAL- The coronavirus pandemic is taking a toll on the mental health of classroom teachers. So much so, that a recent statewide survey found that three out of ten teachers were thinking about quitting or retiring from the profession.

The findings in a survey of Education Minnesota union members paints a bleak picture of how teachers are coping with the challenges of varied models of in-person, hybrid, and distance learning that are intended to keep students and staff safe from COVID-19, but create the need for long hours and different techniques to meet the needs of learners.

Half of those responding said they were worried about their own mental health. Three in four report feeling "overwhelmed" and four in five say they're

"stressed." Conversely, only 13 percent said they felt "focused," and only 12 percent reported feeling "happy."

Teachers in ISD 2142 were well out in front of the survey, voicing nearly identical concerns at an early September meeting with district officials. In response, Superintendent Reggie Engebritson convened a team to look at changes to relieve one of the greatest stressors reported in the survey, the task of teaching in-person students and distance learners all at once in the same class. The added responsibilities of working with distance learners was keeping some teachers up until midnight working on lesson plans and learning activities and uploading recorded lessons to platforms like Google Classroom, it was reported at the meeting.

Last week, ISD 2142 realigned instruction across the district so that teachers from Kindergarten to sixth grade would either teach all in-class learners or all distance learners, but not both. Junior high and high school students were excused from in-person attendance on Wednesdays to give their teachers more time to address the needs of distance learners.

While the new system had only been in operation for a week, Engebritson said on Monday that the initial response from teachers has been good.

"I've heard only positive - high school teachers are thankful for Wednesdays and the elementary teachers are enjoying only having one type of learner - whether it is in-person or distance learners," Engebritson said.

Principal John

Vukmanich had a similar positive assessment for North Woods.

"I think that teachers are feeling better about what we are doing," he said. "I sense a positive vibe in the building. I am trying my best to support the teachers and they seem relieved that there has been an effort made to help make a difficult situation better. I'm really proud of the North Woods staff for their positive outlook and willingness to work hard to support each other and our students." Education Minnesota Local 1406 President Tim Herring also weighed in with his perspective as a teacher and union leader.

"I took part in that survey, as well as many other educators, and I'm not surprised by the results," Herring said. "We are ALL in unprec-

edented times. All of us including teachers, parents, students, custodians, para-professionals, cooks, aides, secretaries, principals and superintendents are adapting to this changing world. I'm thankful the administration listened and heard our concerns and made changes to the schedule to help with those concerns. I have had a few teachers voice concerns [about the changes] but the administration is willing to work with us to find solutions. We're only a week into it, but I think it's a step in the right direction."

Given the feedback she had already received, Engebritson also wasn't surprised by the survey's findings.

"It's definitely a stressful time for everyone," she said. Engebritson said that the district hasn't received any

inquiries about retirement that she would consider out of the ordinary. Administrative staff remain vigilant in looking for signs of undue stress, and the district has some resources to assist teachers when they need it.

"We do have an employee assistance program and that information has been shared with staff," Engebritson said. "I think the staff in each school are a close-knit group, so they can reach out to each other and they look out for each other. Principals, our director of teaching and learning, and myself are also available to talk and we are continually telling staff we are here for them."

Neither ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie or Ely Education Association President Tim Omerza responded to requests to comment for this story.

ELECTION...Continued from page 1

While Stauber has strongly identified with the political movement sparked by Donald Trump, he says his allegiance is to the district first, and that he's committed to working across the aisle. According to GovTrack, an online service that rates House members based on the bills they have sponsored and co-sponsored, Stauber is among the more moderate members in the House. But when it comes to actual voting, nine times out of ten Stauber votes in line with Trump's position, according to the online political site FiveThirtyEight.

In her first bid for federal office, Nystrom doesn't have any such ratings. She served one term on the Baxter City Council and ran unsuccessfully for the state Legislature in 2016. But Nystrom believes the overriding issue in the minds of voters is having affordable, high-quality healthcare with coverage for pre-existing conditions, and it's an issue she's advocated for since she was in grade school.

According to Nystrom's website, she was in fifth grade when her brother was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, and she was diagnosed with the same disease a few years later. She's traveled across the country to raise awareness and lobby Congress and legislatures to reduce the skyrocketing price of insulin and bring down the costs of healthcare. Nystrom has emphasized lowering out-of-pocket expenses, cutting deductible prices, and protecting coverage for people with pre-existing conditions as priorities she would pursue if elected to Congress.

Affordable and accessible healthcare is also part of Stauber's platform. The father of a son with pre-existing conditions, Stauber has co-sponsored two House bills to protect those with preexisting conditions, although they are already protected under the Affordable Care Act. But he's no fan of Obamacare, citing what he sees as a large increase in insurance premiums under the ACA.

In multiple online debates, Stauber and

Nystrom have locked horns over Stauber's contention that Nystrom would support a Medicare for All plan that would eliminate private insurance coverage. Nystrom has denied the claim, saying that she would work within the existing system to bring about the changes it needs.

Stauber would focus on private sector insurers, allowing companies to cross state lines as a way to increase competition and decrease premium costs. But with a case pending in the Supreme Court that could dismantle Obamacare, Stauber hasn't put forth a proposal for a plan to replace it and continue coverage for more than 20 million Americans who stand to lose coverage if the high court sweeps away the ACA.

Nystrom has been critical of Stauber's personal example relative to coronavirus precautions, calling him out for failing to consistently follow guidelines for mask wearing and social distancing. In a recent Duluth News Tribune online forum, she attacked

Stauber for flying on a commercial airline after accompanying Trump on Air Force One on flights from Minneapolis to Duluth and back, two days before Trump revealed his positive diagnosis for COVID-19. The airline, Delta, prohibits passengers who have come into close contact with anyone who may have been contagious for COVID-19. The airline issued a statement saying that Stauber was evaluated by one of their medical specialists and was cleared to fly. Stauber said that subsequent tests he's taken for COVID-19 have been negative.

'Our way of life'

Stauber consistently casts himself as a champion for "Our way of life" in the district, a theme meant to resonate in particular with blue-collar and rural areas that helped him win in 2016, and he's earned endorsements from a diverse group of labor organizations.

In particular, Stauber has positioned himself as a champion of mining and miners, supporting the

proposed PolyMet copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes and the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine near Ely.

While Stauber has tried to paint Nystrom as "anti-mining," Nystrom rejects the characterization. Instead, Nystrom advocates a balanced approach that would support mine development only after strict regulatory scrutiny to ensure that a given project would not have any negative environmental impacts.

Both the PolyMet and Twin Metals developments have been embroiled in controversy over their potential to contaminate the region's water.

However, Stauber and Nystrom appear to agree on "Buy American" initiatives and imposing tough restrictions on foreign steel imports.

Both also agree on the need to expand broadband internet access in the district, an issue of heightened urgency after changes necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic exposed large gaps in accessibility for at-home workers and

distance learners.

Stauber has used his incumbency to full advantage when it comes to campaign financing. Federal Election Commission filings by Stauber's campaign through July 22 show that he's received over \$1.6 million in contributions, with \$950,402 of that coming from individuals. Additional contributions and transfers put his campaign war chest as of July 22 at a hefty \$1.9 million.

As of the same reporting date, challenger Nystrom had taken in \$511,761 in contributions, with \$465,211 coming from individuals. Other contributions raised her total receipts to \$512,528.

However, Nystrom recently announced ahead of the next official filing date that her third quarter contributions hit \$650,000, triple her previous quarterly high. While still trailing in fundraising overall, Nystrom's fundraising efforts will better position her to compete in the final weeks of the campaign.

