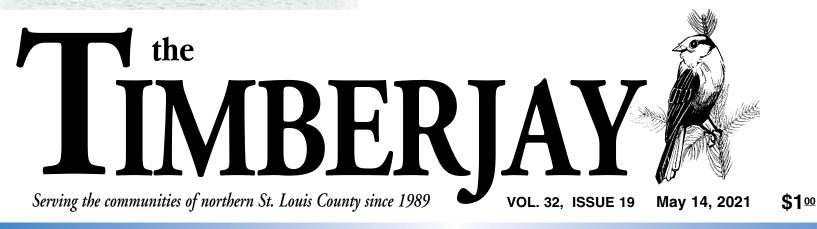


Fishing opener...See /4B

Inside: Crane Lake helipad... See /3 Spring sports... See /1B New normal temperatures...See /4B



#### ISD 696

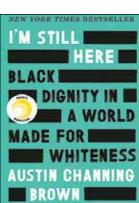
## **Book ban request under evaluation** Ely school board, administration working through due diligence on issue

#### by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY –ISD 696 leaders continue to evaluate a book banning request made by a school parent last month, and school board chair Ray Marsnik spoke directly to the Ely community about the issue at the end of the school board's regular meeting Monday night.

"We are all aware of the situation. The administration is evaluating it and will take whatever action is necessary and appropriate," he said. "This is my 20th year on the school board and this is the first time I have ever been confronted with something of this nature. It is new to me and I'm sure it is new to (the rest of the school board)." Marsnik stressed the importance that the school district follow the chain of responsibility in addressing the request to ban a book from the required reading list of

See...BOOK pg. 9



# FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

# Making the call for 40 years Cook man now referees his great-grandkids

## INFRASTRUCTURE Greenwood moving forward on broadband

Will apply for federal funding grants

#### by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- Greenwood Town Hall hosted a small audience on Tuesday, all properly spaced, for its first in-person town board meeting since pandemic restrictions went into place last spring. The meeting was also available by teleconference.

Chairman Mike Ralston, after hearing a report from the township's newly-created broadband committee, said the township had recently received a proposal from CTC, a broadband provider currently working on a project on the Vermilion Reservation, that would include installation of 105 miles of fiber to over 1,100 locations within the township. The project has an estimated price tag of over \$4 million.

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- It's a long-held and widely accepted rule that umpires and officials are supposed to be impartial, no matter the sport, no matter the ages of the athletes.

But it's difficult to imagine anyone faulting Bill Peterson, of Cook, for an inadvertent slip last week. After all, after four decades of officiating football, basketball, baseball and softball, he's earned a little grace.

Bill Peterson, above, with his great-granddaughters, Emma and Hailie. Bill was behind the plate when the girls, who play for Cherry High School, took the field against North Woods. photos by D. Colburn

refereed games involving all his grandchildren, but umpiring a junior varsity softball game at North Woods School last Thursday, May 6, gave Peterson an opportunity to take that experience to a new level. Great-

Over the years, Peterson has See...REF pg. 10



"Their next step is to meet with the township and determine how to fund it," Ralston said. "There are a lot of options out there."

Ralston also said he had received emails from Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith seeking information on broadband projects needing federal funding.

"Time is of the essence," he said. "We need to get an application in by 10 days."

Greenwood would qualify for this federal funding, Ralston said, since it is separate from the RDOF funding

See...FUNDING pg. 12

#### HISTORY

## The present is the past for the pandemic

#### A look back at the local parallels of an epidemic from a hundred years ago

#### by DAVID COLBURN

Cook/Orr Editor

TOWER- About halfway up the hill toward the west end of Lakeview Cemetery in Tower is a large, rough stone family marker, with the name "Campaigne" inscribed in a

smoothed oval. Nearby, severely tilted and partially covered with grass and dirt is a headstone, "Maude A. 1894-1918."

1918 was a tumultuous year for Minnesota. Many young men from this

See...PAST pg. 11

A headstone near the Campaigne family marker in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower reads, "Maude A. 1894-1918." photo by D. Colburn





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## Community notices

#### Overdue fines amnesty for kids in the Arrowhead Library System

**REGIONAL-** To help get kids and families prepared for summer reading, select libraries in the Arrowhead Library System will be offering overdue fines amnesty for patrons ages zero to 18 from May 14-31. During this time, kids can return those long overdue library books from the following locations and all overdue fines will be forgiven.

Local libraries include Babbitt Public Library, Cook Public Library, ALS Bookmobile, and ALS Mail-A-Book. For the full list, contact Mollie Stanford at 218-741-3840 or mollie.stanford@alslib. info.

"This is a great opportunity to return overdue materials and restore library borrowing privileges to our region's youngest patrons whose overdue fines and fees prevent them from accessing library services," said ALS Regional Librarian Mollie Stanford. "The goal of this program is to eliminate barriers and get kids and families back into the library."

Please note the amnesty program does not apply to fines and fees charged for lost materials. Some ALS member public libraries have created individual programs to help their local patrons with lost item fines and fees. Patrons of all ages are encouraged to reach out to their local public library to ask about these programs.

Need an ALS Public Library Card or a replacement card? If you live in the ALS seven-county service area of Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods and St. Louis, you can get one today. Feel free to apply online by visiting https://www.alslib.info/services/how-do-i-get-a-library-card/.

#### Ely Crazy Day, citywide rummage and business sales on May 22

ELY- No one can resist a good sale, especially when the whole town gets involved. Saturday, May 22 marks the tenth annual Citywide Rummage, Business Crazy Day, and Used Equipment and Watercraft Sale. Businesses are preparing for the event by offering sales and discounts galore. Dozens of rummage sales are participating, too.

Power shopping creates a huge appetite, so set aside time to stop in at one of the many local restaurants. They will be serving delicious table fare to satisfy the hungriest of shoppers.

The Citywide Rummage Sale runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Business Crazy Day and Used Equipment and Watercraft participants will have varied hours, so plan your shopping day accordingly. You don't want to miss any shopping stops during this once-a-year event. Our event map will be available starting on Monday, May 17. Pick up a copy at the Chamber office (1600 E Sheridan St.), online at www.ely.org/citywide, or on Facebook @ ElyChamberOfCommerce.

May 22 also marks the start of the Shop Local-Ely campaign. Remember those paper coupon books? Well, this year the Chamber is pleased to introduce a Shop Local-Ely coupon card. There are a number of participating Chamber businesses already signed up with their offerings. The coupon card is the same size as a credit card, so it is easy to carry and eco-friendly, too. Businesses can change their offerings throughout the year, which was not an option with the coupon book. So, watch for changing specials.

The Shop Local-Ely list will be available at the Chamber office, at Ely.org, and on Facebook starting on Saturday, May 22. Stop by the Chamber office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the citywide event to

#### **IRON RANGE PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

## Spring Fling happening on May 22

VIRGINIA- It's time for tulips, tackle and solar tours. The Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability is hosting a Spring Fling on Saturday, May 22, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Kline-Cuppoletti Building on the west side of Silver Lake in Virginia.

Welcome spring with a free day of outdoor education and activities. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will be on hand to accept your used lead fishing tackle and send you home with some new, safe alternative tackle. The North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District will teach about aquatic invasive species and you can learn about our beautiful state bird, the loon. Enjoy free grocery samples



## Spring Fling **Tackle, Tulips and Solar Tours**

from Natural Harvest Food Co-op, go home with free tulip bulbs from the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability, and much more. The day will also be the kickoff event for Here Comes the Sun, a Range-

wide tour of solar energy systems currently installed on homes and businesses across the Range.

All events are free and open to the public. Come join IRPS outdoors for this spring fling and get ready

for a sustainable summer For more information and a complete listing of events, visit www.irpsmn.org, or find IRPS on Facebook.

## **Nelimark Homestead opens June 3**

EMBARRASS-Volunteer artisans have been sprucing up the grounds and buildings at the Nelimark Homestead this past month and are eager for the opening of the museum and community gathering place beginning Thursday, June 3.

The season begins with the museum hours set for Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Nelimark will maintain COVID-19 restrictions with masking and social distancing rules. Crafts and items for sale have been reviewed and renewed. Several new volunteer artisans will be providing new products.

Freshly-made bakery goods will be waiting on the antique wood stove to greet visitors for the morning coffee hour. Nelimark Heritage Homestead greets its guests with a traditional Finnish-American reception, fresh pulla, strong coffee, and a smiling hostess.

Sisu Heritage is working on an exhibit of

Nelimark family memories and items. The original family organ is now on display in the main floor book room. If you have had any contacts over the years with this Finnish family and have pictures or items from the past, please contact Sisu Heritage at 218-984-3402 or bring them to the museum for consideration. An exhibit will be developed upstairs honoring the Nelimark family, another great reason to visit.

Mesabi Trail runs down from Giants Ridge through the Darwin S. Myers WMA rice paddies via the new 3/4-mile floating bridge. The trail continues through Embarrass along Hwy. 21 to the Nelimark rightof-way. The Homestead Museum will have trail information available for travelers, maps and trail passes for sale, and will provide a pleasant stopover for visitors who are walking or biking the trail.

A new leg of the

## Vote for Schlueter in recipe contest by May 16

BABBITT-Crystal Schlueter of Babbitt is one step away from winning \$10,000 and being crowned the winner of Thomas' 'Split Decisions' Recipe Contest, but she needs your help.

Thomas' English Muffins, the #1 English Muffin in America, celebrated National English Muffin Day on April 23 by inviting fans to create with both sides of their English muffin. No more choosing between salty and sweet. Crystal created Hawaiian Pesto Pizza on one half and Hawaiian Cheesecake Pizza on the other. Side 1: Double decker Hawaiian pesto pizza with sun-dried tomato pesto, smoked provolone, pineapple, Parmesan, fresh basil and cherry tomatoes.

Side 2: Double decker Hawaiian no bake cheesecake pizza with cherry preserves, pineapple, Graham cracker crumbs, fresh mint and maraschino cherries.

Out of more than 9,500 submissions, Crystal was chosen as one of the top five finalists in America for her recipes.

Now Crystal needs you to help her win the \$10,000 grand prize. Until





Crystal's Hawaaianthemed English muffins photo courtesy of Thomas'

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www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

#### **CRANE LAKE**

# Sandy Bodkin honored with helipad memorial

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

CRANE LAKE- If someone had asked who was responsible for the beautiful sunny day at Crane Lake last Saturday, chances are good the reply would have been longtime community resident Sandy Bodkin.

Bodkin passed away in September 2019 at the age of 85, but her memory and joyful spirit were palpable as about 65 people gathered along Handberg Road on Saturday to dedicate a new emergency helicopter landing pad in her honor.

While some rural areas are close enough to a hospital that an ambulance can make the trip in the time it would take for a helicopter to arrive at the scene and transport a patient, that's not the case in Crane Lake, which is 40 miles from the nearest hospital and 140 miles away from the nearest trauma center.

"Sandy passed away in 2019, but not before she needed to take an emergency flight for medical care," said Kara Knutson at the

dedication. "Her family knew that this helipad was an important project for the community, and it only became possible because of a donation made by Sandy's family in her name, and we want to thank her and her family for making this helipad possible. This location will now be known as the Sandy Bodkin Memorial Helipad."

Sandy was born in Colorado but grew up in Wayzata. She taught elementary school in the Hopkins district from 1956 to 1976.

Sandy and her husband, John, were annual summer campers at Crane Lake, eventually building a small cabin on Bear Island. After her retirement in 1976, the couple moved to Crane Lake permanently.

Sandy's definition of retirement didn't include slowing down. She taught piano lessons and played the piano at Crane Lake Chapel. A prolific quilter, she gave away her quilts to friends, family, neighbors, community fundraisers, and hospitalized children.

If there was a need or an event in the community, Sandy was likely involved. And when the U.S. Postal Service needed a postmaster at Crane Lake, Sandy took that on for 12 years.

"Sandy was a longtime Crane Lake resident who was very active in virtually everything happening in Crane Lake," Knutson said.

As part of the dedication, a North Memorial Health Air Care medevac helicopter flew in and landed on the new concrete pad, which was constructed by JH Contracting with site preparation and final grading done by Randy Daniels Construction of Buyck. On board the chopper was Flight Nurse Kristen Scott, a Crane Lake native. She said she got her first experience in emergency response working with Crane Lake responders. "Sandy Bodkin is a big member of this community, so this is great," Scott said. "And her great-niece actually works for North Air Care as a flight nurse." Navigating landings in the forested North Country can



be tedious and dangerous, so the permanent pad is greatly welcomed, Scott said.

"The safety aspect of having a helipad and knowing we have a safe place to land and pick up people in the community is just huge," she said.

While the vast majority of the cost was covered by the donation of \$20,000 from Sandy's family, numerous individuals also donated, and Crane Lake Fire and Rescue raised more money through the sale of calendars, Knutson said. The sign for the helipad was donated by Kaufman Signs of Minneapolis, and many



community volunteers also gave their time and effort to the project.

As Knutson watched people crowding around the helicopter for a look inside, she expressed gratitude for the turnout of community members and emergency

responders from other towns.

"At first I thought it was just going to be our fire department, but then other people started coming and it was great," she said.

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Orr-\$449,000 51 undeveloped acres and almost one mile of shoreline on Pelican Lake. 24x40 cabin, sauna and storage buildings. Privacy and paths along the shoreline. MLS#141125

Buyck-\$69,000 Wooded 30-acre parcel on the 422 Rd. Plenty of recreational adventures await! MLS#140565





# OPINION

#### "CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW ... ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;"

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial **Closing state parks?**

#### GOP threats would do real damage to northern Minnesota economy

With the COVID-19 pandemic increasingly on the wane and with Minnesotans anxious to do some exploring out-of-doors this summer, Republican leaders in the state Senate have decided they want to shut down all the state parks beginning July 1.

It's the kind of gun-to-thehead political brinksmanship that we've come to expect from the party that would rather blow up government than see it work on behalf of average people. It's a mentality that gives the GOP an edge in so many political battles. Democrats want to see government play a role in making life better, which prevents them from issuing the kind of reckless political threats that have become such a go-to in the GOP's political toolbox.

As background, Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen, an Alexandria Republican, told a House-Senate conference committee on the state's environmental funding omnibus bill last week that he won't consider any funding for the Department of Natural Resources (which operates the state parks), the Minnesota Zoo, the Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Science Museum, or the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources unless Gov. Tim Walz rescinds or delays a plan by the MPCA to adopt a Clean Car rule modeled on one first adopted by California. Fourteen other states have since adopted the rule, which requires auto manufacturers to gradually increase the number and variety of zero emission vehicles, such as all-electric cars, that they ship to Minnesota.

The new rule doesn't require any Minnesotan to buy an electric vehicle, but it would give those who want one a greater choice. As it stands, most electric vehicles are only sold in those states that have already adopted the same rule. Gov. Walz supports the policy and, apparently, so do Minnesotans. When the MPCA sought public comment, they received more than 10,000 responses, almost all of which supported the plan. An administrative law judge ruled last week that the new rules are reasonable, necessary, and that the Walz administration has the authority to implement the plan,

THEN

which is designed to achieve compliance with existing state law that requires the state to lower its carbon emissions.

While the state has made considerable strides in reducing carbon emissions from power plants, we've fallen well behind the emissions benchmarks in the transportation sector.

