



Santa visits Ely... See /1B

Holiday Deadlines

Dec. 25 issue... Dec. 21 at noon

Jan. 1 issue... Dec. 23 at noon

No paper published on Jan. 8

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CORONAVIRUS

Cook is new COVID hotspot in North Country

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

Reported cases surge 100 percent in three weeks

REGIONAL - A reported surge last week in positive COVID-19 cases has Cook bucking state and countywide trends indicating that spread of the novel coronavirus has slightly slowed.

Data provided last Thursday by the Minnesota Department of Health showed an increase of 25 cases in the Cook zip code from the Dec. 3 report, jumping from 91 to 116. In a three-week span from Nov. 19 to Dec. 10, Cook experienced a 100 percent increase in cumulative cases.



The impact was evident at Zup's Food Market in Cook,

where staff shortages related to COVID-19 exposures led to sharply reduced business hours for a week beginning Nov. 30. It's unclear when at least 11 reported cases at North Woods School coming out of the Thanksgiving break are account-

ed for in the weekly state data. Cook is also in the upper tier of COVID case rates in St. Louis County when using the comparative calculation of cases per 10,000 people. At 517 cases per 10,000, Cook ranks 19th among the county's 50 zip codes. By comparison, Orr is

See...COVID pg. 11

SEEDS OF HOPE



From Cook to Chicago, with love

Teacher uses music to heal trauma

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- Within adversity, seeds of hope and triumph can be found, brought to full bloom with the right measures of encouragement and love.

Cook native Trevor Nicholas knows this from both sides of the equation, as he has recently used his own experiences with adversity and triumph to inspire a unique creative endeavor that has brought comfort, healing, and community to the students of a large Chicago-area high school.

Trevor, a 2004 Cook High School graduate, is the choir director for a specialized four-year music program at Nicholas Senn High School on



Trevor Nicholas is from Cook.

the North Side of Chicago. Using an original composition he wrote, titled "Who Will Carry Me?" students and teachers in music and dance joined with alumni and guest artists last spring to individually record parts at a distance for a collaborative video that counters the trauma of a COVID-scarred year with comfort and hope.

What the thousands of people who have viewed the video don't know is that the seeds of this achievement were sown in the days of Trevor's youth in a tiny northern Minnesota town barely one-third the size of Senn High School.

Trevor first encountered adversity as a grade schooler when he developed rheumatoid arthritis, an affliction that

See...HOPE pg. 8

CRIME

Employee charged in theft from Fortune Bay

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

TOWER - A Fortune Bay Resort Casino employee has been charged in federal court with stealing over \$300,000 from the Bois Forte Band operation over a six-year period.

Jennifer Lynn Boutto, 32, is alleged to have stolen \$315,739.87 in money, funds, and credits from June 2013 to October 2019, according to a complaint filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Minneapolis. U.S. Attorney Erica MacDonald, who filed the charging documents, provided no information

See...CHARGES pg. 8

ISD 696

Building project spikes property tax levy in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - ISD 696 School Board members approved the 2021 property tax levy Monday night that shows a 32-percent increase over last year's levy. The 2021 levy of \$2,373,475 is an increase of \$576,411 over the 2020 levy of \$1,797,064.

District voters approved a \$10 million bond in August to help finance

See...ELY pg. 9

MANUFACTURING

Lampaa awarded U.S. patent for wood furnace

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER—A tiny father-son company that's operated for three generations in Tower has won a U.S. patent on a device that is completely transforming what

the world long believed about the burning of wood.

For generations, burning wood for heat has been associated with dirty emissions, that used to create environmental and public health impacts in many small and mid-sized cities where

Daryl and Herb Lampaa with their wood-burning stove. The manufacturing company is located in Tower. file photo

wood-burning was common.

That's why many cities began restricting the use of wood-burning devices by the 1990s and why the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency eventually began to regulate soot emissions.

Those regulations culmi-

See...LAMPPA pg. 10



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Community notices

Correction

In the story about scammers targeting seniors, "Don't fall for financial scams," the *Timberjay* incorrectly reported that the husband of Delores Hujanen had passed away. Her husband has dementia and is now living at Cook Care Center. The *Timberjay* apologizes for the error.

Gardner Trust awards \$500 to Ely holiday concert

ELY – The COVID Christmas spirit here is alive and well as news came this week that the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust and awarded a \$500 Community Grant to Todd Crego, of Ely Area Television and his Virtual Holiday Concert.

The holiday event, as described in the Dec. 11 issue of the *Timberjay*, will be airing on Ely's local access channels 11 and 98 run replay through the holiday season. The concert will feature many Ely-area musicians providing their favorite Christmas music.

"The Gardner Trust board was impressed that Todd was willing to give of his time to pull this holiday concert together for the Ely community," said Executive Director Keiko Williams.

"Normally I am really busy this time of year filming events," Crego said. "but there was nothing this year and it felt like a good idea to bring some joy to the community, especially during this pandemic."

Crego said he received help in producing the event from Curt Laine/Cyko Studios and the Boundary Waters Choral Festival, as their past collaborations brought in recorded songs from Monroe Crossings and Carrie Newcomer.

The purpose of the Gardner Trust's Community Giving grant program is to recognize and reward an individual, group or project that provides a measurable impact for the community of Ely, according to Williams. "The grant program is board-initiated as ideas or awards are discussed and approved at regular or special meetings when extra funding is available," she said. "This grant will help pay for video recording and studio time, video production/editing and supplies associated with the project."

Any questions about the Trust or its grant programs can be directed to Williams at 218-365-2639 or info@gardnertrust.org.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Northland Foundation hires Littlewolf

Littlewolf will coordinate a grassroots Indigenous grantmaking program



LeAnn Littlewolf submitted photo

REGIONAL- The Northland Foundation announced that LeAnn Littlewolf has been hired as a Senior Program Officer, starting on Monday, Dec. 14. She will work primarily to help coordinate a grassroots program called Maada'ookiing, "distribution" in Ojibwe, focused on engagement and grant support for Indigenous people and communities in northeastern Minnesota.

Littlewolf, Maaiin'gan Doodem and Anishinaabe/Gaa-zagaskwaajimekaag Band of Ojibwe, has worked in the nonprofit sector and community advocacy for over 28 years, which includes direct services, development and executive director roles. She designed and developed a start-up nonprofit organization focused on American Indian youth leadership and assisted with the startup of an initiative focused on Indigenous and rural women's leadership. Littlewolf holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Education, as

well as a Master's degree in Advocacy and Political Leadership.

Her most recent work has focused on building Indigenous economy as the Economic Development Director at the American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO). As part of a leadership team at AICHO, Littlewolf helped develop a Food Sovereignty initiative, new Indigenous social enterprises, and a theory of change based in cultural values and practices.

"We are thrilled to welcome LeAnn to our team. Her longtime experience and commitment to building equity

and resources among Indigenous people in northeastern Minnesota is an excellent match for Maada'ookiing as we prepare to launch it in early 2021," said Tony Sertich, Northland Foundation's President.

The program is being designed by a board of nine members representing the five sovereign Tribal nations in northeastern Minnesota (Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Grant Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe) along with representatives from other communities across the region. Bois Forte representatives include Shane Drift, Jaylen Strong, and Melissa Walls who represents both Bois Forte and Couchiching First Nation.

Maada'ookiing will make grants available to individuals who are working to strengthen Indigenous communities in the region.

"We anticipate that

the first grant round will open in April 2021. Maada'ookiing is an expansion of the Northland Foundation's existing partnerships with Tribal Nations and Indigenous-led nonprofits, and we will continue to make grants to them through our current grant programs, as well," said President Tony Sertich.

"The addition of awarding grants to individuals is an exciting new avenue to, we hope, provide more resources to those who are 'on the ground' in communities," Sertich stated.

The Northland Foundation serves northeastern Minnesota's Arrowhead Region through its Grant Program, KIDS PLUS Program, Business Services including small business gap lending and hosting the regional SBDC, and other special initiatives.

Learn more about The Northland Foundation at <https://www.northlandfdn.org/index.php>.

COVID CHRISTMAS

Light up the night in Ely on Christmas Eve

by MUFFIN NELSON
Contributing Writer

ELY - Are you concerned COVID-19 is keeping you and your family from a 2020 Christmas Eve worship service? Has your own church service been altered or canceled? Do you have computer or connectivity challenges?

A creative solution is underway for a 2020 community celebration. The event is dubbed "Light the Night," or "An Ely COVID-19 Christmas Eve."

The First Presbyterian Church of Ely and St. Mary's Episcopal Church are teaming up with WELY to broadcast a traditional Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service from 5-6 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Fortunately, our radios still work.

Although our lives have been upended in

2020 by this worldwide pandemic we have a strong desire to be with others and celebrate Christmas, but we need to do it safely. Could we somehow gather, but separately? We can, indeed, do so together in the comfort of our own vehicles.

The entire Ely area community is welcome to participate in the hope, peace, joy and love of Christmas which brought light into the darkness. In fact, anyone in the world can participate via www.WELY.com.

In late November, the board of the First Presbyterian Church asked board member Ward Nelson to lead a task force to develop creative ways to celebrate Christmas given the COVID-19 constraints of no group gathering in the church building, no group singing, no coffee and treats, etc. Faced with a daunting task, Ward recalled an experience he had in graduate school 52 years ago.

On Oct. 25, 1968, a commuter airplane crashed into Moose Mountain near Lebanon, New Hampshire,

on a snowy night. Rescue was quite difficult, and over campus radio all students with cars were asked to park perpendicular to the curb around the large center of Dartmouth Green with lights pointing inward so rescue helicopters carrying ten survivors could land two blocks from the medical center. He participated; it was successful. He has never forgotten that night when together they "Lit up the green."

How will Ely do this? Simply drive your vehicle to Whiteside Park and park perpendicular to the curb with your lights shining into the park from either 7th or 8th Avenue or Harvey Street. Stay in your car and tune to WELY 94.5 FM. You can help "Light the Night" with your vehicle headlights as directed by the service leader on the radio; the park's Ely Community Christmas tree lights also will be coordinated. Any weather conditions will do. This is Ely!

If you prefer, stay home in your favorite chair by the fire. You can tune in to WELY 94.5 FM

on your radio or stream www.WELY.com live and "Light the Night" with your porchlight.

This traditional Christmas Eve service, first organized in London, England, in 1918 and broadcast annually since 1928, is being planned here by Pastor Corey Larsen of First Presbyterian and Rev. Mary Groeninger of St. Mary's Episcopal. This is a Christmas gift to the community from their congregations.

Participants can find a printable order of the service with carols at www.elypresbyterian.org/christmas. All are welcome. No reservations needed.

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DAN & SHELBY KARAKAS of Lake Vermilion



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Dan and the former Shelby McCabe were married December 19, 1970, in Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Virginia, MN. Their children are Heather (Scott) Peterson of Apple Valley and Erin (John) Pepelnjak of Duluth. They have four grandchildren: Lilly Peterson, Allie Peterson, Isla Pepelnjak, and Doca Pepelnjak. Dan is a retired millwright instructor for Minntac and Shelby is a retired teacher for the St. Louis County Schools.



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DEVELOPMENT

'Best of both stores moving into one'

Zup's to buy Ely Northland Market and expand to former Shopko building

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The community's major grocery businesses will merge later next year following Zup's Food Markets' purchase of Ely Northland Market. The announcement, made last Wednesday after the *Timberjay's* deadline, referred to the pending deal as a partnership, and clears the way for Zup's to renovate and move into the former Shopko building later in 2021.

Zup's will purchase Ely Northland Market in early 2021, and both stores will remain open until the new 32,000 square-foot facility is ready, according to a press release.

Once the purchase is final, employees from both stores will merge as co-workers under one roof.

"It makes perfect sense," said Donna

Richards, who along with her husband Jim bought Northland Market in 2003. "The best of both stores are moving into one."

Zup's has about 50 employees while Northland Market has a staff of about 30.

"We're very excited about it," said Jim Zupancich Jr. "As a family, we're excited and our employees are excited as well."

Earlier this month, Zup's announced the purchase of the Shopko building and its plans to move to the east end of town. The purchase of Ely Northland Market has reportedly been in the talking stages for years.

Plans have Zup's eyeing a September opening date for the merged businesses at the Shopko facility.

Exclusive product lines popular at Ely

Northland Market, including their specialty items and sausages from its meat department, will move to the new store, according to Richards and Zupancich. Ely Northland Market and Zup's purchase from separate grocery warehouses and that will continue, they added.

Once the grocery operations consolidate in one location, Richards said that customers who enjoy products from both stores will "now have that shopping experience all in one. It's a win-win really."

"There may be some ways to save money that will reduce costs for the company and therefore we can probably reduce our prices as well," Zupancich said. "There's really not going to be any changes until we move into Shopko together. We're going to have the best of both worlds. Once we get this



From left, Tracy Amitrano and Donna Richards, of Ely Northland Market, and Jim Zupancich Jr. and Bill Deyak of Zup's Food Markets, announced last Wednesday that the two grocery businesses will combine next year. submitted photo

new store together it will be the employees from Northland Market and our employees, and we will work together as one big group. We want to keep everything, and if we can better it in any way, we're going to do it."

While Northland Market will fall under the Zup's umbrella, the Richards will retain their popular "JR's Beef" business.

With the purchase of the Shopko building,

Zup's will nearly double its square footage. Zupancich Brothers Inc. is exploring other options, in addition to groceries, for the space, including dry goods and a pharmacy.

Both grocers acknowledged the loyalty and support of Ely area customers that has allowed both stores to thrive.

"The (Ely) community has supported Zup's and Northland and we're very grateful for that," Zupancich said. "I think

this move will help this community because we're going to be able to provide increased variety and lower prices."

Both the current Zup's store, built in 1983, and the Northland Market building, formerly known as Joe's IGA, will go on the market.

Zupancich Brothers Inc. owns stores in Ely, Babbitt, Tower, Silver Bay and Cook.

CITY OF TOWER

Tower Council votes to keep levy unchanged

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council, here, on Monday, gave final approval to a 2021 levy of \$394,761, representing no increase over the current year's property tax assessment.

At the same time, the council approved a 2021 budget that includes \$3.94 million in revenue and total expenditures of \$3.575 million.

"There are lots of different ways that the city of Tower gets revenue and the property tax is

only one part of it," said Tower Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua, noting that the property tax levy is set to generate only about ten percent of the city's expected revenues in 2021. Grants, state and county aids, fees for services, and leases make up the bulk

of city revenue each year.

The budget includes \$648,000 in estimated revenue in the city's general fund, which is identical to expenditures. The budget also includes \$787,289 for streets, a figure that reflects the city's plan to undertake the Pine Street

reconstruction next year. Ranua said that spending will be contingent on the city identifying a local match for \$472,000 in state local road improvement funds that are currently earmarked for the project.

Other major planned expenditures include

\$40,000 for a new police vehicle, \$53,805 as part of retiring the city's loan from the League of Minnesota Cities, and \$600,000 for the second phase of trail work around the harbor. The harbor work is slated

See TOWER...pg. 5

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OPINION

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Stauber's cowardice

In backing Trump's attempted election thievery, the congressman puts party over country

While Joe Biden is indisputably our President-elect following Monday's vote by the Electoral College, residents of the Eighth District should not forget that their own elected member of Congress signed onto a transparent attempt to overthrow the clear will of the American people, including the clear will of the people of Minnesota.

That's not a small thing, and the fact that the U.S. Supreme Court, including all three Trump appointees, held firm against an unconstitutional attempt to install Donald Trump for a second term, does not negate the horror of an amicus brief to which Stauber and 125 other Republican members of Congress signed their names. That list should be displayed for years to come as the ultimate roll call of craven politicians.

By signing his name to this, Rep. Stauber threw in his lot with thieves. Despite all the fulminations by many Republicans about stolen elections, it was Trump and his minions who sought to steal the 2020 election through a number of half-baked strategies cooked up long before Election Day. Had the election been closer, and Trump's team more competent, they might well have succeeded.

Donald Trump had every reason to think he would lose his bid for re-election, yet he somehow believed the Supreme Court might ultimately set aside the election results and the U.S. Constitution to keep him in power. He acknowledged as much in ramming through the appointment of Justice Amy Coney Barrett just ahead of the Nov. 3 election.

Trump didn't care that America's voters made their choice clear, electing Joe Biden by a 306-232 electoral vote margin and a popular vote advantage of more than seven million. He thought he had at least five votes on the nation's highest court and he expected that if given the opportunity, no matter how preposterous the legal claims, they would ignore their obligation to the constitution and hand the election to him. He believed this was possible because Donald Trump has never understood the concepts of honor or principle, and it is unimaginable to him that others might actually believe in such things.

The Texas lawsuit to which Rep. Stauber attached his name was a complete fraud. As the Supreme Court noted, Texas had no standing to sue other states for how they conduct their elections, and the suit advanced no intelligible claim.

