

Early deadline next week

Articles and ads due by Saturday, Nov. 21 at 5 p.m. Watch for our special holiday edition on Wednesday, Nov. 25, with our North Country Christmas magazine inside!



the **TIMBERJAY**



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MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

Bakk, Tomassoni quit DFL caucus

Longtime state senators go 'Independent'

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— After his closest election contest in years as a DFL member of the Minnesota Legislature, state Senator Tom Bakk, of Cook, has announced this week that he is forming an Independent Caucus along

with fellow Iron Ranger, state Senator, David Tomassoni.

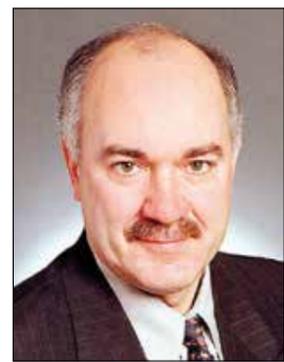
The announcement marks a surprising development that is likely to strengthen the two northern Minnesota lawmakers' hands in the closely-divided Senate. Both Bakk and Tomassoni say they

expect to be named to committee chairs, a possibility that suggests some coordination with Senate Republican leaders. Bakk has maintained a generally cordial relationship over the years with Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, R- East Gull Lake, despite representing

different parties.

Gazelka welcomed the announcement and the "stronger alignment" that he expects with the two longtime lawmakers. "We share the same vision of a prosperous Iron Range and will continue to work with

See...DFL pg. 7



David Tomassoni



Thomas Bakk

OUTDOOR SCIENCE LAB



Ely students study weather physics

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY – Middle-school science students at ISD 696 gathered on the baseball field Tuesday morning for a weather balloon launch. The event was part of a coordinated learning project this fall with Duluth-area schools.

"This is a fun opportunity for our students to get excited about science in the atmosphere," said Ely science teacher Nate LaFond.

The eighth-grade science classes studied weather forecasts, particularly

Memorial School eighth-grade science students launched a weather balloon Tuesday that rode the jet stream to northern Wisconsin. The experiment and data package was to be retrieved late this week.

photos by K. Vandervort

the winds aloft predictions, for the past week in order to launch the balloon in near-perfect conditions. "We were shooting for about a one- or two-hour

See...BALLOON pg. 8



COVID-19

Restaurant and tavern restrictions start Friday

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL— Just days after enacting new restrictions on bars and restaurants to stem the tide of coronavirus infections, Gov. Tim Walz was expected to announce Wednesday that he's ordering those establishments to close their facilities for four weeks and offer only take-out service, beginning Friday.

Fitness centers will also be forced to close for four weeks as the state is on pace to surpass 300,000 COVID-19 cases and 3,000 deaths by Thanksgiving. That's according to media reports just ahead of the *Timberjay's* Wednesday afternoon deadline. The governor was expected to make an official announcement at a news conference set for Wednesday evening.

Walz is also expected to place a hold on school sporting events and practices, squelching sectional semifinal football games scheduled for Saturday, halting volleyball, and preventing practices from starting for winter sports. It's unknown

See...COVID pg. 7



WATER AND SEWER

Tower City Council defers talk of higher utility rates

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

TOWER— The city has work to do to bring the operations of its water and sewer into compliance with its own ordinances. That was the message from Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua during a special council meeting

that included a fully-elected council for the first time in more than 18 months. It came as the city is working to wrap up its 2021 budget, which must be completed by next month.

The city has been running deficits for years in its utilities account and that's inconsistent with the city's ordinance, Ranua

told the council. "These are supposed to be covered by user fees or some other source of funding," she said.

The shortfall may actually be greater than previously understood, Ranua noted, because the city had only estimated the wage costs for maintaining the system. "We are now tracking

those wages and the amount we are spending on utilities is much greater than had been estimated," she said. "We have aging infrastructure and it's requiring more wages to keep it going."

Ranua said the city should be budgeting based on actuals, rather than estimates, and needs to be following its ordinances, its

utilities policies, its charter, and best practices. "The city really hasn't been structuring it that way," she said.

While Ranua said she has a firm idea of the city's expenditures for utilities, the council seemed reluctant to discuss

See...TOWER pg. 7



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Community notices

Ely hospital limits visits

ELY - Due to the continued rise in the number of positive COVID-19 cases across the community, county and state, Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is now limiting visitors to their campus.

- Restrictions include but are not limited to inpatients, Emergency Department, and visitors transporting patients to outpatient appointments.
- Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis and limited to one visitor at a time for end-of-life, minor children, vulnerable adults, and traumas.
- Any visitors allowed into the building will be asked to wear a mask and complete a short screening, including a temperature check, sign-in, and visitor identification.

For more information, call 218-365-3271.

Artists sought for February Ely ArtWalk

ELY- The 2021 Ely ArtWalk is just around the corner. Held from Feb. 4-28, 2021, this annual affair will once again be part of the Ely Winter Festival. This time the show is extended to the entire month of February.

“Our non-competitive, non-profit display of creative talent will be the second edition of Ely’s hardy mid-winter window shopping tradition,” said organizer Mary Setterholm. “More than 45 businesses participate by offering their store windows as a city-wide gallery.”

ArtWalk 2021 registrations and payment are due by Friday, Dec. 4. To register online or for more information, go to www.elyartwalk.org. If it is difficult to register online, paper entry forms can be found at Art and Soul Gallery in Ely.

Individual entries require a \$10 fee for up to five pieces and group entries require a \$30 fee for a maximum of 15 pieces. Payment is accepted online or checks can be mailed to Ely ArtWalk, PO Box 132, Ely, MN 55731.

“The Ely ArtWalk draws many visitors from all around the Arrowhead and beyond,” Setterholm said. “Most of the work can be purchased and 100 percent of sales go to the artist.”

The Ely ArtWalk is dedicated to the creation, promotion, and appreciation of the arts. This activity is made possible in part by a grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

Shine Bright Ely events begin Thanksgiving night, Nov. 26

ELY- Let there be light! Shine Bright Ely, a new Chamber event, kicks off on Thanksgiving evening. Join area businesses as they deck their windows and storefronts with all things cheery. The switch is flipped at sunset, so enjoy festive displays and holiday lights after a hearty holiday meal. Businesses will be open to do some preholiday shopping, too. Watch for the event map featuring participating businesses @ElyChamberOfCommerce or Ely.org/shopping on Monday, Nov. 23.

Are you a resident who loves to decorate outdoors for the holidays? Do you compete with your neighbors for the best decorated house on the block? We would love to add you and your neighbors to our Shine Bright Ely list. Contact events@ely.org or 218-365-6123 by Nov. 20 with your in-town location.

Ely’s Smalltown Christmas Shop Local is set for Saturday, Nov. 28. Ely is home to many great locally-made products ranging from outdoor clothing and gear, to knife sharpening systems, to granola. Don’t forget the unique giftware, fine art, and hardware too – surely there is something for everyone on your list. Support our local restaurants by purchasing delicious carryout meals and beverages. Check @ElyChamberOfCommerce or Ely.org/shopping on Monday, Nov. 23, for a list of all participating businesses.

Remember to shop local, not only on Small Town Christmas Saturday, but every day. Support the businesses that support the community through their generous financial, facility, and product support to the many events, nonprofit organizations and fundraisers throughout the year.

Several events will not be held this year including the Holiday Parade and City Tree Lighting Ceremony. COVID-19 restrictions prevent moving forward with these events.

The Mrs. Claus Party is modified this year as a no-contact event. Families will drive through the Ely Chamber of Commerce parking lot at 1600 E Sheridan St. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be outside the Chamber building greeting youth from 1-2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12. Elves will deliver age-appropriate goodie bags filled with treats, small gifts, and holiday craft kits to each vehicle.

MUSIC

MSO Strings to play virtually, Nov. 21



submitted photo

REGIONAL - An adapted and adjusted MSO 2020-2021 season is about to begin with the orchestra’s first ever digital-only concert. The concert, aptly titled “The Strings of the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra,” will feature members of the string sections in a socially distanced and masked setting. For safety, there will be no wind players or percussion, and there will be no live audience in the hall. The concert will delight viewers with

classic works for string orchestra by Edward Elgar, Samuel Barber, Edward Grieg and Gerald Finzi.

Though the performance may be virtual, the joy and love of the music are as real as ever. The hardest part, which can be neither measured nor overstated, is how much the musicians miss their loyal supporters. Audiences bring vital energy to performing groups. Audience reactions form and inform what musicians do on stage and can turn “just

a concert” into a night to remember.

Please go to www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.com on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. for the premiere of “The Strings of the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra”. The concert is free of charge for all patrons, supporters and music lovers, but donations of any size are welcome. (The price of a ticket would greatly help in continuing to provide concerts like this one!) Simply visit the “Support MSO”

page on the website for more information on how to donate. As always, watch the Facebook page and website for more information and updates.

Operating support and support for this performance are made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to legislative appropriations from the general and arts and cultural heritage funds.

EXCEPTIONAL HOSPITALITY

Two Fortune Bay employees honored with Spirit of Hospitality awards

REGIONAL- The Spirit of Hospitality awards were created by the Iron Range Tourism Bureau in 2012 to honor exceptional employees in the tourism and hospitality industry who enhance visitors’ experiences in the twelve communities that make up the IRTB service area. Winners of the 2020 awards were recently announced and include two employees of Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

Elise Grabowski won the guest relations category. “Awesome” was just one of many kind words used to describe her. “Elise’s customer service is so good that our company wishes we could clone her a thousand times,” wrote co-worker Alecia Keller, who nominated Grabowski. When nominated, Grabowski was a casino host at Fortune Bay Resort Casino; by the time of her award she had been promoted to Events and Promotions Manager. “It’s a huge reflection of management who were very influential. Hannah Lehti and Alton Barfield were very encouraging,” she said.

Lucian Whitney beat out 15 other nominees to win the food production category. “Lucian consistently demonstrates the qualities and attributes that define hospitality,” wrote



Left: Elise Grabowski won an award for guest relations. submitted photo
Right: Lucian Whitney won an award for food production. photo courtesy of Herbergs Hot Shots

his boss Kirstie Kern in her nomination. Whitney is the executive sous chef and Sunset Steakhouse manager at Fortune Bay. “In the 27 years I’ve worked in the industry, the people I’ve met have influenced everything I’ve become,” he said. “I wouldn’t give it up for the world.”

Other award winners: Debby Bocnuk Roswold, a volunteer ski patrol and youth Nordic skiing instructor at Giants Ridge, won a volunteer of the year award.

Pete Pellinen, a volunteer with Small Parts Player Children’s Theater Group in Virginia, won a volunteer of the year award.

John Soghigian, a volunteer with numerous councils, boards, and com-

mittees that address children’s mental health issues, won a volunteer of the year award.

Kelly Gustavsson of Caribou Coffee in Virginia won the retail award.

Sarina Greskowiak of Northern Divide Bar and Eatery won the server award.

Amanda Reed of Drop-In Daycare and Milestones won the behind-the-scenes award.

Peter Vachon of BoomTown won the bartender award.

Tristan Renner from Comfort Inn and Suites in Mt. Iron won the hotel guest services award.

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LIFE LOST

Ely Wolf Center loses ambassador wolf

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Boltz suffered from neurological issues in recent months

ELY - Boltz, a popular ambassador wolf at the International Wolf Center here, was euthanized last week. In recent months, a neurological issue with his hind legs was discovered by wolf care staff, and despite the efforts of veterinarians, radiologists, wolf care staff and countless others, no progress could be made to treat the condition.

Upon experiencing the debilitating health issues with his hind legs this fall, Boltz was given an MRI at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital.

Radiologists at the University of Minnesota reviewed the results, as did Dr. Kristine Woerheide from the Ely Veterinary Clinic. Unfortunately, the MRI did not lead to a conclusive diagnosis of Boltz's condition, according to Chad Richardson, IWC communications director.

"This was a challenging

management decision because there was no clear indication that he was fully incapacitated," said Lori Schmidt, the Wolf Center's Wolf Curator. "Throughout this condition, he had been waxing and waning in mobility. While it doesn't appear that the condition had a significant pain correlation, his lack of strength in his back legs made him vulnerable to falling. As colder, icier conditions arrived, he was struggling to become mobile. We are ethically obligated to manage an animal's behavioral health and the anxiety of his vulnerability was increasing. Dr. Kristine Woerheide's dedication to this case was phenomenal. Unfortunately, Boltz didn't respond to any treatment options."

Dr. Woerheide conducted a spinal tap last month for additional testing for several potential diagnoses, but test results showed no definitive answers

and treatment efforts yielded no results, Richardson said.

After he was euthanized, his body was transported to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostics Lab for a necropsy. Those results will further educate staff as the center continues to manage its four remaining wolves in Ely.

Boltz had been on exhibit at the Ely Wolf Center since 2012. He was representative of the Great Plains subspecies of wolves. That subspecies is typically found in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. He was born in 2012 and joined the Exhibit Pack in July of that year.

He and his pack mates at the Wolf Center have educated tens of thousands of visitors at the center's exhibit in Ely, as well as thousands of people throughout the world through regular YouTube videos, wolf logs and webcams.

"We are heartbroken



photo courtesy of Heidi Pinkerton

to announce this loss to our Ambassador pack," said Grant Spickelmier, the Wolf Center's executive director. "But we are consoled by the fact that during his eight years with us, Boltz educated and inspired tens of thousands of people at our interpretive center and online. His educational legacy will go on."

Boltz was always a low-rank-

ing wolf. Early on, he developed a phobia about summertime insects, particularly wasps, hornets and bees. "When he heard something buzzing overhead, he dropped his head and retreated to the wooded portion of the enclosure," Richardson

See **BOLTZ...**pg. 5

CITY OF ELY

Ely zeros in on short-term rental ordinance

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - City Council members received a near-final draft of an ordinance providing for the licensing of short-term rentals. A public hearing is scheduled for next month to allow the public to weigh in before final approval.

City Attorney Kelly Klun said the ordinance has been in the works for more than two years. Klun added that consultations

with St. Louis County and the Minnesota Department of Health to incorporate their rules and regulations were also part of the ordinance. The city's building official was also consulted in drafting the ordinance.

The purpose of the ordinance is to regulate vacation or short-term rentals within the city, and to allow property owners to offer their property for rent for a period of less than 30 days.

The draft ordinance stipulates:

► Property owners are required to obtain a permit from the city for all short-term rentals.

► A license from the Minnesota Department of Health is required for each short-term rental unit.

► Short-term rentals are required to pay city lodging taxes.

► Short-term rental licenses are required in Zones R-1, R-2, RT and SMU (Shoreland Multiple Use). Short-term licenses are not required in

C-1 and C-2 and for previously licensed lodging establishments.