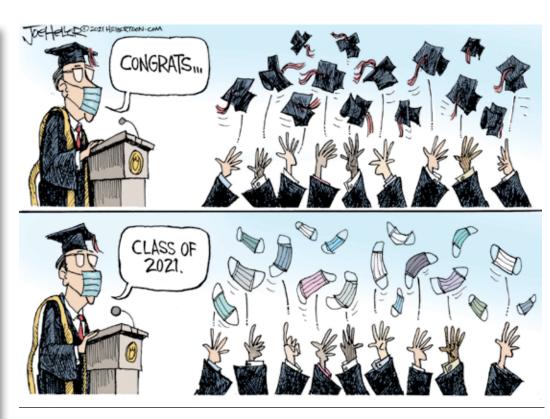
It's worth remembering that it was Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty who signed the bill that enacted the state's carbon reduction goals back in 2007. That was a lifetime ago in political terms, at a time when Republicans still believed in things like science. Pawlenty was no liberal, but at least he didn't want to see the world experience the chaos of climate change.

You might think that the Republicans who control the state Senate would support a plan that provides greater consumer choice for Minnesotans. Yet, in today's GOP, action on climate change is considered a bad thing, over which padlocking the state parks at the peak of summer is a worthwhile sacrifice.

That matters right here in the North Country, where some of the agencies that would be impacted by the GOP's proposed shutdown employ hundreds of area residents. And the economic losses from the closure of the state parks would only add to the impact.

Such threats aren't the actions of responsible or reasonable people. This isn't how you reach sensible compromise. This is "my way or the highway," the kind of approach used by radicals, who simply dismiss collateral damage as part of the cost of their revolution.

In this case, of course, it's a revolution without a manifesto. "Owning the libs" is the only recognizable governing philosophy of the GOP these days. If that means forcing Minnesotans to breathe dirtier air, to face greater risk from climate change, and to make do without their state parks this summer, it's all a win, as long as someone (including liberals) is upset or inconvenienced by it. Republicans like to complain that government never does anything to help average people. And, once again, they're doing everything they can to prove it.



## Letters from Readers

#### Santorum shows the depth of Christendom's depravity

"We came here and created a blank slate. We birthed a nation from nothing .... there isn't much Native American culture in American culture." These words, spoken by Rick Santorum, reveal the malevolence and depravity of white supremacy in American culture. Racism reaches deep into 15th century Europe to the Doctrine of Christian Discovery (1493).

Church decrees gave "legal" cover to pillage and plunder non-Christian, nonwhite lands during the Age of Discovery, including the New World. Terra Nullius, central to the doctrine, is Latin for "empty lands." Such lands upon first discovery, belonged to Christian rulers. What corrupted logic allowed discovery of lands already inhabited?

Non-Christian lands were considered for the taking by Christian explorers and monarchs as "chosen people". Discovery granted exclusive right to the promised land for invasion, conquest and colo-

who were the savages? Who are we and what will we become? We know what happened, but do we have the courage to understand why? We cannot undo the past, but we sure can learn from it. Read "Unsettling Truths" by Mark Charles to begin discovery of our hidden history.

#### **Harold Honkola** Roseville

#### GOP should abandon quest for modern apartheid

The voter ID bill passed by Minnesota Senate Republicans is part of a nationwide effort to make voting harder and limit voter turnout. While it is, in part, a reaction to Trump's Big Lie about the 2020 election being "stolen," it is even more entwined with the resistance to inevitable demographic changes in America. The bill, and those like it, is not about fraud, but about 2042, when whites are projected to be a minority in America for the first time in centuries. Voter restrictions like this are designed to create a system of democracy for some, and to assure that power remains in the hands of the soon-to-be white minority. Such efforts are being pushed by those who simultaneously claim that the current minority, people of color, are not discriminated against, are not treated differently by police and have opportunity equal to all. Isn't it telling that the modern GOP, which claims such equality, so fears being in the minority demographically that it would destroy democracy itself to maintain power? Instead of competing in the marketplace of ideas, the current GOP path is marked by enacting voting restrictions, seeking the power to reject the will of the people, authoritarian views of policing and even insurrection, as was the case on Jan. 6 of this year. It is nothing short of an American form of apartheid. If modern Republicans are so fearful of minority status, perhaps they

should reflect on how black and brown people are treated in this country and articulate ideas on how to bring us together, rather than tear democracy apart.

Kelly Dahl Cook

#### Nuclear deals should require snap inspections

Hopefully, President Biden will make nuclear deals with Iran and North Korea. However, it is equally to be hoped that he does not repeat the fatal flaw of the first Iran deal. It imposed a waiting period for the inspection of suspected sites. This would have allowed them to move the materials for making a nuclear weapon, such as enriched uranium, to a second site during the waiting period for the first site. Then when the second site would come under suspicion, it would have a waiting period during which the material could be moved to a third site, and so on. (That is why a future President may cancel the deal again.)

> **Alvin Blake** Hibbing

nization by Christian rulers. Flag and cross together rode the "horse of war" in ruthless conquest and subjugation.

Racism, in concert with religious supremacy, dehumanized indigenous people to justify dominance and destruction. White, Christian bigotry of Christendom still rears its ugly head as it did in the 15th century. The beliefs and teachings of Jesus are in direct conflict with Christendom. In contrast, Christendom refers to institutional lust for power and domination by the church. Empowered by Divine Right, Christian Discovery unleashed a brutal and bloody campaign of conquest.

When belief and behavior conflict and collide, we experience a tension called cognitive dissonance. After 500 years, as the dark side comes to light, just

#### 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.

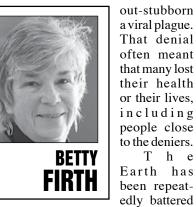
Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

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



Sometimes it takes a shock, like a quick kick to the head or the gut, to get our attention, and we certainly have had our share in the last year. The tsunami of the COVID-19 pandemic swept over the planet,

knocking down self-indulgent attitudes of those who thought they could



by ever more severe storms, earthquakes, droughts and fires, due to human prac-

T h e

out-stubborn tices and climate change, causing loss of property, lives and well-being.

> Thanks to cell phone video technology, George Floyd's murder did not remain a dirty secret hidden on the streets of the Central neighborhood in Minneapolis. The visual evidence of a law enforcement officer torturing a man to death while other officers did not intervene and while frightened bystanders shouted ineffectively for him to stop, triggered

outrage that echoed around the world. The reverberations continue, sparking action where there was none and strengthening resolve and support where there was.

Eyes and minds have been opened that were closed before. I have heard several white, middle-class women say, "I grew up in a small town with only white people and just had no idea what it was like for people of color." I also grew up in a small town of 5,000, and the only black person I remember seeing was the man who drove the Zimmerman liquor store truck out of Chicago, making home deliveries. He seemed exotic to me, but friendly.

A friend's father introduced me to racist attitudes with degrading remarks about Black people. I thought less of him for it, and it puzzled me. Why did he sound so angry and threatened? He owned a car dealership, his family was comfortable, if not wealthy, and there were no Negroes in sight. What was he afraid of? Even as a teenager, I recognized it as fear.

The question lingers decades later in our country and world torn apart by clashing attitudes of fear and territoriality, fanned to a raging fire by those in power or seeking power who benefit from the discord. I have begun reading a book that delves

See RACE...pg. 5

## **Settlement reached in prospecting permit lawsuit** Biden administration agrees to conduct required environmental review

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

ELY- A coalition of environmental groups have reached a settlement with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management that requires the agency to revisit its decision to renew 13 prospecting permits near here. The permits could have allowed Antofagasta's Twin Metals venture to significantly expand its proposed sulfide-ore copper mine just upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

The groups filed suit last year, challenging a four-year extension of the prospecting permits, which was done without required environmental review. To settle the lawsuit, the BLM has agreed to provide for public comment, conduct an analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act, consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the plan's potential harm to endangered species, and then issue a new decision. The BLM also agreed to prohibit any ground-disturbing activities while it reconsiders its decision.

"After the horrendous years of the Trump administration, federal officials now appear focused on rational, science-based decision-making," said Marc Fink, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. "A thorough scientific analysis of these permits and Twin Metals' related proposals will show that a massive copper-sulfide mine just upstream from the spectacular Boundary Waters wilderness is simply too great a risk. We're confident this agreement will help lead to preserving this beloved place for future generations."

These prospecting permits, along with the company's two existing mineral leases, are part of Twin Metals' attempt to create a mining district on the Superior National Forest, just upstream from the BWCAW.

"We are fundamentally opposed to the development of a toxic mining district in the watershed of the Boundary Waters,' said Tom Landwehr, executive director of Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness. "As determined by the U.S. Forest Service in 2016, this type of mining is not compatible with retaining the pure and wild ecosystem of the area. Today's agreement is a step in the right direction in returning to good governance and fact-based decision-making."

Twin Metals officials downplayed the significance of the settlement. "The 13 prospecting permits that are part of this agreement are not part of Twin Metals' mine plan currently under review by state and federal regulators," said company spokesperson Kathy Graul.

"Twin Metals Minnesota holds a variety of federal, state, and private mineral leases, as well as a number of prospecting permits on federal land in northeastern Minnesota. Prospecting permits allow the company to perform exploratory work on those sites to determine the existence of a valuable mineral deposit. Prospecting permits do not allow mining."

Legal challenges to the reinstatement and renewal of Twin Metals' actual mineral leases have been put on hold while the Biden administration determines how to ensure protection for the Boundary Waters. U.S. Sen. Tina Smith (D-Minn.) recently called on the administration to withdraw this area from mining while it conducts a comprehensive, science-based analysis of whether copper-sulfide ore can be safely mined in this watershed. In April, U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.)introduced a bill to permanently protect the watershed from copper mining.

"Today's agreement is an important step in restoring proper, lawful process and informed decision-making concerning proposed copper mining

on the doorstep of the Boundary Waters," said Alison Flint, senior legal director at The Wilderness Society. "The Biden administration has a lot of work ahead to repair the damage of the last four years and must do what is necessary to protect this irreplaceable resource. We're confident that the science will show this landscape is too precious and vulnerable for this type of mining."

Under today's agreement, the BLM will conduct a scientific ecological review of the potential harms from extending prospecting permits in this area, within the context of the related mineral leases and Twin Metals' mine proposal. After the required environmental analysis and endangered species consultation, the Forest Service will have the authority to not consent to the permit extensions and the BLM, as regulator of the mineral estate, will have the authority to cancel them.

The 13 prospecting permits would have allowed Twin Metals to drill holes, build roads and do other mining exploratory work throughout more than 15,000 acres of Superior National Forest. The permits would greatly expand the location where Twin Metals has proposed a copper mine and waste piles just upstream from the Boundary Waters' protected public lands and waterways.

Twin Metals' mining proposal would cause severe environmental damage to the region's forests, lakes, rivers and wetlands that lie between Birch Lake and the edge of the Boundary Waters. The Boundary Waters is America's most-visited wilderness area.

Today's agreement settles the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., by the Center for Biological Diversity, Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness and The Wilderness Society.

and act on what's in our

common interest depends

on believing that we, as

Americans, all have some-

thing in common. In coun-

tries divided by internal

conflict-places like Syria

come to mind-ethnic,

religious, or ideological

identities often override the

sense of a shared political

community. We've seen

worrying signs of some-

thing similar taking shape

in the U.S. Our future

depends on refocusing on

what unites us, not what

## COMMENTARY

# What talk about the "common good" means

#### by LEE HAMILTON Former U.S. Congressman

I've always been impressed that the preamble to the Constitution begins, "We the People of the United States." We've heard the phrase so often that we don't even stop to think about it. But as the proposed constitution was being debated in 1787, there were people who didnotably, Patrick Henry, who in a famous speech to the Virginia ratifying convention asked why the drafters hadn't said, "We, the states."

By their phrasing, the founders made clear that they were creating a government, as Lincoln later put it, "of the people, by the people, and for the people." They were making a case that government should strive for the common Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty."

Though they also laid out the rights of individuals that government couldn't touch speech, religion, the ability to read a free press, and so on—they made clear that there needed to be a balance. "Government is instituted for the common good…and not for profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men," John Adams wrote.

So what do we actually mean when we talk about the "common good"? One notable point about the Constitution's preamble is that phrases like "the general welfare" and "domestic tranquility" are vague. The founders left those ideas has revolved around how to define them and where individual interests leave off and the public interest prevails.

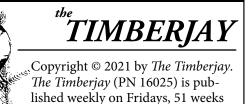
We can see this at play almost anywhere we look today. It is in our common interest, for example, that as many people as possible be vaccinated against the coronavirus-that's the best way to protect everyone. But there are plenty of people who don't want to get vaccinated. Whether and how to respond is a topic of hot debate among businesses and state governments. Indeed, the entire course of the pandemic has laid bare the tension many people see between public health and individual rights.

Similarly, we can probably all agree that it is in the common interest that Americans be able to in the Biden administration's huge infrastructure package, pretty much every interest group in the country will be pushing its own interests—and couching them as for the common good. So who stands back to look at what actually is in the best overall interest of our nation and its long-term economic future?

The key point is that there isn't a single definition of "the common good." Instead, we live in a country that was designed to allow us to debate the question, change our answer as public sentimentevolves, find common ground to move forward, and do so in the belief that even if our direction doesn't satisfy everyone, at least it has broad popular backing-or that we can change if needed. In other words, in our system

Why does any of this matter right now? In part, because we depend on our institutions of government to get it right-and to earn our respect while doing so. In the Federalist Papers, James Madison wrote, "No government, any more than an individual, will long be respected without being truly respectable; nor be truly respectable without possessing a certain portion of order and stability." We've come through a trying time of disorder, and there's a lot at stake as government tries to rebuild.

Even more import-



divides us.

good, which they went on to lay out: "establish Justice, insure domestic open for debate, and in the centuries since, much of our country's political history live up to their economic potential. But when you get down to brass tacks, as

maybe the greatest common good is the opportunity to define the common good.

**RACE**...Continued from page 4 -

into the questions: The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together. Author Heather McGhee, an expert in economic and social justice, who headed up the think tank Demos, has drafted legislation and testified before Congress, and currently heads up Color of Change, the nation's largest online racial justice organization.

She asks the questions that have been plaguing me as I watch the current drama unfold: why would people support candidates who do not have their interests at heart? Why do they support actions that not only don't help them but actually hurt them? I call that shooting themselves in the foot. McGhee calls it zero-sum thinking. Simply put, it means that progress for some of us must come at the expense of others. If you gain, I lose...or, I will profit at your expense.

Many of us white people are now coming to understand more clearly the story that underlies our American history. People of color have always understood it. The American economy was built on slave labor, lands stolen from and genocide of indigenous people, and undercompensated labor of immigrants. Laws were structured to protect the white population and limit the rights of people of color, keeping them in their place, literally, through segregation and redlining.

As our country becomes more color-homogeneous with multi-racial and multi-ethnic families, it is predicted that white people will be in the minority by 2042, which apparently drives the irrational behavior of zerosum thinkers. Since white people have benefitted from racism, the zero-sum paradigm means that they will lose when they can't implement racist actions for their own benefit. They are afraid of a dog-eat-dog war with changing demographics where they no longer have the advantage, and they fear the backlash of angry people of color, much as plantation owners feared the possible backlash of freed slaves seeking retribution and revenge.

McGhee says that, "Black people do not see the world though a zero-sum prism. African-Americans just don't buy that our gain has to come at the expense of white people." She said history has proven them right with the civil rights victories, bitterly opposed by some, that resulted in stronger economies and more investment in infrastructure and education.

The author gives many examples of how racist, zero-sum thinking caused white people to lose as well when they opposed expanding rights, privilege, and access to people of color. One striking example was the opposition to integrating public swimming pools, a whole history lesson in itself. Although segregation of public-owned property was illegal under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, cities chose to close pools or even fill them with cement rather than integrate, and the courts upheld them at the time. As a result, the white population also lost their access to swimming pools unless they could afford to build one or belong to a private club. Imagine the deprivation for kids growing up in the hot Southern weather, losing not only the recreational outlet to have fun with friends, but the opportunity to learn to swim.