ACE
The helpful place.

RED HOT BUYS

YOUR CHOICE SALE
\$19.99 each

Hand Tools & Accessories

- Stanley® Folding Sawhorse 5396
- Irwin® 10" Mini Clamp 2196
- Crescent® 19" S&S or Metric Combination Wrench Set
- Stanley® Padlock
- 10" Tape Measure
- 230013A, 229020A, 287229L, 298076L, 210168

STANLEY
CRESCENT
IRWIN

Stop by your local Ace store, or visit us here

ACE REWARDS
THE BEST TOOL FOR SAVING MONEY.™

Visit acehardware.com to find your local participating Ace.

SEE YOUR HELPFUL HARDWARE FOLKS
PRICES GOOD THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2020

Merhar's Ace Hardware
48 E. Chapman St., Ely • 218-365-3129

34th ANNIVERSARY

\$34,000 DRAWINGS

OCTOBER 24

STARTING @ 5PM

25 WINNERS!

SOMEONE WILL WALK AWAY WITH **\$10,000 CASH!**

Fortune Bay
RESORT CASINO®
ON BEAUTIFUL LAKE VERMILION!
FORTUNE BAY.COM



SPORTS

Serving northern
St. Louis County
since 1989

FOOTBALL

Grizzlies come up short in gridiron opener

Chiabotti rumbles for big yards, TDs in losing cause

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- “A play here, a play here, and the outcome would have been totally different.”

It’s a sports cliché that the North Woods football team

learned has an underlying truth, as three Grizzlies miscues led to a season-opening loss on the road at Braham, 22-16, on Friday.

Backed up deep in their own territory on their second possession of the game, the Grizzlies coughed up the football at their own five-yard line and a Bombers player scooped it up and ran in for a touchdown. Having already scored on a 61-yard drive to open the game, the gift put Braham up 14-0 after a failed 2-point conversion with

just over a minute left in the first quarter.

Visions of the 52-8 trouncing the Bombers laid on the Grizzlies last year surfaced when North Woods fumbled the ensuing kickoff and Braham recovered on the Grizzlies’ 37. But North Woods sophomore defensive back Olin Nelson came up with a big interception to snuff the drive and set fire to the Grizzlies.

Starting from their own 15, a steady dose of T.J. Chiabotti runs took the Grizzlies to the

Bombers’ 14, where Chiabotti broke through the left side for a touchdown. Ty Fabish flipped a pass to Zac Cheney for the 2-point conversion, and North Woods was back in it, 14-8.

After the kickoff, the defense clamped down with a three-and-out series for the Bombers, and after the punt the Grizzlies went to work from the Braham 43. Mixing up runs and passes, Chiabotti capped the drive with a 7-yard scoring plunge, and with another Fabish-to-Cheney conversion, North Woods was

suddenly on top 16-14. They held that lead at the half.

The Grizzlies received the second-half kickoff and started from their own 31, but fumbled again on a third-and-15 play, setting the Bombers up at the North Woods 11. It took just two plays for Braham to retake the lead, adding the 2-point conversion for a 22-16 advantage.

Two possessions later, starting at midfield, Chiabotti was swarmed on a first-down run,

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B



Left: Nighthawks junior Hannah Reichensperger goes up high for a kill attempt. Ely sophomore Rachel Coughlin goes up for the block.

photo by J. Greeney

Below: Junior setter Katrina Seliskar concentrates as she puts up another set assist during Saturday’s contest with Silver Bay.

photo by K. Vandervort

FOOTBALL

Wolves slashed by Panthers

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

SOUTH RIDGE— It seemed nothing fell into place for the Timberwolves in their varsity football opener here last Friday. The young Wolves squad fell behind and never recovered as the Panthers cruised to a 48-6 win in the first contest of a six-game season.

“This wasn’t the start to our season that I was expecting,” said Head Coach Cory Lassi, now in his third season on the sidelines for Ely. “Coming into the season and adding some new faces to our team who hadn’t played for a couple of years, I was hoping we would come out and be more competitive than we were. We looked somewhat timid and like we only had two weeks of practice, like we did. We missed executing on a lot of things.”

With 25 players in grades 9-12 hitting the practice field late last month, the team actually has more depth this year than in 2019. But the squad includes many inexperienced players and that fact, along with the limited practice time in this pandemic-shortened season, combined for a rocky start.

The game remained close in the opening stanza as the Timberwolves were down just 6-0 as the first quarter ended. “We were right where we wanted to be,” Lassi said at that point. “But they had two or three big plays in the second quarter that broke the game open.”

The Panthers took a 26-0 lead into the locker room at halftime. Three more South Ridge touchdowns in the third quarter put the Wolves in a deep hole.

The Timberwolves’ only score against South Ridge came late in the fourth quarter as running back Jason Kerntz scampered 43 yards into the end zone with 7:49 remaining. He had 97 yards on 19 carries for the night.

Eddie Prijatel contributed with 24 yards on eight rushes, while quarterback Mason Davis scrambled for six yards on three attempts. Davis completed two of five passes to Harry Simons for 12 yards.

Davis led the team in

See ELY...pg. 2B

VOLLEYBALL

Ely shows strength early

Tops Silver Bay and Northeast Range in straight sets as shortened season gets underway

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

BABBITT— The agony of defeat has yet to visit the Ely volleyball squad as they dominated opponents this week in the opening contests of a pandemic-shortened season. Against Northeast Range on Tuesday night, the Wolves used strong serving and an improved passing attack to get past the Nighthawks in straight sets, 25-15, 25-17, and 25-10.

“After playing a little on edge the first set, things really came together,” said Ely Head Coach Andrea Thomas. “We had great serving tonight and our passing improved with each set, which helped spark our offense.”

McKenna Coughlin, the team’s sole senior, notched nine kills along with five ace serves, while her sister Rachel, a sophomore, added seven kills, four blocks and five aces. Sophomore Madeline Kallberg added seven ace serves and three kills, while junior Raven Sainio added five kills.

“After playing a little on edge the first set, things really came together.”

Ely Head Coach
Andrea Thomas

Junior setter Katrina Seliskar notched 26 assists.

Thomas also credited her team with improved defense against the Nighthawks, as they racked up a number of blocks and digs.

Hosting Silver Bay in their season opener this past Saturday, the Wolves offered little consolation for their visitors, winning in three straight sets, 25-20, 25-12, and 25-18. Thomas said it was good to have the team’s first

See VOLLEYBALL...pg. 2B



CROSS COUNTRY

Devine, Johnston, and Falteseck medal at sections

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

REGIONAL – The Ely cross country team finished their COVID-abbreviated season this week at the Section 7A meet in Cloquet.

The Ely girls finished ninth overall as a team on Monday. Sophomore runner Zoe Devine finished seventh individually

with a time of 20:29.2.

Other Ely girls team runners and their times included Phoebe Helms, 21:36.8, Brynn Vollom, 23:31.3, Gracie Pointer, 23:54.6, Julia Schwinghamer, 24:20.6, Laura Holmstrom, 24:33.4, and Sydney Durkin, 26:42.7.

The Ely boys team finished fourth overall in their race on Tuesday. Jasper Johnston finished in fifth place individually with a time of 17:16.4. Emmett

Falteseck came in eighth with a time of 17:31.6.

Other Ely boys team runners and their times included Jake Cochran, 17:59.1, Gabriel Pointer, 18:31.2, Joey Bianco, 19:13.2, Jon Hakala, 21:07.7, and Ben Cavalier, 21:56.9.

The Section 7A meet was held over two days, and was set up in six sessions of four teams seeded by team average times. The top two teams took home

trophies and medals along with the next eight individual places. There is no state meet this year as a precaution against the spread of COVID-19.