► Occupancy by use of recreational vehicles, tents, garages, sheds, and other structures is not allowed.

► Limits on occupancy are required.

Council members approved the first reading of the short-term rental ordinance on a 5-2 vote. Council members Paul Kess and Angela Campbell voted against the measure.

Kess objected to allowing

short-term rentals in R-1 Zoning areas.

"If we allow rentals in these (residential) areas, it changes the character of the neighborhood," he said. "There is the potential for constant changeover for people who live right next door. Suddenly there is a short-term hotel right next to you that you have no control over." He also mentioned public safety, traffic,

See **RENTALS...**pg. 5

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Editorial

Time to act on cannabis

If lawmakers won't take up marijuana legalization, let the voters decide

It's a rare thing when one can say that South Dakota is ahead of Minnesota, but such is the case after voters next door resoundingly approved a constitutional amendment to legalize recreational marijuana on Nov. 4.

Fifty percent more South Dakotans voted for the measure than voted for Joe Biden for president, shredding any notion that this was anything other than a bipartisan rejection of the failure of prohibition and an affirmation that the state will benefit from having a legally regulated marijuana industry.

After a failed attempt in 2016, Arizona approved recreational use of marijuana as well, as did voters in New Jersey. Awaiting final certification, it appears Montana will be the fourth state to ratify recreational marijuana use this election cycle.

Nearly a third of U.S. states and the District of Columbia have now approved such measures after Colorado and Washington became the first in 2012, and the trend is undeniable—when voters are given the choice, they choose legalization.

So why is Minnesota dragging its heels? Polls show more than half of registered voters in the state support legalizing recreational use, with barely a third registering opposition. Two political parties in favor of recreational cannabis have built followings in the state potent enough to draw enough votes to affect the outcomes of legislative races.

Maybe it has something to do with the state's long history with Prohibition. A Minnesota Congressman wrote the law enacting the 13-year federal constitutional ban on alcohol, an act that failed so miserably that it was the first and only time a constitutional amendment has been repealed. Yet today, Minnesota remains the only state in the nation that still clings to a Prohibition-era law forbidding grocery and convenience stores from selling anything stronger than 3.2 beer.

Surely it can't be because of a careful and balanced analysis of the experience in other states. Like the naysayers of the 1930s who grossly misrepresented the “dangers” of cannabis using inflammatory and racially-charged rhetoric to criminalize its use, those who seek today to preserve a failed system of marijuana prohibition cherry pick and inflate the negatives they can find beyond any reasonable measure.

What opponents fail to admit is that the prohibition model on marijuana has been an utter failure. Criminalization of marijuana use and possession ruins lives, encourages gang activity, costs taxpayers dearly for law enforcement and corrections, and accomplishes nothing.

Recreational use of marijuana is so widespread in the state, it's doubtful legalization would expand its use.

No one can claim legalizing marijuana for recreational use is risk free. Such an assertion would be foolish and irresponsible. But through the democratic process the people have overwhelming accepted the well-documented dangers and consequences of alcohol use, and no one is calling for a return to the days of Prohibition. Likewise, the nation has accepted the use of tobacco products and the enormous cost in money and lives that entails.

Support in Minnesota and the country has relentlessly grown for legalizing the recreational use of cannabis to the point that two-thirds of Americans now say it should be legal. The time has come for the question to get a full hearing in Minnesota in the manner any such issue deserves in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

DFLers already favor legalization, but it's been Republican legislators who have lined up in opposition. These are the same GOP lawmakers touting personal freedom when it comes to wearing masks to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. Where's their concern for personal freedom when it comes to the use of cannabis, which certainly doesn't pose the public health risks associated with COVID-19?

Minnesota House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler in May introduced a 227-page bill to legalize recreational use of marijuana which would create a regulatory structure focused on developing micro-businesses and a craft market, provide for expungement of most cannabis convictions, require testing and labeling of products, provide funding for public health awareness, youth access prevention, and substance abuse addiction and treatment, build on best practices from other states, and more.

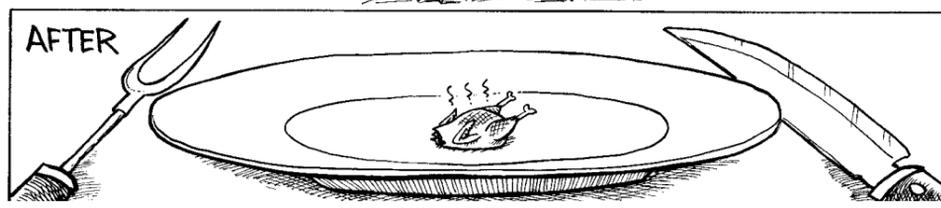
“Minnesotans have been loud and clear that our current cannabis laws are doing more harm than good,” Winkler said, while deferring consideration of the bill until after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Provided the pandemic is waning when the Legislature next convenes, Winkler's bill and the wishes of a majority of Minnesotans deserve not only serious consideration, but affirmative action. If lawmakers are unwilling to vote on it themselves, put it on the ballot and let the voters decide. If Republicans won't support that, they should quit talking about personal freedom. Period. There's only so much hypocrisy Minnesotans can stand.

BEFORE



AFTER



Letters from Readers

Putting Floyd's murder in perspective

I live about three miles west of 38th and Chicago Ave. in south Minneapolis, and my office is a mile south.

George Floyd's arrest wasn't “attempted.” It was fatal. It was also careless, brutal, and done in front of two or three dozen people who kept telling the officers the guy was dying because one of the officers had his knee on the guy's neck. Hands cuffed behind his back, cooperating from the get-go, laying on the street face down. The cop knew Floyd personally, having worked security with him at a local dance hall many times.

If this had happened to a white guy in Cook or Tower or Ely— even if the guy had a record, stood six-foot, seven inches, and weighed 240 lbs., and tried to pass a bogus twenty-dollar bill at the dollar store— would you see him being choked to death for ten minutes in front of the McDonald's as being okay? With his hands cuffed behind his back and lying face down in the parking lot, all right in front of the local community in broad daylight?

Just asking.
Dave Porter
Minneapolis

Reliable information is available, so why live in denial?

In online comments on the *Timberjay's* website, frequent commenter Scott Atwater challenged me to present some scientific facts that wearing masks help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

I copied and pasted a recommendation from the Mayo Clinic website but it apparently wasn't good enough. Here's more information from the CDC: “Wearing cloth masks can help prevent people infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 from spreading the virus. Make sure your cloth mask: fits snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, completely covers the nose and

mouth, is secured with ties or ear loops, includes multiple layers of fabric, allows for breathing without restriction, and can be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape. Cloth masks should NOT be worn by children less than two years old or anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.”

If that's not good enough for skeptics, then here's one from Larry Chu MD, a professor of anesthesia and director of the AIM Laboratories.

How do cloth face coverings prevent the spread of COVID-19?

Chu: In order to answer this, it's first important to understand the concept of source control. We've learned that as many as 40 percent of people infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 may have no symptoms. But when they talk, cough or sneeze, they can still spread the virus to others in the form of respiratory droplets expelled into the air. Those droplets evaporate into fine particles that may linger. The mask traps these larger droplets before they can evaporate. So, wearing a mask regularly can prevent spreading at the source even when we don't know we are sick. But masks are just one important way to prevent this disease from spreading. Washing your hands regularly and thoroughly and keeping at least six feet apart from one another are still vitally important.

May google search be your friend. If not, then hit me up again asking for facts. I will gove them for you until the cows come home.

Brian LaFrenier
Embarrass Twp.

Doctor provides inspiration when it's needed most

Recently, I listened to the painfully strained voice of a physician in Billings, Mon. describing conditions in her hospital as it overflows with people admitted with serious complications from the coro-

navirus. Her plea to the public was for us to recognize that the United States is now facing an epidemic that is “truly out of control.”

She described extraordinary measures being taken to address the overwhelming physical and emotional demands that she and her staff are dealing with. She stated with urgent distress in her voice that her hospital was now approaching its limits and “some very difficult decisions” would soon have to be made. “Unless,” she added, “we are successful in quickly curbing this spike in cases.” Her story pierced through any shred of hopeless resignation or complacency that might still have been lingering inside me.

Her voice was like that of President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressing the nation in his famous “Fireside Chats”. FDR's goal was to bring the country together to better endure the throes of the Great Depression, and also to muster the will to mobilize for the ensuing global military conflict that would become World War II. He also aspired to foster the confidence that by working together, we could certainly overcome our hardships and any threats to our national security. He was honest and personal in his message.

This strained and heartfelt plea from a frontline physician in Montana was as powerful as anything I'd ever heard coming from a military commander, begging for more support while battling in the midst of a fierce firefight, right before being completely overrun. She wasn't asking for us to come stand beside her in that ICU. She was only urging us, intently, to wear our masks and keep our distance to help stop the accelerating spread of a deadly disease! If we aren't listening, we really have lost our soul as a nation.

P.S. Here's a sincere “Thank you!” to all the businesses and professionals who are standing up to the pressure and hostility — instead, choosing to comply with COVID prevention protocols, providing their customers with a safe place to do business.

You, too, are heroes!
Kathleen McQuillan
Linden Grove Twp.

Recognizing the many things to be thankful for

During a Quaker Zoom meeting this Sunday morning, I was reminded by a scripture reading to feel gratitude, to give thanks every day (Psalm 92). (Yes, Quakers do have Zoom meetings for worship to gather in silence. I thought that was one



BETTY FIRTH

of the funniest things I'd ever heard of when we began, but there is power and fellowship in coming together.)

I have been full of gratitude even without being prompted, so grateful that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have been elected to head our country and bring some semblance of sanity back into government.

Charlotte Bronte's words mirror some of my feelings: “For

my part, I am almost contented just now, and very thankful. Gratitude is a divine emotion: it fills the heart, but not to bursting; it warms it, but not to fever.”

I'm feeling thankful to those tens of thousands of people who worked so hard on the elections— personal friends and acquaintances who did get-out-the-vote calls and wrote postcards and letters to the editor along with the field organizers who worked long, hard hours for not a lot of money, riding herd on wayward voters

and bolstering spirits. I feel grateful to many strangers who make up the 100 organizations that comprise the coalition Protect the Results, headed up by MoveOn and Indivisible. These people, including those of us on the Range, formed an invisible web across the nation of people learning how to take non-violent action in the case of a coup as threatened by the sitting president.

We have learned a lot in this bizarre election about just how unprepared we were for

certain unforeseen circumstances. Apparently neither the founders nor others who followed imagined that a crazed narcissist would threaten to refuse to leave the White House and refuse to acknowledge the legally elected president-elect. Apparently, it was felt that anyone in that high office would act with honor and dignity, as would those who surround him, so the need for contingencies was never imagined.

We have learned that a coup

COVID rates trigger Thanksgiving warnings

Keep celebrations in the immediate family, officials advise

REGIONAL - With Thanksgiving just around the corner and falling in the midst of the steepest increase of COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic, state officials have expressed increased urgency in limiting family gatherings to help control the outbreak.

The Minnesota Department of Health had been recommending that members of no more than three households gather for Thanksgiving, with a maximum of ten people, but Commissioner Jan Malcom said Monday that Minnesotans should not spend the holiday with people who live outside of their immediate family.

just stick with our cherished traditions, this year we really need people to reconsider and frankly not gather with other households," she said. "The numbers are really terrifying. In Minnesota we've had alarming numbers for several days now."

Malcom said the rapid increase in cases, due overwhelmingly to community spread in informal small group gatherings, has put the state on pace to exceed 300,000 cases and 3,000 deaths by Thanksgiving.

College students living away from home but returning for the holiday pose a particular risk of transmitting the virus, and older adults with underlying health conditions are most at risk



of suffering severe illness and death if they contract the disease.

With an incubation period of two to 14 days for COVID-19, Thanksgiving now falls well within the period where people without symptoms can transmit the virus to others, and testing

negative now doesn't guarantee that a person will be COVID-free in the days surrounding the holiday.

The best way to stay safe, Malcom said, is to limit celebrations to immediate household members. Inviting extended family or friends increases the risk of coronavirus transmission.

The Health Department website lists these precautionary measures for small gatherings:

► Hold small gatherings outside, if possible. Wear masks and stay 6 feet away from other guests.

► Open windows and/or doors to allow air to flow, when possible, if gathering indoors.

► Wear a mask indoors

and outdoors if gathering with anyone who does not live with you.

► Encourage guests to bring their own food, drinks, and treats. Do not share utensils or drinking cups.

► Always stay at least 6 feet away from people who do not live with you.

► Remember who came to the gathering. Keep a list of invited guests in case one of them gets COVID-19. This list will be helpful if you're contacted by a health department case interviewer.

BOLTZ...Continued from page 3

said. "This more elusive behavior added to the visitor experience when they were able to get a glimpse of him watching through the trees. Whether at the visitor center in Ely or via the many webcams, Boltz had many supporters," he said.

"As most dog owners recognize, canids have unique personality traits," Schmidt said. "One benefit of socialized wolves is the opportunity for staff to reveal those traits as we teach about wolf behavior. Boltz was a calm, social pack member that would wait and watch, before trusting a situation. His facial expressions of that mistrust were cherished by staff and visitors."

The International Wolf Center advances the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wildlands and the human role in their future.

For more information about the International Wolf Center, visit wolf.org.

How Boltz got his name

Back in 2012, when Boltz arrived at the International Wolf Center as a pup, he hadn't yet been named. Staff always wait to give each wolf a temporary name until they've had a chance to be around that particular wolf.

Well, this new brown and black wolf had a habit of bolting throughout the yard and through any open gate on a dead sprint. He soon became known to staff as Bolts.

Within a few months, a naming contest was held and several suggestions came in, including one for Boltz from a longtime supporter named Raylene. Obviously, that was the name that was eventually chosen.

"The 'Z' was added to Boltz to give him a bit more class than his nickname," said Ely Wolf Center's wolf curator, Lori Schmidt. "Wolf care staff

were pleased that the Name the Pup contest winner was already a familiar name for Boltz, and that it honored his personality."

When news was shared last week that Boltz was euthanized because of ongoing medical concerns, Raylene responded with an email.

"It speaks to the impact that the International Wolf Center has had on so many people," Schmidt said.

Here it goes:

"I was up there at the Wolf Center in the summer of 2004 as a wolf nanny to Grizzer, Maya and Nyssa. It changed my life. Seeing and working with Lori (Schmidt) and all she knows about wolves convinced me to move forward with my dreams. When I came home, I went to college as an adult female and got my Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Conservation Management



Baby Boltz photo courtesy of the International Wolf Center

and I now run a rehab center of my own here in Texas for all wildlife, but focusing on coyotes. We have five adults and four pups at this time. It is what I have always dreamed of doing. That summer at the International Wolf Center was just what I needed. I am sad that sweet Boltz is gone, but in what

we do for animals we have to make decisions on what is best for them and their wellbeing. I know he is better now, but most definitely missed. Boltz, we love you boy, and you will always be in my heart."