In McGhee's interviews and research, she found people all over the country, empowered by cross-racial solidarity, recognizing what she calls the Solidarity Dividend, the benefits made possible through collective action. This is what Paul Wellstone recognized: that we should work together for change, for improvement; that when we all do better, we all do better.

Through history those interested only in wielding power have benefitted from an uneducated, uninformed, easily manipulated citizenry. They induce fear and distrust by promoting zero-sum thinking, encouraging dissension and competitiveness between people who actually have mutual interests and would benefit much more by working together. We have seen textbook examples in the rhetoric spewed by Donald Trump, right-wing radio and cable personalities, and those who follow blindly, believing the lies of zero-sum thinking.

No doubt I will be gleaning more as I delve into the depths of *The Sum of Us*, and will bring further reflections to future columns. I invite you to read it, too.

We are the poorer for the crushing of one man, since the dimming of the Light anywhere darkens us all. Michael Sorensen, British Faith and Practice. per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

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#### 6 May 14, 2021

#### Week of May 17

#### 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 May 18.

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

#### Wednesday

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

#### Thursday

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

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

#### Civic Club cancels Memorial Day Service due to COVID restrictions

TOWER- The Tower Soudan Civic Club regretfully announces that they will not be sponsoring the Memorial Day Celebration or the July 4th pancake breakfast due to COVID restrictions. It is impossible to maintain safe distancing in the Civic Center for these functions.



#### TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Above: Sterling Carter works on creating a chalk message for his teachers at Tower-Soudan Elementary, during Teacher Appreciation Week. The activity was done after school, and organized by parents Tasha Majerle and Amanda Carter.

# Thanking our leachers







The first full week in May is celebrated as **Teacher Appreciation** Week. These students spent some time afterschool on May 5 creating some artwork to surprise the teachers when they got to school the next morning. Pictured (clockwise from top left) Elsie Larson, Katie Larson, **Cecelia Majerle and River** Carter, and Eva Larson using her brother Eddie to trace his shape. photos by J. Summit



## Timberjay!



#### Men's Coffee every Thursday at the Little Church

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church will be starting Men's Coffee and Conversation every Thursday from 9 -10 a.m. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Cty. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Any

## HYDRANT Flushing

The Town of Soudan will be flushing hydrants

# Tuesday, May 25 starting at 8 a.m.

Residents should expect discolored water and irregular water pressure.

questions, contact Len A Hujanen at 218-749-2014. at

#### In-person shopping at the Tower Food Shelf on May 18

TOWER- The Tower Food Shelf will be open on Tuesday, May 18 from 2:30 – 5 p.m. to serve area residents. The shelves are well-stocked, and in-person shopping is once again available. This month there will be no limit on pounds per person or per household.

Any questions, call Marge at 218-753-3503.

COMMUNITY NEWS

#### Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board to meet

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet on Friday, May 28 at 8:30 a.m. at Good Ol' Days in Tower. Requests for funding should be submitted in writing to Terri Joki-Martin at Tower City Hall, or mailed to Tower City Hall, PO Box

## ATTENTION TOWER & BREITUNG RESIDENTS

A committee has been formed with members from each community to research options for a long-term solution to police coverage in our areas. Our short-term solution will be to continue to work with the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department for patrol coverage. Questions or comments are invited and may be directed to the City of Tower or Breitung Township Clerk's Offices. 576, Tower, MN 55790. The joint powers board is funded by the city and surrounding townships. The board donates money for youth activities in the Tower-Soudan community.

#### Zach Anderson graduates from Minnesota State Community and Technical College

REGIONAL- Zach Anderson, of Soudan, is among the 700 2021 Spring Semester graduates of Minnesota State Community and Technical College, with campuses in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moorhead and Wadena.

He earned an Electrical Line Worker diploma.

As a member of the Minnesota State system, the school serves more than 8,000 students in credit courses each year in 80 career and liberal arts programs online and at its campuses in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moorhead and Wadena. By partnering with communities, the college also provides workforce development services and other responsive training programs.

#### T-S Community Band seeking players for Fourth of July parade

TOWER-SOUDAN-We're putting the Tower-Soudan Community Band back together. The Fourth of July Committee has asked if the band can play for the parade this year, because they are expecting that high school bands will not be playing.

The plan is to play a few tunes in front of Tower City Hall (including The Star Spangled Banner) and then to ride and play on a flat-bed truck in the front of parade so band members can rejoin their families to watch the rest of the parade.

Please dig out your instrument and recruit others. If any questions, please text or call 218-393-2036, or email enorberg14@gmail.com. Please join the band for a fun time.

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Washington Elementary students showed their gratitude to their teachers last week during Teacher Appreciation Week. All K-5 students wrote a message of gratitude or a note of thankfulness, and the cards were posted in the front hallway of the school for everyone to read. "The messages were all super sweet and exciting to read," said Principal Anne Oelke. "Great kids here at Washington Elementary!" submitted photo

ELY - The Tree Board here marked Arbor Day on May 1. Families and volunteers met at Whiteside Park for a brief tutorial on tree mulching. Tree Board member Mary Groeninger also described the new watering systems available for trees.

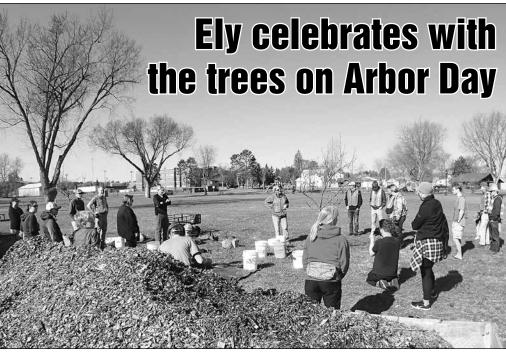
Participants divided into teams and were assigned mulching duty for a series of newly-planted trees around town. A bucket brigade supplied mulch used to encircle the trees to retain moisture as the trees establish a strong root system

They gathered back at Whiteside Park for a free lunch compliments of the Northland Foundation Age-to-Age program. A young Tree Brigade member read the Arbor Day Proclamation to mark the day.

The Ely Tree Board has five members who serve three-year terms, Rita Koch, Todd Crego, Valerie Nesteruk, Mary Groeninger and Joe Edlund. The board meets monthly on the first Monday of the month, 6. p.m. at Ely City Hall.

For more information on the Ely Tree Board, go to www.ely.mn.us.

#### FOR THE LOVE OF TREES



The Ely Tree Board hosted a tree-mulching forum earlier this month in celebration of Arbor Day. photos by K. Vandervort



Ely Library reopens May 24



#### AROUND TOWN

## Monday Tuesday Friday

## Noon-6 pm Noon-5 pm

#### Support groups AA - Alcoholics

#### 'Choose Love' rally set for May 21

ELY - The second CHOOSE LOVE Campaign rally will be held in Whiteside Park on Friday, May 21, starting at 3:30 p.m. No political signs please.

For more information, contact Dayna Mase at daynamase@gmail.com.





obsessed with beauty painting colored spring blossoms

ongoing enchantment

#### Ely library

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

#### **Babbitt library**

Noon-6 pm Noon-6 pm Wednesday Noon-6 pm Thursday Phone: 827-3345

ELY - The Ely Public Library ends curbside service on Monday, May 24 and begins the first stage of having patrons back inside the library after a year-long closure due to COVID-19 public health concerns.

In this first stage of re-opening, patrons will be required to wear masks to enter the building. The library will be open for browsing "blitz" times on Mondays through Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., noon to 2 p.m., and 2:30 to 5 p.m.

Browsing "blitz" periods on Fridays will run from noon to 2 p.m. and 2:30 to 5 p.m. There will be no browsing period on Friday mornings as staff will use this time to do a live feed storytime online as well as to record other online programming for the upcoming week, according to Library Director Rachel Heinrich.

'Patrons will need to leave the building between blitz periods to allow the staff to clean high touch areas," she said.

Patrons interested in using the library's public computers will need to sign up for time slots. "The library will be moving computers for public use into the study rooms to make it more efficient for other patrons to observe the recommended six foot spacing between people for patrons who are browsing for reading material," she said. Study rooms will only be available for public computer use at this time.

Library staff will continue to have weekly programming segments online." Other programming opportunities this summer will include weekly kit bags for kids," Heinrich added. "The adult summer reading program for patrons to read at their own pace will be offered again this summer. The library is also planning to have Kahoot trivia games online for patrons this summer on various topics ... the next two will be focused on children's books and Ely history.'

All books and other items should continue to be returned through the library's outdoor book drop. "The materials will continue to go through a 24-hour quarantine period before being checked in," she added.

Some items from the children's area and some seating from areas throughout the library will not be available yet. The back "meeting area" will be closed off from public access to act as storage for these items.

The library board will evaluate the first stage process in early June and discussing whether to continue with this plan or make modifications. "The staff and board know that many people are very eager to come back into the building; we hope that this first step goes well and that patrons can be patient with the limitations as we work toward the next step," Heinrich said.



Painters hung off the side of the Ely Water Tower Tuesday afternoon as the began the process of repainting the structure. photo by K. Vandervort

#### The Ely Senior Center is back

ELY - The Senior Citizens organization here holds Bingo every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S First Ave W. Protective

**Studio North Dance Recital** 

ELY - The annual Studio North Dance Recital, celebrating 22 years, will be held on Saturday, June 5, at Whiteside Park. Two shows for "Shall We Dance" will be held, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Tickets are available now at Studio North. Children 2 and under get free admission: Adults - \$10 in advance/\$11 at gate, Students - \$8 in advance/ \$9 at gate.

face masks are required when not eating or drinking. When announcing "BINGO!" be sure to yell loud so everyone can hear. Open to the public.

Monday Game Nights have returned. On the first and third Monday, they play Smear. On the second and fourth Monday, the game is Cribbage. Bring a partner or come alone. All COVID protocols enforced.

For more information, call Theresa at 218-365-4367 or Virginia at 218-265-4718.

"Bring your chair and join us for a fun, festive day of dancing in the park," said Studio North owner Nicole Boitz. 'Our dancers have been working hard throughout the year and are ready to hit the stage. Enjoy a variety of dance styles, bright costumes and upbeat music.'

Concessions will be available throughout the event. Wilderness Wood Fire Pizza will be available, along with popcorn, snow cones and more.

Anonymous **OPEN AA - 7:30** p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely. ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 E. Camp St., Ely. BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church **AL-ANON** - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend. **BABBITT AL-ANON** Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian. **CO-DEPENDENTS'** 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely. **ELY FOOD SHELF -**Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St. ADULT BASIC **EDUCATION GED** - Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, 218-827-3232, or

1-800-662-5711. CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital Conference Room B

#### ORR CITY COUNCIL

## Fishing dock closed due to safety concerns New POS computer system at Orr Muni short-circuits manager

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- While the city of Orr is eagerly anticipating the projected mid-June completion of the brand new Bog Walk, city council members on Monday bemoaned the deteriorating conditions of several other water-based structures, recreational and in particular the fishing dock at the highway pullout north of the park.

Top sections of the rails on the platform at the end of the dock are missing and the platform lists notably on one corner. With additional wear and tear on the wooden walkway, conditions are such that the fishing pier is now closed, with a blockade in place to prevent people from using it.

At least, that's how it's supposed to work, but when council member Tom Kennebeck stopped to look at the dock before

Monday's meeting, the barrier was lying in pieces beside the entry.

"If people keep taking the barricades down can we screw the board we have there, the barricade, right to the end of the dock so they can't take it down?" Mayor Joel Astleford asked.

"I had that barricade wedged right up against it, but people climb over it," Maintenance Supervisor Paul Koch replied. "I can throw a couple of screws in there."

"Is there something on it that says it's closed?" Astlford asked.

Koch said there is a highly visible reflective aluminum closed sign.

"You can see it all the way from the rock wall," Koch said.

An additional issue with the fishing pier is lack of ADA-accessibility. The hill is far too steep to accommodate a direct ramp from the parking lot to the dock, which means that a lengthy gradual paved trail meeting ADA standards would cost much more than the city could afford.

Councilors were in agreement that the city could approach the Department of Natural Resources or the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board to investigate funding options.

"We'll try and go after money for the ADA because to come in anywhere other than that rock wall just doesn't make sense," Astleford said. "Most people think the state of Minnesota or DNR has got a nice fishing pier, they don't think that it's the city of Orr's. Worst case scenario, we'll take it down and tell people if they want one they can go talk to DNR. If it's unsafe, it's unsafe."

#### **POS problems**

Chet Nieman, manager of the Orr Muni, told commissioners that the newly-installed point-ofsale and inventory system is creating more problems than it's worth, and with insufficient training and technical assistance from the vendor compounding the issues, he's ready to go back to the old system.

"I was supposed to do training with them, so I made an appointment with them for 3 p.m. that day, and nobody ever called. At 3:45 I called and they screwed up the schedule," Nieman said. "Then I asked for online training, and they said it would be easier if I just email you paperwork on how to do this."

"And that's the way the system is, too," Nieman continued. "People's credit cards are not going through, and he went through that and said everything is fine. I have products ringing up at the wrong prices."

Told that the inven-

standing checks that were

included on the district's

outstanding check list for

bank reconciliation. Old

outstanding checks are

supposed to be turned over

to the state, according to

state law. Knutson recom-

mended that the situation

tory from the old system would transfer to the new one, Nieman discovered that wasn't the case.

"He was so sure I could keep my inventory, he said if he lost my inventory he would come back and count the building with me," Nieman said.

"Did you keep your inventory?" Astleford asked.

"No. I have no idea what's in the building. They put today's inventory in after selling stuff for two days, after using stuff in the bar for two days. I do not want it. I want two new computers and Keystroke (the original system) back.'

Councilors recommended that Clerk Cheri Carter contact the company, Safe Harbor from Duluth, and demand someone come to Orr for training and fixing the system by the end of the week, or else the city will

cancel the contract and go back to the old system.

In other business, the council:

>Approved the billing service Transmedic to take over billing functions for the ambulance service.

► Approved the purchase of a laptop computer for the ambulance service to replace a 2008 desk computer that has crashed and is likely irreparable.

► Approved the transfer of \$150,000 of Federal Aviation Administration entitlement funds to Fillmore County Airport. Orr does not need to access those funds this year, and they will be repaid through a reciprocal transfer at a later date.

► Approved the sale of a vacant city lot to Jesse Manick and Hannah Smith for \$3,250. The parties agreed to split the closing costs.

#### ISD 2142 SCHOOL BOARD Board members finally get chance to review fiscal audit volved numerous old outcussed, members reviewed

VIRGINIA-Members of the ISD 2142 school board took a walk back in time with Greg Knutson, of Walker Giroux and Hahne as they reviewed the district's 2019-20 financial audit at a working meeting on Tuesday at the district office in Virginia.

Normally an activity that takes place early in the school year, juggling the auditing process for clients in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic was a challenge this time, Knutson said. The typical in-person process had to be done remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Nonetheless, the news was good for ISD 2142, as Knutson had only one negative finding to report, and it was a familiar and longstanding one.

The district was cited with a finding of inadequate segregation of duties for cash transactions at individual schools. To fully meet accounting standards, schools would need to have additional staff involved in the handling of cash. Adding additional office staff is not feasible.

The recommended corrective action plan falls to business manager Kim Johnson, who said

she closely monitors the cash transactions at the schools. District administrators also review the duties of school office staff on a regular basis.

Knutson also noted two items of concern that don't rise to the level of a formal finding but should be addressed, he said.