Devine, Johnston and Falteseck would have qualified for the championship event.

The Timberwolves warmed up for sectional competition at the Iron Range Conference meet

See RUNNERS...pg. 2B

VOLLEYBALL

Young Grizzlies squad falls to South Ridge

Other contests canceled over health concerns

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- North Woods Head Coach Kandi Olson took a young team and question marks to South Ridge on Friday for the first match of the new volleyball

season, and while they lost 3-0, some answers began to take shape.

But instead of testing those out at home Monday night, the Grizzlies got a double-dose of bad news. Both Mountain Iron-Buhl, Monday's opponent, and International Falls, Tuesday's foe, had to cancel their trips to North Woods because of health issues.

"I think the saddest part is that they're missing two home games," Olson said. "Having

a home game just has a special atmosphere about it. You don't really get a lot of home games each year, and to know that two of them are being just canceled is frustrating."

And in a season shortened by COVID-19 precautions, there's a good chance those matches are gone for good.

"Trying to fit these games in is going to be difficult, and I don't even know if it's possible," Olson said. "That's completely up to the ADs to figure out."

Trying to flip a negative into a positive, Olson and her team have focused on what they can take away from a match they lost 25-17, 25-10, and 25-14.

"I think everyone on the team would agree that we made some youthful mistakes," Olson said. "As we watched our opponent, we knew that we could have played right with them the whole time. However, we just had too many, too many mistakes compared to them." The players started analyzing

those mistakes on the bus ride home, and having practice instead of a match on Monday gave Olson a rare opportunity to watch and analyze match videos with the team.

The Grizzlies will get the chance to see if their extra practice time and adjustments pay off when they travel to Bigfork for their next match on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

SWIMMING

Northeast Range swimmers sunk by Broncos

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

INTERNATIONAL FALLS - The NER-Ely Nighthawks varsity swim team posted two individual first-place finishers and a relay victory against International Falls last week as their season winds to a close.

The Lady Broncos took an early lead over NER/Ely and went on to win 95-66.

Sophomore Lily Tedrick dominated the 200 Individual Medley and won in 2:34.78, more than 11 seconds ahead of I-Falls junior Gracie Bowles.

Nighthawks sophomore Kelly Thompson took first in the 100 Freestyle in 1:04.68, just two seconds ahead of I-Falls' Elizabeth Jantzen.

Tedrick and Thompson were joined by sophomores Cedar Ohlhauser and Morgan McClelland to win the 400

Freestyle Relay in 4:20.81.

That same NER/Ely team took second in the 200 Freestyle Relay, finishing just two seconds shy of winning at 1:56.76.

Other second-place finishes for the Nighthawks included Tedrick in the 100 Butterfly (1:15.41), McClelland in the 200 Freestyle (1:06.39), and Thompson in the 50 Freestyle, (29.53).

The Nighthawks were set

to host Virginia on Tuesday night to end their COVID-19-shortened season.

Right: NER/Ely sophomore swimmer Lily Tedrick won the 200 I-M against International Falls last week. She also was part of the winning 400 Freestyle Relay team and took second in the 100 Butterfly.

submitted



RUNNERS...Continued from page 1B

in Coleraine last week. The Ely boys finished second and the girls fourth in their respective divisions. Five Ely runners notched top-10 individual finishes.

"It was a good meet with good competition from Greenway-Nashwauk-Keewatin and Virginia for both girls and boys teams," said Coach Jayne Dusich.

The postseason conference event was added to an abbreviated season because of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Some of our runners got their best times of the season, even though

it was too close after our home meet last week in Ely," she said. "Originally the IRC conference was supposed to be Oct. 10 and then like everything else this season, it was switched to Oct 6. It was the last race for our Junior High and kids who did not run in the Section Meet."

At the IRC event, Zoe Devine recorded the highest overall Ely finish - taking second in a field of 47 varsity girls runners with a time of 20:08.8. Phoebe Helms was sixth overall with a time of 20:58.7. Other

girls team finishers for the Timberwolves, with place and time, included Brynn Vollom, 29th, 23:25.8, Sydney Durkin, 31st, 23:52.7, Gracie Pointer, 32nd, 24:00.8, Laura Holmstrom, 36th, 24:30.8, and Julia Schwingamer, 39th, 24:56.8.

The Ely boys team posted three top-10 finishers, Emmett Faltesek third place, (17:04.2), Jasper Johnston, fourth place, (17:07.2), and Jake Cochran, ninth place, 18:00.7. Other boys team finishers, with place and time, included Gabriel

Pointer, 11th, 18:02.4, Joey Bianco, 20th, 18:54.1, Leo Stalmer, 45th, 21:04.4, and Jon Hakala, 47th, 21:06.9.

The Ely boys team were seven points behind champion Greenway-Nashwauk-Keewatin, while the girls took fourth in the six-team field, behind Hibbing, Virginia and International Falls.

Coach Jayne Dusich submitted her retirement letter from coaching the girls track team to the Ely school board this week. "I was talked into coaching again when school parents formed the track club in

2007," she said. "I was only going to coach one year and here I am still coaching."

Dusich has coached track off and on as an assistant coach or head coach since 1979. "I resigned (the

first time) in 2002 after my daughter, Brittany, graduated." As to why she's downsizing, she responded, "I felt it was time to go. I will still coach cross country as of now."

VOLLEYBALL...Continued from page 1B

match under their belt. "We worked out some kinks and have a better idea of what we need to focus on in practice," she said. "We struggled to serve consistently most of the match, but our serve-receive improved

each set. Charly Flom and McKenna Coughlin both served very well and were able to give us a boost when we needed it."

Flom posted seven aces, while Coughlin added four, along with seven

kills. Kallberg notched eight kills, while Seliskar added 26 set assists.

Ely is set to host Littlefork-Big Falls on Tuesday. Game time is set for 7 p.m.

ELY...Continued from page 1B

tackles with six. Kerntz had five tackles and four other players contributed four tackles each.

The Panthers dominated with 454 yards from scrimmage and 20 first downs compared to nine for Ely. The Timberwolves also turned the ball over three times on the night.

"I challenged the guys in practice this week to be the one who steps up when things start to snowball," Lassi said. "There has to be that leadership to make a big play and regain the momentum. We didn't have that in our first game. We had guys in position to make big plays but just

didn't execute."

The Wolves were hoping to put their season opener behind them as they prepared to host Cook County Wednesday night after the *Timberjay's* presstime. The Timberwolves will host Northeast Range on Friday, Oct. 30.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

but broke out of the pack and dashed 43 yards to the Braham 7. After three unproductive plays, the Grizzlies faced a fourth-and-goal at the eight-yard line. Chiabotti got the call, taking a flip pass in the backfield and bulling his way into the end zone for an apparent touchdown.

But a yellow flag signaled the third big miscue of the game, a holding penalty that nullified the touchdown and took the points off of the board. When the subsequent play came up a yard shy of the end zone, the Grizzlies had failed to capitalize on their last serious scoring opportunity.

"We made a couple of mental mistakes down there by the goal line," Head Coach Joel Anderson said. "We didn't get it in the end zone and then the

very next play from them from scrimmage we gave up a big run, probably the biggest of the evening against our defense, and that seemed to deplete us a little bit."

Anderson said that they expected mistakes in the first game, given that they entered it with less practice time than in a normal season and no pre-season scrimmage to tighten things up. But the first-year head coach had plenty of positives to focus on from the contest.