RENTALS...Continued from page 3

noise, and other disturbance factors in his objections.

Kess also asserted that as more and more houses are switched over to short-term rentals, fewer dwellings become available for long-term rental.

"It is difficult now in Ely to find an apartment," he said. "If we allow this to happen everywhere in the city's R-1 districts,

it will be more and more difficult to live in Ely."

He also noted that the short-term rental ordinance is unfair to the commercial lodging establishments in the city.

A public hearing on the proposed ordinance will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 4:30 p.m. in City Hall.

Other business

In other business, the city council:

► Approved a recommendation from the Heritage Preservation Commission to accept a retaining wall design for the Pioneer Mine Site.

► Accepted the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation to review the

COVID-19 plan for the Ely Winter Festival before allowing the event to be held next February.

► Accepted the resignation of Adam Borchert from the Ely Police Department. He accepted a similar law enforcement position with the Lake County Sheriff's Department.

► Approved paying \$15,000

to Premier Pyrotechnics for the Fourth of July fireworks in 2021.

► Approved a temporary liquor license to the Ely Folk School for an event on Dec. 12 at Semer's Park.

► Approved a resolution authorizing the Ely Blue Line Club to apply for a raffle permit.

GRATITUDE...Continued from page 4

could happen without military force and that public non-violent protests have often stymied coups, pointing out the importance of taking action. In fact, the most successful non-military coups have been successful because the citizens did nothing.

I can even feel some gratitude toward Donald Trump for out-Trumping himself with his outlandish accusations of conspiracies and election fraud, his usual game of accusing others of his own transgressions. I can be grateful for his boundaryless narcissism and tantrums because they were hard to ignore...and we all know how Trump hates to be ignored. Perhaps, finally, it awakened some people who just weren't paying attention to the fact that having this out-of-control individual in charge wasn't good for the country. Why so many people still voted for him is, I believe, a case for socio-psychological analyses for years to come, but certainly beyond my understanding. I'd hoped for a Biden/Harris landslide, but I'm grateful there was at least a clear victory with both the popular

and the electoral vote. A Buddhist proverb says, "Enough is a feast." And we on the left are feasting.

I'm grateful for the financial support given to progressive campaigns all over the country. I'm grateful to Quinn Nystrom for her passion and tenacity in running for Congress at the age of 33, giving us another view of the future along with many other amazing female candidates.

I'm grateful that the overt racism and hatred aimed at Barack Obama, which blossomed during the last few years, fertilized by the current president and his henchmen, is being recognized for the pervasive and destructive force that it is in our country, with many people waking up to the need for self-examination and change. And, in spite of the misogynistic and racist spewing of some, we have elected the first female vice president, an Asian American woman of color. Yay for us!

hopeful that many people who have responded to the need to get involved will continue to do so, and that others will join them. The list is long: campaign finance reform, reforming or removing the electoral college, reversing Citizens United, improving civics education in schools, undoing racism, and enacting universal health care, just to name a few. Pick the one you're most passionate about and jump in - or stay in - the fray. I can't remember the source of this quote - it might have been from the West Wing universe that I wished we lived in: "Democracy isn't meant to be easy or to make you comfortable. It's meant to make you free." And I think that means we each

need to do our part...and be glad we can.

Self-help author Melody Beattie, who has suffered enormous challenges and losses in her life, offers these words of wisdom: "Gratitude turns

what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity. It makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."

I hope you all have a warm, peaceful, lovely Thanksgiving filled with gratitude.

St. Mary's 23rd Annual Holiday Bazaar

Friday, November 20 • 4-7 PM
Saturday, November 21 • 9 AM-4 PM
St. Mary's Catholic Church • 124 5th St. SE, Cook

LUNCHEON (take out only)

Sloppy Joe Meal-\$5 (includes chips, pickles, cookie/bar)

Bacon-Cheeseburger Soup Meal-\$5

Cheesy Wild Rice Soup Meal-\$5

Chicken Noodle Soup Meal-\$5

Or make it a combo meal for \$7 (Combo meal includes sloppy joe & soup with fixings and a cookie/bar)

Soup Meals Include: crackers, cookie/bar

CRAFTS

Potica, Gnomes, Mittens, Rugs, Doll Clothes, Wreaths & Greenery, Jellies, Jewelry

Call 666-5620 to order or for pick up!

Cookie Walk • \$4 / Dozen
Create your own assortment of Christmas Cookies

• Covid Restrictions Apply •

Masks are required
Masks and Hand Sanitizer will be available



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

Week of Nov. 23

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

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from **2:30-5:00 p.m.** Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Dec. 15. **Please note change in hours.**

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.



Vermilion Country School first quarter honor roll

A Honor Roll
Isaac Archambeau
Talyn Hedin
Annakeiah Chavez
Alyssa Costello
Emilie Wojcik
Abbi Zapata
Leah Anderson
Hunter Jackson
Mariah Mitchell
Alliyah Zapata

B Honor Roll
Anastashia Chavez
Brody Anderson
Mahlia Schuster
Preston Tyndall- Robich
Connor Hanson

Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Service

REGIONAL- This year's Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Service will be recorded by the clergy and put online on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

Community Thanksgiving Meal canceled

TOWER- St. James will not be hosting their annual community Thanksgiving Day meal due to the COVID-19 situation.

HOLIDAY GIVING

Operation Santa needs your help; less than a month to go!

Donations needed by Dec. 11: toys, gift cards, clothing, and cash welcome

TOWER- Now is the time to start thinking about Operation Santa. We are expecting to at least match last year's tally of 170 children, but are anticipating our total may higher due to the disruptions to families' income and employment this past year. We are also hoping to be able to do our shopping online if possible, so early donations are especially appreciated.

Operation Santa is a local fundraiser which purchases Christmas gifts (toys, gift cards, and warm winter items) for children whose families use the Tower Food Shelf. Last year we served over 170 area children.

Take advantage of the great deals on toys, many of which are being offered right now, to bring some joy into a child's life. Cash donations are welcome; checks should be made out to Operation Santa and delivered or mailed to The Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

We have started to receive some donations, but much more is needed to make sure every child in our community receives gifts and warm clothing this Christmas season.

The effort is organized by the Timberjay and the Tower Soudan

Civic Club, with help from many area groups, churches, organizations, and individuals. If your group or church is planning to donate this year, please contact Jodi at 218-753-2950. (This helps with planning!)

Lake Country Power's Operation RoundUp® program has once again made a very generous donation to the Tower Soudan Civic Club to help cover the cost of purchasing warm items for the children.

We are looking at donations of toys, games, art supplies, and sporting equipment for children, and gift cards to either Target or Walmart for our teenagers (\$10 or \$15). Stocking stuffer type gifts and holiday candy are also appreciated. We are always in need of gifts for infants and babies (must be labeled as safe for children under three). Gift ideas for children include games, action figures, building toys, dolls with accessories, craft sets, art supplies (including crayons and markers), sporting goods (basketballs, footballs, playground balls, sleds), puzzles, cars and trucks, and science kits.

Please don't worry about picking out the right gift; I promise there will be a child on our list



who will love whatever you pick out!

If you purchase a toy that uses batteries, please also send a spare set! Donations of batteries (especially AA and AAA) are also appreciated.

We also accept gently-used holiday decorations and gifts for the adults who use the food shelf.

Donations can be dropped off at the Timberjay in Tower, and will be distributed at the food shelf on Dec. 15. **Families who use the Tower Food Shelf and have not yet signed up, should call Jodi at the Timberjay at 218-753-2950, or email editor@timberjay.com.**

Call to Subscribe
(218) 753-2950
www.timberjay.com



the TIMBERJAY

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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.

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Pretty little pumpkins

Kindergarten students decorated mini-pumpkins with brightly-colored tissue paper and lots of glitter earlier this month.
photo by J. Summit



Annual Lights of Love Campaign now underway

Virtual tree-lighting ceremony planned for this year

REGIONAL- The 30th annual Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners (VHHP) Lights of Love campaign, the group's largest fundraiser of the year, begins in November to commemorate National Hospice Month and National Family Caregivers Month. Last year's Lights of Love raised approximately \$6,200. Fundraising goals are achieved through the dedicated efforts of our Board of Directors working together with a community of supporting individuals and businesses. Please help us continue the tradition of remembering and honoring loved ones by supporting VHHP through this Lights of Love campaign.

VHHP's mission is to bring comfort care services to enrolled hospice patients and their fam-



ilies as well as hospice eligible patients in our local communities. VHHP also sponsors two education scholarships for students enrolled in the North Woods School and Tower enrollment area, pursuing a medical career, and one scholarship for college students.

Your tax-deductible donations may be given in honor or memory of a loved one. All Lights of Love contributions and dedications will be published in local area newspapers during the month of

January, unless otherwise noted on the donation form.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, VHHP will not be hosting any public tree lighting events in the Orr, Cook, or Tower communities. Please visit our Facebook page for a virtual tree lighting ceremony.

For more information about Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, visit our website at www.vhhp.org or contact Becca Bundy, Program Director at 218-780-5423. To donate, you can find a donation form on our website. Please make checks payable to VHHP Lights of Love and mail to PO Box 244, Cook, MN 55723. PayPal is also available via our website. Donations are tax-deductible.

AEOA Senior Dining menu

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 re-

quired the day before, or morning of, because meals are individually packaged for take-out. Seniors age 60 and older who have registered for the program and their partners qualify for special pricing of \$4.50 per meal, but all ages are welcome at the regular rate of \$6.25. There are no income guidelines. Call the school at

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

Week of Nov. 23
No school all week, Thanksgiving break.

Week of Nov. 30
Monday- Mini corn dogs, baked beans

Tuesday- Macaroni and cheese, dinner roll, green beans

Wednesday- Beef fried rice, vegetable, dinner roll

Thursday- Chunky chicken gravy over mashed potatoes, dinner roll, green beans

Friday- Chicken Philly Sandwich, vegetable.

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.

In Brief

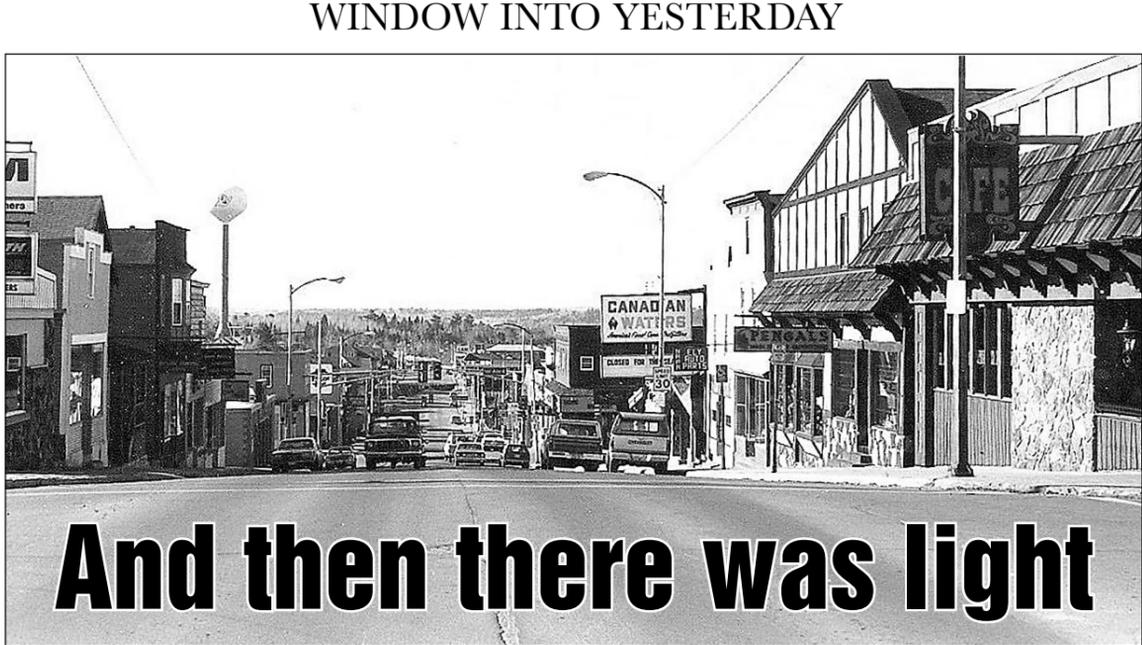
Tuesday Group
ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesdays.
All presentations are administered in a virtual presence until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic. Send email to stevie-schon@gmail.com for more information.

Nov. 24 - Jessica Hellmann - U of M Institute on the Environment

Bingo on hold

ELY - Due to a community-wide outbreak of COVID-19, the Ely Senior Citizens Center Bingo events are canceled for the next two weeks. The raffle drawing scheduled for this week is also postponed until they can meet again.

Breathing Out



And then there was light
Electricity came slowly to Ely

by DAVID KESS
Ely-Winton Historical Society

We flip a switch and lights come on. Or a garage door goes up. Or a coffee pot starts up. It seems as if it just always has been that way. When Ely officially became a city in 1888, homes depended on kerosene or possibly gas lights, cooking was often done on wood stoves, and coffee was brewed most often in a pot on that same wood stove. Mining operations required power to operate equipment such as hoists and lifts so the mining companies developed small power plants for that purpose.

That first mine in Ely was the Chandler Iron Co. (1888). By April 1889, the possibility of electrifying businesses and homes became real. An article in the Ely Iron Home in April 1889 indicated this could happen in a matter of weeks. The company stated their plant would be large enough to supply electricity to the town as well as the mine.

Unfortunately, all of history is not carefully recorded. Local newspapers report most of the news but sometimes not all the facts and the details. How electricity would come into businesses and homes was not clear. At the time of the Vail Hotel fire in 1905, the power plant at the mine supplied the electricity for the hotel. One can only speculate how widespread it was when electricity was reaching to other parts of the city.

In July, 1891 the Ely Times newspaper carried an article about a Mr. Batchelor offering a contract to the city which would supply electric power to the businesses and residents of the town. City councilors were skeptical, stating that most often other cities had bonded themselves to build the necessary facilities themselves. They further stated that too often



History is murky on when electricity actually came to the city of Ely.
photos courtesy of the Ely-Winton Historical Society

individuals had too much control over fees that would ensue.

It appears from the sources that are available that such a city power plant did not happen until 1923 when the Kawishiwi hydro-electric dam was constructed five miles northeast of Ely. The dam was thirty feet high and a thousand feet long. The falls dropped seventy feet between Garden and Fall Lakes. Another dam was earlier proposed on the outlet for White Iron Lake but the power dam at the Kawishiwi Falls was the one constructed. It supplied power to the cities of Ely and Tower but was eventually sold to the Minnesota Power and Light Company in Duluth. Early homes that were electrified often only had a single ceiling light fixture or suspended light bulb and a single outlet in each room. There were of course no televisions, computers, vacuum cleaners, refrigerators, or electric ranges a hundred years ago.