Further, the lawsuit was a virtual acknowledgement that

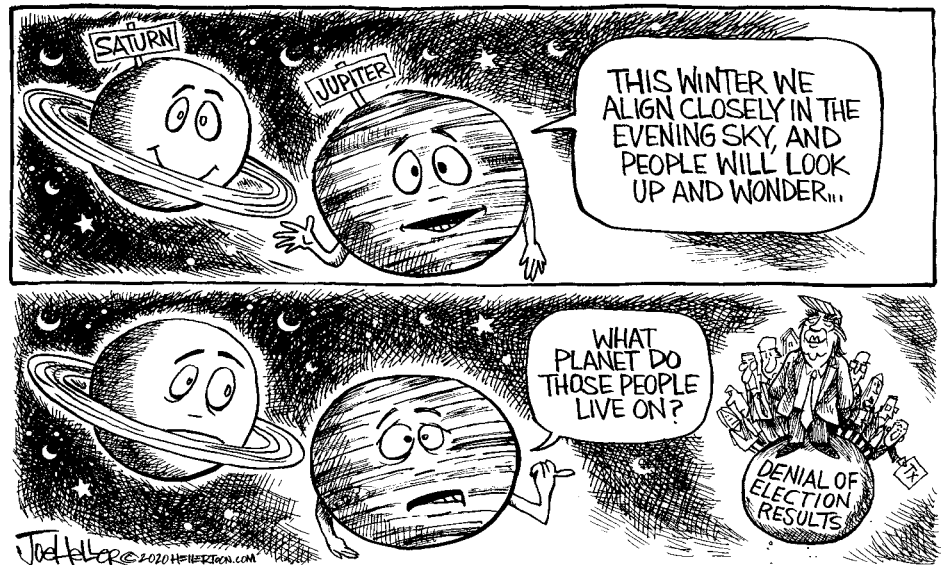
Trump and his legal team had found no evidence of voter fraud. That's why the suit shifted its legal arguments to suggest that the four states the suit named, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Georgia, had harmed Texas by instituting changes in their election rules without legislative approval.

Yet most states, including Minnesota and, yes, even Texas, had implemented similar changes in their election rules without legislative approval in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott had, on his own authority, extended the deadline for early voting. And the Texas Supreme Court gave a clear wink and a nod to looser mail-in voting requirements, finding that local election officials had no obligation to investigate whether requests for mail-in ballots, based on disability or absence, were fully substantiated. As a result, Texas, like many other states, saw record increases in both early and mail-in voting. But these changes were only a problem, apparently, in states that Biden managed to flip to his win column. In other words, voting for Biden was the real crime of these four states.

Even more appalling than the hypocrisy of the case was the astonishing logical disconnects. The Texas lawsuit wanted to invalidate the votes of millions of residents of the four states, but only their votes for president. The fact that those same ballots also elected Republican office holders in many other races was to be ignored.

Yet the Trump team's incompetence obscures the dangerous implications of their attempt to overturn the election. Given the lack of evidence, the Trump team had little realistic hope in the courts, but that was only part of the game plan. Trump's false claims were also meant to convince enough of his base of his lies that they would join him in pressuring governors, secretaries of state, and state legislators to use their raw political power to overturn the election results if the courts refused to do so. Though unsuccessful this time, it is an incredibly dangerous precedent, that may haunt this country for years.

Fortunately for America, there were some courageous Republican officials, mostly at the state level, who refused to bow to Trump's pressure and personal attacks. In so doing, they stood up for country over party. When given that same opportunity, Rep. Stauber sided with would-be thieves and his fellow political cowards. Voters in the Eighth District shouldn't forget.



Letters from Readers

Stauber tried to subvert democracy

Congressman Peter Stauber, you really revealed yourself and your Republican Party's desire to end democracy in America when you signed the Texas lawsuit that the Supreme Court refused to even hear. What a long shot attempt to turn our country into a dictatorship and keep Trump in power!

Please resign your seat in the House of Representatives immediately. You don't deserve the office.

Lee Peterson
Greenwood Twp.

Betrayal is inevitably a failed strategy

Regarding your Dec. 4 Bakk and Tomassoni editorial, the question that needs to be answered is: what did Bakk and Tomassoni promise in exchange for their thirty pieces of silver? Gazelka does not hand out choice tidbits of pork just for kicks. Betrayal is inevitably a failed strategy and it always has a bad odor. To praise it because of an incidental benefit is naive at best, hypocritical at worst. Will Pawlenty's park become a modern field of blood?

Don Brown
Greenwood Twp.

Another missed boat for education

In the 1960s, William (Bill) Norris via the company known as Control Data Corporation launched a computerized learning system called Plato.

Plato never was accepted in American educational systems. From his own mouth Bill once related to the author how it was still in use in Russia. This conversation having taken place in the '80s.

Today we find ourselves struggling with online learning. Yet 50 plus years ago we were shown the way.

Plato died about a month after the death of its father, Bill Norris.

The axiom of the elderly in my youth comes to mind, "Too soon too old, too late too smart."

Jeff Wilfahrt
Ely

Heroes, patriots, and betrayers

Even as President Trump desperately tries to overthrow the election results, we find heroes and patriots. Also, we see exposed those who put themselves ahead of country.

Attorney General of Texas, Ken Paxton, who has been indicted for numerous illegal activities, attempted to file a baseless suit with the U.S. Supreme Court to disenfranchise millions of voters and to reject the election outcome. Mr. Trump expected the court to support his goal of a peaceful coup d'etat by invalidating the election results and empowering him to remain in office.

The heroes in this were the Supreme Court justices. Seven of nine judges would not even allow the suit to be filed with the Court, and all nine judges indicated they rejected the case on numerous points. They did their Constitutional job; they are heroes and patriots in that they protected the most fundamental base of democracy, the Constitutional right of citizens to vote to select their leaders.

Other heroes have been the poll workers, the secretaries of states and election officials in every state who, despite the conspiracy theories, conducted a fair election and have stood by their results, regardless of party. This, even as Trump's desperate campaign to discredit and toss out the election result continues unabated.

On the other hand, there are those who seek personal gain. Pete Stauber took an oath "I, Peter Stauber, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; So help me God." He supported

the baseless suit and applied his name to the suit filed by AG Paxton to disenfranchise millions of voters and to reject an election outcome. That is in no way 'defending the Constitution', no matter how you try to spin it. Also, claiming with no evidence that Secretary of State Simon has done some illegal act for which he provided no evidence is an attempt to weaken Minnesotans' faith in our election system.

This is personal. I voted absentee. Mr. Stauber was complicit in attempting to disenfranchise not only people in Michigan, Georgia, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania, but also Minnesota. By rejecting the outcome of the election, he would disenfranchise the entire nation. This is not fun and games. This is not merely trying to show he is "Trump enough" nor a means to incite Trump supporters to contribute more to his campaign. This is serious. This is our democracy at risk.

It is important to note that others betrayed their oath in addition to Mr. Stauber. Reps. Hagedorn, Emmer, and Rep.-elect Fischbach also signed on supporting the Paxton filing attempt.

They owe all Minnesotans an apology. All betrayed their constituents and country. All should immediately resign.

Keith Steva
Cook

We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

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

The long and the short of it, putting life into writing

As long as I can remember, I have had a preference for longhand and a fascination with writing instruments: fountain pens, calligraphy pens, gel pens, feather quills, markers, crayons, chalk, pencils, brush tip pens and brushes of all types, from 4" wide to liners,



BETTY FIRTH

rigger, and daggers. The variety of possible marks to be made are beyond counting. Yet we volun-

tarily limit ourselves to stiff symbols on a screen or printed out to paper. With thousands of font choices, the world is dominated by Helvetica, Arial, Times, Courier, and others that look pretty much the same to the average onlooker.

Helvetica leads the pack for some bizarre reason as the most famous of all fonts. Look at it: It is without person-

ality, no flourishes, no interesting descenders or ascenders, not even any serifs (those little projections finishing off a stroke). According to the font experts, its popularity is attributed to it being "modern, simple, and as versatile and trustworthy as it is Swiss, created by Max Miedinger in 1957." I, however, think it's just boring, and its sameness makes it difficult for the eye to read, without any serifs to bind the letters together and lead the eye to the next word. The homogeneity bores our very eyeballs, which want to wander to something

more entertaining. Born in the 50's, like many products of bland design and questionable taste, it appears eager not to offend, remaining neutral like the Swiss. Why would you do that when you can **dance with Broadway, garner attention with Impact, paint with Brush Script, make your point with Marker Felt or just have a good chuckle with Comic Sans?**

I was appalled to learn a while back that cursive writing is barely taught in school these days, or not at all. How will these deprived children read

the treasured love letters sent from grandpa to grandma? How can they appreciate John Hancock's dramatic gesture on the Declaration of Independence, much less read that document in its beautiful, original script? Handwriting is not just a rusty, obsolete tool to be tossed away. It can flatter, caress, sing, or shout the words skittering or marching or creeping across the paper. It reveals so much about the writer that many companies have included handwriting analyses in

See **WRITING...pg. 5**

Letters from Readers

Stauber undermines his oath of office

Congressman Pete Stauber has violated his oath of office by adding his name to the baseless Texas lawsuit to cancel Joe Biden's victory in four states and invalidate the votes of millions of voters. By doing so, Stauber has betrayed the trust of his own constituents.

This publicity stunt was a shameless attack on America's system of free and fair elections. Even more shameful perhaps was the flurry of Republican officials—including Stauber—who tripped over themselves in an opportunistic rush to join in on this act of sedition.

Legal experts around the nation, including Republican elected officials in charge of the election process and almost 60 lower courts, judged the lawsuit meritless. Thankfully, the Supreme Court summarily dismissed the suit without a hearing because of the unconstitutionality of one state interfering with another state's election process.

Stauber took an oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic . . ." Any elected official who supported this cynical attack on American voters and our democratic system should have an indelible black mark next to their name in perpetuity. By joining this effort, Pete Stauber has brought shame to himself and all those he purports to represent. His actions have fostered a climate in which ordinary elected officials in many states have been threatened with violence.

After the Electoral College's Dec. 14 vote, some Republicans (not Stauber) have finally begun to acknowledge that Joe Biden

is the president-elect. That is a good sign, though far overdue.

Stauber should apologize to all residents of the Eighth District for his role undermining faith in our electoral system and leading us down the path to anarchy.

News outlets have begun to call out the Republicans who attempted to undermine the legitimacy of our system of government and fanned the flames of anarchy.

Congressman Stauber certainly deserves their censure. We all must work to protect the Constitution from those who, like Pete Stauber, seek to weaken it.

DFL Senate District 3 Executive Committee Leah Rogne, Gheen Bryan Hansel, Grand Marais Megan Bond, International Falls Joseph Boyle, International Falls Barb Crow, Duluth Township Todd Redmann, Two Harbors Melissa Roach, Cook Bernadette Smith, Cloquet

Open letter to Rep. Stauber

I recently heard that you signed and endorsed along with 125 other House Republicans to support the lawsuit from Texas attempting to overturn our free and fair election—clearly a move that is an attempt to overthrow our democracy and our democratic process. Your actions are not only bizarre, but outright ridiculous. Frivolous upon frivolous lawsuits have been filed by Trump, the RNC and the ex-President's ridiculous "Save America" PAC, only to be thrown out of the courts by Trump's appointed judges, not

just the state and federal lower courts, but now the Supreme Court of the United States.

On the topic of Trump's "Save America" PAC, it will most likely line his personal pockets by around \$170 million-plus dollars. Yes, for all of those who have contributed, sorry, you have been duped.

I have been a lifelong Republican, but from the insane actions of ex-President Trump, the actions of both Republican Houses of Congress, since the election, the divisiveness and rhetoric, calling for violence and retribution for anyone who speaks out against this Fascist we currently have in office, is reprehensible.

By endorsing this lawsuit, you are complicit in the furthering of the antidemocratic processes, promotion of violence, racism and divisiveness our ex-President promotes. You, Sir, are condoning all the bizarre actions, false conspiracy messaging and continuous lying and tweets by, "I think I am The Supreme Leader," ex-President we now have in office.

Sir, as I previously said, I have been a lifelong Republican who supported you in the last two elections.

I no longer can call myself a Republican and affiliate myself with a party which has promoted and endorsed so many un-American and bizarre Trump-isms, and a party that continues to endorse for this would-be autocrat in the White House.

I seriously doubt you will ever see this email, let alone have the courage to respond to it. Perhaps I will see some canned response by you or one of your aides who most likely could give a damn about any of your constituents' concerns, or perhaps your only desire is to stay in office by placating some faction of those Trumpers who

have been brainwashed by his rhetoric. However, it gives me some relief to speak my mind to you and forward this message to the op-ed columns of our local newspapers.

Respectfully,
Jeffrey Stebbins Cook

The people will prevail over the socialists

It is people just like you, Marshall, who have allowed this garbage to happen in America and for socialism to take hold and government control every aspect of our lives! Well, Marshall, one day, if this continues, the government WILL control what you can print and to hell with your free speech constitutional rights!

However, I do NOT obey ANY unconstitutional orders by ANY government officials and have taken oaths to support and defend our Constitution and will ALWAYS do just that! Too bad people like you don't take oaths to protect anything! The "PEOPLE" WILL prevail, period!!!!

Dave Akerson Lake Vermilion

Stauber should remember his oath

I was dismayed on Dec. 11, when our Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber proudly announced that he had signed on to a lawsuit sent to the U.S. Supreme Court by the Texas Attorney General that was, in essence, designed to overturn the presidential election. Despite the fact that the outgoing president had failed in dozens of prior attempts to reverse President-elect Biden's win, Pete Stauber

chose to sign on to this bogus "last ditch" effort to interfere with the results. And worse than just his signature of support, he intended to include a challenge to the integrity of Minnesota's electoral process!

Minnesota has always been known for its impeccable elections and extraordinary voter turnout. This year was no exception. Our Secretary of State, along with county-level officials and thousands of volunteer precinct-level election judges invested a lot of forethought time and energy to assure that all votes, and the vote count, would be secure and accurate. Stauber hasn't a single reason for his offensive accusations that question the integrity of elections in the state of Minnesota. His actions not only undermine trust in our constitutionally guaranteed system of free and fair elections but also tear at the very fabric of our democratic society. So truly, Pete Stauber has shown that he's nothing more than one of Trump's lapdogs, standing by to bark on command.

After meticulous counting and recounting of the election results, most Americans accept the facts, and are ready to leave behind the fraught pre- and post-election antics of one sore loser and his bunch of lackeys.

Here's a reminder for you, Mr. Stauber. When you were sworn into office, you took an oath to defend the Constitution, not a lame-duck president! If you don't trust the integrity of Minnesota's electoral system, then please just move to another state, or better yet, another country such as North Korea, where they will welcome a person with a political intellect like yours.

John Hess Linden Grove Precinct Election Judge

TOWER...Continued from page 3

to be funded by a state grant that remains up in the air after significant mishandling of the first phase of the project by the prior city administration. Ranua noted that if the grant funds, which will now require additional legislative approval, aren't approved, the project won't go forward at this time.

The city likely won't have the expense of purchasing a new ambulance after taking delivery of a new vehicle earlier this year.

"I know there's a lot of work that's gone into this, and it has taken a little longer, but I think the end result is worth it," said Mayor Orlyn Kringstad.

Ranua said the need to significantly restructure the city's budget is what took time. With a better budget structure in place, Ranua said the city can begin to address its lack of reserves. She said financial officers recommend that cities should have three months of operating costs in reserve. "We just don't have

that right now, but we can now work towards it," she said.

Councilor Kevin Norby asked how well the city's spending this year tracked with its budget. "In some areas we're fine," said Ranua. "In other areas, like sewer, we needed more. We also had some major repairs to aging equipment. But there was enough buffer in the system to allow for those."

Councilor Dave Setterberg credited Ranua with keeping close tabs on the city's basic operational costs. "Vic's been doing a great job of tracking electric use," he said. "She was able to knock down the electric bill by about \$2,000."

Ranua said using the city's programmable thermostat helped reduce heating costs, both at city hall and the civic center. "We also saved several thousand dollars on office supplies," she said.

In other business, the council, after considerable discussion, approved a three-per-

cent increase in Ranua's salary, beginning on Jan. 1. The council action, motioned by Councilor Joe Morin and approved unanimously, was necessary because Ranua is no longer covered under a union contract and it had been 14 months since she started with the city. Even with the pay raise, which puts her annual salary at \$53,086, she continues to earn over three thousand dollars less than the former clerk-treasurer at the time of her termination in 2019.

The council also voted to continue a benefits package that includes about \$13,000 toward a family health insurance package, although Setterberg said the council will likely still need to address other issues about Ranua's benefits in the future. He made a brief reference to the fact that Ranua, in terms of total wage compensation, earns less than any other full-time city staff person, which impacts other related benefits,

like PERA. Unionized city staff receive \$12,000 annually in what's called "longevity pay," which generally is designed to help pay for health coverage. But because it's considered part of their wage, unionized workers receive additional PERA. In Ranua's case, her benefits aren't considered part of her wages, so she doesn't receive credit for that compensation under the PERA system.

Ranua's pay raise came in the wake of a performance review, conducted by Setterberg and Norby, in which they determined she is "meeting expectations."