A review of 25 invoices revealed that five were not paid within 35 days of the receipt of the invoice, in violation of state statutes. Knutson said the district should continually monitor payments to ensure they are made in a timely manner. A second item in-

be reviewed by district administration and any old checks to be turned over. In a review of the district's various funds and liabilities, Knutson noted that the district indebted-

ness for school building refunding bonds, certificates of participation, and other bonds and long-term liabilities was at a total

balance of \$66.3 million as of June 30, 2020. The report stated that tax levies, if collected in full, will produce at least five percent in excess of the amounts needed to meet debt service requirements on the bonds and certificates of participation, which range in maturity dates from 2024 to 2041. The balances of the

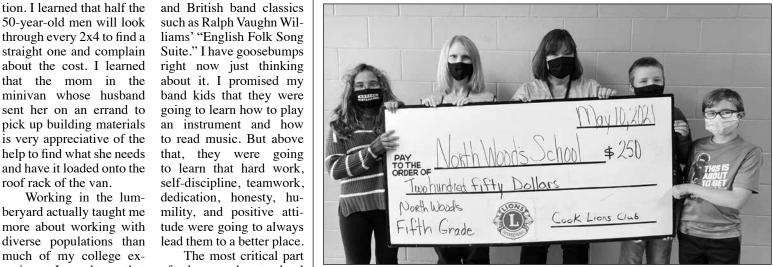
four major fund categories as of June 30, 2020, were general, \$7,179,255; debt service, \$1,126,483; capital projects, \$5,212,844; and nonmajor govern-mental, \$74,329. Together they total \$13,592,911. In other matters disproposed changes in the district's pay-for-performance plan for 17 at-will positions, most of which are administrative positions at the central office. The main change relates to individuals who are at the top of the salary range for their position and therefore don't currently qualify for a pay-for-performance raise if their evaluations merited them.

A proposal to establish a stipend in lieu of a raise for qualified employees will be considered at the next formal board meeting.

#### NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

**Hiring for heart works best** 

## **Teachers get STEM donation**



FIELD TWP- A very

by JOHN VUKMANICH

North Woods Principal

50-year-old men will look such as Ralph Vaughn Wilthrough every 2x4 to find a liams' "English Folk Song straight one and complain Suite." I have goosebumps right now just thinking about it. I promised my band kids that they were going to learn how to play an instrument and how to read music. But above that, they were going to learn that hard work, self-discipline, teamwork, dedication, honesty, humility, and positive attitude were going to always lead them to a better place. of what we do at school is build relationships and expectations into how we teach our content, for the content we teach cannot compete against an Xbox or Snapchat without some panache behind it. I love when I watch a teacher who is passionate about kids. I love when a teacher cares enough to have the tough conversation with a student or a parent. I love when a student has such a positive relationship with a teacher that they make a special effort to say "hi" or to visit them at lunch. Mostly, I love when a teacher has a strong enough relationship with a student that the student will work hard because of that relationship. This is what it is about. With positive relationships comes learning and accountability, because we can leverage the power of what we have built with the kids we work with. This is what I look for when I hire a teacher.

important part of my job is hiring staff. Over the years, I know I have been a part of or been in charge of hundreds of interviews.

As a young man in my 20s, I remember interviewing for several teaching positions. In my mid 30s, I interviewed for three administrative jobs, and most recently, five years ago, for my current position as Principal at North Woods.

I have been on both sides of the table many times.

In college, I interviewed for a part-time job working at a lumberyard in Bemidji. The job was to work outside in the yard loading up customers' purchases, unloading delivery trucks, and making material deliveries to job sites for contractors. While the talent pool was likely not very deep (I think I was the only applicant), I got the job! It was a fun job, actually, with a lot of independence. Initially, it seemed to have little to do with my future as an educator.

In hindsight it was very related to what my future held, because working and dealing with people from all walks of life was, and still is, part of what we do.

I learned which contractors were nice and which ones always wanted a delivery yesterday and in a different locaabout the cost. I learned that the mom in the minivan whose husband sent her on an errand to pick up building materials is very appreciative of the help to find what she needs and have it loaded onto the roof rack of the van.

Working in the lumberyard actually taught me more about working with diverse populations than much of my college experience. It taught me that personality and the ability to work with others in challenging situations are critical, and this a large part of what I do now.

When hiring teaching staff, I think about this a lot. What I am actually hiring is a personality and a teammate. Who were your best teachers? They were the ones who motivated you and treated you with kindness. They held you accountable and let you know the parameters and expectations. They were not afraid to talk to you about fishing, then social studies, and also not afraid to tell you that you are out of line. They were able to accomplish this because they were masters of creating relationships.

I am not discounting the importance of the material that we teach. For eleven years, I taught band. I loved music, loved the content. My favorite genres were patriotic marches, like E.E. Bagley's "National Emblem"

Cook Lions Club member Denise Parson presents a \$250 donation for North Woods fifth-grade teachers Jenny Panichi and Rachel Johnson to attend Starbase STEM math, science and engineering activities in Duluth. Teacher Jenny Panichi and students Tysen Lenzen, Brock VanTassell and Nevaeh Wipf help hold up the check. The Cook Lions have donated over \$2,500 to the North Woods school this year. submitted photo

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#### CITY OF TOWER

## Council seeks to bring ambulance service into legal compliance State EMS regulatory board cites the city's longtime lack of written on-call schedule

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER- The city council took steps to improve staffing of the city's ambulance service, authorizing the hiring of eight new emergency medical responders upon the completion of their training and licensure, expected later this month. Potential new hires include Shawn Gawboy, John Harju, Jessie Hinkel, Christine Johnson, April Wamhof, Gabby Suihkonen, Hemi Ranua, and Victoria Ranua, all of whom have been undergoing EMR training the past few weeks.

The council also approved the purchase of new scheduling software for the ambulance service in the wake of the council's decision last month to begin implementing a 24-hour, written on-call schedule. The service has been out of compliance with state law for years for its failure to implement such a schedule and that was a point made emphatically by Charles Soucheray, EMS Specialist with the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board, or EMSRB.

The EMSRB is in the process of conducting a review of the Tower ambulance service and had conducted interviews with a wide variety of individuals in Tower earlier this month.

'During our interviews, we identified two areas of regulatory concern and offered two recommendations for imme-

diate implementation," wrote Soucheray in a May 6 memo to the city. Soucheray recommended that the city implement the on-call schedule immediately and that the service initiate what are known as "12-hour agreements" with neighboring ambulance services to designate coverage during periods the Tower service can't fully staff.

'Typically, we recommend that services undergoing an assessment hold off on making any changes until the final recommendations are presented. However, the team felt that these two recommendations, if implemented now, would improve the situation in Tower, bring the service into compliance, and relieve some pressure on current staff." Soucheray added.

While the service may not be able to staff all hours on the schedule currently, Soucheray wrote that the schedule will help to identify where staffing gaps exist and make appropriate use of its mutual aid partners.

Under 12-hour agreements, neighboring services would agree to cover any portions of the schedule that the Tower service was unable to fill. The city already has mutual aid agreements with several neighboring departments, but the agreements don't provide for the kind of gap coverage the EMSRB is

recommending.

'This is brand new to 'said Tower Ambulance Director Dena Suihkonen, "so it will take a little time to research." Suihkonen said she'll be exploring the topic and would come back to the council to approve any modified agreements with its mutual aid partners.

The council had questions about the scheduling software and whether the city had the funds to cover the \$2,995 cost. Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua said the ambulance service can afford the software and predicted that the product, known as Aladtec, would likely save the city money through improved staff efficiency. Suihkonen noted that the software not only allows ambulance staff to self-schedule, it also calculates the payroll for each employee. Currently, Suihkonen said payroll processing for the ambulance crew is an inefficient threestep process and that the new program will save her time. Since Suihkonen is an hourly employee, that could translate into cost savings for the ambulance service.

#### **River ordinance**

In other action, the council approved a recommendation by Ranua to establish a committee to develop a new city ordinance governing the management of the East Two River between the harbor and Lake Vermilion. Ranua noted that the city invested \$1.36 million in dredging of the river several years ago, along with additional maintenance costs, which were not well-tracked in the past. She said the river will likely require at least some maintenance dredging every five to fifteen years in-order-to remove sedimentation at the mouth of the river. "There is no funding plan in place for any maintenance activity," Ranua stated in a prepared agenda memo on the topic. "While grants may be available for this task, it will likely require matching funds for which the city has not planned,' she added.

At the same time, Ranua noted that the city is getting requests to cut through the river pilings to allow residential boat access and that the city has no ordinance in place for how to address those requests and protect the river channel from excess sedimentation.

"An ordinance is the best way to establish allowed uses within the channel over things we have control over," wrote Ranua.

"I don't think we can control the river," said council member Sheldon Majerle. Ranua acknowledged that the Army Corps and the DNR have authority over many aspects of the river, but she said she believes the city does have control over some things. "We can control cutting into the pilings," she said. As part of developing an ordinance, Ranua said she

would reach out to both the Army Corps and the DNR to ensure the city isn't overstepping its authority."That should help us generate more information about the city's role," she said.

City engineer Matt Bolf agreed that an ordinance would be valuable. "We can control where we're going to allow cutins, how wide they will be and how property owners will stabilize the channel to prevent erosion. We can determine how far a dock sticks out," he said.

MayorOrlynKringstad and council member Kevin Norby agreed to take part in the ad hoc committee along with the city engineer, the city attorney, and the clerk-treasurer to work on a new ordinance.

In other business, the council:

> Approved an agreement and an encumbrance letter outlining and dedicating funding sources for the Pine Street reconstruction. At the same time, council member Kevin Norby urged the city to identify a contingency plan for any project overruns. The estimated project cost has already increased as a result of rising materials prices, but Bolf agreed with Norby that cost overruns can often occur with projects that involve underground work. "You never know everything that's down there," he said. "Not every project is going to have an overage, but it's wise to budget for that," he said.

 Canceled plans for a closed session to discuss "threatened litigation" over a dispute centered on the Fair Labor Standards Act.

 Approved a contract with SEH totaling \$198,100 to conduct an airport master plan and airport layout plan update. The project will receive 100 percent federal funding.

➤ Heard a report from grants manager Nancy Larson under public input. Larson said the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission is ready to move forward with a master trails plan for the city beginning on July 1. She said the council will need to appoint a steering committee to work with ARDC in the planning process.

➤Heard and approved a request from Jarri Ankrum, with the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board, to cover the cost of lighting fireworks over the 4th of July weekend as well as the cost of additional liability insurance. Ankrum said the events board would reimburse the city 100 percent following the festivities. Currently, the events board plans to stage the fireworks on Saturday night, July 3.

➤ Heard a report from council member Dave Setterberg that updates to ordinances number 1, 2, 3, and 24 are currently under review by the city attorney.

**BOOK**...Continued from page 1

the high school junior-level English class.

"Eventually, this could come to the board, but right now it is not there," he said. "Hopefully, this will get resolved internally so that doesn't have to come to us. We are a way from that."

At an April school board meeting, a district parent voiced his objection to a book on the eleventh-grade English required reading list and requested the board remove the book from the list. Parent Chad Davis, who has a son in the class, initially asked for clarification on how the book came to be donated to the school district, how it was accepted, and how the decision was made to have the title included in the high school English curriculum. Funds were donated by the Ely Empower group to the school district late last year, according to Superintendent Erik Erie. Decisions on specific books included in school curriculum are made by the school staff and administration. The book in question is "I am Still Here, Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness," by Austin Channing Brown. The book was published in 2018 by Crown Publishing Group. The New York Times bestseller is described this way: "From a leading voice on racial justice, an eye-opening account of growing up Black, Christian, and female that exposes how white America's love affair with 'diversity' so often falls short of its ideals."

In raising his objections, Davis said, "I read the book. (It is) a book filled with hate speech, racial division, anti-white rhetoric and cancel culture all rooted in critical race theory. This book isn't written well, nor has it any literary value. It is one person's jaded perspective about a specific race," he said. Davis, along with some other parents, sent an email describing their concerns to the English teacher, James Lah, 6-12 Principal Megan Anderson, Erie and the school board. A virtual online meeting was held, involving Davis, Lah and Anderson. "Little to nothing was accomplished other than the book will not be removed and will continue to be required reading," Davis said to the school board last month. Since the controversy arose, Marsnik said he researched the issue and looked at how dozens of other school districts address such issues. He said he consulted with the Minnesota School Board Association about school board policy on the issue. "They recommend that we adopt Policy 606 that deals with textbooks and instructional materials," he said. "This is one policy that we do not have now."

"to be responsible for the development of guidelines and procedures to identify the steps that are followed for reconsideration of textbooks and instructional materials."

'We do not have that, but this is something we can add to our policy, and with that we set up a chain of responsibility," he said, "starting with a citizen complaint and ending with any school board involve-

#### **Facilities project**

The \$20 million school building renovation project is off and running. Erie reported to board members that the asbestos abatement project is underway in the Industrial Arts building and former boiler building.

Asbestos must be removed before those structures can be demolished to make room for new construction.

"They did find asbestos in the boiler building and removed that. This week they moved exclusively into the Industrial Arts building," he said.

approvals at a special meeting on Monday, May 24.

"ARI (the district's project architect) was here last week with flooring and wall samples to consider," Erie said.

A building project groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, May 27 at 11 a.m. The public is invited to the event.

#### Other business

reduced from 55 minutes to 50 minutes.

► Agreed to return to in-person regular school board meetings with the remote attendance option available for the public.

➤Hired Tim Hogan for the Industrial Technology teacher position, beginning Aug. 30.

► Accepted the resignation of Caleb Cowden from the temporary parttime custodian position.

Marsnik said the MSBA policy allows for the district superintendent

ment.

School board member Rochelle Sjoberg said emails from parents on the issue continue to be sent to the district. "The emails are directed at us to make a decision, and we are clearly not at that level yet," she said.

Erie told school board members that the Memorial School English Department reviewed the book and the curriculum ban request. "They will have a recommendation that will go to the 6-12 principal. The principal will make a recommendation and it will be discussed at our advisory council committee later this month," he said. "And there are appeals processes in place. That has been communicated to those families that brought this to your attention."

Any adopted school district policy is required to go through three readings at consecutive school board meetings before approval. The school board will discuss the issue at an upcoming study session.

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Babbitt Shopping Center

The Phase 2 construction bid tabulation is scheduled to occur in the high school media center this week. The school board will consider bid recommendations from project construction managers Kraus-Anderson and make

In other business, the board:

► Adopted the modification of the school calendar to end on June 2 for elementary students due to the construction project.

► Approved the elementary school science curriculum review report.

► Approved a cost-neutral seven-period school day for the 2021-22 school year, with class times

Accepted the resignations of paraprofessionals Kim Anderson, Kaylor Nicolson and Jason Linkous.

► Adopted a resolution relating to the termination and non-renewal of the teaching contract of Timothy Singleton, a probationary teacher.

> Approved Kelly Noble as assistant volleyball coach.

#### May 22: Let the Shopping Begin!

We are excited to announce Ely's 10th Annual Citywide Rummage, Business Crazy Day, and Used Equipment & Watercraft Sale.



- Citywide Rummage Sale 8 am 4 pm
- Business Crazy Day and Used Equipment & Watercraft Sale times vary
- Event maps available starting Monday, May 17 online at Ely.org/citywide or paper copies at the Chamber office

Remember those coupon books that came out each May? Well, this year we have a coupon card. Stop by the Chamber office on Saturday, May 22 to receive your card. These cards are convenient to carry and eco-friendly too.