A nine-room home on Conan Street, built in 1914, was wired like this: One 60-amp circuit supplied the main floor and another one for the upper floor.

Today there are 18 circuits. Most new homes now have a 200-amp breaker box. Times have changed—all sorts of new appliances came on the scene.

In 1912, Ely's "White Way," or downtown street lights, were installed. New standards and lights lit up the main streets for the first time. Promises followed to have the entire city completely with power by the following summer. With this came cement sidewalks, grading of the streets, and storm sewers. Prior to this many streets had been very dark and dangerous. First Avenue was changed to Central Avenue in 1912 and the avenues east and west of that were corrected.

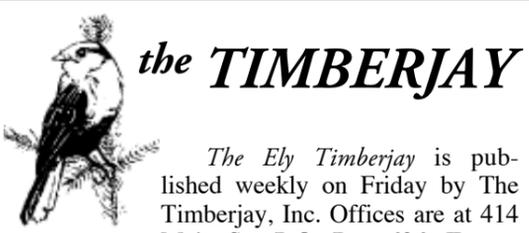
Each of the new standards had five large tungsten lamps and globes. Each city block was fitted with four light standards on each side of the block. Since only 125 kilowatts were required for the first 65 of the 78 standards, and the city plant was able to produce 200 kilowatts, the power supply was adequate for the foreseeable future. There were, at this point, 800 consumers of electricity in town.

the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works secured the contract for the standards at a cost of \$46 each. This is the equivalent of \$1,209 today. A few of those standards are still seen around town, such as in Whiteside Park. They had been in use for about 80 years although they had been updated during that time.

Whenever our televisions, microwaves, internet, or other appliances black out, we often feel quite frustrated and even helpless. Thank a lineman or city utility worker when you next encounter one. They are the ones who make things right.

An exhibit of some early pictures and artifacts pertaining to this article can be seen at Vermilion Community College in the Fine Arts Lobby. It will remain there for two months. The historical society is now observing winter hours with the office and museum open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from noon until 4 p.m. Calls to 218-365-3226 and emails to ewhsmuseum@gmail.com will be returned.

A Mr. Hillman from



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Office Manager	M. M. White
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AROUND TOWN

Dental office hit with COVID

ELY - The Ely Family Dental practice here reported late Tuesday that a member of their staff tested positive for COVID-19. Dr. Crystal Chopp said in a Facebook post, "If you were seen in our office between Nov. 11-17, we encourage you to go get tested or stay home and quarantine for 14 days."

For the rest of this week and all of next week, the dental practice, located in the Fransden Bank Building, will be closed and all appointments are canceled. "We will notify patients individually as needed," she said.

"We will be taking all the recommended steps set by the CDC and Minnesota Dental Association to sterilize our office and make sure it is safe for staff and patients to return prior to reopening," Dr. Chopp added.

If you have questions, concerns or an emergency, please call the businesses emergency line at 218-504-9000.

NLAA presents 'It's a Wonderful Life' radio show

ELY - The Northern Lakes Arts Association will present "It's A Wonderful Life... A Live Radio Show," just in time for the holidays. The production is adapted by Philip Grecian and based on the film by Frank Capra.

Live performances will be held Friday-Sunday, Dec. 4-6, at Studio 23, 45 E. Chapman (the former Yugoslav Home, above NAPA store). Online streaming of the performances will be available Dec. 11-13.

NLAA will be observing appropriate COVID-19 protocols (face masks, social distancing, etc.) for the performances. For more information, email contact@northernlakesarts.org, or call 218-365 5070.

Ely Library due dates resume

ELY - The Ely Public Library will begin applying due dates to rented materials next month. For those who have items out on loan, the due date is Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Any items checked out from this point forward will have the normal pre-COVID-19 loan period.

Library staff continues to promote safe public health measures and will not pressure any patrons into a separate trip to return items. Overdue fines will not be assessed until early in 2021.

The library remains closed. Call 218-365-5140 for curbside pick-up services.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Teachers and staff step up to keep school open

FIELD TWP- We have all heard the expression, "Never judge someone until you've walked a mile in his or her shoes/moccasins." I cannot equate what we are doing in school right now to other professions. Health care workers, law enforcement, business owners, and many other walks of life are struggling and burning out. The stress of being an ER nurse or the owner of a business that is failing due to shutdowns must be overwhelming.

But never in history have our teachers worked harder. Never have teachers felt more stress. Never have I seen teachers so committed to



JOHN VUKMANICH

helping each other and helping students.

Teachers thrive on the interactions with our students. We thrive on organization, structure, and having a plan. So distance teaching is hard. Distance learning is hard. Teachers cannot control

the time commitment or effort that students make from afar. Kids who struggle are struggling more.

Our brick school building is the equalizer. When we have our kids here, we level the playing field. We equalize the resources. We give kids the support that they need to be successful, and some kids need more than others. Lots more.

This is why we are doing our best to stay open. While the St. Louis County COVID numbers have risen sharply, the number of positive cases at school among students and staff are still much lower. Superintendent Reggie Engebretson has

made the commitment to stay open because kids learn best in school. In order for us to stay open, our teachers have had to chip in above and beyond.

We are short-staffed – the days of coming to work with a sniffle or a slight cough are now gone. Teachers cannot come to work when they have any symptoms or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. They have to stay home and get a test or an alternate diagnosis. And we do not have enough subs to fill our openings. Most schools agree that subs are very tough to find, especially during COVID. This has really changed

things. Every day our teachers are filling in for open classes. We are combining two smaller classes into one so that we are covered. Paraprofessionals are being ultra-flexible in coverage for our kids. Some of our part-time staff are working full time. Our administrative and non-teaching staff – dean, counselor, social worker and principal – are all filling in so that our kids can remain in school.

Every day it changes. Every plan has to be flexible.

We will continue to do all that we can to stay open. We will continue to support our distance

learners because we understand that COVID is an unknown and that families have different health needs.

Please thank your teachers and support them. They are stressed out but are staying positive as much as they can. Some are getting sick, but not giving up. They are teaching from home teaching large classes teaching small classes that at times are missing many kids, and remaining as flexible as possible to get through.

Thank you North Woods teachers, drivers, and support staff for your commitment to our students and our communities. You are appreciated.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL FIRST-QUARTER HONOR ROLL

A Honor Roll Seniors

- Zachary Cheney
- Emily Fosso
- Olivia Fultz
- Joey Lakoskey
- Andrew Peak
- Brynn Simpson
- Elijah Squires

Juniors

- Erik Aune
- Morgan Burnett
- Tyler Chiabotti
- Joshua Copeland
- Ty Fabish
- Trey Gibson
- Alex Hartway
- Joseph Hoagland
- Taylor Jones
- Abby Koch
- Michaela Luecken
- Sean Morrison
- Nathan Palm
- Jacob Panichi
- Kaya Tschida
- Olivia Udovich

Sophomores

- Cooper Antikainen
- Kohen Briggs
- Grace Koch
- Kaden Ratai
- Karah Scofield
- Elias Smith
- Steven Sopoci
- Emily Trip
- Skyler Yernatich

Freshmen

- Jonah Burnett
- Annabelle Calavera
- Addy Hartway
- Evan Kajala
- Helen Koch
- Riley Las
- Zefrym Mankowski
- Autumn Swanson
- Madison Taylor

Eighth Grade

- Rory Bundy
- Addison Burckhardt
- Alex Burckhardt
- John Carlson
- Ryder Gibson

- Aidan Hartway
- Sierra Schuster
- Amber Sopoci
- Lydia Trip
- Adyson Van Tassell

Seventh Grade

- Lincoln Antikainen
- Isaiah Briggs
- Lauren Burnett
- Josephine Carlson
- Brynn Chosa
- John Danielson
- Isabelle Koch
- Victoria Mathys
- Matthew Miller
- Isabel Pascuzzi
- Marley Peak
- Payton Scofield
- Megan Taylor

B Honor Roll Seniors

- Monique Benner
- Christopher Chaulklin
- Jack Cook
- Megan Cote

- Samuel Frazee
- Shandra Hanninen
- Aubrey Koskovich
- Logan Nurmi
- Zuly Roach
- Natalie Shantz
- Austin Sokoloski
- Cole Thiel
- Zoe Trip
- Kory Zallar

Juniors

- Haley Bogdan
- Bryce Chosa
- JessieAnne Drift
- Alayna Hallowell
- Kadence Holland
- Carter Holman
- Katrina Jackson
- Sierra Jensen
- Angelo Kingbird
- Davis Kleppe
- Timothy Lilya
- Arianna Swinson
- Lillian Voges
- Brianna Whiteman
- Jaden Whiteman

Sophomores

- Kia Deegan
- Hannah Kinsey
- Benjamin Kruse
- Garrett Lappi
- Kiana LaRoque
- Angelina Lilya
- Dillon Musakka
- Brian Swinson
- Avery Thiel

Freshmen

- Hannah Cheney
- Brandon Cook
- Sean Drift
- Chloe Johnson
- Haley Leinonen
- Cadence Nelson
- Victoria Olson
- Jessy Palmer
- Ella Smith
- Trinity Vidal
- Destiny Weiss
- Jacob Whiteman
- Luke Will
- Anna Wilson

Eighth Grade

- Kalvyn Benner
- Alauna Boshey
- Ella Cornelius
- Nevada Gauthier
- Aki Goodsky-Spears
- Talen Jarshaw
- Vincent Kajala
- Mya Kinsey
- Louie Panichi
- Ethan Ploof
- Sheyenne Schuster

Seventh Grade

- Rena Buckanaga
- Levi Chaulklin
- Mya Goggeley
- Brittin Lappi
- Neven Mankowski
- Blaze Markwardt
- Scott Morrison
- Brent Morrow
- Anna Nelson
- Rogelio Noyes
- Alexander Schelde
- Sadie Spears

COMMUNITY NEWS

Thrift bazaar is Saturday in Cook

COOK- The Cook Area Healthcare Auxiliary Thrift Shop will be holding a holiday bazaar at the Cook Community Center on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring holiday crafts, decorations, and Thrift Shop treasures. All proceeds will go to the Cook Care Center activities department and Day Break (adult day services).

COVID precautions will be in place. Masks must be worn, social distancing required.

In addition, the Thrift Shop will be open Nov. 19-20, Nov. 27-28, Dec. 3-4, Dec. 10-11-12 and Dec. 17-18. Hours for shopping are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations are accepted on those days as well as Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The shop will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please check the Cook Area Health Care Auxiliary Thrift Shop Facebook page for updates, including information about winter hours.

Library Handing out pom pom kits

COOK- The Cook Public Library is giving away Pom Pom Maker kits during the month of November. The kits include four sizes of pom pom makers, yarn, instructions, a colorful gift bag and feedback postcard.

Please call 218-666-2210 or email crystal.

phillips@alslib.info to request a kit and arrange curbside or lobby pick up.

A limited number of kits are available. One kit per household.

Funds for this program were provided through an Arrowhead Library System Mini Grant.

Baptist women to host Dec. 7 Christmas tea

COOK- The women of First Baptist Church of Cook will host "Christmas Around the World," their annual women's Christmas Tea, at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance is limited to 50 people and reservations are required. Reservations will be accepted through Nov. 23 on a first-call basis by calling Beryl Vogt at 218-780-4752. If leaving a message, please include your name, phone number, and the number of friends who will be attending with you. In consideration of others, please limit your invitation to friends to four people.

"Christmas Around the World" will feature delightful presentations on how other countries celebrate Jesus' birth. Music and refreshments will brighten the evening.

Mask use is encouraged inside the building but may be removed as needed.

"It will be a time to welcome the Christmas Season into our joyful and thankful hearts. Come, be encouraged in the midst of the dark times our world has been experiencing and celebrate the peace and hope we have in Him."

If you are unable to attend the tea in person, the program portion will be livestreamed at 7 p.m. on the church's Facebook page, First Baptist Church Cook, MN, or on the church's website at www.firstbaptistcook.org.



Frigid conditions on Tuesday night meant plenty of room for social distancing in the bleachers at the Mesabi East football field for the North Woods - East Central sectional playoff game. The Grizzlies prevailed 30-8 in what could be their last game, pending new COVID-19 restrictions on high school athletics. photo by D. Colburn



the **TIMBERJAY**

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TOWER...Continued from page 1

the revenue side, where current water and sewer rates have lagged well behind costs for years. "This has been going on a long time," said council member Dave Setterberg. "We don't want to get into the weeds," he said. "I've been talking to Terri [Joki-Martin] and she would like to go through some of our policies and procedures before we delve into the details of what you're talking about."

Ranua agreed that any discussion on future utility rates could wait a bit longer. "We also don't want to shock people with what the numbers might be," she said. Even so, the city will need to approve its final 2021 budget by next month.

The deficit in the water and sewer account has been a longstanding issue for the city's auditors, who have made much

the same case as Ranua for years. Previous councils have resisted rate increases, however, recognizing the impact to ratepayers. The council, earlier this year, did approve utility rate increases of \$10 per quarter in 2020, with an additional five dollars to take effect in 2021 and five more dollars in 2022. That still falls well short of the \$53 per quarter increase that the city's auditors believe would be necessary to fully cover the costs of providing water and sewer to residents.

Ranua also addressed the ambulance budget, which is now going to be tracked as an enterprise fund. Developing final budget numbers for 2021 has been slowed by the lack of a business plan for the ambulance service. That plan is still being finalized with assistance from the Northeast

Minnesota Small Business Development Center. The budget contains considerable uncertainty for next year as city officials are weighing potentially significant changes in the paid on-call staffing model as well as whether to accept more transfers. Council members indicated they would like to see revenues from transfers tracked separately so they could better determine whether they are a benefit financially once all the costs are included. Ranua said tracking those revenues separately would require more administrative work, but she said there would be value in having that information for both city officials and the public.

In other action, the council canvassed the final vote tally for the city council races. The final totals determined by the county auditor include:

- Two-year special election seats (top two seated)
Joe Morin: 171
Sheldon Majerle: 111
Josh Zika: 110
- Four-year regular election seats (top two seated)
Dave Setterberg: 152
Kevin Norby: 150
Steve Altenburg: 79

Because all four council seats had been filled by appointees, the four elected members all assumed their seats immediately. Ranua swore them all in remotely via GoToMeeting in the wake of stricter guidelines instituted by both Gov. Walz and Mayor Kringstad to address the spike in COVID-19 infections. The council also thanked outgoing council member Mary Shedd for what Kringstad called "her incredible service" to the city. Shedd took the

lead on several major issues in her roughly 18 months on the council, including dealing with human resource issues, spearheading the complete redesign of the city's website, and assuming the job of zoning administrator during one of the most challenging periods in recent city history.