In other action, the council: ▶ Gave approval to holding two regular meetings per month in an effort to reduce the length of council meetings. Ranua asked if it would be possible to hold meetings on a different day than Monday. She said Monday meetings generally mean she loses one off-day the weekend prior in

order to complete meeting prep. Kringstad said she should check with the city attorney to see if he is available any other evenings during the week.

▶ Approved using a new credit card processing company for Hoodoo Point Campground and, potentially, for online bill paying for city utility accounts. Ranua told the council that the current processor had been steadily increasing fees and was prone to overcharging customers, which requires staff time to correct. "If the system could also work for online utility payments, I would be in favor of that," said Kringstad. "I pay almost all of my bills online."

▶ Approved a household income survey documenting that 63.1 percent of households in Tower are considered low-moderate income, which will qualify the city for CDBG funding possibilities.

WRITING...Continued from page 4

their hiring procedures. I want to fill the gap, right the wrong, gather the cursive-less chicks under my wing and teach them, assuring them it's not too late, they can still find their way to grace and gracefulness through the flowing of ink. In fourth grade, my classmates and I were required to write our essays with fountain pens, no undependable ballpoints allowed; hence, the seeds of my addiction.

Others I've met throughout my life love writing instruments as I do, delighting in sampling pens and collecting quaint bottles of multi-colored ink. I seek out office supply stores to see what treasures I can find. Those compatriots who also love pens (called penophiles, I have just learned) are not always writers, but they are almost always likeable. How about you? Do you know the brand of your favorite pen? Will you search for it for

ten minutes rather than substitute another? You may just be a closet penophile. My current favorite is Tul from Office Depot.

Which brings me to the topic of abbreviations. I avoid them whenever possible. Yes, they save a few nanoseconds, but they are stingy; they suck the rhythm and beauty right out of words. January, February, November, and December flow like the river of time they represent, while Jan., Feb., Nov., and Dec. sound like quick punches in the boxing ring, and Sept. like a disease you might pick up in the hospital. And Xmas? Come on, now. The texting phenomenon has lured people into a jungle of abbreviations and quick responses, providing the opportunity to rapidly say absolutely nothing interesting, original, or substantial, IMHO.

Writing out your thoughts with a pen you love gives you

more time to reflect on what you're saying. There's no delete button or easy way to erase, unless you write in pencil. You can cross out words, but they're still there to remind you to take care with what you say and how you say it.

With speed being the goal and the prize in so many aspects of our culture, what are we losing? Our sitting President has made it abundantly clear that the ability to spill your thoughts instantly to the world is not necessarily a good thing. Slowing down the process might not help a hopeless case, but for many, it could provide a pause before spitting out regrettable words that pollute the environment with our frustration and really bad grammar. Google mail has a "Don't send" recapture button for a very good reason, and I have mine set to the longest option of 30 seconds for retrieval. Again,

a moment to reflect, consider, think "OMG, I really don't want to say that!" and save a friendship or a job.

Letter writing helps you be more rational and even look wiser. By the time you finish the letter, look up the address, write it on the envelope, find a stamp and affix it, seal the envelope, and get it to the mailbox, you have had an ocean of time to reflect on what you have said and how you said it and to consider other options such as sitting on it for a few hours or weeks, to give the feelings time to simmer down and mature, like a good soup. What a gift it is to find a jewel of a handwritten missive tucked in the pile of advertisements and bills.

We need to be thinking in the long term these days with deep thoughts about our world: our water and air, our wild lands, our towns and cities, our climate,

our food supply, the health of people all over the Earth, and our relationships with them. There are no quick, abbreviated, tweetable answers, but there is room for thoughtful consideration and thoughtful acts, no matter how small. It's time to remember what we have in common and dwell on that. Perhaps it's time to take out that ink pen and write some holiday cards to those we like and admire and maybe a few to those we'd like to like better. How about a lovely card to your elected officials, expressing your appreciation for their service as well as for improvements you'd like to see?

It's Christmas, folks, and thanks to the pandemic, I know you've got the time. I do hope you've got a lovely, warm, peaceful season of light.

Week of Dec. 21

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 Jan. 19. **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.

“Gift a Resident” now underway at Vermilion Senior Living

TOWER- Area residents have the chance to make the holidays brighter for residents at the assisted living facility in Tower. Vermilion Senior Living has created “wish lists” for each of its residents. Residents are looking for simple everyday items such as personal care items, slippers, body wash, lotion, shampoo, new socks and under-shirts, snacks and beverages. There are also specific wish lists posted in the entryway of the building, and anyone interested is welcome to stop by to shop for a specific resident, or can call to request the information.

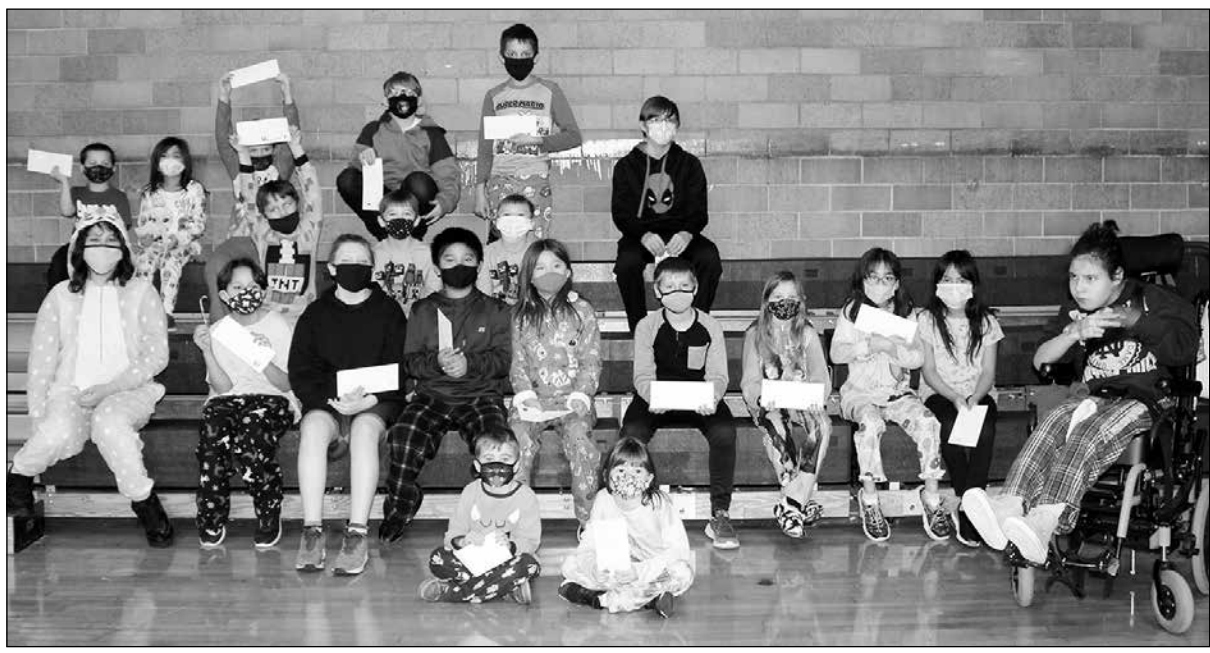
Items can be dropped off at Vermilion Senior Living, 1232 Birch St. N, or call 218-753-7791 with any questions.

TSHS begins aluminum can drive fundraiser

TOWER-SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society is starting an ongoing “Aluminum Can” collection drive. Funds from the cans donated will go toward projects and the work of the Historical Society.

A fenced-in trailer is behind the Historic Fire Hall located next to the Tower Post Office on Main St. Please place your aluminum cans inside of a garbage bag and place them in the fenced trailer. Other donations or memberships can be sent to TSHS, PO Box 465, Tower, MN, 55790.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY
Timberjay Christmas card contest winners



TOWER- The *Timberjay* would like to thank all the students at Tower-Soudan Elementary who participated in the Christmas Card Drawing Contest this year. As always, it was difficult to pick the top three drawings in each class, so sometimes we awarded ties. Please watch for many of these, and other, drawings which will be used

in holiday greeting ads from area businesses in the Dec. 25 paper.

Kindergarten
1: Emmett Flood
2: Bennett Mosher
3: Delilah Littlewolf
3: River Carter

First
1: Lorenzo Stella
2: Maleah Boshey
3: Brendin Villebrun

Second
1: Josie Feather
2: Dylan Crego
3: Cora Goodbird
3: Shenze Chavez

Third
1: Kija Chosa
2: LaNara Guenther
3: Macy Boshey

Fourth
1: Ava Redetzke
2: Caitlynn Goodbird
3: Kooper Dostert

Fifth
1: Claire Jonas
2: Destiny Koivisto-Boshey
2: Mattias Boshey
3: Shaye Isham
3: Bentley Crego

Sixth
1: Trevor Zaitz
2: Brayden Warren
3: Thomas Aldrich

HOLIDAY GIVING

Lake Vermilion Guides League makes donations to Operation Santa and Tower Food Shelf

TOWER-SOUDAN- The Lake Vermilion Guides League donated \$500 to the Tower Area Food Shelf and \$500 to Operation Santa this year. Since the group was unable to host their Take a Kid Fishing and Take a Vet Fishing events, said member Cliff Wagenbach, the group decided to donate funds they would have used for those events to help area families this holiday season.

Pictured are Cliff Wagenbach and Jodi Summit



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the TIMBERJAY
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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



Tower Fire Department Relief Association plays Santa at Tower-Soudan Elementary

TOWER- The Tower Fire Department Relief Association donated a \$50 gift card to each of the 93 students, ages pre-Kindergarten to sixth grade, at Tower-Soudan Elementary. The funds came from their charitable gambling proceeds. The relief association would like to thank Frandsen Bank for picking up the \$3 per piece service charge to create the gift cards, which can be used at any business that accepts credit cards.

Members of the relief association include Paige Olson, Steve Olson, Jordan Purkat, Shawn Gawboy, Victoria Ranua, Jesse Hinkel, Marshall Helmberger, Terri Joki-Martin, and Mandy Northrup.

Pictured are Paige Olson and John Jirik, Tower-Soudan Elementary Principal

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Tower Cemetery Association

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

Thank you to ALL who donate

We still need your support and the support of others.

Checks are to be made out to:
Tower Cemetery Association
PO Box 874, Tower, MN 55790

Thank you,
The Tower Cemetery Board

CHURCH NEWS

Movie Night at St. James on Dec. 20
TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower is hosting a free movie night on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. Fleeing an abusive relationship, Jessica is reunited with her estranged foster father, “Chap,” a rough-around-the-edges rancher in this 2018 movie, “Christmas Manger.” With the help of a handsome neighbor, the group learns to trust again and discovers that there is hope and healing at the manger. [PG]

St. James Christmas Eve Service
TOWER- St. James will have its Christmas Eve Service on Thursday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. If you plan to attend, you must reserve a spot because seating is limited due to social distancing measures. Please call 218-752-6005 and leave a message with your name and the number of people planning to attend by Dec. 21.
The theme for the service will be What Is Christmas— Born To Save His People, Matthew 1:21-23. This sermon explores what Christmas is not, and also what Christmas is.
The service will not be followed by a “Birthday Party for Jesus” this year.

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ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

Three Timberwolves named All-District



Three members of the Ely Memorial High School football team, from left, Lane Anderson, Jason Kerntz and Eddie Prijatel, were named to the All-District team following the 2020 season. photos by K. Vandervort

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Three members of the Ely high school football team were recently named to the All-District Team, as selected by district coaches. The recognition follows a disrupted and shortened season, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that gave the Timberwolves a 3-2 regular season record.

The Timberwolves were rated third out of six teams in the district.

"We were honored with three all-team selections," Coach Cory Lassi,

said, "including senior Lane Anderson, junior Eddie Prijatel and sophomore Jason Kerntz. We also had three honorable mentions."

The 250-pounder Anderson anchored the offensive line and was used extensively at running back in the "Heavy Jumbo" set, gaining nearly 180 yards and scoring five touchdowns. The senior also recorded 39 tackles on the defensive line.

"Lane was our lone senior to be honored and it was very well deserved. He has been a four-year starter and jumped into

the new (running back) role this year and led the team in touchdowns. He was a player we could lean on to get us going."

Prijatel led the Timberwolves' defense with 59 tackles for the season and ran for 131 yards on 34 carries on offense.

"Eddie had some really big games for us. He grew a lot as a player from last year. I see him having a really good senior year as well, both as a linebacker and running the ball from the fullback slot," Lassi said.

Kerntz scored two

touchdowns on 479 rushing yards for the season and caught four passes, including one for a touchdown, and contributed 32 tackles in defense.

"Jason didn't play as much on defense this year because we wanted to keep him fresh on offense," he said. "But, if we needed a defensive spark with some big hits, Jason was extremely capable to do that. And he is really explosive with the ball. I felt like he could break on any play."

Honorable mention awardees included:

► Brock LaTourell, senior, 39 tackles.

► Mason Davis, junior, 21 pass completions for 279 yards and 26 tackles on defense.

► Harry Simons, senior, 179 yards receiving, 159 yards rushing and 37 tackles.

After 11 years on the sidelines, Lassi stepped away from coaching last month to devote more time to his growing family and teaching position at Washington Elementary School. "Four of the six players honored here will be returning next year," he said. "I think whoever takes over will have a good anchor team."



the TIMBERJAY

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OUR COMMUNITY

Ely Area Food Shelf can now deliver

New director to start Jan. 1

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The Ely Area Food Shelf recently accepted a Minnesota Department of Human Services COVID-19 Transportation grant that enabled them to purchase a delivery truck.

Historically the people in need of food have come, once a month to the building at 15 W. Conan Street in Ely to select food items. "With the COVID-19 pandemic, it became clear that we had to move to a more decentralized, mobile food shelf model, in order to best address food insecurity for people in need throughout the greater Ely area," said Food Shelf board member Pam Ransom.

"The new truck will enable the Ely Area Food Shelf to continue to make healthy and nutritious food accessible to people who



The Board of Directors for the Ely Area Food Shelf showed off the organization's new delivery truck last week. photo by K. Vandervort

need it the most, older adults and people who are homebound, and we will be able to further expand into rural communities," she said.

The Ely Area Food Shelf is looking for a winter home for the truck to keep it out of the elements. Call 218-235-6128 to help.

The Ely Area Food Shelf is also welcoming Nancy Schwartz, who will begin her duties as the organization's new executive

director on Jan. 1. "Nancy brings to the Food Shelf her nonprofit experience, energy, enthusiasm, and personal warmth," Ransom said. "She has been a long-time resident of Ely, having worked for the International Wolf Center as the retail director and store manager."

Schwartz also has her own private practice in the Ely community as a counselor.

"Nancy is joining

the Food Shelf at a very exciting time, as we become our own 501c3 Charitable Nonprofit on Jan. 1," Ransom continued. "The Food Shelf Board is looking forward to working together with Nancy, to make the Food Shelf an even more welcoming and responsive service for everyone in Ely and our surrounding communities."

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



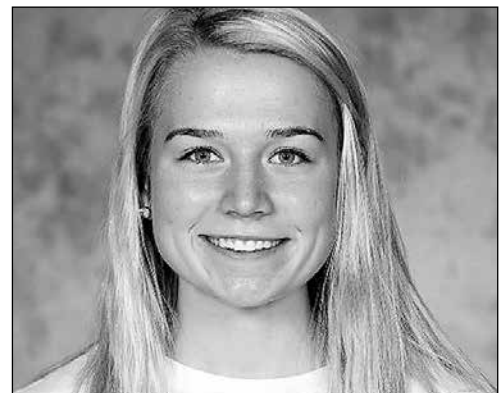
such mild beginnings dry sidewalks and sunny days move toward christmas

Higher Education

Ryne Prigge runs at BSU

BEMIDJI - A student from Ely is participating in NCAA Division II track and field for Bemidji State University during the 2020-21 season. Ryne Prigge, a senior majoring in nursing, is a mid-distance runner for Bemidji State's track and field program this year.

The track and field program is guided by Kevin Kean, head coach, who is entering his sixth season on BSU's coaching staff.



Orr tax hike gets OK from council

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Property owners in Orr will see a five-percent increase in the property tax levy after city council members voted for the raise at Monday's truth-in-taxation meeting.

No citizens were in attendance to make any comments on the proposed budget, and the council members present passed the measure unanimously. Member Ericka Cote was absent.

The increase, which is projected to generate total property tax revenue of \$121,441.23, is intended to offset increased costs due to inflation, lost revenue from liquor store sales due to COVID-related shutdowns, and uncertainty with the anticipated state budget shortfall and local government assistance.

It's the third consecutive year the levy has increased by five percent. Between 2012 and 2016 taxes payable were as low as zero percent and as high as three percent.

The estimated market value for payable 2021 taxes was \$15,279,300, with a taxable market value of \$13,384,894. The amounts were up from \$15,030,200 and \$13,144,117 for 2020. Prior to 2020, the estimated market value last exceeded \$15 million in 2016.