"Offensively, we came out and did what we needed to do, short of putting the ball in the end zone that one last time," Anderson said. "We knew we were at a size disadvantage, so we tried to get them where they were starting to get winded, and we did that. We played

the game plan out very, very well in our defensive schemes. Offensively, we did exactly what we wanted to. If we didn't have a couple of mental mistakes here or there, if we didn't have a couple of turnovers, I think we might be having a different conversation about the outcome. But overall, I was very pleased with the game."

Chiabotti had a big game, rolling up 168 yards on 24 carries while scoring two touchdowns. The Grizzlies were 7-for-13 in the passing game for 69 yards.

The Grizzlies were scheduled to host Deer River for their first home contest on Thursday afternoon. They'll host Barnum on Friday, Oct. 23.

Ely Community Health Center

Open Every Thursday 5:30-7 p.m.

Providing NO COST basic healthcare and referrals

111 S 4th Ave E, Ely

Volunteer opportunities also available

SIGN UP BEFORE DEER SEASON STARTS!

One Adult contestant & one Youth contestant will win a **LIFETIME MINNESOTA HUNTING LICENSE**

Prizes awarded for **BIGGEST BUCK & NONTYPICAL RACK**

In Adult Male, Adult Female, and Youth hunter divisions

More random prize drawings to be announced!

All proceeds benefit United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's Imagination Library program!

\$20 ADULT ENTRY | \$10 YOUTH ENTRY

WWW.UNITEDWAYNEMN.ORG/BIG-BUCK

- Upon registering, you will receive information on how to upload a photo of your buck.
- Every entry (even if you don't get a buck) is eligible to win additional prize drawings.
- Prizes will be awarded for the Biggest Buck in the following hunter divisions:

ADULT MALE HUNTER \$250 L&M Gift Card	ADULT FEMALE HUNTER \$250 L&M Gift Card
YOUTH HUNTER (10-17) \$100 L&M Gift Card	NONTYPICAL RACK \$100 L&M Gift Card

NO ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER 11:50 PM NOVEMBER 6TH | PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE NOVEMBER 25TH | WINNERS ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 1ST

ONLY HUNTERS LIVING, WORKING, OR HUNTING IN OWNERSHIP'S IRON RANGE & ADJACENT COUNTY SERVICE TERRITORIES ELIGIBLE

THANK YOU, EVENT SPONSORS!

Presenting Sponsors: American Bank, Minnesota Power, RYAN, KOMATSU, FRANDSEN BANK & TRUST, AN ALLETE COMPANY, Anthem, AcadiaMittel, CLIFFS, IRON RANGERS, LAKHEAD, TWIN METALS, SECURITY, FAIRVIEW, American Bank, Iron Range Labor Assembly, POLYMET, IRACORE, FRANDSEN BANK & TRUST, JAMAR, MESAIR TRIBUNE, IRON MINING ASSOCIATION, L&M FLEET SUPPLY

ALL PROCEEDS will benefit United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's local sponsorship of the IMAGINATION LIBRARY program which has delivered more than 300,000 books to children on the Iron Range & in Koochiching County at no cost to their families since 2008.

218-254-3329 | INFO@UNITEDWAYNEMN.ORG | WWW.UNITEDWAYNEMN.ORG

608 EAST DRIVE, CHISHOLM MN 55719

Community notices

Movie Night at St. James on Sunday

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower is hosting a free movie night on Sunday, Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. This month's movie is "In-Lawfully Yours." Sometimes a second chance comes when you least expect it! Following both the death of her father-in-law and a divorce, Jesse, a New Yorker, returns to a small town to live with her now widowed mother-in-law. Jesse struggles to fit in with the local townsfolk who don't welcome her with open arms to say the least. Jesse becomes acquainted with the local pastor, her widowed brother-in-law, falling in love with him, much to the dismay of the community. The movie is rated PG-13. Masks are required for all those who attend.

Trick-or-Treat on Tower's Main Street on Friday, Oct. 30

TOWER- While Halloween plans have been scaled back this year due to safety concerns, there will still be trick-or-treating on Tower's Main Street after school on Friday, Oct. 30 from approximately 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Participating businesses will be handing out treats outdoors only, while following safety measures, so children should not go inside any of the businesses. The Tower Fire Department has canceled the annual children's party, but instead will be passing out special treats to children from a fire truck parked on Main Street on Friday afternoon during this time also.

Tower-Soudan Elementary students will be holding costume parties inside their classrooms, but there will be no schoolwide Halloween celebration this year.

St. Martin's Christmas Bazaar

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower is happy to announce that they will host a Christmas Bazaar.

The event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7 in the church social hall. They are in the early planning of the event and are now looking for local crafters to participate. The cost for a table is \$20. If you are interested, please contact Maryann at the rectory at 218-753-4310. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The bazaar will look different this year – tables will be more spread out. Masks will be required; masks and hand sanitizers will be available at the door.

During the bazaar, the St. Martin's Quilt Ministry will raffle off a Christmas-themed, hand-embroidered quilt, made and donated by Liz Villnow. The quilt is currently on display at Jeanne's Card & Gift shop. Tickets are \$5, with only 200 tickets being sold. You do not need to be present to win. Tickets may also be purchased from Maryann at the rectory office.

AEOA Senior Dining in Tower

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. Reservations are required the day before, or morning of, because meals are individually packaged for take-out. 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. 19

Monday: Chicken broccoli alfredo, green beans, garlic bread; Tuesday: Taco soup, tortilla chips; Wednesday: Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, salad; Thursday: Meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, dinner roll; Friday: Pizza, salad. **Monthly menus available online at vermillioncountry.org/cafeteria-menu.**

SOUDAN HISTORY

Branwall memorial bench installed



Francis and Faye Branwall Hilgart visited the Soudan Underground Mine State Park with their son Brent, to dedicate the bench in memory of Faye's mother, Eline Branwall. photo by S. Ukkola

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- Eline Branwall's memory will live on at the Soudan Underground Mine. Eline passed away in 2016 at 99 years old. In lieu of flowers, her family took donations for a memorial bench overlooking the trestle and the town, as well as a plaque that will be installed in the visitor center.

Eline looked up at the mine each day from her home on Gordon Street in Soudan. Her husband Arnie Branwall worked at the mine as a blaster until the mine closed in 1962.

Eline's daughter, Faye Hilgart, who is now 75, made the pilgrimage back to her hometown to dedicate the bench and was accompanied by her husband, Francis, and son, Brent. Faye's daughter Erin was unable to make it to the dedication, but said, "I'm very grateful for this addition

to the historic mine and state park. It is a marker of our family's history as miners and Finnish immigrants in northern Minnesota. And in the very short story of the plaque, that history is told from a woman's perspective, as she saw it from her kitchen window."

Also at the dedication were close family friends Greg and Joan Dostert and James Pointer, interpretive supervisor of the mine.

EVFCU donates to Tower Food Shelf

Staff delivers cards and treats to area businesses and their employees

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Staff at the Embarrass-Vermillion Credit Union did their part to honor Tower-Soudan businesses that have continued to serve the community, as part of the nationwide "Credit Union Forward Day" on Oct. 12. EVCU staff spent time on what would have been a day off to deliver cards

and treats to employees at "essential business" in Tower, as well as making a generous donation to the Tower Area Food Shelf.

Branch manager Sunday Young said that for the past several years, employees have volunteered their time on this day, as they work to "pay it forward."

"All of our branches participated in their communities," she said. "We visited 44 businesses and passed out 360 heart-shaped notes to employees. "It's nice to be able to thank everybody who has been working," she said.



Tower Area Food Shelf coordinator Marge McPeak accepts a donation from EVFCU staffers Vicky Balster and Sunday Young. photo by J. Summit

"We truly appreciate all the businesses that have stayed open."