1600 E. Sheridan Street, Ely 218-365-6123 Fun@Ely.org

Check out our new website at Ely.org



#### **REF**...Continued from page 1 —

granddaughters Hailie and Emma Peterson, 14 and 13, respectively, were in the lineup for Cherry, the Grizzlies' opponent, and Peterson was behind the plate.

And during the game, for just a tiny moment, the umpire became a great-grandfather.

"Emma got up there and there was a high pitch coming in and she looked like she was going to swing and I said, 'Don't swing'" Peterson said with a hear,ty laugh. "I did. I told my wife that this morning and she said, 'What do you think that catcher thought of you? You can see how it happened. 'Don't swing,' I said. I don't know if she listened."

Of course, Peterson admitted, it wasn't the first time he ended up giving an edge to a family member. That honor went to his grandson Dusty, who played

nose guard for the Cook High football team in a game against Cook County that Peterson refereed.

"You kind of watch your grandkid a little bit, so there were a lot of holding calls against Cook County," Peterson said. "Their coach, he knew me pretty well, and he said, 'Petey, I never had so many holding calls in all my career.' And I said, 'I might as well tell you that my grandson was the nose guard.

And he said, 'I knew there was something going on.' Early days Peterson attended

school in Littlefork, graduating in 1960, and it was no secret just how much he loved sports. "In my annual they

wrote in there that when Bill Peterson passes away and goes to heaven he'll ask where the sports field is," Peterson recalls.

It was also at the school

in Littlefork where Peterson had perhaps his most memorable strikeout, but it had nothing to do with baseball and everything to do with a girl, his future wife, Edie.

"She was two years vounger, and I was in a study hall, and she came in for library time. I saw that girl and I thought, 'Boy, that's a nice-looking girl." Peterson asked another girl to go over to Edie and ask her if she would go out with him.

Her response was strikes one, two and three all rolled into one crushing answer.

"If he wants to go out with me, he has to ask me himself." Peterson said.

He didn't in that moment, but then came prom. Peterson's friends set him up with a blind date, and while Edie was too young to attend, she was there serving punch. Peterson stepped away from his date to seize the moment.

"I asked her to dance and asked her if she cared to go to a movie tomorrow, and she accepted," he said, smiling.

And what about his prom date?

"I had to go home early because somebody told her at a party we were at, and they said you'd better get out of here because she's got a butcher knife and she's coming after you. I got in my car to go home and left her there. I wasn't going to get stabbed."

#### Refereeing

**BillandEdiegotmarried** in 1962 after she graduated from high school, the same year Peterson decided to try refereeing football. He had a good mentor and partner, his father, who was a referee and also shared Peterson's love of sports. He did that for four years but stepped away when he went to work in a mill. "I always wanted to get back into it," Peterson said. The Petersons moved to Cook in 1972 or 1973, Peterson said, when he was a supervisor with Boise Cascade.When the company wanted him to move back to International Falls in the 80s, the Petersons decided to stay in Cook.

That's when Peterson saw a chance to get back into refereeing.

"I loved to go to a football game on a Friday night, and I thought why not go referee it on the field," Peterson said. "And then I got basketball, baseball, and softball and I've been doing it since."

It was clear at last week's softball game that Peterson enjoys being around the kids. He would have conversations with some before the start of a new inning and welcome others to the plate.

At times, like when he





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sees a basketball player on the verge of committing an infraction, Peterson steps into the role of teacher, letting the player know what they're doing wrong before he blows his whistle.

Having developed a thick skin early on to deflect inevitable criticism from the stands, Peterson loves nearly everything about refereeing, except those times when he gets something wrong.

"It bothers you," he said. "It's just like playing, you want to do it right. And it's just like playing, that some nights you have a great night. The best feeling you can have is when you walk off a basketball floor or a football field or a baseball field and nobody even knows you were there."

On the cusp of turning 80, Peterson shows no signs of slowing down, although he did give up refereeing basketball four years ago when it became more work than fun. He often works four or five games a week, and he's forthcoming that he couldn't have done it all these years without Edie at his side.

"She knew, even when she went with me, that sports were big in my life," Peterson said. "I was the jock of the school and she knew that. Every official, their wife has to be patient for them to go out every night and referee. She's been pretty patient with me all along. She knows I love it."

#### **PAST**...Continued from page 1

area had answered the call of the nation and were engaged on the battlefields of Europe in the "great war" we know today as World War I. Much closer to home, the first two weeks of October were scarred by massive fires that started near Cloquet and Moose Lake, blazes that destroyed 38 communities, scorched 1,500 square miles, displaced 52,000 people, and claimed the lives of more than 450 others.

However, Maude Campaigne was a casualty of a third great tribulation, the Spanish influenza epidemic.

Some historians believe the worldwide epidemic had its roots in the United States, with the first case identified at Fort Riley, Kansas. in March and taken throughout the country and abroad by thousands of U.S. soldiers. Other theories point to France, China, or Great Britain. No one knows for certain, although the epidemic got its name because Spain was particularly hard hit.

By the time the epidemic had run its course in 1919, four waves of the disease had claimed 20 to 50 million lives worldwide and 675,000 Americans.

The North Country, including Tower, escaped the first wave, but not the second that came in the fall. Publisher Frank C. Burgess chronicled the toll the epidemic took on life in Tower and Soudan in the pages of the Tower Weekly News, printed every Friday, and although the surge was over and gone in a little more than a month, many of his descriptions read as portents of the coronavirus pandemic of 2020-21.

#### **Beginnings**

The first inkling of influenza was a simple line in the Oct. 11 local news items: "Mrs. Geo. Kitto is quite sick with the grippe." Illnesses and hospitalizations in those days were news to be shared, unlike the strict confidentiality of health information today.

On the front page of next week's newspaper Burgess featured a large informational piece about Spanish influenza, written by physician and Board of Health member R.L.Burns, who concluded the article by saying, "Fortunately, Tower and Soudan have so far escaped the epidemic, but there is cause for vigilance and care." Perhaps of greater immediate interest was a report that electricity service was being curtailed temporarily because of low water levels in the Pike River and reservoir that powered the generator.



The Campaigne family marker in Lakeview Cemtery in Tower. photo by D. Colburn

#### Epidemic strikes

There wasn't an Oct. 25 edition in the Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub holdings, but it was clear from the abundance of news in the Nov. 1 newspaper that influenza had grown into a major problem.

Burgess published a proclamation from Mayor I. G. Ketcham closing the schools and directing "all people be and are hereby requested to remain within the private boundaries of their respective domiciles" - a quarantine. Ketcham's order was far-reaching, closing "the local theater, all lodges, churches, gatherings and meetings of every kind." Businesses could remain open but were directed not to allow any people to congregate.

Seven individuals with varying degrees of influenza were named, with only one, William Holter, reported to still be sick. No new cases had been reported since Tuesday, Oct. 29, and Soudan was said to be entirely free of it. However, the Vermilion Lake Indian boarding school was a different story.

"Vermilion Lake Indian school has been a veritable hot-bed for the disease, however, there having been as many as 31 cases there at one time since it was first discovered last Saturday." Two deaths at the school were reported – 12-year-old Ellen Boyd and the six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sam.

Conditions had also been dire in Ely, Burgess reported.

"Matt Herranen, who is in town today from Ely, says the influenza epidemic there is still a serious problem, although no new cases have been reported since Wednesday. A large number of deaths have occurred, however, these ranging from four to seven daily for a week or more." The Nov. 8 edition of the paper had more sad news. William Chester Holter, 21, and Indian school student Rhodie Calf, 6, died earlier that week.

Dr. Burns was featured again, this time with a grim assessment. "The general situation is far worse than is represented and is likely to be even worse in the immediate future," he wrote. "We want to get everybody inoculated as soon as possible. There is a liberal supply of the vaccine at both Tower and Soudan hospitals, furnished by the Steel corporation, and everyone there is urged to make use of it."

Information about social restrictions was repeated, and this time an additional precaution was added for businesses.

"Persons in business houses who are daily coming in contact with patrons and are inside most of the time should wear handkerchiefs or masks over their mouth and nose as a protection." Masking when caring for an infected person had been recommended weeks before. As the world celebrated the news reported in the Nov. 15 Tower Weekly News that the "GREAT WORLD WAR IS OVER," locals also mourned the news of the passing of 24-year-old Miss Maude Campaigne, daughter of Mrs. W.H.

Campaigne, who died at the McIntire hospital in Virginia. The families of more than 3,000 healthcare workers who have died from COVID-19 could sadly empathize with Mrs. Campaigne, as "When taken ill, Miss Maude was engaged as head nurse at the hospital in which she died, a position she had held for several months."

#### Winding down

By the time the Nov. 22 edition was published, the general consensus was that the epidemic was on the decline in Tower and Soudan. Dr. Burns compiled a report of the extent of the epidemic up to that point. He counted 50 cases in Soudan, 23 in Tower, and 39 at the Indian school. Four deaths were reported at the Indian school, none in Soudan, and one in Tower. The Tower death toll Burns reported was in conflict with previous newspaper reports. Soudan had 670 people vaccinated and Tower had 525, but none were vaccinated at the Indian school.

The news was mixed again on Nov. 29 when the mayor rescinded restrictions and "the lid was taken off everything except dancing. Tower and Soudan have indeed been fortunate and if our good luck will only continue there will be double reasons for rejoicing."

However, there was also the death of another young woman to report.

"Mrs. Sophia Maki, age 32, died last evening at her home on North Third street. Mrs. Maki was taken ill just a week ago with influenza, from which pneumonia developed, but was getting along nicely until yesterday morning when she gave birth to a baby boy. In her weakened condition she was unable to withstand the ordeal." But by the first week in December, news of the epidemic was reduced to a single paragraph in the local news items on the back page of the paper.

"Tower, Soudan and the Indian school are entirely free of the influenza," Burgess wrote. "There has not been a new case at either place for more than two weeks. There are a few cases in the nearby farming districts but conditions there have improved greatly over a week ago and the disease appears to have about spent itself in this district."

From beginning to end, the influenza epidemic held sway in Tower, Soudan, and the Vermilion Lake Indian school for about two months, 12 months fewer than COVID-19 has been threatening health, claiming lives, and disrupting daily lives here and across the country. One can only wonder if the coronavirus will have the longevity of the many strains of the influenza virus that live on since the disastrous "grippe" that held the entire world in its sickly grasp.

Ely Community Health Center Open Every Thursday 5:30-7 p.m. Providing NO COST basic healthcare and referrals 111 S 4th Ave E, Ely Volunteer opportunities also available Volunteer opportunities also available



#### May 17, 2021 = TAX DAY 2021

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#### **FUNDING**...Continued from page 1

which the township doesn't qualify for.

St. Louis County may also have funding available through federal CARES Act monies, Ralston said.

Supervisor Barb Lofquist, who is chairing the township broadband committee, said IRRR Commissioner Mark Phillips, who attended their committee meeting, had given them contacts of local officials with experience completing these applications.

The township already has many of the pieces required for the application in place. The board decided to see if deputy treasurer Tammy Mortaloni, who has done some grant writing for the township previously, could put the application together.

The board also voted to dedicate the first half of the \$110,000 in CARES funding it is set to receive to its share of any broadband project costs, as well as the \$97,000 the township has in its community enhancement fund, which previously was used to provide low-interest loans for septic system replacement or construction.

Ralston said he had been talking with Nick Skarich about bonding possibilities, if needed.

#### Recreation board update

Recreation Board member Jarri Ankrum updated the board on the township's recreation facilities. The pavilion and tennis court are both open and being used. A new bocce ball league is being organized and more information will be available soon. The group planted three new maple trees by the pavilion and will be watering as needed.



Greenwood supervisors Barb Lofquist and Sue Drobac get ready for the first in-person board meeting on Tuesday. photo by J. Summit

Ankrum asked the board to consider adopting a policy on tennis court use, setting a time limit on court use if another party is waiting to play. Pickleball is being played on the court most weekday mornings.

## Information request policy changed

"The clerk's job is to be here for the public," said Drobac, who used to serve as township clerk. "Why are we charging the public for an information request that takes less than five minutes. I would like to have information requests at no charge."

Ralston noted the township had changed the policy after some information requests got difficult.

"There was quite a bit of time spent by the clerk," he said.

Drobac amended her motion to state that requests that require under 15 minutes of time and fewer than 25 copies should be free of charge, though costs such as postage or a thumb drive would be billed.

Drobac said she would bring a draft of the new policy to next month's meeting. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

#### **Respect policy**

Drobac asked the board to review the current township policy on behavior which states that representatives and employees should not distribute disparaging, harassing, or threatening emails about fellow representatives, employees, or citizens of the township, and that all representatives, employees and citizens should be respectful and courteous to each other.

Drobac had received an email from fire department employee Jeff Maus which detailed multiple incidents at a recent fire department meeting when such behavior was directed against Maus by a fire department official and another member while the fire chief was present and did nothing to step in. The verbal threats included threats of violence against Maus.

"The above action is a clear violation of Greenwood policy and has no place in the workplace," Maus said. Maus said he spoke with Chief Fazio about the incident after the meeting, but said to his knowledge Fazio had not followed up on the incident. "These are violations

of our policies," said Drobac. "We need to use our board policies to better help our township."

When asked about the incident, Fazio had no clear response. He indicated the situation arose in reaction to Maus's publishing a paid ad in the Timberjay which showed fire department and township officials not wearing masks, as required, during a fire department meeting. Maus has repeatedly angered fire department and township officials for reporting on safety and workplace violations in the department.

Fazio said it was harassment to put that picture in the paper, and said it was their interpretation that it was harassment that caused the behavior at the fire department meeting.

Drobac and Lofquist added that their pictures had been placed in the *Tower News*, prior to the election, and suggested that DeLuca had given the photo to the *Tower News*, which DeLuca then denied. Ralston noted this was not related to the topic on the table.

"Sue handed out a letter and we are dealing with the letter," Ralston said. Though DeLuca disagreed and added "and harassment of myself." Then Clerk Spicer added "and myself."

"We have policies and they need to be respected," Drobac. "None of this should be happening."

"I agree but some people don't respect it," said DeLuca.

#### **Other business**

In other business, the board:

➤ Tabled the approval of last month's minutes after Drobac noted the minutes discussed a change to the pavilion rental policy, but didn't include what the change actually entailed.

➤ Has added public comments back onto the monthly agenda now that meetings are being held in person.

► Voted on a motion by Drobac to have additional information from both the clerk and treasurer (schedule 1 forms) included in the monthly packet. The motion failed on a 2-2 vote, with DeLuca and Ralston voting against. Drobac noted this form, completed by both the clerk and treasurer, need to match each month. A difference had been noted at this year's Board of Audit, and was subsequently corrected. Clerk Debby Spicer said she doesn't have the information in time to include it in the meeting packet. Ralston noted that the information is reviewed at the Board of Audit.

• Approved a motion to have both the deputy treasurer and deputy clerk submit a monthly accounting of their duties, along with hours submitted. The deputy treasurer is currently doing additional work, not related to the deputy treasurer duties. The clerk has not yet appointed a deputy clerk. Drobac offered to create a new form to document this information.

➤ Referred a request by Lofquist to increase the annual pension amount for EMS staff from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year to the fire department for preliminary approval.

➤ This is a separate pension from the firefighters PERA fund. Lofquist noted the training and call requirements are more stringent than for firefighters.

► Discussed making updates to the website.

➤ Approved a quote of \$2,548 from Advanced Door in Eveleth to replace an overhead door in the fire hall that was damaged. DeLuca noted the doors are about 40 years old, and the new door will be better insulated. The board also approved having the company repair some panels in the other door.

➤ Approved a \$100 donation to the Tower-Soudan Fourth of July Committee.