Had residents examined the budget worksheets, they would have

noticed an extreme jump of more than \$350,000 in the tourist information sections. That's a welcome number, as the increase represents income from two large state grants the city was awarded to rebuild the Bog Walk.

Fund transfers in other budget categories accounted for a number of small variances between the approved 2020 and proposed 2021 budgets.

The council unanimously approved a final 2021 general fund operating budget of \$290,985.36.

Where there's smoke

Council member and Fire Chief Dallas Johnson engaged in a lengthy discussion about false alarms received in connection with smoke appearing to callers as coming from the ORR Center.

The issue, Johnson explained, is an outbuilding near the railroad tracks that has wood-fired boilers in it but no chimney. Rather than drifting skyward in an identifiable chimney-generated column, smoke disperses in low cloud-like formations that give the appearance of a possible fire in the surrounding trees.

It's a serious problem, Johnson said, because of what happens when a structure fire is reported.

"We're on our third call now, and when we paged out for a structure fire there's four departments and the ambulance that rolls," he said. "Dis-



Secret Santa afoot?

Even the unobservant couldn't miss seeing these festive Christmas ornaments that mysteriously appeared last weekend on the moose sculpture outside the Cook Public Library. Other ornaments could be spotted on light poles, waste cans, tree branches, etc. It is unknown at this time who the mischievous elves are that are randomly spreading holiday cheer about town. They may be emulating a popular post circulating on Facebook about a small Oklahoma town where someone similarly scattered ornaments about town (although it's unlikely they have a moose sculpture to decorate). The townsfolk were so enamored with the surprises that started popping up daily that many decided to assist the clandestine cheer-givers by putting out ornaments of their own. Only time will tell if the fad catches on in Cook.

photo by D. Colburn

patch has to dispatch all of those departments and then handle all the radio traffic – yes, no, this isn't a fire, and all the cancellation pages. There's probably 25 minutes of radio contact with dispatch on that, so it's becoming a bit of a nuisance."

An obvious solution would be to build a chimney, Johnson said.

"A chimney that goes

in the air like a normal chimney would be great so that people can see smoke coming out of it and know that it's not a building on fire," he said.

One suggestion was to implement a policy allowing one free fire call to an address per year, with charges being assessed for subsequent calls, but the idea was only briefly talked about before being

dismissed.

Johnson said he would get in contact with the center to discuss possible solutions.

In other business, the council:

► Heard an update and concerns regarding a proposed new trail alignment for the Voyager Country ATV Trail. Members echoed concerns about possible haz-

ards along the highway and at intersections but agreed to provide their overall support while working with the ATV club to come up with a revised proposal.

► Approved the purchase of four SCBA breathing apparatus masks for the fire department.

North Woods greeting card winners announced by the Timberjay

FIELD TWP- The Timberjay would like to thank all the students at North Woods Elementary who participated in the

Christmas Card Drawing Contest this year. As always, it was difficult picking the top three drawings in each class, so

sometimes we awarded ties. Prize money will be distributed once school returns to in-person session in January. Please

watch for many of these, and other, drawings that will be used in holiday greeting ads from area businesses in the Dec. 25

First grade
1 Bailey Brunner
2 Nova Rutchaski
2 Nora Anderson
3 Mark Dutton

2 Audree Palmer
3 Jack Udovich
3 Connor Anderson

Fourth grade
1 Nella Goodsky
2 Beau Fabish
2 Josie Gibson
3 Tessa Burnett
3 Brady Swanson

2 Alice Sopoci
3 Nevaeh Wipf

Second grade
1 Leah Las
2 Piper Bundy

Third grade
1 Brock Long
2 Ellie Sherman
2 Evalyn Thiel
3 Silas Budreau

Fifth grade
1 Carsyn Burnett

Sixth grade
1 Emarie Gibson
2 Augustine Jacobson
3 Collin Grahn
3 Ariana Vines

PBS North streaming online for free

REGIONAL- Public TV station WDSE•WRPT is pleased to announce their PBS North channel is now available to live stream for free across their broadcast area. The live stream is available to anyone with an internet connected device as well as through stream-

ing devices such as Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire Stick and smart TVs.

The live stream of the PBS North channel is available at pbs.org (direct link: <https://www.pbs.org/livestream/>) well as on the free PBS Video App, which is available to download to most

smart devices.

The addition of the PBS North channel live stream expands access to the PBS North channel to households across the region. Whether households currently receive PBS North over the air, through satellite or cable providers, or perhaps

don't have a TV at all, the PBS North channel live stream is one more way for people to find educational and entertaining programming.

PBS KIDS is also available to live stream for free at pbskids.org and on the free PBS KIDS Video App. In ad-



the **TIMBERJAY**

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WINTER FUN

Ely skaters ready for ice; outdoor rink now open

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – While indoor sports and team activities remain on hold because of public health concerns due to the coronavirus, flooding of the city-owned ice-skating rink has been ongoing for the past two weeks and city residents are sharpening their skates, locating their hats and mittens, and beginning to enjoy a popular outdoor winter activity.

So many Elyites are looking forward to participating in a “normal” activity outside of the house, that the city council here addressed the issue at the beginning of the month in anticipation of calls for the skating season to begin.

Mother Nature provided her own skating rinks this year on nearby lakes as the relative lack of snow left the ice mostly bare until some light snow earlier this week. And area residents have been taking advantage to spend time outdoors with friends and family.

Flooding of the ice rink, located at the city’s Recreation Center, began about two weeks ago.

“Typically, by the end of November, temperatures are such that we can begin flooding the rink, said Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski. “If there is not adequate ice on lakes for people to walk on, obviously, we



can’t make ice on the ground.”

Langowski said the city hired two college students to build up the ice sheet. They were putting the finishing layers of water down last weekend. “We like to have the rink ready by winter break,” Langowski said, “This year, with all the kids already at home (for distance learning), we did our best to get the ice ready as soon as we could. As long as the temperatures remain below freezing at night,

we will continue to flood.”

Parents need to plan ahead and be prepared to meet their family’s warming needs (e.g. proper gear, using the vehicle as a warming station etc.), as the current COVID-19 executive order requires the warming area be closed.

“The (indoor) bathroom facilities will be available, but people will not be able to congregate within the warming facility,” Langowski said. “The

bathrooms will be sanitized following CDC guidelines. Chairs will be provided for skaters to put on their skates. The current guidelines are set to expire or be extended by Dec. 18.”

Langowski said the city is looking for additional rink attendants. “It sounds like, according to all the Facebook posts, there are many people who could consider volunteering to do this.”

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, all indoor recre-

ational facilities, including the school gymnasium and indoor ice arena, along with fitness centers, are closed.

Dylan Cain (pictured above) and Charles Greenburg have been working this month on flooding the ice rink at the Ely Recreation Center.
photo by K. Vandervort

State approves business relief for bars, restaurants

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

STATEWIDE - For Minnesota’s restaurants, bars, fitness centers, and others laboring under the COVID-19 restrictions imposed Nov. 20 by Gov. Tim Walz, the catch phrase for this week is “the state giveth, and the state taketh away.”

The Minnesota Legislature approved a \$242 million COVID-19 relief package on Monday targeted for the state’s hardest hit businesses and the unemployed, but in return Walz was set Wednesday to continue closures for select businesses through the holidays.

“Governor Walz will lay out a strategy tomorrow (Wednesday) that prioritizes in-person learning for elementary students and continues to protect health care capacity by keeping indoor dining at bars and restaurants on pause through the holiday season,” press secretary Teddy Tschann said in a release Tuesday evening. “This plan will help bridge the gap to vaccination.”

Walz’s continuation of the shutdown comes on the heels of

Unemployment payments also extended to the spring; were set to expire

a bill designed to get short-term relief into the hands of business owners quickly as Congress wrestles with a new COVID-19 package that has been on the table since the Democrats introduced a massive bill last May.

The business relief money will be divided into three pots:

- \$100 million will be distributed by the state Department of Revenue, which will use tax records to find the businesses impacted by the most recent closure and have lost at least 30 percent of revenue compared to a year ago. Businesses will not need to make applications for the money, and checks could arrive by the end of December or early in the new year.

- \$14 million will be doled out by the Department of Employment and Economic Development, which will process requests from convention centers with capacity of 1,500 or more and from movie theaters based on the number of screens. Not included in these grants are live music venues or performing arts theaters.

- \$112 million will be

distributed by counties, based mostly on population, for more-flexible grants to businesses within each jurisdiction. These grants would be determined by county officials and could be done in-house or contracted out to a bank or other entity. Money from this fund is expected to go to businesses not covered by the Department of Revenue checks, businesses such as dry cleaners, music venues, recently opened restaurants or a business that lost revenue but didn’t hit the 30 percent threshold to get money from the Department of Revenue.

But a coalition of small businesses says the aid is too little too late as they plan to re-open their doors on Friday in defiance of Walz’s order.

The ReOpen Minnesota Coalition, which has garnered more than 17,000 followers on its Facebook page, released a list last night of 212 businesses, including restaurants, bars, fitness centers, and others that will try to cut their losses by risking enforcement actions from Attorney General Keith

Ellison to open for business.

Ellison recently filed court actions against restaurants/bars, while another restaurant had its licenses revoked for COVID-related health violations among employees.

As of Tuesday, 139 restaurants and bars have had COVID outbreaks large enough to be investigated and reported by the state, including 59 in October and 28 in November.

“The relief fund package approved by state leadership amounts to a band-aid when a tourniquet is required,” said ReOpen Minnesota organizer Darius Teichroew in a statement released Tuesday. “The last nine months have needlessly put small business owners and employees in the regrettable position of watching their dreams evaporate before their eyes. It is far too late to course-correct with half measures. Just this last weekend one esteemed national news journal called out this egregious restriction as ‘The Restaurant Lockdown Massacre’ and we couldn’t agree more.”

While the boycott of Walz’s

order is intended to drive home a point, the overall impact may be minimal. The National Restaurant Association estimates that Minnesota has about 200,000 restaurants and bars, and Walz and others have praised how the overwhelming majority of them have responded to the public health crisis, most at significant cost to their business and employees.

The recommendation to do whatever is possible to keep elementary schools in in-person learning mode is a significant departure from guidance in August that set benchmarks for transitioning to hybrid and distance learning models. The move responds to ongoing research and findings that indicate the health risk to elementary students is low, while the effect on their education and social and emotional needs from distance learning is increasingly harmful.

Unemployment payments have been extended to April. These payment were due to run out this month.

Greenwood still urging residents, cabin owners to complete broadband survey

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- The Greenwood Town Board is still hoping to see greater participation in the online broadband interest survey hosted by CTC, a possible broadband provider. Chairman Mike Ralston noted at the Dec. 8 meeting that the percentage of households responding to the survey has increased, but is still well below the level of interest that CTC looks at before committing to bringing broadband into an area.

In a letter written to the town board, township resident Lee Peterson noted that calculating the percentage of residents interested based on the number of parcels in the township was not as straightforward as doing those calculations in other areas. He noted that a significant percentage of ownership is truly seasonal or water-access and thus not interested in broadband service,

and that the township boundaries also include the Vermilion sector of Bois Forte, which is pursuing their own broadband project.

Peterson said CTC calculates 1,497 possible customers, but the latest census data available shows Greenwood as having 483 households.

Ralston said that NEO, who is working with the local broadband group, will be releasing their report soon, which will also detail the interest in broadband service as well as the feasibility and costs to provide it.

Anyone in Greenwood Township who has yet to complete the online survey can find it here:

CTC Survey: https://join.connectctc.com/front_end/zones

There is also an effort to map internet speed rates, and residents are ask to take a speed test here:

Speed Test: <http://mnru-ralbroadbandcoalition.com/>

speedtest.

Filings open Dec. 29

Filings for two supervisor positions and the treasurer are open from Dec. 29 through Jan. 12. Filing fee is \$2. The supervisor terms are three years and the treasurer is two years. There will also be an election for the clerk to fill the remainder of the term which expires in March 2022, after the resignation of Sue Drobac earlier this fall.

Voters will also, once again, be asked whether to adopt “Option B” which would give the town board the authority to appoint (hire) a clerk and/or treasurer, instead of having these positions filled by election.

Other business

In other business the town board:

- Heard an update on supervisor Paul Skubic, who has been hospitalized with

COVID-19. Ralston reported that he is expected to be home by Christmas.

- Will cancel their current internet contract with Frontier since the township office is now getting broadband-level service through the Northeast Service Coop. The township will have to pay a disconnect fee of \$1,542, but that is less than paying the monthly fee for the remaining 17 months of the contract, which would be \$2,550. The township is still getting phone service through Frontier.

- Supervisor Carmen DeLuca asked the board to start working on the budget so that they can present a preliminary budget in January, and then a more final version in February.

“This is how we did it in the past,” DeLuca said. “That’s a board function.” Then the board would have an updated 2022 budget to present at the annual meeting in March.

Last March the board did not

present a budget at the annual meeting, just an estimate of projected township spending based on the previous year. Residents did not approve the \$250,000 levy asked for, instead voting for a 2021 levy of \$150,000.

- Approved a \$100 donation to the Vermilion Lake Association.

- Discussed creating a plan to replace the ten-year-old fire department turnout gear. Cost is approximately \$3,000 per set. Fire Chief Fazio said he would like to start a cycle of purchasing four new sets a year.

- Fazio told the board that first responders, including any fire department members assisting during a medical call, are wearing full personal protective equipment, including masks, gloves, face shields, gown, and booties. This is the policy adopted by the Tower Area Ambulance Service.

CITY OF ELY

Ely council approves seven-percent hike in property tax levy

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – City Council members here approved a seven-percent increase in the 2021 tax levy this week on the heels of a Truth in Taxation public hearing that failed to generate even one interested community member.

City staff explained the 2021 budget and levy proposal at the state-mandated public hearing on Dec. 8 and council members gave their final approval during their last meeting of the year on Tuesday night.

The approved city tax is \$1,892,300 for 2021, an increase of \$123,800 over 2020.

The Taxable Net Tax Capacity remains steady at \$1,496,148, compared to \$1,469,450 in 2020. “This is a very minimal change from last year,” said Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski.

The Estimated

Taxable Market Value for 2021 also remains steady at \$149,724,357, compared to \$149,464,152 in 2020. “From last year, we saw an actual increase, but again, it is minimal,” he said.

Tax scenarios provided by city staff from St. Louis County auditors showed tax hikes from 11 percent to as much as 24 percent on residential properties, and about 10 percent for commercial properties.

“For example, on a (residential) \$50,000 value, in 2021, the payable amount in 2020 was \$285.17 (including, city, county, school and special taxes), and in 2021, with our seven-percent increase in the levy, would equate to \$340.81, or a \$55.64 increase,” Langowski said. “And for the \$250,000 classification the 2020 payable tax was \$4,145.94, and payable 2021 is at \$4,558.83, or an increase of \$412.89 on residential.”

He also compared

commercial property rate increases. On a \$50,000 valuation property the tax increase is just over \$100 for 2021, and on a \$200,000 commercial valuation, the increase would be almost \$400.

“The increase in levied taxes is split between all tax classifications by St. Louis County,” Langowski said. “We can only assume that some of the bigger contributors are being assessed less of the levy and the rest of the classifications end up having to pay a higher percentage. If every parcel from 2020 paid the same portion of the levy in 2021, the percentage increase of the proposed tax would be seven percent across all the classifications. This is not the case. The county auditor sets the rates the classifications are taxed at. We can’t assume that we are collecting from fewer properties. I do not think many parcels were taken off the tax rolls in 2020.”

The \$123,800 increase

in the city property tax levy for 2021 shows an increase of \$70,000 (14.4 percent) in property tax for capital projects. The library fund also shows a city tax increase of \$45,700 (15.5 percent). Debt service is decreasing from \$315,100 to \$311,500.

Langowski highlighted a list of capital projects in the 2021 budget, totaling \$1,322,900. Property taxes collected of \$558,900 will help fund the projects. Federal and state grants of \$634,000 and street maintenance fees of \$130,000 also help pay for those projects. “We’re looking at reconstruction of West Chapman Street from Second Avenue to the water tower, West Shagawa Road and Washington Street, from the alley to Third Avenue East,” he said. “We have two grant applications in, one to St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant and another to Iron Range Resources and

Rehabilitation. Hopefully we get the funds to minimize the impact on property taxes.”

The public hearing on the city’s budget did stress the importance of state assistance in the form of Local Government Aid. Ely is likely to receive \$2,448,500 in 2021, an increase from \$2,364,000 in 2020. That additional \$84,500 is a 3.14-percent increase.

Coupled with another \$331,000 in state aid (Taconite and PERA) LGA makes up more than 75 percent of the city’s general fund revenue.

“(This) is the only way we continue to exist as we do,” said council member Heidi Omerza. “I can’t stress how important this is. I’m not concerned about the coming year. It is going to be in 2022 that we are going to need to be vigilant about LGA. That is something that we are going to have to keep on our radar. We, as a council

, must remain cognizant of that and not let that go.”