In other business, the council:

- Approved the installation of a computer "kiosk" in city hall's backroom to allow the public to access the court system. Legal Aid of Minnesota will be paying for the cost of installation and operation of the system, which will include a printer as well. Ranua said she expects the kiosk will see only occasional use, during regular business hours, so the impact to city hall staff should be minimal.
- Approved the

nomination of Kringstad to represent the city on the board of directors for the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools.

➤ Approved a resolution appointing John Burgess to the Gundersen Trust board.

➤ Noted that the Fireman's Relief Association will be donating to students at the Tower-Soudan Elementary for holiday presents. They also provided a \$1,000 donation to the Wagoner Trails Club for the replacement of lights at the city cross-country ski trails.

➤ Noted that Randy Johnson had to decline his recent appointment to the city's board of adjustment and that the council will need to fill the vacancy soon to address a variance request from Dave Rose.

DFL...Continued from page 1

them to fight for jobs on the Range," he said, while stopping short of committing to any chairmanships for either legislator.

Republicans had narrowly controlled the body, 34-33, in the wake of the Nov. 3 election, but that margin will now be greater after the loss of two experienced senators from the DFL caucus.

Bakk had served as both majority and minority leader in the Senate over the past decade but was

ousted from his leadership position by his caucus earlier this year in favor of Senator Susan Kent, who represents the Twin Cities suburbs of Woodbury and Maplewood. That move was widely viewed as indicative of the loss of political clout for the Iron Range in the increasingly metro-dominated DFL.

"People are going to wonder why I'm doing this—and to be honest, there are several reasons," said Bakk in a statement issued

Wednesday morning. "I'm very disappointed in the extreme partisanship going on nationally and right here in Minnesota. Both political parties are to blame. The constant negative and sharp rhetoric is undermining voters' confidence in our public institutions."

Tomassoni, of Chisholm, said the move allows him to do his job more effectively. "Serving as chair of a Senate committee will allow me to better serve my communities

and deliver results for my district," said Tomassoni. "My constituents elected me to serve them to the best of my abilities."

Tomassoni was elected President of the Senate last week, in a strategic move by Republicans to maintain their control of the body should Gov. Walz appoint Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan to another position. Under the state's constitution, the Senate president would assume that position.

The two Iron Range

DFLers have long differed at times with the rest of their caucus, particularly over mining issues and other environmental concerns. During an interview shortly after the Nov. 3 election, Bakk called the DFL Central Committee's narrow decision to call for a moratorium on copper-nickel mining in the state, a mistake. He has also expressed frustration with the Walz administration's occasionally mixed message on the Line 3

pipeline, a project with strong backing from northern Minnesota labor unions which has faced equally vehement opposition from native tribes, environmentalists, and residents along the proposed route.

As of presstime, DFL leaders in the Senate offered no comment on the announcement from Bakk and Tomassoni, which reduces their Senate caucus to 31 members.

COVID...Continued from page 1

when the restrictions will be lifted.

Walz and health officials had hinted at the coming restrictions in a Friday press conference where they emphasized the alarming rate of growth in positive cases.

"It took us about 7 months to reach 100,000 cases," Walz said. "It took seven weeks, a little short of two months, to reach 200,000. It will take us less than three weeks to reach 300,000."

Declining at the time to confirm more restrictions were in the works, Walz nonetheless was frank that a "dark winter" of COVID-19 had fallen upon the state and that he would take additional steps to protect citizens if necessary.

"It is time to suck it up and get through this," Walz said. "We lost a 21-year-old with no underlying conditions today. We owe

it to our neighbors, we owe it to the health care workers, we owe it to the teachers, we owe it to our children to do the things we know that can slow this thing down."

Health Commissioner Jan Malcom said that the positivity rate for testing had climbed from 9.8 percent to 13.1 percent in one week, and that new cases were running well ahead of the increase in testing volume.

Regionally, the biweekly case rate for schools in northern St. Louis County spiked to 60.1, 10 points higher than the recommended level for shifting schools to all distance learning. The case rate in northern St. Louis County is now the highest of any area of the county, including Duluth.

Four new cases were identified last week at the North Woods School, but Superintendent Reggie Engebritson said contact

tracings showed the cases were isolated and that the school will continue with in-person learning mode. Superintendent Erik Erie confirmed that Ely schools also would stick with their hybrid learning for upper grades and in-person for elementary grades, at least through Thanksgiving.

While 20 long-term care facilities in the county are now on the state's list of facilities with COVID-19 cases in the last 28 days among residents or staff, no facilities in Ely, Tower, Cook, Orr and the general region have been added in the past two weeks.

At-home testing

The marked increase in community spread of the virus has brought with it increased encouragement from health officials for people to get tested, whether they have symptoms or not. While the state has opened numerous new

testing centers around the state, including Duluth, officials rolled out a new, more convenient option on Friday: in-home saliva tests ordered online.

An October pilot program proved successful, leading to the statewide initiative. The saliva test is as accurate as the invasive nasal swab tests that have been available throughout the pandemic and is appropriate for children and adults.

Subjects are provided with a vial and instructions for how to provide a saliva sample. The sealed specimen is then mailed to a lab for processing, and results are available within 24 to 48 hours after the sample is received by the lab.



COVID-19 Testing Available

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

Testing will not be completed without an appointment.

Scenic Rivers will not bill patients for testing.

Insurance coverage will be processed when available.

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ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

MPCA advisory group faces mass resignations

Members of the Environmental Justice Advisory Group upset over approval of Line 3 permits

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The majority of the members of an advisory panel to the state’s Pollution Control Agency has announced their resignation in protest of the agency’s recent approval of permits for the Line 3 pipeline project. Twelve of the 17 members of the Environmental Justice Advisory Group, or EJAG, made their resignations public this week in a letter to MPCA Commissioner Laura Bishop.

“After much discussion, we cannot continue to legitimize and provide cover for the MPCA’s war on black and brown people,” wrote the dozen signatories in their letter

to the commissioner. “Line 3 will mean violated treaty rights, heightened risk of sexual trafficking and sexual violence, and insult to the three tribal nations that strongly oppose its construction.”

The letter cites the environmental risks of the Line 3 project, which they argue will cross over 200 bodies of water, threatening rivers, wetlands, and wild rice beds along its path.

The group also cites the project’s implications for climate change, by facilitating tar sands development in Alberta, which is known to have a significant carbon footprint.

Gov. Mark Dayton’s administration created the EJAG in 2016, ostensibly as a means of bringing more

minority voices into the state’s environmental decision-making. Longtime activist Winona LaDuke, who was a member of the group, noted that it was a highly diverse organization, including representation from indigenous people, the Somali and Hmong communities, and Latinos. “We worked really hard to try to improve the MPCA’s status on environmental justice,” she said in an interview with the *Timberjay* this week. “What we got was a slap in the face and lip service. To shove a pipeline down our throats, come on!”

Supporters of Line 3 argue that the project will create much-needed construction jobs in the region, potentially beginning as

early as next month, and that it is designed to replace a 1960s-era pipeline that has become increasingly prone to corrosion and cracking. Both the Department of Natural Resources and the MPCA approved key permits for the project last week, although litigation over the project continues.

“We encourage all Minnesotans to accept the sound agency decisions based on an expansive scientific record and the fact that the project has proven it will meet and, when possible, exceed regulations as outlined by law,” said Nancy Norr, the board chair for Jobs for Minnesotans. “It’s time we come together as a state to advance this critical \$2.6 billion-dollar private

investment in Minnesota’s energy infrastructure.”

Yet LaDuke and other opponents of the project don’t buy such arguments. “The Keystone pipeline leaked 117,000 gallons last year, so new pipelines aren’t necessarily safer,” she said.

While pipeline proponents argue that Line 3 is merely a replacement, the route is a new one, notes LaDuke, that she believes will threaten valuable water resources, including wild rice beds, along the way.

Opponents are also raising concerns about the public health impact of a major construction project in the midst of a pandemic. “You’re talking about bringing 4,200 workers from out-of-state into

northern Minnesota in the midst of a pandemic,” she said. “We have high at-risk populations here.” Many of the counties that would host the new workers have limited medical facilities, she notes.

It’s unclear what, if anything, the MPCA will do in response to the mass resignations on the EJAG board. The *Timberjay* reached out to the MPCA’s spokesperson for comment, but he did not respond as of press time. The MPCA’s EJAG web page is no longer accessible to the public or media and agency officials have offered no explanation for the disappearance of the page.

BALLOON...Continued from page 1

window where the jet stream would blow the balloon southeast across Lake Superior at about 150 mph,” LaFond said.

“I have never launched a balloon before, so this was a learning opportunity for me, too. I was most excited about getting the opportunity to collect data to use in class that most people never get the chance to do,” he said. “I could assign the same data analyses with a data set collected from the internet, but there is something special about knowing that we, as a class, came together and figured out how to launch a sensor into the stratosphere to collect the numbers. It transforms the data into a story.”

LaFond talked about his first year of teaching science at ISD 696.

“We are situated in a unique geographic location here in Ely. There are some incredible opportunities that we have with our proximity to wilderness spaces, fresh water, and boreal forests that most schools don’t have. This is a special privilege that we are working into our curriculum. One way that is happening is through the weather balloon,” he said.

Students gathered at the pitcher’s mound on the ball field just after 8 a.m. Tuesday morning to help launch *Timberwolves3*. After a last-minute check of the wind direction with a small helium-filled balloon, they started the inflation process.

The balloon carried aloft a parachute and a wooden frame. On the frame were a flight computer, a Spot GPS, and a Go-Pro camera as well as a couple of experiments (including a bag of potato chips) to see what might happen in the cold, low pressure of the stratosphere. A small banner



The Ely Middle School science class weather balloon was launched from Veterans Field and landed near Boulder Junction, Wis. A Timberjay banner and bag of potato chips were included in the payload. photos by K. Vandervort

with the *Timberjay* logo was also part of the balloon package.

Aaylah Meyers and Maggie Fetterer initiated the signal and monitored a tracking device. “It’s cool and it’s school,” Maggie said. I like to be outside when I can.”

They were excited to learn what will happen to a bag of potato chips when it rises to a near-space altitude.

“The pressure inside will expand and ‘BOOM’ the bag will probably explode,” Aaylah said. “Too bad we couldn’t launch our brothers up there!” they said.

The balloon ascended for about two hours until reaching a little over 20 kilometers in altitude, according to LaFond.

“After the balloon pops it will then drift to earth under a small parachute,” he said. He anticipated the payload landing somewhere near Wakefield, Mich.

Student Hunter Kirkeby said, “I hope it doesn’t go into Lake Superior and we can retrieve the data we collect.”

By 11 a.m. Tuesday, just two hours after launch,

Timberwolves3 was tracked to have landed just inside Wisconsin.

“Top speed was over Silver Bay, where the balloon reached 289kph (180mph). It landed 260km from Ely in Boulder Junction,” LaFond said.

He contacted staff at Camp Manito-Wish YMCA on Boulder Lake, a camp where he worked for two years.

“It’s amazing that it landed so close to a place where I have some close connections,” LaFond said. “They were going to scout it Tuesday afternoon to see if I should bring some equipment to aid in getting it out of a tree (on Wednesday) or if it is on the ground.”

LaFond commented on the process and success of the science project.

“It is so cool to see something like this finally come together. It is a process that has many moving parts all the time, both in preparation and in actually launching the balloon. When something like this comes together so smoothly, it really shows the time and preparation



that the students put into learning how to use the equipment and understanding how all the different parts come together. I was just lucky enough to be a part of it. Hopefully we will get some good footage of our bag of chips we sent into space.”

Depending on the winds, the other hybrid-learning model cohort of Ely eighth-grade science students were planning another weather balloon launch on Friday.

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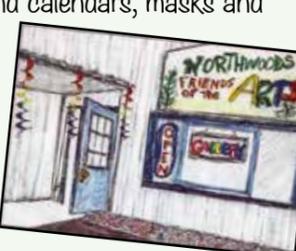
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VOLLEYBALL

Nighthawks challenge unbeaten Timberwolves

Ely downs section foe Carlton in straight sets

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — The Nighthawks fell just six points short of handing the Timberwolves their first match loss of the season here on Monday. But Ely rallied in the final set to take the five-game contest and keep their perfect season intact at 10-0.

“After a strong start in set one, we struggled to

gain momentum early on in the following sets,” said Ely Head Coach Andrea Thomas.

The Nighthawks fell to 4-5 with the heartbreaking loss.

The Wolves had little trouble in the first and second sets, winning 25-13 and 25-15 respectively, even though they trailed early in the second set. By the third set, it was Northeast Range who seemed to grab the

momentum, behind the powerful play of junior Hannah Reichensperger, who notched 17 kills and 11 blocks in the contest. The Nighthawks took the third set 25-20 and dominated the fourth set 25-16, before the Wolves battled back in the final set to win 15-9.

“There is definitely some room for improvement in our

See **V-BALL**...pg. 2B



Ely junior Raven Sainio goes up high for a kill while the Nighthawks' Hannah Reichensperger and a teammate attempt to block. The Nighthawks came closer than any team this season to defeating the Timberwolves. photo by J. Greeney

VOLLEYBALL

Relentless Nighthawks overpower Grizzlies

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

BABBITT — A promising North Woods start withered under the relentless hammering of Northeast Range ace Hannah Reichensperger on Tuesday as the home Nighthawks defeated the Grizzlies volleyball team 3-1.

In a close match where two of the four games were decided by a total of four points, Reichensperger made the difference. Her 27 kills more than doubled those of the top Grizzlies Morgan Burnett and Hannah Kinsey, who each had 11.

After relinquishing a 5-3 lead in the opening game the Grizzlies kept within one or two points of the Nighthawks, knotting the score for a fourth time at 14-14. But NER pulled ahead 23-18 before Zoe Trip got a key block to stall their advance, and Addy Hartway staved off a game-winning point at 24-20 by finding a hole in the NER defense with a push shot.

With Trip serving, the Grizzlies retook the lead 25-24, but Reichensperger crossed up the North Woods blockers with a little lift shot for a 25-25 tie. Burnett fired back with consecutive kills to seal the come-from-behind 27-25 win for the Grizzlies.

The second game was just as tight, with two critical officiating calls going against the Grizzlies. The first took a lengthy conference at the scorer's table to resolve, with North Woods losing a point when the officials agreed with the scorer that the Grizzlies were serving out of order. A second controversial call came when Victoria Olson nailed a kill to tie the score at 19-19. The shot was ruled in initially, but after another conference the ruling was reversed, giving Northeast Range a 20-18 lead.