➤ Approved a\$100 donation to the Lake Vermilion Chamber on a 3-1 vote, with DeLuca voting against. Declined to donate to the Tower Cemetery on a 2-2 vote, with DeLuca and Ralston voting against.

➤ Heard an update on the possible paving project on Birch Point Extension. The township will not hear if they have received funding for the project until June or early July.





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#### BASEBALL



## **T-wolves top Mesabi East** Veterans Memorial Showcase set for Friday-Saturday

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

ELY — Timberwolves senior Will Davies struck out eight, while scattering seven hits as Ely blew out a depleted Mesabi East squad 17-11 here

Left: Ely senior pitcher Will Davies winds to deliver during Tuesday's match-up with Mesabi East. photo by K. Vandervort on Tuesday afternoon. With three Giants starters out based on COVID-19 protocols, Ely relied on timely hitting from sophomore Erron Anderson, who went 3-3, scoring three times and notching two RBIs. Junior Jacob Towley added two hits for Ely while scoring twice and driving in three runs.

Ely benefitted from MesabiEastmiscues,racking up several unearned runs in the five-inning contest.

Ely jumped to an early lead, but a five-run third inning for the Giants knotted the score at 7-7. Ely answered with three runs in the bottom of the frame to take a 10-7 lead and never looked back, cruising the rest of the way. The win improved the Wolves' record to 5-6 as they head into their Veterans Memorial Showcase, set for both Friday and Saturday in Ely.

"We're still trying to piece together some combinations as we near the playoffs," said Ely Head Coach Frank Ivancich. "We played some good teams this past week and we have certainly been competitive, with some of our

See ELY...pg. 2B



Back-to-back wins lift Ely

GOLF NW boys win third tourney

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- It appears the North Woods boy golf team likes to spread the riches, as the Grizzlies had their third top medalist of the season on Monday in the Mesabi East Invitational.

Sam Frazee turned the trick this time, firing a sizzling 77 to finish three strokes clear of the rest of the field. He joins prior top medalists Ian Olson and Davis Kleppe.

"Sam was definitely dialed in yesterday. He was hitting his targets and his putting was excellent," Coach Will Kleppe said. "Sam is a golfer who can think his way around a golf course and the clubs he pulled reflected that. A course like The Quarry, when played from the blue tees, makes you hit some narrow landing points if you want to bomb a driver all day. Sam played smart on his tee shots and gave himself a great opportunity to hit greens and his score reflected that."

North Woods also ran away with the team title, outdistancing second-place

## Timberwolves look to advance in section ranking after topping MI-B

#### by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY- Back-to-back wins in the past week advanced the Timberwolves softball team's ranking to fifth-place in the Section 7A North subsection, success that could impact seedings in the upcoming playoffs.

And with Monday's 7-6 win over Mt. Iron-Buhl, which improved the team's record to 5-5, Ely has a good chance to move up a spot.

Ely is currently ranked fifth out of nine teams, right behind fourth-ranked Littlefork-Big Falls and third-ranked Mt. Iron-Buhl. "The victory Monday night was not only a confidence booster but a seeding win for us as well," said Coach Cory Lassi. "I'll take a 5-5 record right now with how young we are," Lassi said. "I told the team that a couple of focused wins could mean a lot in our section ranking."

Ely trailed by two runs heading into the seventh against the Rangers. But in a nail-biting rally, they scored three runs, including a play at the plate, for the win. "It went back and forth all game," Lassi said. "They went up 2-0. We cut it to 2-1, then we went up 4-2. They came back and made it 6-4 in the top of the sixth."

In the seventh inning, Ely's top of the order was set to bat. "Charly Flom reached on an error. Rachel Coughlin rapped a single. Sydni Richards added a single to load the bases with nobody out. Kate Coughlin hit a grounder back to the pitcher but the only play was to first base. The run scored cut the lead to 6-5," Lassi said.

With the winning run on second base and one out, Katrina Seliskar hit a grounder to second. "Our runner on third base scored and I sent Sydni home. The ball thrown from first actually beat her to the plate but she put a really nice slide on to get underneath the tag."

Richards led the charge at the plate, belting out three hits in four at bats with an RBI. The Timberwolves team amassed 10 hits for the night, with Madeline Kallberg and Charly Flom adding two hits each

Katrina Seliskar added two RBIs, helping her cause. From the mound, she gave up seven hits and struck out four.

"It is nice to be put in those types of positions that give the girls a chance to battle for the win. It was a fun atmosphere," he said.

The Wolves rapped out 14 hits last Friday as they downed North Woods 10-5 (see separate story). It was a nice recovery after suffering a 15-0 shutout at the hands of Eveleth-Gilbert last Thursday. Sydni Richards and Rachel Coughlin were the only Ely batters to get hits. As a team, the Timberwolves struck out 11 times.

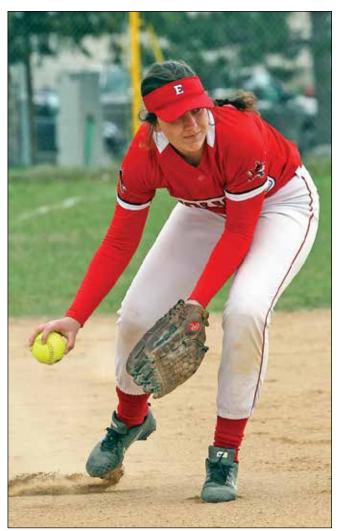
"Our team batting average

See WOLVES...pg. 2B

Above: Ely senior Sydni Richards slides safe into second base in a steal attempt last Thursday against Eveleth-Gilbert. Ely went on to lose to the Golden Bears, but they rebounded with back-to-back wins later in the week.

Below: Sophomore Rachel Coughlin eyes first base as she picks up a grounder.

photos by K. Vandervort



See BOYS GOLF...pg. 2B

## NW girls show promise on the course

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods girls golf team got good performances from Morgan Burnett and Tori Olson at the Mesabi 18-hole tournament on Monday at The Quarry at Giants Ridge.

Burnett toured the challenging course in 100 strokes, good enough for fourth place. Olson was close behind with 103 and seventh place. Madison Dantes finished 18th with a score of 119, while Abbigail Shuster placed 27th and Lauren Burnett finished 28th. The Grizzlies placed third as a team.

At Virginia last Thursday the Grizzlies slipped to fourth in the team standings. Morgan Burnett shot a 94, two strokes better than Tori Olson. Lauren Burnett shot 116, Abbigail Shuster shot 118, and Madison Dantes had a score of 125.

It was a third-place team finish for the Grizzlies on May 5 in the Bronco invitational. Leading the way was Tori Olson with a score of 110, followed by Morgan Burnett, 117, Madison Dantes, 118, Abbigail Shuster, 132, and Lauren Burnett, 132.

Head Coach Kandi Olson sees some good things happening with her golfers, and with a break from tourna-

See GIRLS GOLF..pg. 2B

#### THE LEGISLATURE

# GOP turns to hardball over Clean Car rules

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

**REGIONAL- A Republican** state senator issued an ultimatum to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) last week: halt proposed new "clean car" emissions standards now or watch state parks close and millions of dollars for environmental initiatives disappear come July 1.

Speaking on May 4 to a virtual conference committee meeting of Senate and House legislators working on the omnibus environment budget, Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen, R-Alexandria, took the hardline stance against new rules that would boost the number of zero-emissions electric vehicles in the state and improve air quality standards. The budget will not move forward, Ingebrigtsen said, unless the proposed rules come off the table and the Senate's version of the budget is agreed to.

Rep. Rick Hansen, DFL-South St. Paul, delineated the scope of Ingebrigtsen's demand.

"So, if there's not a repeal of the authority for the Clean Car rulemaking coming out of this conference committee, then the budgets for BWSR (the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources), the Minnesota Zoo, the LCCR (Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources), the Conservation Corps, the Science Museum, the Board of Water and Soil Resources the MPCA and the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) will not happen, unless we accede to the Senate position, is that correct, Sen. Ingebrigtsen?"

"Rep. Hansen, that is exactly correct," Ingebrigtsen said.

Without an environment budget agreement there would be no new funding for those entities as of July 1. The biggest loser would be the DNR, which could lose \$9.8 million in general fund dollars.

"If we do not have a budget for the fiscal year we don't operate," DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen told the committee, noting that all state parks would have to close.

But the cuts in the Senate version of the budget would have far reaching impacts, slashing funds for programs as diverse as combating chronic wasting disease in deer to cleaning up chemicals in water supplies.

Two days later, Ingebrigtsen and Republicans backed away from demanding a total repeal of MPCA's authority to issue clean car emissions rules, offering instead a proposal for a two-year delay that would push adoption of the rules to 2024, along with a lengthy list of items from the House version of the bill that they would agree to. However, Ingebrigtsen made it clear on Monday that if House conferees did not agree to the two-year moratorium the budget would not move ahead.

"There were three different offers that were made to the MPCA last year, all of which were turned down, and here we are again," Ingebrigtsen said. "The whole thing is contingent on the California emission standards that the MCPA has put forward. We've already compromised on the California emission standards. We've already compromised from a full repeal to a two-year moratorium."

Given that the federal government requires a two-year waiting period between the time new rules are approved and when they go into effect, the moratorium would push the effective date of the rules out to 2026.

Hansen flatly rejected the moratorium proposal. The House conference committee members offered a counterproposal on Tuesday, its third, that reinforced their opposition to a moratorium on implementing the rules.

#### **Impasse roots**

While the federal Clean Air

Act gives the Environmental Protection Agency the power to regulate air pollution from vehicles, California was given an exemption to develop more stringent regulations. No other state is allowed to develop its own regulations, but they can choose to adopt the stricter California regulations if they wish, which 14 states and the District of Columbia have done.

In the fall of 2019, at the direction of Gov. Tim Walz, the MCPA initiated a process to create new rules for vehicle emissions standards based on the California model. As affirmed last week in a ruling by Judge Jessica Palmer-Denig, an administrative law judge, the MCPA has the legal authority to develop and implement such rules without having to go through the Legislature. At the crux of the dispute are the rules involving zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) that generate fewer emissions linked to global warming and which don't produce tailpipe pollution. In addition to battery-powered electric vehicles, the ZEV standard also includes plug-in hybrid models combining gasoline-powered engines with rechargeable batteries and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

If the new rules for Minnesota are enacted this year, beginning in 2024 automotive manufacturers and automotive dealerships would be required to boost the availability of ZEVs in the state. Manufacturers would have to ensure specific levels of ZEV shipments, and dealerships would have to alter their inventories to offer Minnesotans more ZEV choices. The MPCA reports that fewer than half of the 40 models currently sold in the U.S. are available in Minnesota.

The proposed rules generated immediate pushback from skeptical lawmakers on both sides of the aisle at the outset of the 2020 legislative session. Ingebrigtsen was out front with his concerns, and so, too, was Sen. Tom Bakk, of Cook, at the time still a member of the DFL, who favored an incentive-based approach rather than a regulatory one.

The Minnesota Automobile Dealers Association, which represents the state's franchised new car and truck dealers, has been an outspoken opponent of the new rules from the beginning, and in January 2021 filed an unsuccessful lawsuit to block the rules.

"From the beginning, the MPCA has shown little understanding of how our industry operates and dismissed our concerns and good faith efforts to discuss other options," said MADA President Scott Lambert when the lawsuit was filed.

For her part, MCPA Commissioner Laura Bishop and ZEV supporters have consistently promoted the benefits of the new rules for reducing greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change, reducing carbon emissions to meet state goals and improve public health, and creating more consumer choice.

The controversy is playing out against the backdrop of Minnesota's 2007 Next Generation Energy Act, which received broad bipartisan support when it was passed. The act required reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the state of 15 percent by 2015, 30 percent by 2025, and 80 percent by 2050. The state missed the 2015 goal by almost half, with reductions from electricity generation showing the most improvement. Subsequently, the trend in emissions headed the other direction, as other sectors saw increases or small decreases from 2016 to 2018. The most recent report to the Legislature stated that "the trend in emissions indicates Minnesota will not meet its Next Generation Energy Act goals without significant action in all sectors."

Transportation is now the largest source of greenhouse

gas emissions in Minnesota, the report said, accounting for about one quarter of the total emissions in the state.

#### Wrangling continues

During Tuesday's conference committee hearing, there was little sign either side was ready to concede.

Sen. David Tomassoni, I-Chisholm, questioned the need for the new rules and objected to adopting California's regulations.

"I drove through a car dealership in Hibbing the other day and there were 60 electric vehicles on the lot, so I'm not convinced we won't be able to get vehicles," he said.

All those electric vehicles in Hibbing weren't there long. After questions from the Timberjay about his claim, Tomassoni said he later learned the vehicles, all white Chevy Bolts, were part of a fleet buy and that the vehicles were shipped out soon after. As of this week, the Timberjay confirmed that only one electric vehicle was available for purchase in Hibbing. A second electric vehicle, a Mustang MachE was on display at Hibbing Ford, but was not immediately for sale.

Ingebrigtsen asserted that "Minnesotans, at least the ones I represent, think they should have this opened up for more discussion.'

"The (administrative law judge) just ruled that the proposed rules are needed and reasonable," said Rep. Kelly Morrison, DFL-Deephaven. "This is settled science that we have to be addressing greenhouse gas emissions. We need to be bringing them down to address climate change. This is something that has to happen."

But Ingebrigtsen wasn't budging.

"I've made it very clear we're not going to move forward unless our stand on this is accepted," he said.

#### BASEBALL

# **Grizzlies drop two doubleheaders**

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Doubleheaders were double-trouble for the North Woods baseball team this past week as the Grizzlies lost both games of a home match-up against Cherry and dropped two on the road at Pequot Lakes.

down 14 Grizzlies batters on strikeouts. Chris Chaulklin drove home Zach Cheney with a single in the bottom of the sixth for the Grizzlies' only run in the 6-1 loss.

Andrew Zika pitched six innings and took the loss, giving up all six Cherry runs on seven hits and five walks. Jake Panichi came on in relief and recorded one strikeout to go with Zika's four. Zach Cheney took the mound for the Grizzlies in the nightcap and kept the Tigers largely in check throughout the game,

allowing just three runs on seven hits while tossing three strikeouts and giving up two walks.

But Tigers pitcher Jayden Dawson was a puzzle North Woods batters had trouble solving. After North Woods gave up a run in the top of the second, they tied the game in the bottom of the third, scoring on an error. It was the Grizzlies' only run in a 3-1 loss. Dawson retired eight Grizzlies batters on strike outs against five hits and four walks. It was an even more dismal

outing for North Woods batters in Tuesday's road opener against Pequot Lakes as Patriots didn't allow a single hit in a 6-0 five-inning win. The Patriots rang up six runs on six hits and a walk off Grizzlies pitcher Jake Panichi, had four strikeouts.

bered another double to bring home Cheney and Andrew Zika.

Pequot Lakes tied the score on an RBI double in the bottom of the fourth and then took the lead when a runner scored on a ground ball and an error. The Grizzles went meekly in the top of the fifth to end the game, going three up and three down on two strikeouts and a fly ball putout.

The North Woods offense had a tough go of it in the opener against Cherry last Thursday, as Tigers pitcher Beau Barry mowed

#### TRACK

Facing a two-run deficit heading into the fourth inning of the second game, the Grizzlies scored three runs to take a 3-2 lead. Zach Cheney smashed a double that scored Chris Chauklin, and Jake Panichi clob-

Cheney gave up three hits and struck out six in the abbreviated Grizzlies loss.