Prior to approving the 2021 city budget and adopting the final tax levy this week, the city’s Budget Committee met on Monday night to take one last look at the city’s finances. “We run a very tight ship with a small amount of employees, and there isn’t a lot of room for us to make changes,” council member Al Forsman said.

“To make changes comes down to cutting out projects. We wouldn’t be able to continue to service our city infrastructure the way we do,” he continued. “Other things that are affected by this budget, like health insurance and things like that, we really have no control over. As much as I would like to reduce this from the seven-percent (increase), it would not be fair to our city to do that.”

CHARGES...Continued from page 1

about what position Boutto held at the casino or how the money was allegedly stolen. No additional details were available on the U.S. Attorney’s website.

Bois Forte Tribal

Chairwoman Cathy Chavers issued a terse one-line statement about the case.

“We have been in contact with the U.S. Attorney’s office and are aware of the proceedings

and will comment once this matter is concluded,” said Chavers.

The charge of embezzlement and theft from an Indian tribal organization carries a maximum sentence of five years

imprisonment and/or an unspecified fine, according to Title 18 of the U.S. Code.

A related section of federal law describes a specific crime of theft by officers or employees of

gaming establishments on Indian lands, which carries a maximum \$1 million fine and up to 20 years in prison, but Boutto was charged only with the lesser offense. Multiple calls by the *Timberjay* to

the U.S. Attorney’s media number asking for clarification about the charging decision were not returned by press time.

HOPE...Continued from page 1

left him in a wheelchair for a short time and set the stage for him to turn his interests from sports to music. He credits his school music teacher, Bailey Conger, and piano teacher Carol Johnston for nurturing his development and setting examples that he incorporates into his own teaching.

“I started piano lessons, actually, with Bailey Conger for two years, right when I was very young, and then I transferred over to Carol Johnston,” Trevor said. “To be able to teach K through 12 is such an incredibly demanding job that pulls you in so many different ways, and I watched (Conger) just work tirelessly for her students over all those years. She was my music teacher for 13 years.”

Johnston’s influence went well beyond keyboard skills, as she encouraged Trevor’s interest in creating original compositions.

“Carol is just one of the kindest, most caring people I’ve ever met,” Trevor said. “To have that as a model was incredible and continues to impact me as I work with my students.”

Trevor became more active as he moved into high school and his arthritis was brought under control, but playing and creating music remained essential, and he discovered his playing was therapeutic not only for himself but for others. After graduating in 2004, he headed off to North Park University in Chicago with the idea that, maybe, he could use his music professionally to help others.

It wasn’t long after Trevor left town that he would encounter a very different type of adversity through tragic events that shook the Cook community to its core.

Just months after graduating together, Trevor’s

classmate Patrick Wilenius died in a car accident. Just seven months later, in July 2005, another horrific car accident claimed the lives of classmates Lindi Fogelberg and Dan Swanson, Lindi’s mother, Nancy, and Swanson’s girlfriend, Paige Bergman, a 2005 Cook graduate.

“It was like the heart was kind of ripped out of our class,” Trevor said.

The collective community pain of those losses was still there in 2007 when Megan Anderson, a graduate with the Cook class of 2005, was slain while at work in Eveleth.

Trevor’s voice still chokes up when he talks about losing his friends and classmates, but the friendships and the tragedy have made him better able to handle the challenges he’s faced teaching students who often experience equally traumatic events.

He recalled the night when Lindi was honored for eclipsing 2,000 points in basketball. Lindi was a local star, while Trevor wasn’t part of the “in crowd.” On her way out of the building she stopped, turned to Trevor, and invited him to come over to her house to celebrate.

“It struck me in the gut,” Trevor said. “She’s in the midst of the biggest achievement of her life so far, and she’s inviting others into it that haven’t been considered being ‘in.’ before. That’s cool. And then she passed away. But that’s always stuck with me, to invite others in.”

When Trevor graduated from North Park with a music education degree in 2008, his mentor, Dr. Rollo Dilworth, helped him land a job teaching elementary music, choir and orchestra in Skokie, Ill., filling in for teachers who were on leave. A librarian tipped him off to a job in the Chicago Public Schools system at Prosser Career Academy High School, “and I followed that lead

and ended up teaching in high school and elementary school, a split position.”

It was a rough start.

“I didn’t even have a piano, a computer, or speakers,” Trevor said. “I only had three out of 151 students that even knew they were going to be in choir.”

He got the equipment in part thanks to a \$15,000 grant to partner with Barbara Davis and the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic to take students on a unique musical exploration of the “great migration” of African-Americans to the Chicago area.

And out of that project came one of Trevor’s first projects that addressed the trauma some of his students encountered, a rap called “Forced to Listen.”

“The girl who was kind of the head of writing the lyrics to the rap had lost her best friend, who she called her brother, to gun violence,” Trevor said. “Now two years ago, she lost her boyfriend to gun violence.”

Trevor managed to transition into teaching just high schoolers, but he only had them as students for a year, not enough time to build either the trust or skills he wanted for his students in his work, and after four years, he just walked away.

“I had a mentor come and watch me teach and she pulled me aside and she said, ‘I think your time here is done,’” Trevor said. “You have such a heart to give through this occupation, but you need to be able to give freely and have people in front of you who are willing to receive and work with you freely.”

Trevor didn’t know where he would go next, but late that summer while in Sweden with his wife, Renee, he got a call from a principal at Senn. They had a position and they wanted to interview him. He went to a friend’s house there to do a long-distance

interview via Skype. He got the job.

“I knew I’d be walking into hard stories again, and I was ready for that,” Trevor said. “I didn’t realize that the whole music team had turned over that summer and the students were bitter and hurt. Their music teachers had left and betrayed them, and there were some really hurt students who didn’t want to trust me.”

But, while conducting a 51-voice choir that had to cram into a small history classroom with desks for rehearsals, Trevor began to build that trust, and also to raise money for materials and renovations. After four years he’d built an award-winning choral program, a new dedicated practice room was a reality, and he was on the way toward raising about \$250,000. Somewhat accustomed by now to the ups and downs and trials and tribulations of life in a diverse school where three-fourths of the students were socially and economically disadvantaged, Trevor looked forward to getting the 2019-20 school year off to a good start. His hopes were dashed before the year began.

“One of our theater teachers in this four-year program was arrested for extreme sexual abuse of a student in the program,” Trevor said. “Two weeks later, one of our students committed suicide. Then we went through a historic two-week teacher strike. Then one of our junior student’s brothers died suddenly in a car accident. And then one of our PE teachers was let go for some racist remarks to some students and a student protest happened.” Trevor was working on a master’s degree, and his project topic, “Responding to Trauma Through Vocal Music Composition,” was more timely and needed than he

anticipated. Throughout the fall and into the spring he wrote various short pieces for his choirs to sing in warm-ups that had inspirational lyrics and uplifting melodies and harmonies – You’re Enough, Don’t Look Down, Stormy Roots, The Cave.

But when the COVID-10 pandemic hit and Chicago Public Schools shut down classes and switched to distance learning, “Who Will Carry Me?” came to the fore for Trevor. He saw the effects of social isolation on students attuned to performing as one. He heard and felt the intense stories of students and families affected by the virus, including one student who lost his brother, mother, and father to COVID-19 in the span of just a few days.

“It was obvious from the start that it was going to hit black and brown communities harder,” Trevor said. “I said to my student teacher that we’re going to have opportunities to respond. And I knew, based on the things that I experienced growing up in my hometown, and then in college, that we could either sit in a place of ‘oh, my goodness, this is all happening’ or we could immediately start looking for ways to make a difference.”

As Trevor looked at how “Who Will Carry Me?” could factor in, the idea of creating a virtual performance not only excited his students but lit the fire to bring more people into the project. All Senn Arts divisions were invited to participate in some way, and a dance choreographed for the song became integral to the project.

“It ended up, we invited everybody in,” Trevor said, echoing a lesson he learned many, many years before.

The project exceeded everyone’s expectations, including Trevor’s.

“By the time we had created this, this giant hug of a project for ourselves, it really stood up to the litmus test of a professional piece of art that could stand next to anything else that we saw,” he said. “At that point, there weren’t any projects like it that had both dancers, singers and musicians all virtually combined.”

But the most important goal, bringing together and affirming his students in one of the most difficult and trying times of their lives, was achieved as well.

One of Trevor’s students, Mia Mendoza, a vocalist and recipient of a Chicago Rising Star music award, expressed a common sentiment in the October edition of the *Senn Music Journal*: “I couldn’t describe the feeling of satisfaction it brings,” she wrote. “It was shocking to me to see how many people had participated, and quite frankly, the song was straight heat. One of (Trevor’s) unique ideas, as one may say, has proven to strengthen our community and make artists and our peers feel the unity we felt in person. I have never been happier to be a part of something so great.”

The video has garnered widespread attention on YouTube and Facebook, as well as among professional artists and state politicians. While Trevor enjoys reporting the latest number of views to his students, he’s also excited about their collaborative effort is leading to more opportunities for building community and touching others in the Senn community through music, including his compositions.

And to think that it all began in Cook.

You can view “Who Will Carry Me” online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpBZeEoC2io&feature=emb_logo.

ELY...Continued from page 1

a \$20 million school building renovation project. Construction is expected to start in the spring.

No taxpayers participated in Monday's truth-in-taxation public hearing that preceded the board's unanimous approval of the levy.

Superintendent Erik Erie noted that just 20 percent of the total district revenue for the \$8.9 million budget for 2020-2021 comes from the property tax levy. About two-thirds of the district's revenue, \$5,947,131, comes from state sources, and about four percent, \$358,390, comes from federal sources.

The status of the current year's budget shows that as of Monday's meeting expenditures exceed revenues. Erie explained that unanticipated COVID-19 expenditures since March have been more than receipts from relief sources like the CARES Act and state and county grants.

He spelled out the budget revisions for school board members. Revenue of \$230,326 came from a variety of sources, including \$87,517 from the federal CARES Act. An additional \$6,986 came from the state.

"The Coronavirus Relief Fund of \$142,054 was designated for the purchase of Chromebooks for our one-to-one initiative," Erie said.

"A grant of \$76,700 from St. Louis County was just approved," he added. "I want to thank (County Commissioner) Paul McDonald for helping to move that through."

An unanticipated decrease in student enrollment resulted in a revenue decrease of more than \$80,000.

"This is all part of how COVID impacted us and the budget," Erie said. "The decrease of 15 students, related to COVID, is also an impact on revenue."

Budget revisions on the expense side related to COVID total almost \$300,000 this year. Supplies for cleaning and sanitizing on campus, in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 budgets, add up to nearly \$64,000. Additional work hours for supervision, custodian, school nurse and information technology account for an additional \$142,000. An additional elementary teacher added \$80,000 in expenses, and additional advertising costs of nearly \$14,000 were also included in the budget revision.

"We also saved some money on substitute teachers (about \$14,000) that is related to COVID," Erie said.

"We are not done with everything, but this is what we are projecting," Erie added. "We are looking at about \$56,000 in expenses over revenues because of COVID."

He compared the local levy from 2020 to 2021, from \$781,930 to \$1,265,744, an increase of \$483,815. "That is directly tied to the debt service from the voter-approved bonding referendum for the school facility project that was passed in August," he said.

That debt will be paid off over the next 20 years.

According to the district, the owner of a \$100,000 homestead residential property can expect to pay an additional \$54 per year in school property taxes.

Taconite production credits from 2020 to 2021 increased from \$70,593 to \$91,806.

"That helps with our levy and reduces our taxpayer obligation," Erie said. "It is not necessarily additional revenue, but it reduces the levy or replaces the revenue that would have been collected from property taxes."

The production credits are based on the local mines' prior three years of taconite production. Compared to other school districts on the Iron Range, Ely remains at the bottom of all the other school districts, Erie said.

"The place where mining really started in this area is getting the least from the production," he said. "We have (Costin Group lobbyists) Gary Cerkvenik and Jeff Anderson working on this and they have a plan. We are working on how we can help our community with this."

Volleyball coaching compensation

The board narrowly approved full pay for girls volleyball coaches for a season cut short by COVID-19 restrictions, contrary to a memorandum of understanding approved and signed in October that called for coaches to receive proportional pay based on the length of the season.

The recommendation for full pay from Athletic

Director Tom Coombe was supported by Erie and passed on a 3-2 vote.

The girls volleyball season across the state ended about a week early due to COVID-19 restrictions put in place by Gov. Tim Walz just before Thanksgiving.

"We had about eight-ninths of a season," Erie said. "It was so close (to a complete season) that we are recommending full compensation. The coaches put themselves out there. Our principals were worried because these coaches are also teachers. They took safety precautions and worked under really difficult circumstances."

Coombe added that the volleyball team completed 12 of 14 games. "It would have come down to just one more game left, but because of another school's COVID issue, we ended up with two games remaining," he said.

In two more days, the regular season would have been over. The coaching agreement letter called for pay at 75 percent if the season was not completed. Head Coach Andrea Thomas would have lost \$1,000 in gross wages and assistant Megan Wognum would have lost \$700 if the district stayed with the agreement, according to Coombe.

"They were a heck of a lot closer to the 100-percent marker than they were to the 75 percent marker," he said.

Coombe also noted that the coaches were required to drive themselves to road games because COVID-19 proto-

cols did not allow them to be on the bus with the team. Coaches were required to conduct daily temperature checks and health screenings for all players and additional cleaning and sanitizing of equipment.

"I just think this is the right thing to do," he said. "The coaches put themselves out there for the team. The season ended early through no fault of the coaches. I just think they should get their full compensation. In my judgment and opinion, they earned and deserve full compensation rather than be penalized for a decision not of their own making."

James Pointer, who did not seek re-election and was participating in his last regular school board meeting, took issue with the request.

"We signed an MOU (memo of understanding). The teacher union signed off on it as well. They knew going in that if there was no season, they would still get 25 percent of their salary. They knew they were going to get 100 percent salary even if the full season was shortened," he said. "We should look at this as a learning experience and move on." He objected to changing the signed agreement.

Heidi Mann, who also did not seek re-election and was also participating in her last regular school board meeting, said, "I'm in much the same place as Mr. Pointer. The coaches went above and beyond, but that is what everybody is doing right now. The wording of the MOU binds us, in my opinion, to pay

them at 75 percent."

Pointer and Mann voted against the motion. School board members Ray Marsnik, Tony Colarich and Tom Omerza voted to pay the coaches 100 percent compensation. Rochelle Sjoberg was absent from the meeting.

Other business

In other action, school board members:

► Formally accepted the resignations of head football coach Cory Lassi and head softball coach Tom McDonald, effective immediately.

► Accepted the resignation of Dawn Anderson from the Indian Education Home/School Liaison position, effective Dec. 22.

► Hired Kaylor Nicolson as a paraprofessional.

► Hired Heidi Omerza for the full-time, long-term third-grade teacher position from Nov. 23 to Jan. 3, 2021, and the full-time, long-term high school special education teacher position from Jan. 4 to Feb. 19.

► Approved the following coaching positions – Tait Carlson, volunteer assistant hockey, Mike Keller, junior high boys basketball, and Jen Zgonc and Erin Lowe, junior high girls basketball.

► Approved the World's Best Workforce Report and Summary as presented.

► Adopted the maximum U.S. General Services Administration Per Diem Rates for meal reimbursement and lodging rates for all district employee travel.

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Vermilion Community College names interim provost

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Chris Koivisto has been named Interim Provost/Chief Academic Officer for Vermilion Community College (VCC). This appointment is planned to last approximately 18 months, after which time leadership positions across NHED will be redesigned as part

of the VisionNE merger.

Koivisto has been a faculty member at VCC since 2002 and has served as Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) chapter president for several years. He was a member of the NHED Regional Academic Planning process that led to VisionNE, and he currently serves on the VisionNE Faculty Leadership Workgroup.

Outside of the college, Koivisto serves as a school board member for ISD 2142 and zoning officer for the city of Babbitt among other volunteer community activities.

"I am very excited that Mr. Koivisto is stepping into this role," said Interim NHED President Michale Raich. "Chris has been a long-time faculty leader at VCC and an active-

ly-involved member of the communities served by the college. He is passionate and well-equipped to champion the strengths of VCC and to help lead all of the NHED colleges in their merger process."

Koivisto will be working in transition with VCC's current provost, Shawn Bina, who announced his retirement effective in January.



Chris Koivisto's appointment to interim provost at VCC will last approximately 18 months.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire coverage for defunct department split three ways

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Unorganized areas of St. Louis and Koochiching counties once covered by the now defunct Greaney-Rauch-Silverdale Fire Department will be split between three area departments for continued fire coverage under pending arrangements discussed on Monday at the Orr city council meeting.

While the GRS department was in good financial shape and its equipment in good condition, they decided to cease operations in September due to a shortage of volunteer firefighters.

"There are less and less people who live in the community," said GSR Chief Barry Polich at the time.

While it's uncertain what will happen with the department's equipment, the area won't be without service now that Orr, Bois Forte, and Bearville Township Fire Departments have agreed to step in to fill the coverage void.