The reversals seemed to sap the energy out of the Grizzlies, as the Nighthawks went on a 5-1 run to close out a 25-19 win.

Determined to shake it off, the Grizzlies made the third game another nail-biter. It didn't appear that way when the Nighthawks reeled off an 8-1 streak to forge an 18-10 lead, and prospects for a comeback still looked bleak minutes later at 22-15.

But with Kinsey scoring twice at the net and Burnett serving, North Woods closed the

See **GIRLS**...pg. 2B



FOOTBALL

Grizzlies SWAT E-C

Despite missed opportunities, North Woods comes away with 30-8 win

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP — Winless, but pesky, East Central gave North Woods fits for three quarters on Tuesday, but a pair of T.J. Chiabotti fourth-quarter touchdowns gave the Grizzlies the breathing room they needed to advance in the sectional play-offs with a 30-8 win in Aurora. About 40 well-bundled fans braved sub-freezing temperatures as the teams squared off on a Mesabi East field speckled with clumps of plowed snow.

Chiabotti was undeterred

Above: An East Central runner appears to face a world of hurt as a gauntlet of North Woods defenders bears down.

Right: North Woods' defensive end Anevay Goodsky-Spears sacks the E-C quarterback.

photos by D. Colburn

by the conditions as he swept around left end on the Grizzlies' second play of the game and rambled 63 yards for a

See **GRIZZ**...pg. 2B



Wolves fall hard to Huskies

Season ends with 52-6 loss at Bigfork

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

BIGFORK — The Timberwolves faced a bigger and faster opponent here on Tuesday, and that was bound to make their Section 7 Nineman

playoff contest a challenge. But fumbles and untimely penalties just made things worse for Ely as they fell hard to the Huskies, 52-6, to end their playoff hopes early.

Bigfork's fast and effective offense scored virtually at will against Ely. Their scoring blitz hit the ground midway through the first quarter and it never stopped, as they built a 14-0 lead by the end of the first stanza.

Penalties foiled Ely's offense for much of the first

half as they drew flags on three consecutive third downs, halting their sputtering efforts. Leading 30-0 late in the second quarter, the Huskies picked off a Mason Davis pass and went on to add eight more points ahead of the break.

Bigfork marched down the field, gaining three first downs, to start the second half, and scored on a 26-yard run. The extra-point conversion put the Huskies up 46-0.

The Wolves started a promising possession, but

a fumble, recovered by the Huskies, foiled that drive as well. The Huskies converted that miscue for another six points, to take a 52-0 lead, as the referees shifted to running time.

The Timberwolves finally got on the board late in the third quarter as they turned to their Heavy Jumbo set, which has been a reliable producer all season. Lane Anderson took the ball for five of six plays

See **WOLVES**...pg. 2B

GRIZZ...Continued from page 1B

touchdown, shedding two Eagles tacklers in the final 10 yards. Zach Cheney received the two-point conversion pass from Ty Fabish to put North Woods up 8-0 barely two minutes into the game.

Moments later North Woods was in business again at the East Central 48 after recovering a fumble. But it was four-and-out for the Grizzlies, with Chiabotti coming up short on a fourth-and-13 run after a sack and an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty by a fellow Grizzly.

"We were our own worst enemy at times," said North Woods Head Coach Joel Anderson.

While the offense continued to sputter well into the second quarter, the Grizzlies' defense had little trouble containing the Eagles. With just over seven minutes left in the half, Chiabotti picked off a Brody Lundstrom

pass and returned it about 60 yards for an apparent touchdown, but it was nullified by offsetting personal fouls. North Woods retained possession at the East Central 40.

Seven plays later Chiabotti was back in the end zone on a two-yard plunge up the middle, and Jared Chiabotti's two-point conversion reception staked the Grizzlies to a 16-0 lead.

It took just 15 seconds for the Eagles to get right back into the thick of things.

Fielding a bouncing North Woods kickoff at his own 40-yard-line, Eagles receiver Avery Anderson raced across the field and sped down the sideline before cutting back to the middle of the field to trim North Woods' lead to 16-8.

With both Chiabottis and Jake Panichi toting the ball, the Grizzlies opened the third quarter with a

well-executed 12-play drive from their own 32 to the Eagles 18. But it was all for naught when East Central forced a fumble and recovered the ball.

The Eagles converted two first downs and were facing second-and-15 at their own 37 when Grizzlies defender Olin Nelson intercepted a pass and returned it to the Eagles' 19. Moments later, T.J. Chiabotti scampered around left end for his third touchdown from seven yards out, opening up a 22-8 lead on the opening play of the fourth quarter.

Fabish put an end to the Eagles' next drive with a jarring fourth-down hit on an East Central receiver to force an incompleteness, handing the ball back to the Grizzlies' offense at its own 29.

On fourth-and-three at the East Central 48, there wasn't a person on either side of the field who didn't know who was

Right: T. J. Chiabotti takes the ball into the end zone without much challenge.

going to get the call. T.J. Chiabotti attacked the left side of the line, trampling over one defender and twisting away from others as he broke free to score the Grizzlies' final touchdown, his fourth of the night, with 6:44 remaining. Jared Chiabotti hauled in his second two-point pass for the 30-8 final score.

"We had a two week break there without any games and you will lose some of that continuity you gained," noted Anderson. "But I'm not going to complain with a defensive performance like that."

North Woods' win punched its ticket to a Section 7A semifinal game against Hinckley-Finlayson at 2 p.m. Saturday. However, Gov. Tim Walz was expected to call a halt to the playoffs



on Wednesday in a press conference scheduled after the *Timberjay's* press time.

The status of the game will be updated online as details become available.

V-BALL...Continued from page 1B

play," said Thomas.

Even so, several Ely players put up impressive stats in the marathon match. Sophomore Rachel Coughlin posted 17 kills, tendigs, and two ace serves while senior McKenna Coughlin added 14 kills, 11 digs, and two aces. Junior Kellen Thomas posted nine kills, 13 digs, and three blocked shots while classmate Raven Sainio added seven kills.

Sophomore Madeline Kallberg filled in as setter, tallying 43 assists along with six digs.

F O R N E R , Reichensperger added 14 digs to her kill and block stats, while Erin Backe posted 14 digs of her own. Maizy Sundblad tallied 24 set assists. Head Coach Jodi Rogers-Reichensperger said some tweaks to the line-up after the first two sets made the

difference. "I could not be more proud of these girls," she said. "The improvements made in this shortened season have been great. I just wish that we were able to have the experience of a traditional season."

Ely tops Bulldogs

Ely's close call came on the heels of a more-typical three-game sweep of Carlton. "This was definitely a feel-good win

for us," said Thomas. "It was our first win against Carlton after losing to them the last two years in section playoffs."

The Wolves rolled over the Bulldogs this time, 25-17, 25-13, and 25-20. "The girls played with a lot of hustle and played aggressively, offensively and defensively."

McKenna Coughlin put up strong stats, notching ten kills and nine digs,

while Thomas added nine kills, eight digs, and three blocks. Rachel Coughlin tallied 11 kills and three ace serves, while Kate Coughlin posted seven aces.

Kallberg added 32 set assists.

Ely was set to close out its pandemic-shortened season with a busy schedule, although media reports on Wednesday suggested that Gov. Tim Walz

was likely to impose a halt on sports events in the state in an effort to address the sharp spike in coronavirus infections in recent days. If sports are allowed to continue, the Wolves will head to North Woods on Friday and will host MI-B on Monday before wrapping up their season on Tuesday against Lakeview Christian Academy.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

and finally bulled it into the end zone as the quarter ended with Ely down 52-6. That would prove to be the final as fumbles stymied the offense on both sides of the ball in the fourth quarter.

The Huskies gained a couple more first downs before Ely forced and recovered their second fumble of the night at the goal line.

After that big play, the Timberwolves marched down the field but fumbled at the 25-yard line with two minutes left, ending the game and their season with a record of 3-3.

Bigfork was set to advance to play Mt. Iron-Buhl Saturday afternoon but anticipated moves by the Minnesota State High School League because of public health concerns over the coronavirus threatened to end all school sports activities across the state.

Ely tops L-O-W

The Timberwolves ended their regular season in Baudette last Thursday and came away with a 20-14 win over the Bears.

Junior running back Harry Simons had a breakout game, rushing ten times for 109 yards and three touchdowns in the wintry conditions. He also caught three passes for 51 yards.

Sophomore running back Jason Kerntz added 128 rushing yards of his own on 20 carries for the day, contributing to the Wolves' 337 yards of total offense for the game.

Simons' first score of the day came early on a one-yard rush following an Ely fumble recovery by Lane Anderson. Later in the opening quarter, Simons broke open for a 70-yard scamper to give the Timberwolves a 12-0 lead.

The Ely defense kept the Bears from scoring

in the first quarter with a couple of big plays, including a critical stop on fourth down. On Ely's next possession, Jason Kerntz broke 60-plus yards down the sideline to the 10-yard line but was called back on an illegal formation penalty. "We didn't have enough guys on the line of scrimmage," said Coach Cory Larson. "Then we ended up fumbling on the next play."

The Bears finally answered with a score from 10 yards out to close the gap to 12-6 at the end of the first quarter. Both teams traded possessions in the second quarter but couldn't score as the temperature dropped and light snow fell.

Late in the third quarter Ely put together

a scoring drive that ended with Simons' third touchdown of the night, from about 10 yards out. Kerntz converted the extra point to give Ely a 20-6 lead.

The Bears answered with a 65-yard kickoff return to score as the third quarter ended. Their two-point conversion pass made it a six-point game, 20-14.

That's when Ely defense took over, halting the Bears on offense the rest of the way.

"We felt like we were in control the entire game," Lassi said. "But we kept making too many mistakes and had penalties to end a good-looking drive. We averaged six yards per play but only managed to score 20 points."

The Timberwolves

also had a 35-yard touchdown pass that was dropped in the end zone. A series of mistakes with a first and goal on the one-yard line also kept Ely out of the end zone. "Making mistakes like that can't happen if we want to move forward in the playoffs. We can't take our foot off the gas," said Lassi.

Lassi liked what he saw from his two 100-yard running backs. "Harry had a couple of big runs and Jason did a good job of getting some tough yards," he said. Eddie Prijatel added 32 yards on eight carries.

Quarterback Mason Davis had four rushes for 10 yards and completed four of nine passes for 57 yards.

On defense, Kerntz

led the way with 12 tackles. "We try not to put Jason out there too much on defense because he is our workhorse on offense," Lassi said. "We weren't getting to many stops so we put Jason in, and on his first play he met the running back at the line of scrimmage and you could hear a big 'pop.' That was a big play in terms of the momentum he added. "We stuck with him on defense for the rest of the game."

Prijatel added nine tackles. Lane Anderson contributed seven tackles for the day, while Simons had six stops. Alex Cook, Riley Bishop and Brock LaTourell each posted five tackles, while Erron Anderson added four, including a drive-stopping quarterback sack.

GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

gap to 22-19 and pulled into a 23-23 tie on scores by Trip and Kinsey. The rally came up short when Richensperger nailed consecutive kills to end the game 25-23 and give the Nighthawks a 2-1 advantage going into the fourth game.

Northeast Range came out hot in game four, grabbing an 8-2 lead, then going on a scorching 9-2 run to take a commanding 20-10 advantage. The Grizzlies would get no closer, losing the game and the match 25-15.

A busy schedule was awaiting the Grizzlies this

week with home contests on Wednesday against Cherry, Thursday against Silver Lake, and a Parents Night tilt Friday against Ely. North Woods is scheduled to be back in action next Monday on the road at Nashauk-Keewatin.

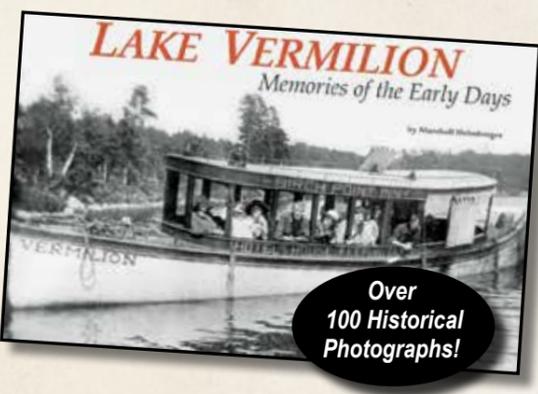
However, in response to skyrocketing COVID-10 rates statewide, Gov. Tim Walz was expected to place new restrictions on school sporting events on Wednesday, leaving the remaining matches uncertain. This story will be updated online as details become available.



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ISD 696

Ely Schools sticking with current learning plan

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Hybrid, in-person models in place through Thanksgiving break

ELY – The northern St. Louis County coronavirus dashboard data report blew past the 50 per 10,000 cases milestone last week. Dramatic jumps in regional and statewide COVID-19 case numbers continue to be reported. Yet, the Ely school district continues to ride out the storm.

Barring a dramatic uptick in local community coronavirus cases or confirmation of any positive cases in the school buildings, ISD 696 said they will stick with the current learning model at least through the Thanksgiving break.

The Washington building (grades K-5) currently maintains an in-person learning model five days per week. The Memorial building (grades 6-12) continues in a hybrid model that includes in-person learning for two days a week.

Starting this week, all students will be dismissed at noon every Wednesday to comply with

the Governor's recent executive order requiring all school districts to provide teachers with additional class preparation time as they balance in-person and distance learning models for their classes.

The Ely Safe School Advisory Council met for its weekly update session last Thursday and many members were surprised to learn that the COVID-19 dashboard indicated a report of 60.1 positive cases per 10,000 people in the northern county reporting area. That is up from 42.7 just a week earlier, and 25.5 just two weeks ago. The bi-weekly case rate measurement lags behind newly collected data by two weeks to ensure accuracy.

By comparison, the central St. Louis County dashboard indicated a positive case rate of 41.6 cases per 10,000 people. The Duluth area reported a 54.26 case rate.

According to ISD 696

Superintendent Erik Erie, Duluth area schools are now at a completely in-person learning model and have suspended all school activities.

"All schools in St. Louis County went up significantly (39.8 to 50.7), and we were told to expect that," Erie said. "County health officials told us that they expect the northern county case rate to go back down toward 50 for next week, so we hope that is something we can look forward to."

The Zip code case rate data (for 55731) increased slightly last week, from 22.5 to 24.16 positives cases per 10,000 people, according to Erie. He said the state reported a record 56 deaths in one day last week. Total deaths in the state, late last week, stood at 2,754. In the United States, there are more than 11 million cases of coronavirus as of last weekend.

"These are all sobering statistics," Erie said, "and yet we

still have our students in school here. The best thing that we can say is that we aren't seeing a lot of transmission in our local school. There is a lot of transmission around Minnesota, but we've been very fortunate that (COVID-19) hasn't hit us in that respect."