Obituaries and Death Notices

Roslyn M. Perko

Roslyn Marie Urbas Perko, 91, a lifelong resident of Ely, passed away on Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, due to complications of COVID-19 at the Carefree Living Center in Ely. Roslyn made many friends at Carefree Living and loved the staff who cared for her. Due to COVID-19, a private family service will be held. Family

arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her daughter, Kathleen; son, Daniel (Elaine); granddaughters, Cassie, Nicole and Melissa; great-grandson, Clayton; sister-in-law, Carol Urbas; brother-in-law, Bob Born; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Todd M. Borden

Todd Martin Borden, 69, of Tower and formerly of Virginia, died on Friday, Oct. 2, 2020, in Essentia Health - Virginia. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. The family wishes to thank Essentia Health - Virginia for the extraordinary care and compassion shown to Todd. Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer

Society or American Heart Association. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Kathryn Ann "Kathy" Omerza Borden; son, Joe (Patra) Borden of Minneapolis; siblings, Rex Borden of Las Vegas, Nev., Ann Borden and Seth Borden, both of Eveleth, Boof Carlson of Virginia, Jill (Terry) Wagoner of Tower and Wende (Jim) Morrell of Duluth; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends; and his favorite furry friend, Barny.

Kenneth S. Koski

Kenneth Simon Koski, 74, of Cook, peacefully passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020, surrounded by his family. A funeral service was held on Sunday, Oct. 11 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Family respectfully requested that the mask mandate be adhered to. Military honors were accorded by the Cook VFW Honor Guard Post 1757 and the Orr American Legion Honor Guard Post 480. Lunch followed at the VFW in Cook. The family prefers donations to the VFW Honor Guard of Post 1757 in Cook. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

HOT WATER. NO WORRIES.

- Receive up to \$200 in rebates through 2020*
- Receive a reduced electric rate*

*These incentives available when Lake Country Power members go on the 8-Hour Interruptible Water Heating Program.

How would you like to save up to \$200 on a hot shower and receive a reduced electric rate? That is the deal Lake Country Power is offering co-op members on its 8-Hour Interruptible Water Heating Program.

Lake Country Power requires a water heater with a minimum capacity of 50-gallons or more to participate. The program supplies hot water over a peak period while the electrical supply is interrupted up to eight hours a day – usually on the hottest or coldest days of the month.

It also serves as an option for members on peak shave to convert to a lower cost plan.



If you need a new water heater, and for more information, contact Lake Country Power.

800-421-9959 | www.lakecountrypower.coop





Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

WINTER BIRDING

Forecast suggests second year without pine grosbeaks

Annual prediction of northern finch movement still offers some good news for the North Country



by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Will bird fans in our area be forced to survive a second winter in a row without the presence of what is usually the highlight of a North

Left: Pine siskins have moved into the area in large numbers, to take advantage of abundant spruce and cedar cone crops. file photo

Country winter bird feeder? That's the prospect portrayed in the annual Winter Finch Forecast, based on input from a network of intrepid Canadian birders who monitor wild food supplies across the boreal forest.

There's both good news and bad in this year's report, but the top headline for birders in our region is the prediction that pine grosbeaks are unlikely to

move south this winter, due to an abundant crop of mountain ash berries. A productive mountain ash crop was blamed for the no-show of pine grosbeaks last year, so a repeat of those conditions would suggest that these sublime finches won't appear here in large numbers yet again.

Last year was the first time in more than 30 years that we saw an almost total lack of pine grosbeaks, so

I'm still hopeful that we might see at least some movement of these birds into our area this winter. They typically start showing up here in mid-October, so listen closely when you're in the woods for the sweet whistling notes of these colorful grosbeaks. And keep your fingers crossed.

While pine grosbeaks might be scarce this year,

See **FINCHES...** pg. 5B

FALL FELL



The trees may be bare, but you can still find the remnants of a spectacular fall color season by looking down at your feet. The forest floor will be colorful for a little while yet before even these leaves turn drab and gray. Then it will be up to winter to brighten the North Country once again. photo by M. Helmberger

NATURE NOTES

Wild and woolly aphids

These unusual insects are on the move this time of year

One of the stranger insects in the North Country can be commonly seen right now in an alder thicket near you. They're woolly alder aphids, and if you spend time in the late summer or autumn woods, you've probably noticed them before without even knowing it.

These insects, which gather in clumps on the branches of alders this time of year, look more like collections of white mold than insects. That's because these aphids are covered by white and waxy fuzz that is produced as a form of protection against predators. To most insects, aphids are considered a tasty treat, but in the case of woolly aphids, that tasty morsel is covered in a coat of unappetizing wax fibers.



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

These aphids are easiest to spot once the leaves fall and often continue to feed on alders through much of the fall. Most of these aphids are wingless, but the final generation of the season is winged, which allows them to disperse. You may have spotted these dispersing aphids on mild autumn afternoons — they appear like tiny tufts of flying white cotton, but up close



they have a bluish tint.

This final generation each year also includes some males, which allows the aphids to mate, at which point the females will lay their eggs on silver maples. That's where the woolly alder aphids start their next generation each spring. The generations come fast with these aphids, as See **WOOLLY...** pg. 5B

Above: Dozens of woolly alder aphids were congregated on an alder branch near Tower this week. The whitish filaments are waxy growths that provide protection from predators. Woolly alder aphids are now dispersing to breed and will be laying overwintering eggs on silver maple trees.

photo by M. Helmberger

Outdoors briefly

Christmas tree permits available online from USFS

REGIONAL — North Country residents can get a jump on their holiday decorating. The Superior National Forest has an unlimited supply of Christmas trees, and permits are now available to purchase online.

"For many families, venturing into a National Forest to cut their Christmas tree for the holidays is a treasured tradition carried on for generations," said Ann Niesen, Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor.

This year the Forest Service decided to move permit sales to recreation.gov as an added convenience for visitors, as well as provide an alternative to in-person transactions at offices that may remain closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Details about designated cutting areas, dates and types of trees that may be cut can be found at www.recreation.gov/tree-permits/superior. To purchase a Christmas tree permit, visit the website and search for Superior National Forest Christmas Tree Permits. "It is important to carefully read the overview and need-to-know information prior to purchasing the permit," Niesen said. Visitors will also need to set up or login to a Recreation.gov account to complete the transaction.

Superior National Forest Christmas tree permits can also be obtained through contacting your local District Office. For contact information please visit: Superior National Forest Offices Overview.

Cutting a Christmas tree also improves forest health, Niesen added. "The permit system helps to thin densely populated stands of small-diameter trees. Local forest health experts identify areas that benefit from thinning trees that tend to be the perfect size for Christmas trees. Removing these trees in designated areas helps other trees grow larger and can open areas that provide forage for wildlife," she said.

Subscribe to the
TIMBERJAY!
Call
218-753-2950



HUNTING



Special youth deer hunt runs through this Sunday

REGIONAL — If you're planning to be in the woods this weekend, you'll want to be wearing blaze orange. That's because Minnesota's youth deer season starts Thursday, Oct. 15, and runs through Sunday, Oct. 18. The season coincides with statewide teacher workshops, so many Minnesota students don't have school during the youth season. To participate, youth must be 10-17 years old

and have a deer license. An adult parent, guardian, or mentor must accompany youth ages 10-13. All youth hunters and mentors must follow blaze orange/pink clothing requirements. Adults may not hunt, unless they are in an area open during the early antlerless season and have the corresponding license. Complete youth season details are available on the DNR website on the youth hunting page.