According to a proposed coverage map, the Orr Fire Department will respond to calls in the northeast region of the

GRS coverage area, while the Nett Lake-based Bois Forte department will handle calls in the northwest area and Bearville Township will take calls in the southern area. County protocols dictate that multiple departments will be paged out in the case of a structure fire.

Orr Fire Chief Dallas Johnson briefed Orr council members on the status of the transition.

"We're basically trying to get the boundaries set up so that we know what we're dealing with as far as coverage and who's going where," Johnson said.

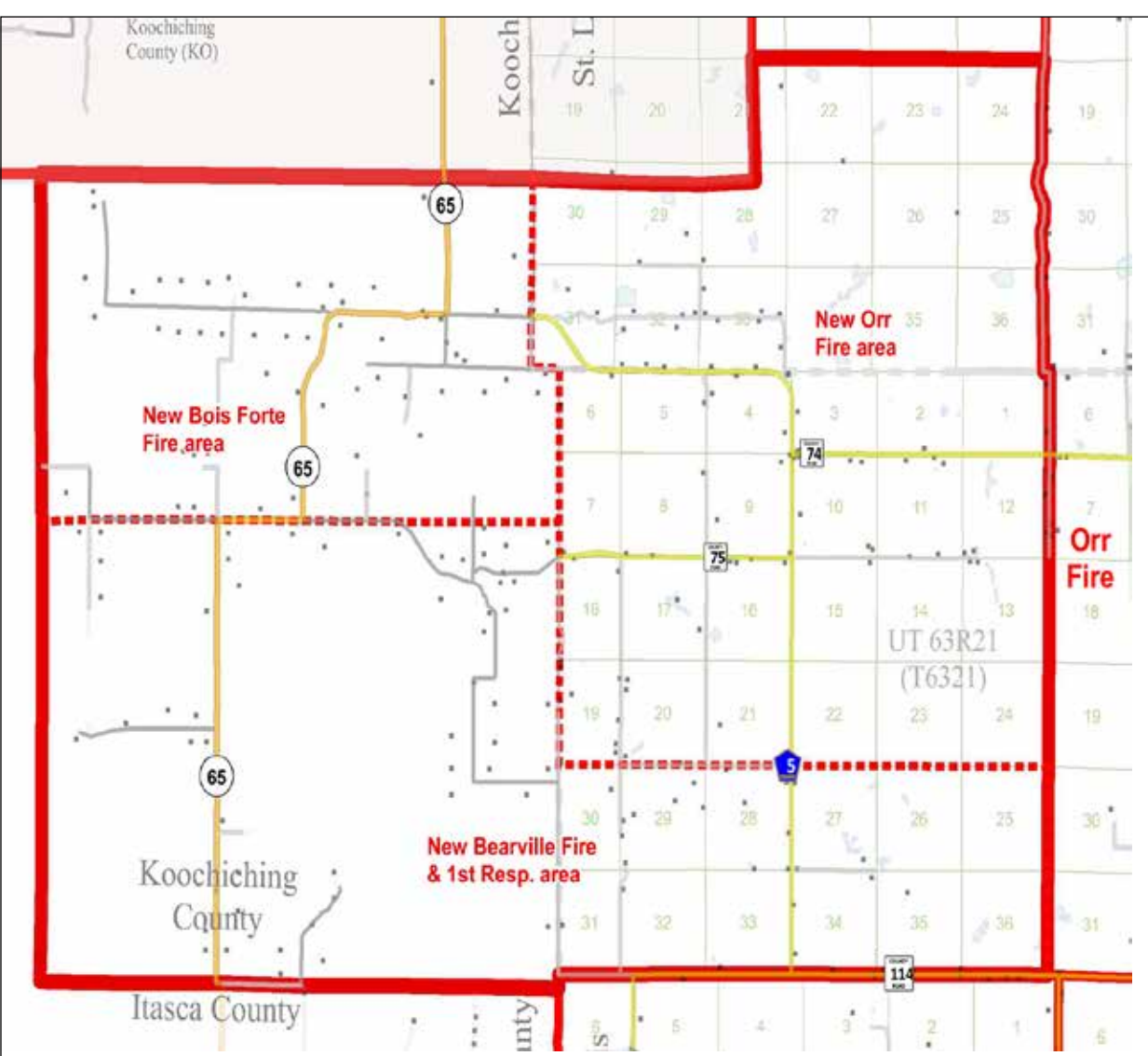
Orr was initially set to take over territory down to West Olsen Rd. until Bearville, which already covered up to that point, agreed to cover the lower section of the GRS area, Johnson said.

"I'm okay with the boundaries," Johnson said. "But it's definitely a haul out there. We're talking probably 35 minutes (response time) to some of those areas."

Johnson said that the call volume in the GRS area has been small.

"2017 was a big year with three," he said.

How the departments will be paid to service those areas is still being worked



out. GRS was a subscription-based service with property owners paying an annual fee to fund department operations. While a tax levy is a possible

long-term solution, that's not an option for 2021, Johnson said.

"Right now, we are just kind of covering it on goodwill," he said. "Someday

we're going to have to get paid for it. They really haven't figured that part out."

However, county commissioners were scheduled to vote this week on imple-

menting a pay-per-call schedule for 2021 while work continues on a permanent funding structure and formal service arrangements.

LAMPPA...Continued from page 1

nated earlier this year with the strictest soot standards ever applied to wood furnace manufacturers in the U.S., which now allow emissions of no more than 0.15 grams of soot per hour. Those new regulations have forced many wood furnace manufacturers to cease production, but they have been a boon to Tower-based Lamppa Manufacturing, which has been working to design the most efficient and clean-burning wood furnaces for more than a generation.

That work has finally paid off as the company's Kuuma Vapor-Fire 100 is now the only wood furnace that meets the strict new emissions standards put in place by the EPA. The

company's Vapor-Fire 200, a smaller furnace than the 100 model, is currently in the testing stages but is expected to meet the new standard as well.

Through computerized management of airflow, the Kuuma furnaces are true wood gasifiers, which allow for complete combustion, with air emissions and efficiency comparable to fuel oil.

The Kuuma furnaces have long been exceptionally clean. For decades, the company has marketed the furnaces as "smokeless," and as much safer than traditional wood-burning devices because they don't create creosote buildup on the inside of chimneys.

As early as the 1980s,

Lamppa Manufacturing, then operated by Herb Lamppa and his son Daryl, had demonstrated through independent testing that the stoves were both highly efficient and clean burning.

They applied for, and received, a U.S. patent on their Kuuma furnaces back in 1989 but were unaware that the patent had expired after 17 years. That left the company vulnerable to a competitor copying their product, but with little emphasis on emissions control, it appears no competitor made the effort. But when the EPA announced its clampdown, improving wood furnace emissions suddenly became a matter of survival for some companies.

So, three years ago, Daryl began working with a law firm on the complicated task of renewing their patent, to include the numerous improvements he and his father had made to their furnaces since the original patent was issued more than 30 years ago.

The U.S. Patent Office issued the company's new patent last month, just as the company is ramping up production of their furnaces from a new manufacturing facility in Tower's industrial park. "The new building and the patent protection really serve to solidify our chance to succeed right here in Tower," said Daryl. "This is exactly what my Dad, Herbert, envisioned and wanted."

Continues to grow

Meanwhile, Lamppa Manufacturing is continuing to see record growth in sales, with 2020 sales topping all previous years for the company. For now, those sales are led by the company's top quality sauna stoves. Those stoves aren't subject to the same emissions standards as wood furnaces, but the stoves were built with the same emphasis on clean and efficient burning, and they're now sought around the world. The company has recently shipped stoves to Norway and Sweden, and has another scheduled to go to Italy. Earlier this year, the actress Jessica Lange stopped by the plant to pick up her own sauna stove.

Operations manager Dale Horihan summed

up the company's current situation in two words. "We're swamped," he said, as orders continue to pour in for all of the company's products, led by the sauna stoves. Furnace demand has also been steady, said Horihan, but he expects it will only grow as the economy begins to recover from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

The company, which operated with just five employees a year and a half ago, is now up to 14 workers, including 12 in the shop. That includes five new workers brought on just since September. "It made us nervous bringing all those new people on board, but the orders just keep coming in," said Horihan.

Horihan and an office manager are both needed in the front office now, just to answer the phones, which ring almost constantly. What was the old saying about building a better mousetrap?

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COVID...Continued from page 1

at 422, Embarrass at 402, Tower at 400, and Ely at 269, only 52 percent of the rate in Cook.

The week-to-week increases in other regional zip codes last week were all in single digits. While Ely still has the largest cumulative case count with 146, only seven new cases were reported there between Dec. 3 and Dec. 10. Orr also had seven new cases, while Tower added nine and Embarrass added three.

County Public Health Director Amy Westbrook said Tuesday that rising case numbers in the county have slightly declined in the past week, mirroring state trends.

"November was quite a busy time when we were seeing really high case numbers and our deaths and our hospitalizations were increasing pretty significantly," Westbrook said. "Across the county the case numbers have decreased slightly, and so hopefully we will see our deaths and our hospitalizations go down, but we haven't seen that yet."

As of Tuesday, only 23 of the 102 ICU beds in northeastern Minnesota counties were filled by COVID-19 patients, a decline of 50 from Nov. 30. Non-ICU beds occupied by COVID-19 patients also declined from 130 to 94 during the same period.

"Our numbers are lower, but we're still certainly seeing widespread community transmission," Westbrook said. "What I'm hearing from the hospitals is that staffing is still pretty tight. It's a big stressor on hospital staff - with the severity of illness, the number of

hospitalizations, and the number of people in ICU it really takes a toll."

While state officials had been warning for weeks of an anticipated surge related to the Thanksgiving holiday, there's little to suggest that St. Louis County experienced that.

"If there were a surge of cases that were associated with the Thanksgiving Day holiday, we would be seeing that now in the data and we haven't, so that's really a good sign," Westbrook said.

Westbrook suggested that the lack of a surge could indicate that Minnesotans responded to restrictions on the size of gatherings imposed by Gov. Tim Walz but said that it was impossible to know for sure.

Meanwhile, the region is gearing up to begin administering the new Pfizer coronavirus vaccine to hospital workers, residents and workers at long-term care facilities, and emergency medical services personnel, Westbrook said.

Initial shipments have to go to a limited number of facilities that have the ultra-cold storage the vaccine requires, but distributions will become more widespread once a second vaccine without those storage limitations is approved and shipped.

Given the expansive rural areas in northeastern Minnesota, Westbrook said that two mobile trailers have been ordered to provide the capability of setting up mobile vaccine clinics, as the initial plan for distribution is to have the vaccines administered to targeted groups at their

workplaces. The trailers should arrive and be outfitted in the next two to three weeks, she said.

Still, it will likely be

months before vaccinations are widely available for the general public.

"There will be a time, hopefully sooner than

later, that the vaccine will be accessible to the general public," Westbrook said. "But right now we're really focusing on targeting the

vaccine and getting it out to specific populations where the vaccine will have the biggest impact on morbidity and mortality."



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WINTER WEATHER

Snow drought looks to continue

A mild and dry December is postponing many winter activities

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Santa may not need his sleigh when he arrives in the North Country next week. In the midst of a mild and dry winter season, the North Country has remarkably little snow on the ground for this time of year and there's not much sign of a change in that weather pattern for the foreseeable future.

The area will almost certainly still experience a "white Christmas," at least in a technical sense. Based on weather history, the North Country has a 100 percent chance of a white Christmas, which is defined as having one or more inches of snow on the ground as of Dec. 25.

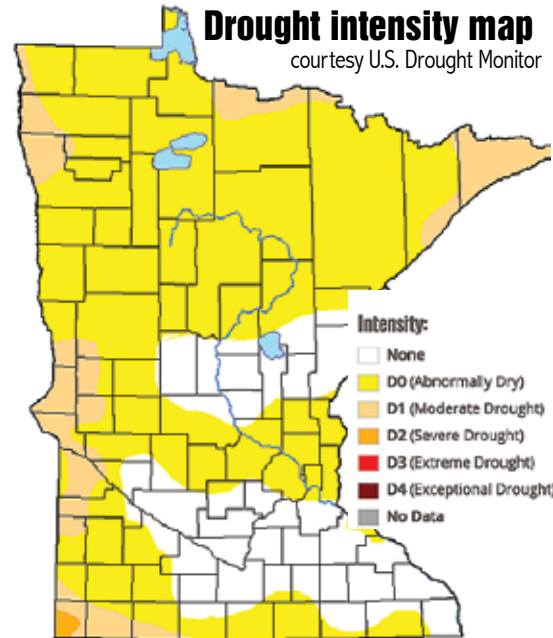
But while the landscape in the region is certainly white, the two-to-four inches of snow—much of

it dating back to a mid-November snowstorm—is a far cry from the usual conditions experienced here in the second half of December. The conditions have left area snowmobile and ski trails closed and most snow lovers looking longingly at weather forecasts for hints of the white stuff.

At least northern Minnesotans aren't alone. The snow drought is widespread, and northeastern

Minnesota is one of the few places in the Lower 48 states, outside the Rockies, with any appreciable snow cover right now. Even the Upper Midwest's usual snowbelt, the U.P. of Michigan, has been mostly snow free up until mid-week. It's part of an ongoing drought that now covers more than half the country, including most of Minnesota. Much of the

See DROUGHT...pg. 2B



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The Clauses adjust

COVID precautions alter annual holiday party

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - In past years, the popular Mrs. Claus Party here was held indoors with loads of activities and fun for families, but this year, Mrs. Claus and Santa changed their plans with COVID-19 safety in mind.

The annual event was held last Saturday at the Ely Chamber of Commerce parking lot in a drive-by format.

This year, Mrs. Claus and Santa sat on the back porch of the Chamber building and waved to carloads of families as they drove through and returned holiday greetings.

As visitors remained in their vehicles, helper elves delivered, in a contact-free manner, goody bags to each youth.

"We have age-appropriate goody bags for the whole family," said Chamber Executive Director Eva Sebosta as she handed them out from a branch of the tree. "We included holiday craft kits along with small gifts and candy for each child who came by to wave at the North Pole residents," she added.

"The Ely Chamber of Commerce is deeply grateful to Santa and Mrs.



Top: Four-year-old Amelia Schmidt, of Babbitt, gives a tentative wave to Santa and Mr. Claus while her mom, Elizabeth, looks on. photos by K. Vandervort

Above: Santa and Mrs. Claus wave to cars passing by.

Below: One of Santa's elves hands out gift bags.



Claus for taking time out of their very busy schedule to visit with our Ely area youth," said Chamber Events Coordinator Ellen Cashman as she directed traffic through the parking lot and took photographs and video. "Thank you to the many businesses that have donated candy, gifts, and craft kits."

"This year we are doing many things differently because of the coronavirus, and we want to make sure everyone stays safe," Sebosta said. Dozens of vehicles paraded through

See PARTY...pg. 2B

NEW BLOOD



Hudson Ledeen

Friends hope fresh hire will build bridges, open conversations

ELY — Hudson Ledeen would like to talk and, perhaps more importantly, to listen. That's his assignment as the new community coordinator for the Friends of the Boundary Waters, a non-profit dedicated to the protection of the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

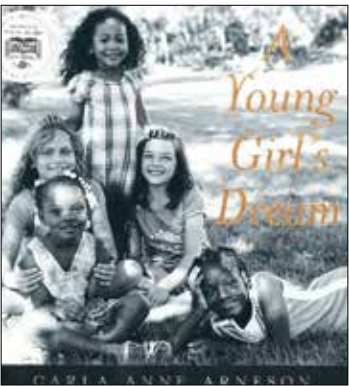
Ledeen and his wife Katie have made Ely their home for nearly three years. During that time, Ledeen has graduated from Vermilion Community College, where he earned his Applied Science Degree in Natural-Resources Technology, with a focus on forestry and wildlife. He's passionate about conservation, public lands and natural resources, and he has an impressive background in a wide range of outdoor pursuits. He's removed beaver dams, trapped and relocated bears, tagged migrating birds, worked as a fishing guide, canoe outfitter, a snowmobile and ATV safety instructor, and is an avid hunter and angler whose idea of a perfect evening involves punching holes in the ice and hooking into the perfect eating-sized walleye.

Ledeen hopes to build relationships with community members around Ely, the North Shore and Gunflint Trail. Besides his outreach efforts, he hopes to help with local economic development efforts, such as expanding broadband access and relocating state jobs to these communities along the edge of the wilderness. "At the heart of our mission at Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, is the belief that the health of Ely, Grand Marais, and other communities that surround the Boundary Waters is deeply interconnected with the future of the wilderness," says Chris Knopf, the Friends executive director. "We need to build partnerships and connect with people who may not agree with our stance against copper-sulfide mining. We need to be listeners."

Ledeen said he's excited for the opportunity to give back to Ely and other gateway communities in the region in ways that align with his passion for land stewardship. "I look forward to having an open door, to listening and collaborating with my neighbors while continuing the good work of the Friends," he said.

You can contact Hudson at Hudson@friends-bwca.org or on his cell phone at 218-404-0405.