# Lakoskey scores relay win in Chisholm

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

CHISHOLM- Grizzlies runner Joey Lakoskey scored double relay wins for the South Ridge/North Woods/Cherry

track team at the Chisholm Blue Streaks invitational last Thursday in Chisholm.

Lakoskey was a member of the winning 4x200 relay with a time of 1:58, and she also ran with the winning 4x100 relay team that

posted a time of 56.8 seconds.

Zuly Roach ran 34.18 in the 200 meters to finish fourth, and she placed eighth in the 800 with a time of 3:33.19.

Zoe Trip, Emily Trip, and Cooper Antikainen were all entered in the 100 meters but did not have times listed in the official results. Antikainen also was entered in the 200 but had no recorded time.

Alex Burckhardt was the only North Woods runner to

compete on the boys side, taking second in the 1600 meters with a time of 5:30.88, just ten seconds off the winning time posted by Anthony Scholler of International Falls.

#### **GIRLS GOLF**...Continued from page 1B

ment action she said she expects to see even more growth.

"Lots of play has been very beneficial for these kids, but we're looking forward to some days off

here so we can practice some of the skills that we realize need refinement," individualize our practices to each player's needs."

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

Hibbing by 17 strokes. Ian Olson shot an 86, Eli Smith stroked an 89, and Davis Kleppe carded a 96.

North Woods only took three golfers to a Saturday tournament at The Quarry at Giants Ridge, one short of competing for the team title against the nine other squads at the event.

But Ian Olson tied for tenth place with an 84, Olson said. "We'll be able to

while Eli Smith claimed

17th with an 87. Ty Fabish

a second-place showing at

the International Falls tour-

nament on May 5, with Ian

Olson leading the way with

a score of 80. David Kleppe

scored an 88, Eli Smith

finished with 103, and Ty

Fabish came in at 110.

The Grizzlies managed

shot a 105.

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

best at bats. Our pitchers continue to get better with each start."

Ely struggled at home on Monday, as they fell 11-0 to the Blue Devils. Eighth-grader Jack Mathias notched two of Ely's four hits in the contest. Junior Harry Simons gave up seven runs on seven hits to take the loss for the Wolves, while sophomore Logan Loe pitched the final four innings, striking out two while allowing four runs on five hits.

Ely lost a close one to Deer River last Saturday at the Blackduck Tournament, but rebounded to edge

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

is .320," Lassi said. "I would say that is our strongest team skill right now. But with each game I feel more confident with our fielding as well."

After hosting Littlefork-Big

hosts Blackduck 10-9 later in the day. Ely rallied for six runs in the top of the seventh inning on a two-run single by Loe, which netted him the win from the mound. Loe came on in relief in the fifth, down 8-4. He struck out four batters in two innings of work.

Towley got the start and gave up eight runs on six hits and five walks, along with two strikeouts.

Earlier in the day, Will Davies and Erron Anderson paced Ely with two hits apiece, including two RBIs for Anderson on a first-inning homer.

Falls on Wednesday, the Wolves were set to hit the road with visits to Floodwood on Friday, Nashwauk-Keewatin on Monday and Mt. Iron-Buhl next Wednesday. The

Junior Bryce Fairchild got the start and pitched four innings, allowing five runs on six hits while striking out three. Freshman Drew Marolt took the loss, allowing two runs on two hits while striking out three in relief.

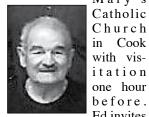
In the Veterans Memorial Showcase, Ely will face off with Carlton at noon on Friday and Silver Bay in a nightcap at 7:30 p.m. They'll play Cook County at 1 p.m. on Saturday and wrap up with International Falls at 6 p.m.

Timberwolves are scheduled to host Northeast Range on Thursday, May 20.

#### **Obituaries and Death Notices**

#### Edward J. Feist

Edward John "Ed" Feist, 84, of Cook, passed away at the Cook Care Center on Thursday, May 6, 2021. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 17 at St. Mary's



Ed invites you to join us for a celebratory meal following the service, as he enjoyed preparing and sharing good food. We request that you bring a verbal or written remembrance to share. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Ed was born on Oct. 30, 1936, at home on Hanson's farm in McLean County, Ill., where his family worked the land. He was the seventh of nine children in a household of 14 including extended family.

When Ed was born, his family was transitioning from horse farming to using tractors. A parish priest loaned the family \$500 to buy one of their first tractors. Ed was encouraged in his mechanical abilities by his father, Anthony, who allowed him to skip farm chores to work in the shop. By the time he was a teenager, he was helping convert the tractors to propane fuel. Ed graduated from Holy Trinity High School in 1954 and continued to specialize in propane carburetion for the rest of his career.

He married Elizabeth Ann Hess, the love of his life, on April 22, 1961, in Watseka, Ill. Together they had five children. Edward was devoted to his wife and enjoyed leaving her notes and poems to greet her in the morning. He haD been looking forward to spending eternity with her since she passed away almost five years ago.

After spending his first 41 years in McLean County running his own (Carburetion business

Feist O.P., Marilyn Taylor and Bill (Barbara) Feist; children, Ann (John Langan) Feist, Mike (Jody) Feist, Jennifer (Alan Presley) Feist, Bill (Lisa) Feist and Eddie Feist; grandchildren, Katelynn (Adam) Swan, Melina (William) Feist, Ryan (Krystal), Jonathan and Sarah Pirila; great-grandchildren, Luke Pirila, Winter and Xander Swan; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Genevieve and Anthony Feist; wife, Elizabeth; siblings, Hilda Feist, Marie Witte, Mary Belmar, Anthony "Bud" Feist and Bernard Feist.



#### **David R. Martin**

David Robert "Dave" Martin, 49, of Cook, passed away Thursday May 6, 2021, with his family by his side. He lost one fight in his life and it was to cancer. A Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 16 at the Cook Community Center. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Dave's stories will be told for years to come. His name cannot be mentioned without bringing a story to mind and a smile to your face.

Dave was born to Robert and Linda (Hill) Martin on Jan. 30, 1972, in Virginia. He attended Cook High School where he made many of his best friends to this day. Dave worked at his grandpa's sawmill and at the local gas station throughout high school. Dave attended Eveleth VoTech and received his welding degree where he became a master welder. He graduated with his welding degree in 1990, the same year he graduated from high school. After graduation he worked for Pope Construction, Hillwood Products, and Viita Excavating. Dave was united in marriage to Shannon Finner on August 29, 1998, in Cook, and they spent 23 loving years together. In 2000, Dave and Shannon built their new house and started Martin Home for Seniors. He went to work for Wayne Transports as a shop foreman a few years later. While working at Wayne Transports, Dave owned two business, DC Sandblasting and Dave Martin Trucking. After injuring

his back, Dave had to sell his sandblasting business and later worked at the parts store in Cook. His lifelong dream was to own a dump truck and he accomplished that in 2018 after buying his beloved Peterbilt. He loved to work and that was shown every day. He was skilled in many areas and if he didn't know how to do something, he'd figure it out.

Dave loved hunting, fishing, dark house spearing, wood working, camping, singing karaoke, collecting guns and spear decoys, mowing the fields with his favorite big green tractor, and spending time with his family and friends. His proudest accomplishments were raising three successful young men whom he could never stop talking about. Dave loved his family more than anything. He became a grandpa on Nov. 20, 2020.

Dave is survived bv his wife of 23 years, Shannon Martin; son, Dustin (Ashley) Finner and granddaughter Keira; son, Damon Finner (Heather Hill); son, Cole Martin (Hannah Johnson): mother, Linda Martin; sisters, Sara (Pete) Niska and Amy (Rick) Viita; nieces, Jenna (Jeffrey) Chaulklin Macy Viita and Olivia Niska; nephew, Spencer Viita; fur babies, Bella, Odie, Snickerdoodle and Chester; and numerous uncles, aunts and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Martin in December 2019; grandparents, Cecil and Goldie Martin, and Arne and Lois Hill.

#### **Constance Neylan**

Constance "Connie" Pohl Neylan, 77, died on Monday, April 12, 2021, in Plano, Texas.

Connie grew up in Cook and graduated from Cook High School in 1962. She later moved to Minneapolis and worked for International Harvester, KDAL TV, and Gould National Battery before marrying Robert "Bob" Neylan and moving to Wilmette, Ill., in 1969. Together they raised three sons. Connie and Bob Neylan were happily married until Bob's death in 1995. Connie moved from Wilmette to Plano, Texas, in 2018 to be closer to family.

Connie is survived by her three sons, Christopher and Timothy (Sara) Neylan of Plano, Texas, and Joseph Neylan; three grandchildren, Maxwell, Miles and Jake; brother, William (Teresa) Pohl of Cook; and sisters, Ardyce (Frank) Larsen of Mankato and Charlene Chamernick of Chisago City.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Neylan; father, Charles William Pohl; Ruby mother, Knutson Geiselman; and stepfather, John Geiselman.

#### **Ryan J. Roarty**

Ryan James Roarty, 34, of Babbitt, passed away on Sunday, May 1, 2021. There will be no service held per Ryan's wishes. The family is planning for a plaque to be placed at the Babbitt Disc Golf Course on a later date. In lieu of flowers, and understanding that grief is love persevering, please consider making a donation in Ryan's memory to your local Disc Golf Course Association, or the International Wolf Center in Ely. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Ryan enjoyed playing disc golf, video games, magic tricks, and was a fan of various sports. He enjoyed sharing his laughter with people, working as a direct service professional, a paraprofessional, helping the youth as a math tutor and as a sports coach, both in high school and college. He considered the wolf his spirit animal, and was an avid collector of traditional wooden nutcrackers and M&M chocolate candy memorabilia.

Survivors include his mother, Judith (Bill) Hammond; grandmother, Katharine Baldwin; father, James (Chizuko) Roarty; brother, Joseph (Samantha); and sisters, Tara (Ivan) and Kana. Ryan will be remembered by his nieces, Judith and Charley; and his many uncles, aunts and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Edward Ott, Joseph and Mary Roarty, and Michael Baldwin. Ryan's paw friends, Ricky, Dude, Flash, Scooby Doo, Fiona, Tuty, Chibi, Sweet Pea, Boberz and Sanibel will miss him and he will unite with his favorites, Sandy and Daisy Girl.

#### Elsie M. Wiermaa

Elsie Madelaine Lahtonen Wiermaa, 96, of Babbitt, originally of Embarrass, died peacefully at home surrounded by her children on Saturday, May 8, 2021. Visitation and a graveside service were held on Thursday, May 13 at Argo Cemetery in Babbitt. A celebration of life continued at the Junction Inn & Suites after the funeral. Elsie's life motto was "Every day is a good one!"

She is survived by her children, Amy (Mel) Hoit of Spokane, Wash., Susan (Greg) Milleville of Brookfield, Wis., John Wiermaa of Pine City and Alyssa (Jeff) Hawn of Newport; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Dale and Arlene Wiermaa of Tower; "sister", Bev Wiermaa of Ely; and many nieces and nephews.

#### Todd R. Przybylski

Todd Richard Przybylski, 54, of Thief River Falls, originally of Ely, passed away after a threeyear battle with brain cancer on Sunday, April 25, 2021, at the Thief River Care Center. His loving family was by his side.

He is survived by his son, Austin (Linzie) Przybylski; granddaughter, Ava Jo; mother, Carol Przybylski; siblings, Linda (Jim) Frisell, Nikki (Ed) Seliskar, Kevin (special friend Sherry) Przybylski, Bob Przybylski, Barry (Nancy) Przybylski and Connie (Charlie) Thompson; and numerous nephews, nieces and other relatives. Todd was also blessed with many great friends.

#### Marilyn G. Koschak

Marilyn Grace Torfin Koschak, 84, of Aurora, formerly of Ely, died on Monday, May 10, 2021, at Northern Pines Care Center in Aurora. A private service for Marilyn will be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Aurora. Pastor Greg Anderson will officiate. Interment will be in Forest Hill Cemetery in Aurora. Arrangements are with Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Aurora.

She is survived by her children, Daniel Koschak of Aurora, Susan Koschak (Bob Houle) of Hillsboro, Ore., Bill Koschak of Ely, Jim Koschak (Maria Koschak) of Iron and Diane Koschak (Kurt Brandstrom) of St. Paul; grandchildren, Deanne Koschak and Darren Koschak; five great-grandchildren; siblings, Jeannie Larson, Bruce Torfin and Linda Herzog; and many nieces and nephews.

#### **Ely Young Life**

16th Annual OSweet OSpring Auction Recognition

Workshop) and crop farming, he sold out in 1978 and bought Red Loon Lodge on Lake Vermilion near Cook. He loved grilling meat for all the guests at the Monday night picnic. He opened Feist Repair around 1980 and even continued repairing propane generators into his 80s. His children all attended his version of vocational school, "The School of Hard Knocks", which featured learning by hands-on experience.

Daddy shared with us a few years ago that he always did what he wanted to do in life, which was to be his own boss. He said he wished all of his kids would be able to look back on ourselves and say we were as happy living our lives as he was with his

Ed is survived by his siblings, Genevieve "Tootie" Feist, Sister JoAnn



**Ich Annual Operat Opping Auction Recognition** 

 We want to express our heartfelt thanks to our generous donors and bidders for making our 2021 auction successful. We are continually astounded by the support from our community, from both businesses and individuals, and Ely Young Life would truly not exist without you. Thank you from the bottom of our heart for supporting the youth of our community with your culless generosity.

 Ace Hardware
 Grand Ely Lodge
 Razer Edge

 Ace Hardware
 Grand Ely Lodge
 Rock Country Masonry

 Arrowhead Outdoors
 Guriflint Lodge
 Root River Photography

 Baster, Julie
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 Scott, Martha & Bill

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compared to 20th Century average

#### **CLIMATE**

## North Country took a time-out on warming trend

#### NOAA released its latest climate "normals" and northern Minnesota bucks the pattern found elsewhere **U.S. average annual temperatures**

Managing Editor

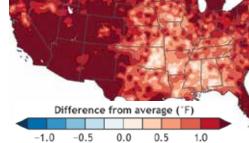
REGIONAL -Northern Minnesota largely defied the global trend toward warmer temperatures over the past decade, based on the latest update to climate "normals," released last week by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA.

The climate normals, or averages, are updated every decade to reflect tempera-

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER tures and precipitation from the most recent thirty-year period. The new average climate data now reflects weather records from the period 1991-2020.

While the new data reflects a continuation of the longstanding trend of warming temperatures across virtually all of the U.S., that trend took a pause in parts of the north-central U.S, particularly northern Minnesota and much of North and South Dakota, Falls increased slightly, where the new normals reflect a slight cooling at many, but not all, reporting stations.

Longstanding weather stations, like those at the Hibbing and International Falls airports, reflect the changes and the variability in the temperature change in various months of the year. In January, for example, the new monthly average temperature in International from 4.4 degrees F to 5.0 F. By contrast, recent cold Februarys pushed the monthly average temperature down from 10.3 F to 9.5 F. Decembers warmed considerably in the update, increasing from a monthly average of 9.7 degrees F to 11.8. July and August both saw average temperatures cool slightly in the latest



See CLIMATE...pg. 5B

## Wildflower Watch

Courtesy

NOAA

Climate.

gov

This week's featured flower **FLY HONEYSUCKLE** 

You'll find Flv Honeysuckle, Lonicera canadensis, growing widely throughout northeastern Minnesota. It's actually a small bush, growing about two-tofour feet high. In May, you'll find its paired trumpet-shaped flowers dangling from short stems near the tips of one-yearold branches. The flowers are a pale yellowish-green, often with a slight tinge of violet at the very ends of the flower petals.

Later in the summer, the twinned flowers will grow into paired, bright red berries which are usually eaten quickly by birds.