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleye fishing showed good signs of improvement as several anglers reported good bites with quality walleyes being caught. Key was to fish large baits, deep. Anglers trolling large minnow baits in 25-30 feet of water, along sharper breaks had the best reports of catching big walleyes. Live bait anglers also reported catching walleyes along sharp shoreline breaks. Here vertical jigging or lindy rigging large minnows up and down the break, proved to be very effective on hungry fall walleyes. 20-35 feet of water is where anglers reported catching walleyes with minnows.

looking for large meals, so large suckers, spoons and large minnow have been very effective on them right now.

Stream trout fishing has remained good to excellent for many anglers targeting them. As water temps continue to fall the bite will only get better. Shore anglers are catching good numbers of trout fishing night crawlers under a bobber and throwing small spoons. Anglers fishing from a boat have been having good luck trolling small minnow baits and small spoons, just 5-10 feet down over deep water.

Courtesy Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely

Pike fishing remains steady with some bigger pike being caught. Pike are now largely being located on shallow, rocky, shoreline flats and around river mouths. Pike are simply staging here looking for spawning whitefish and ciscos. These pike are

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
36 22				38 23				37 22				36 23				39 25			
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.
10/05	52	23	0.00	10/05	53	24	0.00	10/05	50	32	0.00	10/05	63	45	0.00	10/05	52	25	0.00
10/06	64	34	0.00	10/06	64	35	0.00	10/06	62	41	0.02	10/06	68	43	0.02	10/06	64	32	0.06
10/07	68	33	0.14	10/07	69	38	0.05	10/07	67	41	0.08	10/07	57	41	0.10	10/07	68	33	0.11
10/08	57	28	0.00	10/08	57	27	0.00	10/08	57	35	0.00	10/08	61	32	0.01	10/08	58	27	0.00
10/09	60	28	0.00	10/09	60	27	0.00	10/09	58	34	0.00	10/09	73	46	0.00	10/09	60	26	0.00
10/10	75	45	0.00	10/10	75	40	0.00	10/10	73	44	0.00	10/10	55	39	0.00	10/10	75	42	0.00
10/11	57	38	0.00	10/11	56	38	0.00	10/11	52	37	0.00	10/11	63	37	0.00	10/11	61	36	0.00
Total	15.60			YTD Total	15.89			YTD Total	22.97			YTD Total	NA			YTD Total	18.58		

FINCHES...Continued from page 4B

other finches are already showing up in large numbers. As the finch forecast notes, spruce cone crops are abundant this year from northwestern Ontario to Alaska, which should keep large numbers of finches in the western half of the boreal forest this winter. Fortunately for us, that includes our region, which is connected, ecologically if not politically, to northwestern Ontario. We're already seeing huge numbers of pine siskins in our area, which have been feeding aggressively on both spruce and white cedar cones. I've been consistently running into large flocks of siskins along the Ancient Cedars Trail in Tower the past couple weeks.



Pine grosbeaks at a feeder in 2018. They were largely missing in 2019. Will they return this winter? Time will tell. M. Helmberger

Keep in mind that the finch forecast is written primarily to predict the movement of northern finches into southern Ontario or New England — areas well to the south of our region. That's why bad news for those areas doesn't necessarily mean the same for us. With solid cone crops here, we should see plenty of siskins and crossbills, which are all highly nomadic. These species are found in our area year-round, in varying numbers depending on food availability, so we aren't dependent on southerly movement for them to appear. The pine grosbeaks, which breed starting just north of the border, don't have incentive to

move south, even a little, as long as they have sufficient food where they are. Migration is always hazardous for birds (just as it is for people), so there's good reason to stay put, if you can.

dominate bird feeders, where they feed on black oil sunflower seeds and, especially Niger thistle, so the bird seed bill could spike this year.

One consistent report from the boreal woods is the relatively poor crop of birch seed this year. That should send large numbers of redpolls south this year, including into our region. Redpolls breed in the Arctic and although some of these birds always seem to winter in our area, their numbers can explode here when birch seed crops are poor. When they appear in large numbers, they can quickly come to

It's worth noting that the longtime author of the much-anticipated finch forecast, Ron Pittaway, announced his retirement from the forecasting business earlier this year. Fortunately, one of his proteges, Tyler Hoar, a Canadian biologist, is taking over and he hopes to further expand the network of observers who monitor cone and berry crops across the Canadian boreal forest. It's those observations that make the finch forecast possible.

WOOLLY...Continued from page 4B

they reproduce without mating, producing clones of themselves every couple weeks or so. Aphids often have as many as a dozen generations in a single season. That's a succession of generations

that would take about 360 years for us humans.

of alder, where they'll spend the rest of the summer until the final generation of the season disperses, mates, and lays eggs on silver maple to start the process all over again.

At some point by late spring or early summer, the most recent generation will grow wings, at which point they disperse in search

RANGE JEWELRY & GIFTS
In-store jewelry & watch repair
Cash for Gold & Silver
218-827-2515
33 Central Blvd. Suite 200
Babbitt Shopping Center

BIRD SEED
HIBBING FEED AND SEED
262-3049

PETERSEN DRILLING
Since 1948
Wells Water Systems

- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700
Spring Park Rd.
Mt. Iron, MN 55768

CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

CLEAN

- Boats, PWCs, trailers, and gear
- Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, skis, wakeboards, ropes, and life jackets before leaving

DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders. PWCs - run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive
- Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- Trash unused bait

DRY

- Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES! LEARN MORE AT CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG

PUBLIC NOTICES

ELECTION NOTICE

COOK-ORR HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

The election for the township open board positions listed below will be held in conjunction with the General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020

- ❖ Angora Township
- ❖ City of Cook
- ❖ Crane Lake Township
- ❖ City of Orr
- ❖ Owens Township
- ❖ Portage Township
- ❖ Willow Valley Township



Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 16, 2020

**LEIDING TOWNSHIP
CAMP FIVE TOWNSHIP
Notice of General Election**

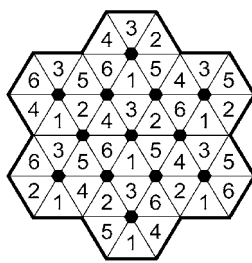
Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of Leiding Township and Camp Five Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota. General election will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Leiding Town Hall, 10707 Hwy. 53, Orr, MN 55771.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 16 & 23, 2020

SNOWFLAKES

solution



**KUGLER TOWNSHIP
Notice of General Election**

Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of Kugler Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota. General election will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall, 9072 Hwy 135 N., Tower, MN 55790. Polls are open to elect the following:

- (One) Board Supervisor A – four-year term
- (One) Board Supervisor B – four-year term
- (One) Township Clerk – four-year term

Please call the Kugler Town Clerk Julie Suihkonen with any questions, 753-3314.

Published in the Timberjay, Oct 16 & 23, 2020

EMPLOYMENT



**living well
THERAPY**

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Living Well Physical Therapy currently has an exciting opportunity for a physical therapist to be part of our expanding team and work in a private practice setting in Northeast Minnesota. The qualified candidate will have strong manual therapy skills, experience in working with a wide variety of clients, and excellent customer service skills. Benefits will include a competitive wage, paid sick and holiday time, health care benefits, matching 401K, and continuing education funds.

Interested candidates should please call Patrick at 218-343-6253.