As of Monday, the local positive coronavirus test count in the school is at three, according to Erie. The individuals are in quarantine and no groups are affected. The cumulative positive case total is now at 10 for the entire school year.

Aubrey Hoover, from the St. Louis County Public Health Department, consulted with Ely school administrators last week in anticipation of the positive coronavirus case count reaching 60 per 10,000 and what that means for the safe learning model.

Megan Anderson, 6-12 principal, said, "She advised that we stay where we're at through at

least Thanksgiving. She noted that there are more positive cases reported in the northwest part of our region, as compared to our area."

Anne Oelke, K-5 principal added, "A big difference is that (schools in that) area have direct contact with the positive cases and they can pinpoint where the cases are happening, such as with social gatherings and slumber parties. I feel very confident in what they are telling us because they can pinpoint those families over there with the positive cases."

Erie added that a consultation with Minnesota Department of Health officials remains scheduled for Monday, Nov. 23. "We will re-evaluate our learning plans after the Thanksgiving break," he said.

The ISD 696 Christmas break begins Tuesday, Dec. 23 and classes resume Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Helen T. Zavodnik

Helen Theresa Zavodnik, 71, of Soudan, died on Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020, in the Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. Services will be held at a later date. Family services provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Helen was born on June 13, 1949, in Soudan, the daughter of Anton and Mary (Vesel) Zavodnik and was a lifelong resident of Soudan. Helen was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School and Beauty College. She was employed as a hairdresser and worked for the Cluett-Peabody Arrow Shirt Factory. Helen was a member of St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. She enjoyed picking blueberries and mushrooms, painting, and keeping things neat and clean. Her greatest joys came from time spent with family and babysitting nieces and

nephews.

Helen is survived by her siblings, Marie Zavodnik and Anthony (Kathy) Zavodnik, all of Soudan; nieces and nephews, Angela (Korey Johnson) Zavodnik and Connor and Mariah, Joey (Angela) Zavodnik and Nate and Isabella, Kelly (Wes) Johnson, and Katie (Eli) Mitrovich and Nina, Oliver and Carmella.

Anthony P. Merhar

Anthony "Tony" Paul Merhar, 69, of Babbitt, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020, after a

battle with cancer. A visitation is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19 at Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely. We ask that during Covid-19 to please wear a mask and maintain social distance. There will be a private graveside service at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21 in Argo Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to your local Food Shelf.

He is survived by his siblings, Lucy Miner, Dianne Gibson (who has since passed on Nov. 14,

2020), Dick (Mary), Tom (Jennifer) and Kathy (Joe); brother in-law, William Madison; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

James R. Powers

James Ronnie Powers, 74, of Virginia, formerly of Cook, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020. There will be a private burial at a later date. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by

his wife, Catherine Ann Cornelius Powers; son, James Powers (Renee); daughters, Kelly Ratai (Mike) and Kathleen Posey; grandchildren, Michael McClain, Jessica McNiff, Brianna McClain, Ian McNiff, Jace Ratai, Lucas Ratai, Logan Ratai, Niles Powers, Madeline Powers, Jamie Schanlaub and Max Posey; and nine great-grandchildren.

Anne E. Joki

Anne Elizabeth Kosevich Joki, 93, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020, at Cook Care Center. Following a private family service, a burial was

held at the Zim Cemetery. Memorials are appreciated to the Cook Care Center. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her sons, Rob Joki (Rhonda) of Cook and Dennis Joki of Ortonville; sister, Karen Grahovak of Riverview, Fla.; two grandchildren, Todd (Sarah) Joki and Scott (Jevene) Joki; four great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.



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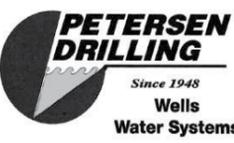
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Outdoors

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HUNTING

Conditions improve but hunters still behind 2019 pace

Snow and colder temperatures have boosted buck activity

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Hunting conditions improved significantly in the second week of the firearms deer season, but whitetail deer registrations remain well behind last year's pace ahead of the final weekend of the season.

As of Nov. 17, hunters in

the Tower DNR work area had registered 3,812 deer, down 17 percent from the same period last year. The buck harvest is down 16.4 percent over 2019, which likely reflects a lower population.

"The buck kill is the best indicator of population change over time," noted Tom Rusch, Tower DNR wildlife manager. Recent severe winters, with months of

deep snow cover, have affected both winter survival of deer as well as limited the reproductive potential of female deer, according to wildlife managers.

Rusch noted that the buck harvest is down most sharply in permit areas on the north and east sides of the Tower work area, reflecting the impact of deeper

See **DEER HUNT...**pg. 5B



Area Deer Harvest

Results through Monday, Nov. 16

Year	Bucks	Antlerless	Total
2019	3,545	959	4,604
2020	3,048	764	3,812

Preliminary harvest totals for permit areas in northern St. Louis and Lake counties, including 117, 118, 119, 130, 131, 132, 176, 177, and 178.



2020 FIREARMS DEER SEASON

Three kids, three first deer

For young people in the North Country it's a rite of passage

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL—Three youths participating in their first deer openers earlier this month fared better than some of their more experienced hunting partners, bringing down two bucks and a doe and generating big smiles all around.

Sixteen-year-old Bridget Schelde, of Angora, didn't have to go far to bag a little buck on Sunday, according to her mother, Julie. She made the score in the woods behind the Schelde home.

"She was grinning from ear to ear," Julie said.

While Bridget loves outdoor activities, hunting wasn't something she pursued until her brother asked her to hunt with him this year. So, she took a firearms safety course, had just a little practice shooting, and came up a winner in her very first deer hunt.

And did her brother match her feat?

"No, not yet," Julie laughed.

Twelve-year-old Jamison Cornelius hails from Superior, Wis., but he's no stranger to the area. His mother, Cassie Severin, graduated from Orr High School and has many relatives in the area. The family was visiting relatives in Chisholm for the weekend and Jamison went hunting with his father, Josh, and grandfather, Brian, in an area southwest of Cook. And Jamison was toting a beloved heirloom with him.

"He received his rifle from his grandma who passed away two years ago," Cassie said. "It

Above: Twelve-year-old Jamison Cornelius bagged this nice six-pointer while hunting near Cook on opening morning.

Right: Sixteen-year-old Bridget Schelde, in her first time hunting, bagged a "button" buck right behind her family's house in Angora.

Lower right: Eleven-year-old Gage Aune is all smiles with this large doe he shot on opening morning while hunting north of Cook.

submitted photos

was her gun."

Perhaps his grandma was smiling down on him with luck. Jamison filled his tag by 7:30 a.m. on opening day with a six-point buck.

"His dad saw the deer first and alerted Jamison to it," Cassie said. "Jamison didn't see it right away. And then it came around the corner and he got it."

Jamison bagged the group's only deer for the weekend, and he's planning to remember the feat like the adolescent he is.

"He kept his shell and he wants to make it into a necklace," Cassie chuckled. She suggested they frame it, "And he said no, I want to wear it around my neck."

Eleven-year-old Gage Aune, of Britt, comes from a family of avid outdoorsmen, and the North Woods fifth-grader is already an accomplished fisherman. On the

See **FIRST DEER...**pg. 5B



Outdoors in brief

DNR seeking comment on Voyageur Country ATV trail system

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

CRANE LAKE—An environmental assessment for a proposed 387-mile long ATV trail network in northern St. Louis County is up for public comment, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

The Voyageur Country ATV Club, based in Crane Lake, is proposing to designate the trail network for ATVs in order to connect several communities, including Kabetogama, Crane Lake, Buyck, Orr, and Cook.

The vast majority of the network—just over 300 miles—will consist of existing ATV trail. A total of 83 miles will consist of existing trails, most designed for snowmobiles, that are not currently open to ATVs. About 70 miles of trail in those areas will require improvements to reduce the impacts from ATV travel. A total of 2.54 miles of newly constructed trail will be included in the project.

"The use of new trail alignments was minimized, and the proposed routes have been chosen to avoid sensitive features (such as wetlands) to the greatest extent practicable," notes the EAW that the DNR prepared for the project.

Trail construction would take place during the dry summer period or during winter outside of the usual snowmobile season for those portions of the trail co-located on snowmobile trails. Trail improvements will include adding fill to harden soft areas and the addition of culverts, boardwalks, or bridges at wetland or water crossings to prevent erosion.

Comments on the plan are being accepted through 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 16.

The EAW is available on the project page on the DNR website at www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmental-review/voyageur-country-atv/index.html. A copy of the EAW may be requested by calling 651-259-5115.

Comments should be submitted to the attention of Cynthia Novak-Krebs, project manager, Environmental Policy and Review Unit, DNR Ecological and Water Resources Division, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4025.

Comments may also be sent by email to environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us with "Voyageur ATV Project" in the subject line.

MINERAL EXPLORATION

Gold hunt loses a big player, but search continues

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

TOGO— A major gold miner has thrown in the towel, at least for now, on its hunt for the lucrative precious metal in northern Minnesota. AngloGold Ashanti, a South Africa-based company, had been actively exploring for gold near here since 2016, as the *Timberjay* has previously reported. During that time, the company had drilled more than 200 test holes in far northeastern Itasca and far west-central St. Louis counties, about 15-25 miles west and northwest of Cook.

The company had made the largest investment in gold prospecting in the region of any company in recent years, having leased just over 105,000 acres over the past five years.

But as first reported in the *StarTribune*, AngloGold Ashanti quietly terminated its leases at the end of last year in favor of a more promising venture in Nevada.

“It’s definitely a blow in some respects for exploration in Minnesota,”

Dean Peterson told the *StarTribune*. Peterson is the program manager for the economic geology group at the UMD-affiliated Natural Resources Research Institute in Duluth.

The termination of the company’s 271 separate leases puts the number of active state leases at a 15-year low, reports the *StarTribune*.

Still, smaller junior mining companies are still nosing around parts of the region. Kate Lehmann, who manages Vermillion Gold, said her company plans to continue its efforts in and around Togo as well as what’s known as the “Virginia Horn,” located between Virginia and Gilbert.

Lehmann, the daughter of longtime prospector Ernie Lehmann, who refined the understanding of some of the deposits now controlled by the Twin Metals joint venture, said it wasn’t a huge surprise that AngloGold opted out of the search in Minnesota. “I think with a company as large as Anglo, they have other projects going on, and they had to make some

choices,” she said.

AngloGold’s departure could actually aid Lehmann’s efforts, since the company will now have to publish the results of its drilling program. State mineral leases require that companies turn over their test results, which become public, once they terminate a lease. “We’re eager to see their data,” said Lehmann.

Lehmann, perhaps more than most people, understands the long-haul perspective that comes with life as a prospector. Her father, who spent decades refining the understanding of mineralization along key portions of the

Duluth Complex, never lived to see those deposits actually mined.

“The older I get, the more I appreciate the quality of perseverance in my father,” Lehmann said.

She’s now following in her father’s footsteps, knowing that her work is still in the very early stages, which involves examining cores drilled in the glacial till, looking for small grains of gold.

The gold grains aren’t the makings of a gold strike themselves, but they are used like bread crumbs to lead prospectors to a larger deposit. “We’re looking at what shape the grains are

in,” said Lehmann. “That tells us how far they’ve traveled.”

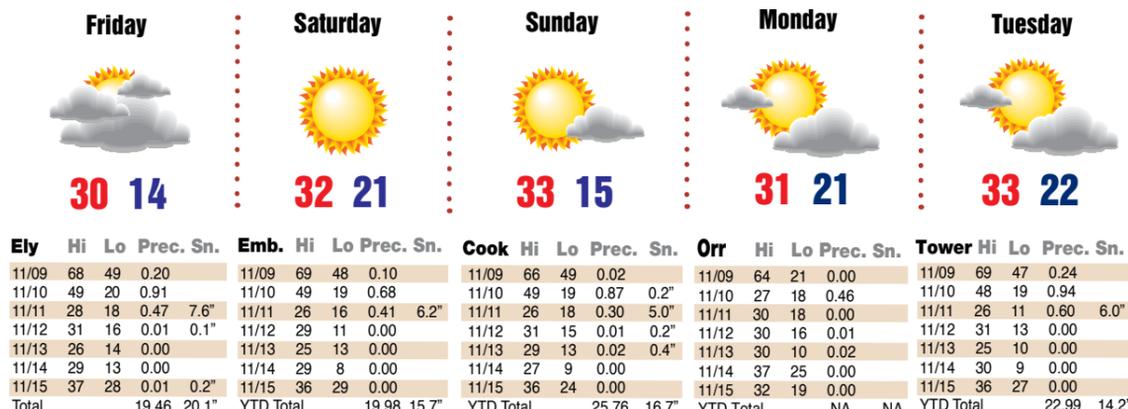
If the grains are smooth and beaten down, they’re mostly likely from a distant source, which is tougher to find. But if the grains are sharp-edged, they likely didn’t travel far, which means a mother lode could be nearby. “It’s the same process that was used for discoveries in Ontario,” said Lehmann.

The area just west of Linden Grove Township is of particular interest, said Lehmann, since the glacial till is particularly deep, allowing for a more substantial core sample.

Despite the disappearance of the biggest player in the hunt for gold in Minnesota, Lehmann expects the hunt will continue, if only because the high price of gold is fueling greater interest in gold prospecting just about everywhere. “Oh yeah,” she said, “there’s generally a lot more interest in the junior mining companies,” which undertake much of the exploratory work in the mining sector.

At least for now, Lehmann said, she expects her company will “keep poking holes in the ground to see what we find.”

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather



FIRST DEER...

Continued from page 4B

morning of opening day he added accomplished hunter to his list by shooting a doe in the woods north of Cook.

“He called me at 8:22 to tell me he got it,” his mother, Ashley Skorseth, said. “He’s sat in the stands before, but this is the first time he got to bring a gun. I cried when I got the picture.” Ashley said that Gage told her he planned to be patient and he stayed true to his word.

“He told me he wasn’t going to shoot the first deer he saw and that was the fourth one,” Ashley said.

DEER HUNT...

Continued from page 4B

snow in recent years than experienced in areas to the south and west.