#### Outdoors briefly



by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

Above and right: Scenes from Lake Vermilion

REGIONAL- An early ice-out across the North Country combined with one of the latest fishing openers in years, should please anglers when they hit the area lakes beginning early Saturday.

"I think it could be like Memorial Day fishing," said Rob Nelson, a longtime guide on Ely area lakes.

Several days of warmer temperatures and sunshine in the days leading up to Saturday's opener should also contribute to a more active bite, according to area guides.

I think it could be like Memorial Day fishing... **Rob Nelson** Ely fishing guide

The walleyes will be all done spawning, predicts Joe Panichi, a longtime Lake Vermilion guide. "They should be more receptive," he said. "They're going to be hungry."

Strong walleye numbers on Lake Vermilion are likely to draw big numbers of anglers to the lake this year. Fishing traffic was high last year, and with the COVID-19 pandemic on the wane and generally pleasant weather forecast for the weekend, virtually everyone is expecting lots of competition out on the water. "I just hope it doesn't get too crowded," said Panichi.

Panichi said he'll be relying on his standard springtime approach, using minnows, since water temperatures are still relatively cold, reflecting chillier weather in late April and early May. If water temperatures warm

up enough, and the fish get more active, he said he may switch to plastic baits. He'll be working the west end for the most part on opener, which he reserves for fishing with family."The west end is getting better every year," he said. "We have a year class that's pretty large."

Panichi regularly finds good numbers

of smaller

walleye in

deeper water

(30 foot-plus)

this time of

year, but if he

can't pick up

enough larger

fish, he'll

explore shal-

lower water, especially in the mornings and evenings.

Longtime guide Terry Sjoberg, recently retired, said he'll start his quest for walleye on his home court, in Pike Bay. If that isn't producing, he said he'll likely head over to Cherry Island in Big Bay. "If I'm desperate, I might head down near Mud Creek," he said. Sjoberg said he likes to bobber fish in the mornings on opener, especially when he has a youngster in the boat. "And we always catch fish," he said. This year, Sjoberg said he looks forward to actually eating some of the walleye he lands in the boat. During his guiding days, the clients typically went home with all the fish.

Sjoberg expects the lake

See OPENER..pg. 5B





#### **Removing lake** plants may require a permit

REGIONAL-Lakeshore property owners, here's a reminder that a permit may be required to remove aquatic plants. Aquatic plants provide food and shelter for fish, ducks and other wildlife. They also stabilize the lake bottom, which helps maintain water clarity, and protect shorelines from erosion by absorbing energy from waves and ice.

Additionally, the DNR frequently receives questions about devices that generate water current to wash muck and plants away. They have various trade names, but the DNR refers to these devices generically as hydraulic jets. Even though you can buy one in Minnesota, they cannot be used in any way that disturbs the bottom of the lake or uproots plants.

Specific regulations govern what situations require permits for aquatic plant removal. Regulations and a guide to aquatic plants can be found on the DNR website. To apply for a permit, visit the DNR's online permitting and reporting system.

## Subscribe Today!

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

will be exceptionally busy this year. Even though he's retired from guiding, he estimates he's received at least 40 calls already this spring from people looking for a guide.

Nelson said he's seeing the same extraordinary level of interest from anglers. "So far, bookings-wise, we have more than we've ever booked at this point," he said. "With the border still closed, everybody is calling." He said all of his guides are nearly booked solid well into July.

Like many guides, however, Nelson will be out with family on opener. He expects a strong opener, and anticipates he'll be using the early season standby, a jig and minnow, in about 12-18 feet, preferably with some current.

He said the mid-April rains did help to boost water

**CLIMATE**...Continued from page 4B —

update.

At Hibbing, average temperatures cooled in both January and February. Average February temperatures fell most dramatically, from 12 degrees F to 10.5 F in the latest update. December temperatures. meanwhile, increased from 11.3 F to 12.3, following the same trend observed at the Falls. Summer temperatures also cooled slightly.

Across Minnesota overall, the latest climate data shows a continued warming, although the difference was only about a tenth of a degree, according to Ken Blumenfeld. a climatologist with the Department of Natural Resources.

That was significantly less than the warming reflected the last time the climate normals were adjusted, back in 2010. "We're still getting a little bit warmer, but it was not as big a spike as last time," said Blumenfeld.

The vagaries of the weather played a role in the unexpected cooling in parts of the region. Blumenfeld noted that the 1980s included three or four exceptionally mild winters, and that those milder temperatures were dropped from the latest climate calculations, which helped to lower the new 30-year

levels, which had been running low enough to be a concern prior to the precipitation. Water levels are dropping quickly, however, due to an extended dry spell so far in May.

While Panichi expects astrong opener, he acknowledged that it's always a bit of a crap shoot.

"It's the only day of the year you can't say, you should have been here yesterday," he joked. **Forecast looks** 

#### promising

There's no snow in the forecast this opener, which should allow anglers to spend more time on the water. As of Wednesday, the forecast for opener calls for partly cloudy skies and a high of 64 degrees. More clouds than sun are forecast for Sunday, with a high again in the low-tomid-60s.

2011-2020 included wide in some cases exceptionally harsh.

lowering of climate normals in northern Minnesota in this latest update, Blumenfeld said the state's trend toward warmer temperatures does not appear to have abated. "We really made a big jump in warming in the last 3-4 decades, which has changed the way we think of winter. From that change, we have ups and downs, but nothing that has brought us back to where we used to be,"

Meanwhile, precipitation showed variability as well. The average annual precipitation in Hibbing declined from 25.27 inches in the prior period to 24.76 inches today. It was the opposite in International Falls, where annual precipitation increased from 24.94 inches to 25.37.

Overall, Minnesota grew considerably wetter, notes Blumenfeld, although that trend was most pronounced in the southern part of the state.

Blumenfeld said, the period swings in winter conditions, including several years with relatively harsh conditions,

Even with the slight he said.

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#### FOREST MANAGEMENT

## **Conditions right for prescribed burning** Nearly 1,000 acres torched south of Ely, with more to come

ELY - Fire crews with the U.S. Forest Service completed an estimated 900 acres of a prescribed burn last weekend near the Birch Lake campground and boat launch, located about ten miles southeast of Ely.

This "Kangas" unit was recently harvested to prepare for future planting, according to Tim Engrav, USFS public information officer.

Crews burned a total of 340 acres in the Kangas Units 3 and Unit 4 over the weekend and burned the 576-acre Unit 5 later in the week. Firefighters from the Superior were joined by crews from Utah, Colorado, Missouri, and California in the effort.

The temporary closure of Birch Lake campground and boat access last week was extended until Monday, May 10.

The burning is designed to reduce the slash and vegetation competition in the areas that were harvested and to also reduce the hazardous fuels within the area, according to Engrav."These actions also support the natural regeneration of long-lived conifer species which in turn will diversify the species of trees in the area."

Engrav added, "All the Kangas units are a part of the greater Ely area hazardous fuel reduction effort. Prescribed fire treatments also create a patchwork or mosaic of fire-resistant forest stands in the landscape that can reduce the intensity of future wildfires."

"The weather conditions were within prescription for fuel moisture, low wind speed, wind direction, and humidity levels in the 30-40 percent range and helped to produce an effective timber site prep burn for ecosystem management and fuels reduction," Engrav said.

No prescribed fire activity was conducted on Thursday, May 6, when critical fire weather and red

**U.S. Forest Service crews from** the Kawishiwi Ranger District participated in a prescribed burn event last week near Ely. The Birch Lake Campground and boat launch were temporarily closed.

#### photo courtesy USFS

flag warnings were issued. Crews remained on site over the weekend to monitor and mop up any areas of heat within the fire area.

"Some fire crews were shifted to the south this week and are planning to conduct the Northern Blue Prescribed Fire (59 acres) on the Laurentian Ranger District," Engrav said.

Formoreinformationonplanned prescribed burns or camping and boat areas, call the West Zone Fire Information phone at 218-248-2411 or the Kawishiwi Ranger District at 218-365-7600.

average. At the same time,





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## CLEAN

🥑 Boats, trailers, and gear

Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, nets, and gear before leaving boat landing

## DRAIN

🛃 Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well

Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices

🕑 Trash unused bait

Everything at least five days before going to other waters

(Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

#### STOP INVASIVE SPECIES!







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#### ELY DINING

# Tracks lead to the Chocolate Moose

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY – Rare tracks on the east side of Ely were spotted last week as the Chocolate Moose returned to Ely.

The popular restaurant with the iconic name hasn't been seen in these parts for a couple of years. Last year, the coronavirus pandemic kept the facility, located on the Sheridan Street side of Piragis Northwoods Co., closed for the season.

In 2019, a pop-up eatery, called "Moose Bear Wolf," occupied the facility for just a couple of summer months. In years prior to that the restaurant did business as The Chocolate Moose and attracted quite a following.

Enter Nick Laurent, executive chef, and Maddie Wilson, director of operations, co-owners of Twin Citiesbased Potent Potables Restaurant LLC, doing business as the new Chocolate Moose. The building is owned by the Piragis family and the restaurant company is leasing the facility.

"We have been creating food and managing teams together for the last few years in the Minneapolis area," Laurent said on the eve of the opening night on May 6. "The opportunity to run the Chocolate Moose came to us in the spring when we came here for a visit. We felt the Chocolate Moose needed an experienced crew and needed to be brought back to life, so

we jumped right in." He noted that a former restaurant owner and friend reached out to the couple and pushed them to consider the opportunity.

"The restaurant is in great shape and this is an opportunity for us to do something over the summer and fill that 'Chocolate Mooseshaped' hole that everyone in Ely has in their hearts," he said.

They couldn't promise anything beyond the summer tourist season but welcomed the possibility of becoming part of the year-round Ely community.

"Our goal is to make the most delicious food possible and serve it as quick as we can so you can get out into the beautiful natural landscape of the Boundary Waters area. We are so excited to revive this well-loved restaurant," Laurent said.

Following a couple of soft-opening events to meet the local business community and to dial in their menu, food preparation and service routine, the restaurant at 101 N Central Ave. is open seven days a week: Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to

noon for just pastries

and coffee; Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The new owners of the Chocolate Moose respect the tradition and fond memories of the brand and are looking to bring their vision to the Ely icon. They are both trained chefs and have a "small and experienced crew" they brought with them to Ely.

"We hope to keep the same general vibe and general offerings," Laurent said. "We have a breakfast, lunch and dinner menu," he said. "We will do dinner specials as time and staffing allow."

Offering their customers a "solid breakfast joint" is the ultimate goal.

"We did bring back the sourdough pancakes," he said. "That is one of the things we heard from many people that once defined this restaurant."

The new owners were also quick to remind people that, "This is not the same Chocolate Moose you may remember from the 1990s. There are some changes. We offer solid, delicious food for break-

fast, lunch and dinner,"
he said.
Staffing challenges put the Chocolate
Moose in the same boat
as other Ely restaurants.
"It is such a challenge across the entire

industry. We don't want



New Chocolate Moose owners Nick Laurent and Maddie Wilson. photo by K. Vandervort

to over-extend ourselves," he said.

Their breakfast-heavy opening model includes an extensive pastry program.

"That is something that will be a bright spot for Ely. We will be doing everything in-house, including croissants, donuts, and muffins on our base level," he said.

"We also have Liege Waffles, which is a different kind of Belgian waffle that uses a yeasted dough with sugar mixed into it. When cooked, it carmelizes and you get a crunch. It is more of a breakfast pastry. It will be on our breakfast menu but it will be offered as a to-go pastry too," he said. "Our new pastry chef and a specialized oven will help make the Chocolate Moose the place to come for breakfast."

Beer and wine are also offered at the eatery.

Gene Hicks coffee is also available. A variety of burgers are featured. The "Juicy Moosey" is stuffed with bacon and Havarti cheese and topped with red onion jam. Entrees include walleye, an "Amazing Grains Bowl" with goat

cheese, and a variety of salads. Black Bean Chili and soups are also offered. Try a Chocolate Moose Cup for dessert.

For more information, go to www. thechocolatemooseely. com.



#### FULL-TIME BARTENDER

The City of Orr is accepting applications for a full-time bartender for the Orr Municipal Liquor Store. This is a salaried position that includes vacation package, health insurance, life insurance, retirement and sick leave. Looking for individuals who can interact with customers in a professional, friendly manner. Must pass background check. The City of Orr is a drug-free work place and Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications may be picked up at the Orr City Hall, 4429 Highway 53, Orr. Call City Hall at 218-757-3288 with any questions.



#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP Open Supervisor Seat

Eagles Nest Township is seeking an interested resident for appointment to an open supervisor position through Jan. 2, 2023.

Minimum qualifications include being an eligible voter in the Eagles Nest Township, being at least 21 years old, and having lived in Eagles Nest Township for at least 30 days. Please send a letter of interest, along with qualifications to Eagles Nest Township Clerk, Keely Drange at 1552 Bear Head State Park Rd., Ely, MN 55731.

Published in the Timberjay, May 7 & 14, 2021

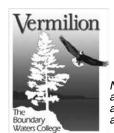
FOR SALE TO HIGHEST BIDDER The Tower Economic Development Authority is offering the

unattached contents of a garage located at 510 S Second Street in Tower to the highest bidder. Contents include assorted lumber, tools, hardware, a Toro lawnmower, insulation, old band saw, and other assorted items. The contents will be sold as a lot and all of the contents will need to be removed from the site by June 15, 2021.

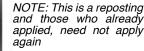
To view the contents, please contact TEDA Executive Director Marshall Helmberger at 218-750-2510 by Wednesday, May 19. Sealed bids must be received by 4 p.m. Friday, May 21, 2021, and delivered to Tower City Hall in person, or at P.O. Box 576, Tower, MN 55790.

Published in the Timberjay, May 7 & 14, 2021

#### **EMPLOYMENT**



#### General Maintenance Worker



Vermilion Community College is seeking qualified candidates for a Full-time General Maintenance Worker.

Work shift during the academic year is 2 pm -10:30 pm Monday-Friday and every third Saturday 8 am-4:30 pm. Summer schedule is Monday-Friday day shift with the option of four 10-hour days.

Duties include general maintenance, cleaning, and groundskeeping. The ability to work independently and experience with maintenance work in a business/school setting is preferred. Starting pay \$15.24/hr, benefits in accordance with Minnesota State Employees Union AFSCME, Council 5.

Interested individuals must apply on-line at http://www.careers.state.mn.us/, search Job ID: **44882**.

To request further information, please call Human Resources (218) 749-7767. Deadline to apply: May 17, 2021. EO/AA 5/14



#### KUGLER TOWNSHIP ROAD INSPECTION NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

The Kugler Town Board will hold their annual Road Inspection meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. The regular monthly meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, May 14, 2021

#### **FUNERAL SERVICES**

#### Range Funeral Home



Super Crossword

Answers



## Weekly SUDOKU

#### by Linda Thistle

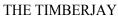
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

#### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦



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MARINE

**7B** May 14, 2021 TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum.

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



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VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S

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ETING Tuesdavs at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church, 303 S 9th Ave, please use side door and parking

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

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 vourself 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 comionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, tollfree 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).



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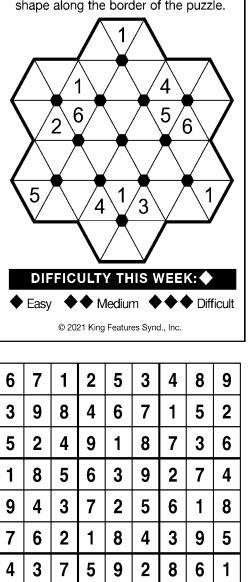
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There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.

by Japheth Light



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