Or e-mail patrick@living-well-therapy.com

**KUGLER TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting Notice**

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020 at the Kugler Town Hall. Social distancing will be practiced.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct 16, 2020

Read us online at
timberjay.com
218-753-2950

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. **Going forward, all voting by registered voters in the Township will be done by mail-in ballots processed by the St. Louis County Auditor's Office.**

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 get your mail at a post office box or if you are a snowbird and you have your mail forwarded, you would have to register to receive an Absentee Ballot, because mail-in ballots are not forwarded or delivered to a Post Office Box.**

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. You could vote at the County Auditor's Office at the following locations:

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 vote prior to that during the absentee period, you would place your ballot in an envelope and it would be processed by the absentee ballot board.

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. **Any questions, call 612-708-6823 or email eaglesnestwp@citlink.net**

Sincerely,

Deb Siverhus, Clerk of Eagles Nest Township

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



OPEN POSITIONS 10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Care Center

FT & PT Nursing Assistant (wage starting at \$15.88/hr - Sign-On Bonus)
FT MDS-PPS Coordinator/RN Educator

Environmental Services

Casual Laundry Aide

Radiology

FT Radiology Tech

Hospital/ER

PT Registered Nurse

**Excellent Wages!
Ask about our
sign on bonus!**

Activities

PT Activities Assistant

Dietary

FT Certified Dietary Manager
PT & Casual Dietary Aide/Cook

TO APPLY:

www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/

More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220

humanresources@cookhospital.org

Equal Opportunity Employer/Affirmative Action Employer

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

EMPLOYMENT

POSITION OPENING

**Ely Public Schools
Temporary Paraprofessional**

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

Qualifications include:

- AA Degree or two years of college required
- 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
- College Transcripts
- 2 letters of recommendation

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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$16.57/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: October 23, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 16, 2020

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

The agency is looking for someone with good customer service and office skills, and willing to be trained as an insurance agent. If interested, please e-mail your resume to tsagency@frontiernet.net or mail it to PO Box 499, Tower, MN 55790.

10/16

Super Crossword

Answers



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

**Subscribe Today
(218) 753-2950**

TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

HAIR CARE

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

VERMILION SHEAR IMAGE- Open Tues.-Fri., 9-5. Main St., Tower. 218-753-2928. tfn

HOSPICE

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

LICENSE BUREAU

COOK LICENSE BUREAU- TEMPORARY COVID-19 DUE TO COVID-19 Open: M-W-F 9am - 3pm. Mail in or drop off only at this time. Call with any questions, 218-666-6199 Email: cookdep159@gmail.com

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEETING in Ely! "New Ideas" WOMEN IN RECOVERY: 12 Steps. For women seeking help and hope to recover from any addiction: drugs, alcohol, food, gambling etc. Every Thursday noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Come join us! Q: 218-235-3581.

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA MEETING- Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 E Camp St., Ely. Enter through side door.

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

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

BUILDING SERVICES

EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC "Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota In Your Home" Superior Quality

- Plank Paneling
• Trim
• One-Of-A-Kind Moldings
• Industrial Lumber
218-744-1788
8825 Hwy 101, Orr, MN 55751

WANTED

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

FOR SALE

OLD STRAW FOR SALE- \$6, square bales. Call 218-638-2850. 10/23p

SCRAMBLERS

solution
1. Violate 2. Dispute;
3. Precept; 4. Secret

TODAY'S WORD

SPORTS

Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.

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

MARINE

MERCURY OUTBOARDS Frank's Marine Sales & Service. Orr, MN 55771 Mercury Outboards, MerCruiser, Crestliner Lund, Spartan Trailers, Ercos Pontoons. Call 218-757-3150

Handberg's MARINA Sales • Service Rentals General Store 218-993-2214 www.handbergs.com

ARONSON BOAT WORKS LAKE VERMILION, TOWER Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169 Hours: Mon-Sat: 8:30 AM-5:30 PM Sun: 9 AM-3 PM

Gruben's MARINA & VILLAGE Boat launch, rental, store & repair Cabins for a great, fun vacation See us at: www.grubens.com Call us at: 218.753.5000 4296 Arrowhead Point Rd, Tower MN 55790

MOCCASIN POINT MARINE 4655 Moccasin Point Rd Lake Vermilion 218-753-3319 Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales Mechanic on Duty moccasinpointmarine.com YAMAHA

MARINE



Centrally Located On Lake Vermilion

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

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

TIMBUKTU MARINA LAKE VERMILION 218-666-2131 Cabin rentals Year round boat storage and dockage Boat and pontoon rental Convenience store Gas, bait & liquor timbukumarina.com

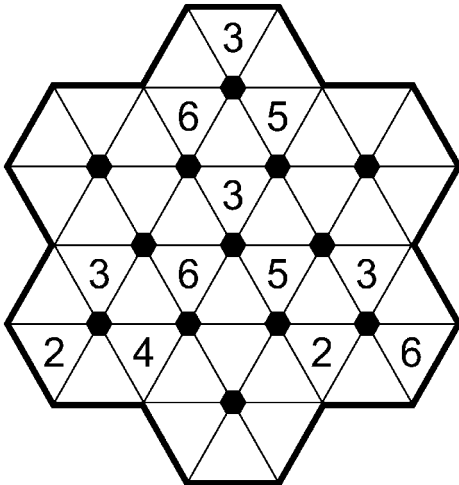
Super Crossword REVOLUTIONS

- ACROSS 1 Mad crowd 4 Ritchie Valens hit of 1959 11 Artificial waterway 16 Jacuzzi joint 19 LAX screeners 20 Mining stuff 21 "Ad — per aspera" 22 Formal duds for a dude 23 Some Sufi ascetics 26 Server's goal 27 Actress Garr 28 Was ahead 29 Julio's gold 30 "Much obliged" 32 Air-cooling vanes 36 Means of telling time 38 — good clip 39 Writer Capote, to pals 41 Steed feed 42 Firestone products 50 Lots and lots 54 Gotten up 55 Technique: Abbr. 56 Feel ill 57 Gloomy 59 — mater 60 Wolf down 62 They succeeded audiotapes 65 "Yipes!" 67 Big lug 68 Ward (off) 69 Alley hisser 70 Ax-wielding lumberjack 72 Dust devils' cousins 75 Old overlords 77 Lupino of "Jennifer" 78 "Arrow" network 80 Quarterback Dawson 81 Big printer brand 83 Carnival classics 86 Coll. email ender 87 Faint trace 90 Tax 91 "Kidnapped" author's initials. 92 Choose 94 Paradisiacal 96 Talk back to 97 Planets, e.g. 100 Fill-in worker 103 Tyke 104 Pampering, for short 105 Record player parts 110 Kids hold their horses on them 116 Tile design 117 German city 118 It fills la Seine 119 Et — (and others) 120 "Devious Maids" actress Ortiz 121 What 10 of this puzzle's answers do 127 Beer barrel 128 See 116-Down 129 What's often decorated for Christmas 130 "— your call" 131 Sooner than, in odes 132 One-of- — (unique) 133 Bleepers of bad words 134 Tofu source DOWN 1 Letters of the weekday 2 Actor Milo 3 Scottish tyke 4 Wee, like Abner 5 Meyers of the screen 6 — Jovi 7 Point of view 8 In a self-effacing way 9 Engendered 10 Ireland's — Lingus 11 Nile capital 12 Professional org. 13 — degree 14 Soul queen Franklin 15 Beat against, as waves 16 Get up 17 NHL game souvenirs 18 Lines of symmetry 24 Celery piece 25 Loudness knob abbr. 31 Actor Aziz — 33 Like filmsy excuses 34 Expiated 35 Little dollop 36 Shorten 37 Wallops in the ring 40 Create a new digital image of 42 Small battery type 43 E-address 44 Sci-fi travel facilitators 45 Inedible kind of orange 46 Suffix with 116-Across 47 Answer to "Are you?" 48 Teases mercilessly 49 Give a thrill 51 Conductor Arturo 52 Film award 53 Jays' places 57 "Girl Code" channel 58 Dramatist Clifford 61 In — (agitated) 63 Bar none 64 Examined before 66 "— a jealous mistress" 67 "1984" novelist George 70 LP players of old 71 Plant swelling 73 Earthy hue, to Brits 74 Explorer Hernando 76 Seeded 79 1940s pres. 82 Hopi abode 84 Speakers' platforms 85 Ending for Siam 86 Zeta follower 88 You, in German 89 Many laptops 93 British island in Polynesia 95 Film providing a factual report, for short 97 Tax-filing pro 98 Rd. relatives 99 Piece of mail: Abbr. 101 Riddle 102 Highest peak in N.Z. 105 Copier stuff robbing 106 Application 107 Martin Van — 108 Bridges of film 109 Rhea relative 111 Moms' sisters, say 112 Cyst, e.g. 113 — Island (old immigration point) 114 Give a false story 115 Spacek of "The River" 116 With 128-Across, earn wages 118 Falco of TV 122 DiFranco of song 123 The Rams' gridiron gp. 124 — -Magnon 125 Ending for cash 126 Abode: Abbr.