Holiday books for young people



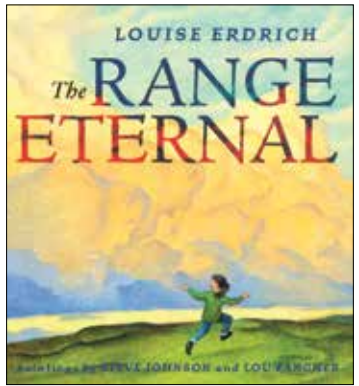
A Young Girl's Dream
Carla Arneson
Raven Productions, Inc.

An insightful and captivating book, *A Young Girl's Dream* uses powerfully simple text combined with striking black-and-white photography to inspire girls of all ages to follow their dreams. It encourages them to listen to an inner voice and, despite what someone might say to discourage them, to nurture their innate ability to believe in themselves.

A section at the end, "Women dreamers who changed the world," contains paragraphs corresponding to each young girl's dream, highlighting women who achieved those dreams.

Family and friends are encouraged to read and discuss "Women dreamers who changed the world" with their young girls. Join them in looking for and celebrating many more accomplishments by women. There is no end to the delight in discovering girls and women who have accomplished much and influenced many. *A Young Girl's Dream* can be a starting point.

A Young Girl's Dream was a finalist for the Midwest Book Awards in 2019. "The message at the end is still true—the presidency is still waiting for a woman," Arneson said. Arneson is a retired elementary art teacher. In addition to authoring the book, Arneson took all the photos. She was inspired to write the book



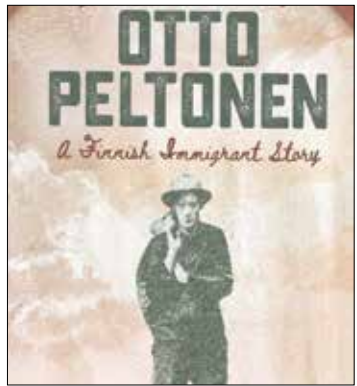
after attending The White House Project's political leadership training at Bois Forte where she heard the story of Ann Bancroft. Bancroft was one of the first women to ski across Antarctica to the South Pole and could not find corporate sponsorship because no one believed she could do it.

A Young Girl's Dream is available for purchase online at ayounggirlsdream.com for \$18 plus tax and shipping. If you live in or near Ely, call the author at 218-365-3042 to purchase directly.

The Range Eternal
Louise Erdrich
Illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher
University of Minnesota Press

At the heart of a home in the Turtle Mountains sits a woodstove. It is where Mama makes her good soup, where she cooks a potato for warming hands on icy mornings, where she heats a stone for warming cold toes at night. It warms the winter nights and keeps Windigo, the ice monster, at bay. On the stove's blue enamel door are raised letters, *The Range Eternal*, and in the dancing flames through the window below, a child can see pictures: the range of the buffalo, the wolf and the bear, the eagles and herons and cranes: truly, the *Range Eternal*.

In these charmingly illustrated pages, Louise Erdrich tells a story of hearth and home,



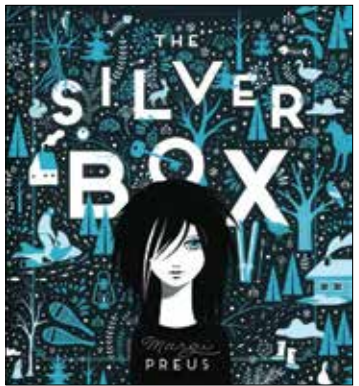
of memory and imagination, of childhood recaptured in the reflection of a shiny blue woodstove, of the warm heart of family.

Louise Erdrich is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Her books include *Love Medicine*, *The Plague of Doves*, *The Round House*, and *LaRose*. Her books for children include *The Birchbark House Series*. Along with a spirited group of colleagues, Louise operates Birchbark Books, a small independent bookstore in Minneapolis. Her most recent novel, *The Night Watchman*, is based on the story of her grandfather, Patrick Gourneau, who loved his family and chopped a lot of wood for *The Range Eternal*.

Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher have illustrated numerous books together. Among the most critically acclaimed are *My Many Colored Days* by Dr. Seuss and *The Frog Prince, Continued* by Jon Scieszka.

The Journal of Otto Peltonen, A Finnish Immigrant Story
William Durbin
University of Minnesota Press

This portrait of the Finnish immigrant experience in Minnesota during the early 20th century is now available



in paperback. Durbin's book follows a family who immigrates to northern Minnesota to work in the iron mines.

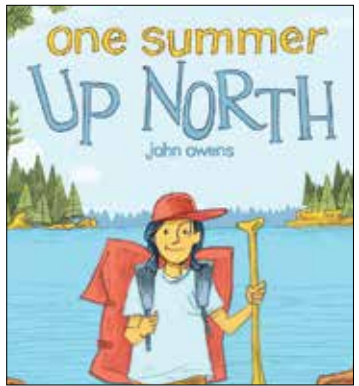
"Writing in his journal about his family's struggles and the hard life Finnish immigrants endured, Otto ultimately strengthens his resolve to find the freedom his family had first sought in America."

William Durbin is a writer and former teacher who lives on Lake Vermilion. He is a two-time winner of the Minnesota Book Award and has published 12 novels for young readers, many set in northern Minnesota.

The Silver Box, An Enchantment Lake Mystery
Margi Preus
University of Minnesota Press

In the final *Enchantment Lake* mystery, Francie's search for the truth about her mother—and herself—plunges her into danger during a North Woods winter.

One ominous clue after another reveal that Francie possesses something so rare and so valuable that some people are willing to do anything to get it. Everything depends on the small, engraved silver box that she now possesses—if only she can follow its cryptic clues to the whereabouts of her missing mother and understand, finally, just maybe, the truth about who



she really is.

Margi Preus is a *New York Times* bestselling author of books for young readers, including the Newbery Honor-winning *Heart of a Samurai*. Among her other novels are *Village of Scoundrels*, *Shadow on the Mountain*, *West of the Moon*, and *The Bamboo Sword*, as well as the previous two books in the *Enchantment Lake* series, *Enchantment Lake* and *The Clue in the Trees*, which were published by the University of Minnesota Press and received the Midwest Book Award and the Midwest Booksellers Choice Award. She lives in Duluth.

One Summer Up North
John Owens
University of Minnesota Press

This wordless picture book takes a young reader on a trip to the Boundary Waters. As you read this book with a favorite young child, you will talk about the trip up north, canoeing on lakes and rivers, portaging, setting up camp, picking blueberries, watching wildlife, and seeing the night sky. This beautifully-illustrated picture book is the perfect gift for a child about to make their first canoeing or camping trip, or anyone just dreaming about it.

John Owens is a freelance illustrator who teaches at the University of Minnesota.

DROUGHT...Continued from page 1B

U.S. southwest is in either extreme or exceptional drought and various levels of drought extend across almost the entirety of the western half of the U.S., including Minnesota.

The extent of the drought varies here in the North Country. One of the hardest hit areas

is Ely, which could well finish the year with less than 20 inches of total precipitation. If so, that would make it the driest year in the period of record at Vermilion Community College. Retired instructor Pete Doran and, in more recent years, instructor Wade Klingsporn have

been maintaining daily records from the same weather station for 43 years now. The year 1997 holds the current record for the driest year in that period, with total precipitation of 20.89 inches. As of this week, Klingsporn has recorded just 19.60 inches of precipitation in

2020, with just two weeks to go in December.

It's now part of a pattern of dry years in the Ely, as 2020 is almost certain to be the third straight year with total annual precipitation of under 25 inches. That's contributed to the gradual decline of Ely's long-term average for precipitation.

As recently as five years ago, the average was just over 29 inches, but that has gradually declined to 28.81 through last year and that average is almost certain to fall even further once 2020 is officially in the books.

Other area weather stations are also running well below their average

for the year, although generally are not experiencing as severe a deficit as Ely.

One exception is the longtime Cook area observer, where precipitation is running only about an inch and a half below average.

PARTY...Continued from page 1B

the parking lot during the 90-minute event.

The kids didn't seem to mind as they took it all in stride and waved eagerly at Santa and Mrs. Claus and gladly accepted a treat bag.

"This is a really nice idea, and I'm glad they could do something this

year," said Elizabeth Schmidt, of Babbitt, who brought her four-year-old daughter, Amelia.

Many holiday-related events around town are on pause this year in Ely. There was no parade or Christmas tree-lighting celebration. The annual

Christmas Concert at Washington Auditorium was also put on hold due to ongoing COVID-19 public health protocols. School holiday programs weren't held because of distance-learning.

However, Ely Area Television is featuring a

virtual Christmas concert on local cable access channels beginning this week and running through the holiday season. A Christmas sing-along event is also planned for Sunday, Dec. 20, at the former Shopko building parking lot. Carloads of

families are welcome to join in, beginning at 2 p.m. And if that isn't enough, this year Mother Nature has provided area residents with natural ice skating rinks on surrounding lakes, just like the good old days when people made their own fun.

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Obituaries and Death Notices



Elsie Dahl

Elsie Dahl, 91, of Tower, passed away on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020, at Edgewood in Virginia. A service celebrating her life will be held at a later date due to the dangers of gathering during the COVID-19 pandemic. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Elsie was in declining health as she began palliative care to make her remaining months more comfortable. She was so happy that, after months of restrictions on visitors due to the pandemic, she would be able to see her friends and family again. This time was cut short when she was infected with the coronavirus and died within four days of diagnosis. She would want each of you to take the necessary steps to protect yourself and the ones you love from this cruel and contagious disease.

Elsie was born on April 23, 1929, in Erie Township, Minn., to Oscar and Esther Stenvik. She lived on the family farm until she moved to Thief River Falls for high school. She married Alhert Dahl on April 19, 1948. They farmed in the Goodridge area until 1955 when they moved to Tower. Elsie was a longtime resident of Tower until she moved to Edgewood in 2018.

Elsie was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower and was active in the Women in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. She and her dear friend Joyce Aronson started the quilting club that brought people together to sew quilts for Lutheran World Relief to send to countries in need. Over the years, Elsie enjoyed being an election worker, Sunday School teacher, and Den Mother for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Elsie was passionate about baking, gardening and sewing. Her caramel rolls were a favorite of everyone who tried them. Her lovely flowers and raspberry patch were favorite summertime projects, and she had a green thumb with her

indoor plants. She sewed a quilt for every member of her family including a great-granddaughter expected in January 2021. Elsie was most passionate about her family and friends and everyone was welcome around her kitchen table.

Elsie is survived by her children, Ricky Dahl (Deann) of Duluth, Wayne Dahl (Karen) of Embarrass, Allen Dahl (Patty) of Virginia and Noreen Dahl of Arlington, Va.; one sister, Doris Mosher (Ben) of Tower; sister-in-law, Lorraine Stenvik of Goodridge; grandchildren, Lance Dahl of Rochester, Jesse Dahl (Ida Rukavina) of Virginia, Jason Dahl (Beverly) of Bellingham, Wash., Angela Dahl (Dan Combs) of Moorhead, Ashley Dahl (Jeff Mulligan) of Hudson, Wis., Jeric Moesenthin of St. Louis, Mo., Jen Stank (Rick) of Superior, Wis., Kelsey Bock of Roseville and Haley Bock of Duluth; great-grandchildren, Clara and Blake Dahl, Delia and Lucia Dahl, Jane and Charlie Dahl, Lincoln Challey, Fintan, Macrae and Lula Mulligan, Jordy and Jack Stank; and numerous nieces and nephews who thought of her as their second mom.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Alhert W. Dahl in 2003; four siblings who died from cystic fibrosis, Irene (infant), Roy age 10, Wallace age 19 and Jeannette age 24; brothers, Orland Stenvik and Norman Stenvik; and only seven months ago, her dear sister, Edith Eidelbes.

Tracy R. Podpeskar

Tracy Rae Podpeskar, 43, a lifelong resident of Virginia, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020. Tracy's family will hold a private family funeral service. Bill Bauman will officiate the ceremony at Bauman-

Cron Funeral Home in Virginia. Interment will be in Calvary Cemetery in Virginia. Memorials may be directed to the Tracy Podpeskar Memorial Fund at Frandsen Bank, 501 Chestnut St., Virginia, MN 55792.

She is survived by her mother, Mary ("Papa Richie") Podpeskar of Virginia; daughters, Jordan Skalko and Hayden Skalko, both of Virginia; brother, Jay Podpeskar of Britt; uncle and aunt, James (Polly) Podpeskar of Lake Vermilion-Tower; the father of her children, Justin Skalko of Minneapolis; extended family and many dear friends.

Judith M. Wirtanen

After a tough fight for almost a month, Judith Marie Milbridge Wirtanen, 80, originally of Embarrass, lost her battle against COVID on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020, at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her daughters, Gayle (Craig) Lukkonen, Tracy (Brent DeBenedet) Wirtanen and Tricia (Ted) Miller; grandchildren, Alan (Breyan Knutson) Gibson, Sirkka Miller, Helia Miller, Paivi Miller, Tuula Miller, Lilla Wirtanen-DeBenedet, Sami Wirtanen-DeBenedet, Taavi Wirtanen-DeBenedet, Jen (Dan) Palo and Neil (Alexis) Lukkonen; great-grandchildren, Trey, Ryder, Isabelle, Lydia, Camden, Sylvie, Ava and Aiden; sister, Carla (Bim) Boelk; and many nieces, nephews and extended family.

Willard J. Aho

Willard Jacob Aho, 91, of Virginia, originally of Embarrass, died on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, at Edgewood Vista in Virginia. The family held a private funeral service. Pastor Amy Janssen officiated the funeral ceremony at Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church. Interment was in Greenwood Cemetery. Family services were provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his children, David Aho of Virginia, Daniel Aho of Angora, Sheryl (Kim) Kochevar and Sheila (Deron) Davidson, both of Virginia; siblings, Elizabeth "Betty" White of Shakopee and Darrell Hanson of Omaha, Neb.; grandchildren, Kyle (Elena) Aho of Richfield, Chase Aho of Waseca, Jacob (Paige) Rosandich, Amanda Rosandich, Hannah (Sam) Davidson-Teff, Sarah Davidson and Rebekah Davidson, all of Virginia; great-grandchildren, Juhani, Audii, Taavi, Rubii and Lillian; numerous nieces and nephews and friends.

Thomas J. Kochevar

Thomas Joseph Kochevar, 76, of Mt. Iron, originally of Ely, passed away at his home on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020. A funeral service was held on Saturday, Dec. 12 at Kerntz Funeral Home. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his mother, Helen Kochevar of Ely; son, Bruce Kochevar (Mary Newberg) of Mt. Iron; daughter, Brenda Ejavec of Gilbert; daughter, Lynn (Ed) Perrey of Mt. Iron; and son, Fred Kochevar of Virginia.

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Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Annual bird count documents population trends

Christmas counts being held across the area beginning next week

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Did you know that the wild turkey population in Minnesota has increased almost ten percent annually since 1979? Or that the evening grosbeak population has declined more than five percent a year, while purple finch numbers have

dropped about 3.5 percent a year during that same period?

If you've fed birds, or paid attention to their comings and goings over the years, you may well already have a sense that there aren't as many evening grosbeaks as in years past. You may have even been surprised in recent years to see a small flock of turkeys picking insects along

a North Country highway and recognized how unusual such a sighting would have been in the past.

But putting scientific heft to our anecdotal observations takes much more data, and that's where the tens of thousands of bird enthusiasts who take part in the Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count come in.

A male evening grosbeak.
file photo

In fact, the trends cited above are determined mostly from the results of the annual count, now in its 121st year.

Each of the Christmas counts is held within a 15-mile wide

See COUNTS...pg. 5B



CHANGING SEASONS

Artistry in ice

Take a closer look to change your view

Sometimes, it's all a matter of perspective. Living here in the North Country, it's easy to take ice for granted. It's part of our daily existence half the year, which is why it's easy for us to miss the often-spectacular patterns created as part of ice formation.



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

We've all seen the stunning patterns created by frost on a poorly insulated window. Backlit by morning sun, these lacy images can easily capture our imagination. Yet there are so many more opportunities. The pattern in a puddle on an iron red rail bed, which appears on this page, is another example which most of us would likely walk past without a second glance. Where the lake ice meets the shore contrasts dark rocks with the bright white, creating unexpected

See ICE...pg. 5B



Clockwise from top: Ice from various locations in Tower and Vermilion Lake Township creates intricate patterns.

photos by Timberjay staff and contributors



Outdoors in brief

DNR urges trappers to take care to avoid catching dogs

REGIONAL— The trapping seasons for fisher, pine marten, and bobcat opens in northern Minnesota, beginning Saturday, Dec. 19.

That always increases the risks for dogs spending time in the woods with their owners. That's why the DNR is urging trappers to take care to avoid accidentally capturing dogs by making careful sets and by tending traps regularly. Hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts should also be alert when in areas open for trapping, according to the DNR.

If you find a dog in a trap, or if your dog is caught in a trap, please contact your local conservation officer and report the incident. Call the Minnesota DNR at 651-296-6157 or 888-MINNDNR (646-6367) to be connected with your local conservation officer.