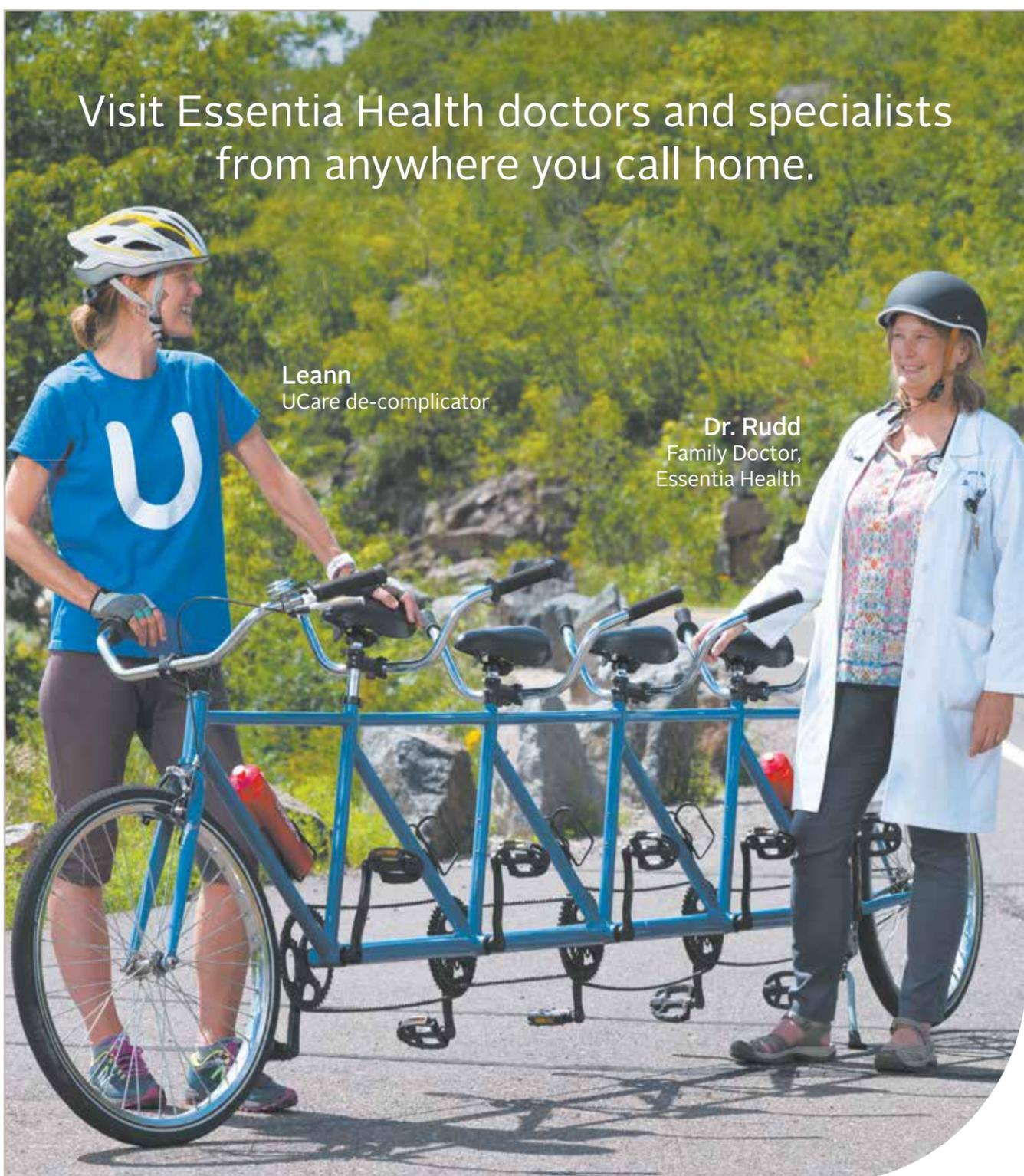
Meanwhile, the antlerless harvest was down 20 percent compared to last year, most likely reflecting the reduction in the number of antlerless permits issued this season.

The record-setting warm temperatures over opening weekend likely impacted hunter success, by limiting deer movements, which typically peak in early-to-mid November as part of the annual rut. Bucks are typically highly active during that period, but they risk overheating in the kind of temperatures the area experienced opening weekend, which likely reduced their activity.

But temperatures in the 60s were quickly replaced by the fourth day of the season with sub-freezing highs and 5-9 inches of fresh snow around the area. The colder temperatures increased daytime buck activity and provided hunters better visibility in the woods.

Rusch noted the temperature contrast between the opening weekend this year, when temperatures reached the upper 60s in many areas, versus the minus-16 degree temperatures that greeted hunters for opening day last year.

On a statewide basis, hunters had registered 157,126 deer as of Monday, including 85,013 bucks and 72,113 antlerless deer.



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Community Notices

Northland Foundation awards \$1.2 million in grants

REGIONAL- Northland Foundation awarded 45 grants totaling \$1,242,487 during the last quarter to nonprofit organizations, school districts, Tribal Nations and other community partners.

The majority of funds awarded were made as part of the Northland Foundation's Integrated Rural Community Aging Program (IRCAP). IRCAP is a three-year, multi-strategy aging initiative the foundation is leading. A total of \$450,000 was awarded to several of the eight Community Planning and Care Integration coalitions that have been established in northeastern Minnesota in partnership between the Northland Foundation, aging services organizations, and the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging.

The grants awarded will help coalitions' members, over the next two years, create well-connected programs and services that support older adults and their family caregivers in their rural communities. For example, Ely Area coalition plans include reducing food insecurity, improving access to in-home services, promoting information on available senior services, and increasing social connections.



An additional \$440,000 in IRCAP grants were awarded to AGE to age Program sites in the region. The funds will help communities deliver programming that joins children and youth with adults 55+ and the ages-in-between for friendship, learning, and community building, and to act as information hubs on supports and services available for older adults and their caregivers.

Support for organizations meeting basic needs during the pandemic is an ongoing focus, as well as housing, food, safety, and access to medical and mental health care. All grants awarded between July 1 and Sept. 30 of this year are listed below.

Grants awarded in our local area include:

- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Virginia. \$25,000 to provide in-school support and enrichment for LGBTQ youth and allies, promote diversity and inclusion through outreach and education, and offer one-on-one support

for LGBTQ youth.
 ► University of Minnesota Medical School-Duluth Campus, Duluth. \$5,000 to support the creation of a community-based, culturally grounded virtual therapy project serving Bois Forte's youth.

► Ely Community Health Center, Ely. \$11,000 to support programming to provide access to health care services for the uninsured.

► Northwoods Partners, Ely. \$140,000 to support efforts to improve access, awareness, and availability of services and supports that help Ely Area older adults and their family caregivers age successfully in their homes and communities.

► Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Nett Lake. \$40,000 to provide multi-year support for intergenerational activities through the Bois Forte AGE to age Program.

Vintage Country Christmas craft fair, Dec. 5 in Tower

TOWER- A holiday craft fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. Vintage Country Christmas will feature seven Iron Range crafters who will be spread out to provide safe distancing inside the building. The show will feature all handmade items, including wreaths, handknits, "Junky Attic" items, holiday breads, baked goods and candies, natural body care items, pillows, blankets and throws, wood signs, rustic furniture, clothing and much more.

The sale is being hosted by "Junky Attic", a vendor/crafter duo who normally exhibit at the Weihnachtsfest craft fair in Biwabik. Weihnachtsfest was canceled this year, so they found an alternative venue.

The traditional Tower Christmas Craft Show is not being held this year, due to vendors' and organizers' safety concerns.

Get Results!

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The Timberjay classified ads reach readers of all three editions every week.

Call 753-2950 to place yours now!

PUBLIC NOTICES

ATTENTION GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

The Greenwood Township Board of Supervisors is working with CTC communications to bring high-speed internet and phone services to the township with Fiber Optic cable.

Currently interest is at a low level of 14% of households.

We need to show CTC there is an interest for these services.

Please go to the websites below and complete the surveys
 CTC Survey: https://join.connectctc.com/front_end/zones
 Speed Test: <http://mnruralbroadbandcoalition.com/speedtest>

Your help is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
 Greenwood Township Board of Supervisors

IMPORTANT PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD NOTICE

This will affect your 2021 property taxes & eligibility for Property Tax Refund

Have you purchased or moved into a property in the past year?
 Contact your county assessor to file a homestead application if you or a qualifying relative occupy the property as a homestead on or before **December 1, 2020**. You must apply for homestead; it does not happen automatically or at closing.

What is a qualifying relative?
 For agricultural property, a qualifying relative includes the child, grandchild, sibling, or parent of the owner or of the owner's spouse. For residential property a qualifying relative also includes the owner's uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece.

When do I apply?
 You must apply on or before Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

Contact the assessor by December 15, 2020 if the occupancy or use of the property you homestead has changed in the past year.

If you sell, move, or for any reason no longer qualify for the homestead classification, you are required to notify the county assessor within 30 days of the change in homestead status.

For information, contact one of the following County Assessor's Offices:
 Duluth Offices...726-2304 Virginia Office...749-7147
 Hibbing Office...262-6089 Ely Office...365-8236
 Long distance (within St. Louis County) 1-800-450-9777

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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!

Smart STATUE

Empty INARD

Close BRANEY

Berate CLODS

TODAY'S WORD

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MORCOM TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICE

Morcom Township's December Meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, Dec. 3 at 6:00 pm.

If you wish to attend, or have questions, please contact Sasha Lehto, Clerk, at 218-969-5812, or email at Morcomtownshipmn@gmail.com.

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 20, 2020

Super Crossword

Answers

B	A	S	I	C	T	R	E	A	C	L	E	S	A	L	C	A	P	P			
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S	E	N	T	R	A	S	T	A	T	E	T	A	X	S	L	E	E	P			

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Read It Here!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 here. 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).

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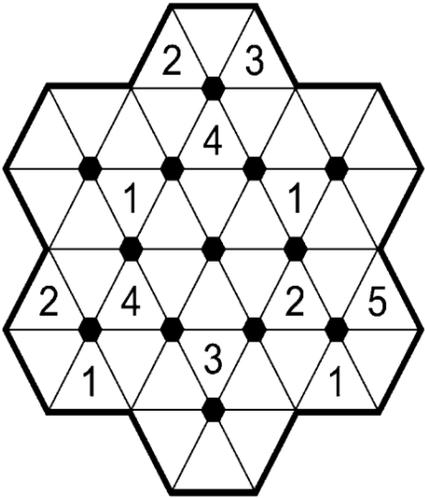
solution
1. Astute 2. Drain;
3. Nearby; 4. Scold

Today's Word
DISCOUNT

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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

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Super Crossword

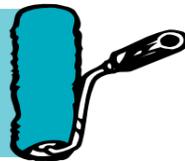
POMES FOR BEGINNERS

- ACROSS**
- 1 No-frills
 - 6 Very cloying things
 - 14 "Li'l Abner" drawer
 - 20 Fast Amtrak choice
 - 21 Industry of a merchant marine
 - 22 Not as fatty
 - 23 1987 Steven Spielberg war film
 - 25 Rubble on "The Flintstones"
 - 26 Hangs on to
 - 27 Start to doze
 - 28 Herb that tastes like anise
 - 29 Pixel, e.g.
 - 30 1930s coalition between Italy and Germany
 - 35 Suffix with Method
 - 38 — Major (Great Bear)
 - 40 Called off the relationship
 - 41 Cacklers with clutches
 - 42 Neophyte, in modern slang
 - 44 — Harbor (Guam port)
 - 46 Longtime name in restaurant guides
 - 47 Mooch
 - 48 Racecar track near a Japanese mountain
 - 51 Has begun, as a TV show
 - 53 Suffix with method
 - 54 Ontario tribe
 - 55 Put on one's big-boy pants
 - 57 Rock's Reed
 - 60 — Spumante (Italian wine)
 - 62 "— lizards!"
 - 65 Specialists in stone
 - 67 What you do when you read the first words of 23-, 30-, 48-, 85-, 102- and 114-Across?
 - 72 Like gluttons
 - 73 "That so?"
 - 74 Bruins' sch.
 - 75 I, to Kant
 - 76 Metric "thousand"
 - 78 Lie dormant
 - 80 Rub clean
 - 84 Venue
 - 85 Festive affair
 - 88 Japanese noodles
 - 91 Half of a 45
 - 94 — avis
 - 95 Whirlpool
 - 96 Had a debt turret
 - 97 Mosque
 - 99 Fire: Prefix
 - 101 Drivers' org.
 - 102 Gratifying wry twist
 - 105 Brand of TVs
 - 107 Pago Pago islander
 - 108 Aussie jumper
 - 109 Things worth saving
 - 113 Dearies
 - 114 Composer of the musical "Rent"
 - 118 "Encore" rapper
 - 119 Invitation for radio call-ins
 - 120 Mafioso Frank
 - 121 Longtime Nissan
 - 122 It helps pay for roads and schools
 - 123 Lie dormant
 - DOWN
 - 1 Boxer Max
 - 2 Vertex
 - 3 30-day mo.
 - 4 24-book epic
 - 5 Actor Len
 - 6 General — chicken
 - 7 Arena arbiter
 - 8 "Jack Sprat could — fat"
 - 9 In the house
 - 10 Legless sideboard
 - 11 — Vegas
 - 12 Univ. URL ender
 - 13 VIP in D.C.
 - 14 Even though
 - 15 "Big Deal" singer Rimes
 - 16 "The A-Team" director Joe
 - 17 Appended
 - 18 Stripping off
 - 19 Nose about
 - 24 Snare
 - 28 Enter like a butterfly
 - 30 Less usual
 - 31 Time to wear a conical party hat, for short
 - 32 Brain wave test: Abbr.
 - 33 Nutrition std.
 - 34 Vancouver-to-Seattle dir.
 - 35 Facts, briefly
 - 36 Inner self
 - 37 Magic charm
 - 39 Coin money
 - 43 Galoot
 - 45 Long Island university
 - 47 Do some dicking in court
 - 49 Net message board operator
 - 50 Tearful
 - 52 Rash-causing plant
 - 55 Perceive in error aurally
 - 56 Kitchen pest
 - 57 IM chuckle
 - 58 Two halved
 - 59 Navy vessel inits.
 - 61 "Give this a shot"
 - 63 Bristol beer
 - 64 Oyster find
 - 66 Not crowded
 - 67 Hi-tech special FX
 - 68 Tolkien menace
 - 69 "Ho-hum"
 - 70 Yahoo! rival
 - 71 Big public protest
 - 77 Tissue injury
 - 79 Lathered up
 - 81 Verdi's slave
 - 82 Bar mixer
 - 83 "River" New Age artist
 - 84 Delta deposit
 - 85 Halliwell of pop music
 - 86 Not normal
 - 87 Library stall
 - 88 Reel partner
 - 89 Fantastic
 - 90 Skin colorer
 - 92 Shiba — (spitz breed)
 - 93 "— Boot"
 - 97 Foul vapor
 - 98 Play on a life
 - 100 Briny bodies
 - 103 More bashful
 - 104 Pitch-perfect?
 - 106 30-day month
 - 109 Construction toy brand
 - 110 Villa d'—
 - 111 Learning by memorizing
 - 112 Short cut
 - 113 "— So Fine" (Louisa May Alcott novel)
 - 114 "— Boys"
 - 115 Decide (to)
 - 116 Tch. 's union
 - 117 Santa — winds

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