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

Grid of numbers for the Snowflakes puzzle: 8 9 5 3 1 2 6 4 7; 1 3 4 6 7 9 8 2 5; 7 6 2 8 5 4 1 9 3; 9 1 3 5 6 7 4 8 2; 6 4 7 9 2 8 3 5 1; 5 2 8 1 4 3 7 6 9; 3 7 6 2 8 5 9 1 4; 2 8 9 4 3 1 5 7 6; 4 5 1 7 9 6 2 3 8

SCRAMBLERS

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

Defy OLEAVIT Oppose STEUPID Twirl CEPPTER Furtive CRETES

TODAY'S WORD

"He's just like his father — he loves _____."

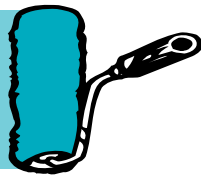


Photo: King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Bob Schaefer



HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



YOU CALL, WE HAUL!

Cement Trucks, Building Materials
Septic-pumping Trucks, Dirt
Well-drilling Equipment
Propane Delivery

Carl Anderson

Anderson Barging, Inc.

Cell 218-780-4955

www.andersonbarging.com

Covering all of Lake Vermilion

BEAR RIVER ELECTRIC



12896 Hwy. 1, Cook, MN Lic EA756990
Shawn & Diane 507-272-3882



In Business Since
• 1979 •

Call Now To
Schedule Your
FALL Work!

It's a great time to be outdoors!



"Fetch us" for
your fall
projects!

Landscaping
Services, Patios,
Garden Design,
Retaining Walls,
Yard Restoration

(218) 365-6037 • 2331 Old Hwy. 169, Ely
1/4 mi. east of 88 & 169 • greenstonenursery.com

Licensed Septic Design & Installation

- ◆ Complete Site & Building Preparation
 - ◆ Road Building, Land Clearing, Basement, Demolition
 - ◆ Digging, Dozing, Hauling
 - ◆ Sand, Gravel, Crushed Rock, Black Dirt
- Call for an estimate • 218-365-4220
2408 Hwy. 169, PO Box 608, Ely, MN 55731
jschulze.excavating2@gmail.com

FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Delivered Redi-Mix Concrete
Septic Tanks

We have: Concrete Steps & Sidewalk Pavers,
Crushed & Washed Rock, Sand,
Garden Soil, Crushed & Screened Gravel,
Different Types of Concrete Blocks.
FREE ESTIMATES for site development,
roads, fill and excavations.

Celebrating Over 47 Years! From Ely to Tower-Soudan and Virginia, using local gravel pits to support all your needs.

FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS



1715 E. Sheridan, Ely, MN 55731
office 218-365-6161 • plant 218-365-4030
fax 218-365-6985 • cell 218-341-3197



Real Estate
Closing Services,
Title Insurance
& Abstracting

Northeast Title Company has competitive rates and professional services assuring peace of mind for our customers before and after closing. We take pride in our service and have a proven history of being a leader in the industry. Customers can expect quality services and products along with a professional staff that takes pride in every closing. Our warm, friendly, and professional approach in all of our transactions ensures our customers a level of comfort that is unmatched in the industry.

ELY OFFICE
545 E Sheridan St • Ely, MN 55731
Phone (218)365-5256
Angie Mikulich
Licensed Closing Agent

VIRGINIA OFFICE
612 13 St S • Virginia MN 55792
Phone (218)741-1515
Jodee Micheletti
Owner/Licensed Closing Agent

COOK/SURROUNDING AREAS
Phone (218)666-3174
Sharon Maronick
Licensed Closing Agent

www.netitle.com

Fall Foam Special!

CertiFoam

2" High Density
STYROFOAM \$25

CASH AND CARRY • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST



Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344
Hours: Mon. Fri: 7-5, Sat: 8-12
eric@cookbuildingcenter.com

DOCKS & WHEELS **DAKA** SHOREMASTER PRODUCTS

Custom made by DOW
Building Heavy Duty Docks
in Ely for 42 years

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM!
Quality Shorefront Products

Factory Dealer of
DAKA & Shoremaster Products
www.docksonwheels.com

2195 Twin Lakes Road
5 miles west of Ely
on Hwy 169

218.365.6210 Call Bob for a FREE ESTIMATE

Get Results!

Advertise in the Timberjay!

ALUMACRAFT

Check Out Our New Products!

Quality & reliable marine sales & service

Duane's Marine

YAMAHA
EVIRIDE

Open: Mon-Fri, 9-5
Sat. 9-Noon
8327 Unity Dr., Virginia / Mt. Iron
218-741-8532

Leaf Filter
GUTTER PROTECTION

INSTALLS ON NEW & EXISTING GUTTERS

BEFORE LeafFilter AFTER LeafFilter

15% OFF AND! **10% OFF** + **5% OFF**

YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!

Promo Number: 285

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-855-845-8425**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. ** Offer valid at estimate only. CS18# 10379; DCP# #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41254 License# 99338 License# 12854 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 210212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFF-#W01232 License# W0505912 License# WC-2998#117 Nassau HIC License# H01007000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC 0648905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366202018 Registration# PC0475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH0953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52223-H

Call **753-2950** to subscribe to the **Timberjay!**

Fire Prevention Month

We Help You...Be Safe

- Smoke Alarms
- Batteries
- Fire Extinguishers

We are a UPS Shipping Drop-Off

VERMILION LUMBER
HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS
218-753-2230
302 Main St., Tower, MN
M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; Sat: 8 AM-Noon

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Window is cracked. 2. Boy's hair is different. 3. Bushes are missing. 4. Pile of leaves is larger. 5. House is narrower. 6. Shirt has long sleeves.

©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

ROLL OUT... BRAND NEW LOOK

Our sales experts will help you select the perfect carpet for any room in your home or cabin!

Berbers • Plush • Shag • Level Loop Indoor/Outdoor

See Special Pricing on In-Stock Carpets

Check Out Our... AREA RUGS and REMNANTS!

SO MUCH TO CHOOSE FROM!

WE PROVIDE INSTALLATION!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.floor-to-ceilingvirginia.com

BIG Enough to Serve you; **small** Enough to Know You

FLOOR to CEILING
INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWROOM

8401 Enterprise Drive N., Virginia/Mt. Iron
(1/2 Mile West on Highway 169) • 741-6690

HOURS: 9-5 M-F

Find us on **facebook.**