Instructions for releasing dogs from traps may be found on pages 39 and 40 of the 2020 Hunting and Trapping Regulations book.

Spruce grouse feathers wanted



REGIONAL — Hunters, did you harvest a spruce grouse this season? If so, you can contribute to research on landscape connectivity for spruce grouse by sending three to five large feathers from each bird you harvest. It's not too late, spruce grouse season is open through Jan. 3.

To participate, please use one envelope for each bird and send feathers to Grouse Research at 1201 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. Please include your name, contact information, harvest date, and harvest location (GPS coordinates preferred for the analysis and will not be made public) for each bird.

For more information, email Charlotte Roy at charlotte.roy@state.mn.us.

Local Christmas bird counts

► **ELY**—Saturday, Dec. 26. Contact Bill Tefft at efnbill@gmail.com or 218-235-8078

► **COOK**—Saturday, Dec. 26. Contact Julie Grahn at 218-666-2450 or jg.grahn@gmail.com.

► **AURORA**—Wednesday, Dec. 30. Contact Steve Falkowski at debfalk@gmail.com.

► **ISABELLA**—Saturday, Jan. 2. Contact Steve Wilson at 218-753-6110 or clevergrayjay@gmail.com.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
29 7					21 14					31 22					30 7					19 12				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
12/07	32	26	0.00		12/07	32	25	0.00		12/07	31	25	0.00		12/07	28	25	0.01		12/07	31	24	0.00	
12/08	30	25	0.00		12/08	30	25	0.00		12/08	29	25	0.00		12/08	36	27	0.00		12/08	29	24	0.00	
12/09	36	20	0.00		12/09	35	18	0.00		12/09	36	25	0.00		12/09	41	25	0.00		12/09	36	15	0.00	
12/10	43	19	0.00		12/10	43	14	0.00		12/10	40	25	0.00		12/10	36	30	0.00		12/10	43	16	0.00	
12/11	37	29	0.00		12/11	36	28	0.00		12/11	36	28	0.00		12/11	30	21	0.01		12/11	36	27	0.00	
12/12	29	21	0.00		12/12	28	19	0.00		12/12	28	19	0.00		12/12	21	16	0.00		12/12	27	19	0.00	
12/13	22	-1	0.00		12/13	19	-1	0.00		12/13	19	9	0.00		12/13	19	16	0.00		12/13	19	1	0.00	
Total 19.60 24.0"					YTD Total 20.12 17.7"					YTD Total 25.95 19.3"					YTD Total NA NA					YTD Total 23.10 15.6"				

COUNTS...Continued from page 4B

count circle, centered on a specific point. CBC participants count all the birds they see on that day within the count circle. Some birders spend the day skiing or snowshoeing through the woods. Others drive the backroads, and still others count the birds at their feeders from the comfort of their living room.

While the count is open to all and is free of charge, all participants will want to contact the count compiler ahead of time so they know where you plan to count, or can assign you a count area.

The bird counts are held in a two-week window right around Christmas, and this year the counts in northern St. Louis and Lake counties are all after Christmas. The Cook and Ely area counts are set for Saturday, Dec. 26, while the Aurora count is set for

Wednesday, Dec. 30.

The long-running Isabella count is set for Saturday, Jan. 2.

See above for contact information for individual counts.

It's a fun way to spend a day, but it's also important scientific work that has helped professional researchers document changes in bird populations over the decades—and those population trends for hundreds of species are now available on Audubon's CBC website with an interactive archive that lets you explore changes in bird populations at state, national, or global scales. The best way to find the interactive page is to go to Audubon.org and search for "Christmas Bird Count." Once there, click on the "Christmas Bird Count Trends Viewer."

ICE...Continued from page 4B

patterns along the way. When the ice-making cold is combined with high winds, as it was this year, we end up with countless ice formations where supercooled water splashes on shore and instantly freezes. The cedar branches, frozen in ice, were found along the shore of Lost Lake.

As our drought drags on into winter, leaving relatively little snow on the ground, the conditions for ice formation have been enhanced. Put on a pair of ice skates and explore a lake near you. And take the time to look at ice differently.



Right: Icicles along the south shore of Lost Lake.

Fishing report

Ely area

Ice conditions have remained excellent on area lakes, with most remaining clear of snow. Anglers are reporting ice depths of nine to 12 inches on many area lakes.

Tip up fishing for pike was excellent this last week for many anglers. There were several reports of large pike stretching the tape past 40-plus inches. Several groups also reported double digit days. Large dead minnows lying on the bottom or suspended about a foot off the bottom, at the mouths of shallow bays proved very effective. Tip-ups placed inside shallow bays or along weedlines also worked well.

Walleye anglers were few and far between as the hot pike bite lured some away. Still, some anglers caught walleyes. Anglers have reported that a lack of snow on the ice seems to have slowed the evening bite until after the sun is below the horizon. Rattle spoons tipped with a minnow have been an effective presentation. Key depth remains 18-23 feet of water.

Crappies remained finicky on area lakes. Anglers used loud rippin raps to call fish in, but more often than not, crappie minnows fished under a bobber got the bites. Depths of 18-25 feet, during the day, were the most popular places to catch crappies.

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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

**Vermilion Lake Township
 Notice of Filings**

Filings for the following offices will open on Tuesday, December 29, 2020 and close on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Supervisor 3-year term
 Supervisor 1-year term
 Treasurer 2-year term

Filing fee: \$2.00

Candidates: File Affidavit of Candidacy by appointment only at the CLERK'S OFFICE, 6703 Wahlsten Rd. Call 218-749-2902 and leave a message.

Election will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Crystal Alaspa, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 11 & 18, 2020

**MORCOM TOWNSHIP
 Notice of Filing for Town
 Offices to be Elected**

Notice is hereby given that a town election will be held in the Township of Morcom, St. Louis County, Minnesota, on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

The first day for filing affidavits of candidacy will be Tuesday, December 29, 2020. The last day will be Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Filings may be made with the Clerk, Sasha Lehto. You can either make an appointment by calling Sasha Lehto at 218-969-5812 or by email to morcomtownshipmn@gmail.com. You may file without an appointment by coming to the home of the clerk located at 12059 Hwy. 22, Cook, MN, 55723 on Tuesday, January 12 between the hours of 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The following terms will be expiring:
 1 Supervisor Seat – for a term of 3 years
 1 Treasurer -for a term of 2 years

The filing fee is \$2.00

Sasha Lehto, Clerk, 218-969-5812

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 18 & 25, 2020

**FIELD TOWNSHIP
 FILING NOTICE**

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed with the Field Town Clerk at 9998 East Lind Rd., Angora from Tuesday, December 29, 2020, through Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 5 p.m. for the offices of:

1 Supervisor - 3-year term
 1 Treasurer- 2-year term

Filing Fee \$2.00.

Please call the clerk to make an appointment to file your application, 218-780-7012. The clerk's office will be also be open Jan. 12 from 1-5 p.m. for filing.

Pat Chapman, Clerk, Field Township

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 18, 2020 & Jan. 1, 2021

**LEIDING TOWNSHIP
 NOTICE OF FILINGS**

Filings for the following offices open on Tuesday, December 29, 2020, through Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 5 p.m. for the offices of:

1 Supervisor: 3-year term
 1 Treasurer: 2-year term

Filing fee is \$2.
 File the Affidavit of Candidacy at Clerk's Office. Please call 218-355-0163 (cell) for the clerk's office hours.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 18, 2020 & Jan. 1,

STATE OF MINNESOTA
 COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS
 DISTRICT COURT
 PROBATE DIVISION
 SIXTH JUDICIAL
 DISTRICT
 Court File No.
 69VI-PR-20-174

of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated February 21, 2018, and for the appointment of Jerry Snell, whose address is 1518 10th Street South, Virginia, Minnesota, 55792, as Personal Representatives of the Estate in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated December 10, 2020

BY THE COURT
 Andrew Peterson
 Judge of District Court
 Amy Turnquist/ Chelsea Opdahl, as Deputy Court Administrator

Attorney for the Petitioner
 Angela E. Sipila
 412 First St. So, Suite #1
 Virginia, MN 55792
 Attorney License No: 024501X
 Telephone: 218-741-5000
 Fax: 218-749-2623
 Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay,
 Dec. 18 & 25, 2020

In Re: ESTATE OF
 Dorothy Marlene Johnson,
 also known as Dorothy M.
 Johnson, and Marlene
 Johnson
 Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF
 HEARING ON PETITION
 FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF
 WILL AND APPOINTMENT
 OF PERSONAL
 REPRESENTATIVE AND
 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on January 27, 2021, at 8:40 a.m. a hearing will be held in this Court at the St. Louis County Courthouse-Virginia, 300 South Fifth Avenue, Virginia, Minnesota, 55792, for the formal probate

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the decedent's estate.

Notice is also given that subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801 all creditors having claims against the Estate

EMPLOYMENT

**POSITION OPENING
 Ely Public Schools
 Payroll, Benefits and
 Finance Coordinator**

Ely Public Schools is looking for a Payroll, Benefits and Finance Coordinator. This is a full-time permanent position with competitive salary and fringe benefits. A background check is required. Job description available at www.ely.k12.mn.us

Qualifications include:
 > Two-year Associate Degree or commensurate experience in Accounting required.
 > Four-year Bachelor's Degree in Accounting desired.
 > Payroll experience desired.
 > Experience working in the public sector is favored.
 > Proficient in the technology of spreadsheets, electronic documents, and other office software and hardware.

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

A complete application must include the following:
 > District Non-Licensed Application
 > Resume
 > Copy of transcripts
 > 2 letters of recommendation

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

Application deadline: December 21, 2020.

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 11 & 18, 2020



**Bailiff -
 Court Security
 (Hibbing and Virginia)
 Apply by 12/31/2020**

www.stlouiscountymn.gov
 or call 218-726-2422

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 12/18

**POSITION OPENING
 Ely Public Schools
 Indian Education
 Home/School Liaison**

Ely Public Schools is looking for an Indian Education Home/School Liaison. A background check is required.

Qualifications include:
 > AA Degree or 2 years of college preferred
 > Indian preference
 > Preferred experience working with school age children
 > Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting

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

A complete application must include the following:
 > Non-Licensed District Application
 > Resume
 > 2 letters of recommendation

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

Rate of Pay: \$17.00/hour

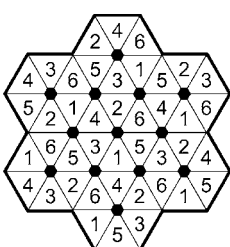
Hours: 6 hours/day

Application review to begin: Monday, December 21, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 11 & 18, 2020

SNOWFLAKES

solution



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EMPLOYMENT



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Dietary

PT & Casual Dietary Aide/Cook

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

More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220

humanresources@cookhospital.org

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Super Crossword

Answers

L	A	L	A	L	A	N	D	D	A	D	T	I	L	T	A	S	A						
E	M	U	L	A	T	O	R	E	E	L	E	V	E	L	F	O	P						
D	O	N	T	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	M	A	N	I	A	C	R	U	E				
A	R	G	O	A	E	R	O	S	S	E	F	A	R	M									
				B	E	N	R	E	U	N	I	T	E	D	A	F	R	I	C	A			
C	E	S	I	U	M	R	O	N	W	O	O	D	E	N									
H	E	L	P	F	O	O	L	I	S	H	R	U	N	A	W	A	Y						
A	L	O	O	F	T	I	C	E	N	O	L	M	O	A	T	S							
				P	I	L	E	O	N	I	A	M	B	G	O	A							
				P	E	R	F	E	C	T	S	M	O	O	T	H	S	A	I	L	I	N	G
P	A	G	E	U	P	A	B	U	R	O	A	R	K	E									
R	O	Y	A	L	S	C	H	E	R	I	S	H	T	E	Q	U	I	L	A				
A	L	P	I	C	O	N	S	T	E	E	R	S											
M	O	T	E	T	C	L	O	D	D	E	G	A	C	H	O	O							
				T	R	U	L	Y	W	I	N	D	Y	D	O	W	N	T	O	W	N		
C	A	T	H	Y	S	M	O	O	E	D	S	E	L	S									
D	I	A	N	A	A	M	A	Z	E	D	M	I	C	K	E	Y							
R	E	P	O	A	B	E	I	D	O	L	H	E	A	P									
A	L	E	N	U	M	B	E	R	O	N	E	H	I	T	S	O	N	G	S				
C	L	U	P	R	A	I	S	I	N	G	A	N	O	D	Y	N	E	S					
K	O	P	R	I	S	E	B	O	O	N	E	W	S	T	A	R	T						

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HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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.

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA MEETING- Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Community Church, 1515 E Camp St., Ely

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

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

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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

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

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

POP TRIOS

ACROSS

1 Dreamworld
9 Pa
12 Incline
16 Big — whale
19 Person copying another
20 Straight-ahead view
22 Dandy sort
23 "That raving guy is lying!"? [1958, 1999, 1983]
25 Regret a lot
26 Mythical ship
27 Plane-related
28 Compass dir.
29 Growing field
30 Franklin brought a certain continent's nations back together? [1972, 1979, 1983]
36 Very reactive element
40 Actor Ely
41 Inflexible
42 Assist an unwise fugitive? [1965, 2002, 1961]
49 Like cold fish
50 Muscular jerk

51 Organic compound
52 Castle encirclers
56 Join others in the attack
59 Poetic foot
61 — long way
62 Effortless progress with zero snags? [2017, 1999, 1980]
69 Certain scroll key on PC
70 — Dhabi (emirate)
71 Mr. — ("Fantasy Island" host)
72 Kings and queens hold agave liquor dear? [2013, 1966, 1958]
79 High peak
80 Revered sort
81 Directs
82 Cantata kin
85 Dirt clump
87 Ph.D. or MBA
88 Allergic reaction?
93 City's main business section during a tornado? [1982, 1967, 1965]

98 The Everly Brothers' "— Clown"
101 Bovine cry
102 Old Fords
103 Rigg made Rooney go "Wow!?" [1957, 2000, 1982]
110 Many a seized car
111 Honest prez
112 Revered sort
113 Messy stack
117 Bitter brew
118 This puzzle's long answers each consist of three of these
124 Actor Gulager
125 Extolling
126 Analgesics
127 "Keystone" lawman
128 Move upward
129 Heckling cry
130 Fresh beginning

DOWN

1 Mother of Helen of Troy
2 Love deity
3 Chest organ
4 Choir voice
5 Test facility
6 Gobbled up
7 Actor Lloyd

8 Less sweet, as wine
9 Gobbles up
10 In-favor vote
11 JFK, e.g.
12 High-strung
13 Vine-covered
14 Grassy area
15 Mom's skill, in brief
16 Fright-filled
17 Wellspring
18 Epithet for Tarzan
21 Most recent
24 Before
29 Sorbet alternative, for short
30 Shine up
31 Broody rock genre
32 Japanese dance-drama
33 Concerning
34 "So cute!"
35 Beer bubbles
36 "— -ching!"
37 Slim fish
38 — -Blo fuse
39 NYSE debut
43 Of ears
44 Jaunty tune
45 Frosts
46 Modular part
47 Ark-itect?
48 Charity
53 Katy Perry's "I Kissed —"
54 Toy truck maker

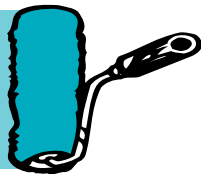
55 Wise guy
56 Cola biggie
57 Actor Epps of "Shooter"
58 "Ora pro —" ("Pray for us")
60 Root beer brand
62 Filmmaker Pier — Pasolini
63 Nile's home
64 Stephen of "Ondine"
65 Suffix with play or faith
66 Kick out
67 Debt slip
68 Chou En- —
69 Soho stroller
73 Roman 350
74 Consecrated
75 Sufficient, in poetry
76 Lamarr of "Comrade X"
77 Ticked (off)
78 Accordingly
83 Prefix with botany or biology
84 "— Little Tenderness"
86 Lightest coin
88 Actor Griffith
89 Dol. parts
90 Farming tool
91 Barn percher

92 Slip- — (mules, e.g.)
94 D.C.'s land
95 Silent "OK"
96 Santo —
97 Diminutive
98 Audiophile's storage item
99 Danny of "Ruby"
100 Wrap, as a weak wrist
104 Papas' partners
105 Activist Hoffman
106 Final letters
107 Chemical suffix
108 "Over There" composer
109 Kevin of "Silverado"
113 Pitcher — Wilhelm
114 Central Sicilian city
115 Golden — (senior)
116 "Hey ... over this way!"
118 "Car Talk" network
119 "Mystifier" Geller
120 Chest bone
121 Artist Yoko
122 Job for AAA
123 1960s univ. radicals

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19								20		21						22			
23							24									25			
26						27				28					29				
				30	31				32	33			34	35					
36	37	38	39					40					41						
42					43	44	45			46	47	48							
49					50					51			52		53	54	55		
					56				57	58		59		60		61			
	62	63	64	65					66			67	68						
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72						73	74	75			76	77	78						
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124						125								126					
127						128					129								



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