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# the TIMBERJAY



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COVID-19

## ISD 696 declares mask-to-school mandate

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

Last-minute policy reversal draws backlash, petition

ELY—As the 2021-22 school year got underway this week, all students, staff and visitors to Ely schools were required to wear protective face masks due to public health concerns over the spiking coronavirus pandemic in the community.

In a letter to ISD 696 families last Friday, the school administrative team said, “In accordance with new Minnesota Department of Health Guidance, recommendations from local health care providers and the public notice from Essentia Health released

**More on Ely schools**  
ISD 696 avoids political 9/11 controversy. Page 9

(on Sept. 2) the Ely Public Schools will require face coverings in all indoor settings K-12 at this time.” “Essentia Health came

out with some messaging (Thursday night),” Superintendent Erik Erie said. “We have also been in contact with our local

health community and have been strongly encouraged to change our position from recommending to requiring face masks for all.”

He said the mask mandate, which pertains to indoors only on the ISD 696 campus, takes effect immediately and will be in

effect “until further notice.”

In an updated letter to families sent last Saturday, the ISD administrative team added, “We are very sorry for the last-minute change in our Ely Schools Safe Reopen Plan. We received news late Thursday evening that prompted this change. We wanted to get the

See...MASKS pg. 9



Tower-Soudan Elementary School first graders Ayva Anderson and Zaija Schroeder, top, pose for pictures on their way to school Tuesday morning. Nella Goodsky, left, is a student at North Woods High School. Some Ely students, above, take the bus to school. Timberjay staff photos

EAGLES NEST

## Township raises stakes in tiff with ATV group

Migisi Road ban part of planned Ride and Rally

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

EAGLES NEST TWP- The Eagles Nest Town Board took the unusual step this past week of banning the use of ATVs and other off-highway vehicles on a short township road in a stop-gap effort to discourage use of a planned route through the township during an upcoming statewide ATV ride and rally. The ride and rally, sponsored by the Prospector Trail ATV Club, is set for Sept. 17-19 and will be headquartered in Ely.

The road ban affects OHV use only on the dead end Migisi Road, located off Swanson Shores Road, but the decision has broader implications. The township has pushed back against the Prospectors ATV Club that published maps showing travel routes through the township that are opposed by many residents. Migisi Road is the only road segment currently identified as part of the Prospectors Trail ATV Club's Trail #4 that is under the jurisdiction of the township. The other roads identified on the trail map are county roads, which are open to ATV use. Supervisors Rich Floyd, Kurt Soderberg, and Frank Sherman all voted in favor of the ban. Supervisor DeAnne Schatz was absent from the special meeting and did take part in the vote.

See...ATV pg. 10

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

## Demand for monoclonal antibody treatments rise with COVID

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

Area hospitals provide the protocols that lessen disease severity

REGIONAL- As the surge in COVID-19 cases driven by the delta variant continues, a treatment to lessen the severity of the disease approved months ago is gaining increased attention and use.

The use of monoclonal antibodies to treat COVID-19 infections gained widespread attention

when they were administered to former President Donald Trump when he was hospitalized with the disease nearly a year ago.

But while the federal government purchased 1.5 million doses of the Regeneron version used to treat Trump and optioned to buy 1.1 million doses of a version produced by Eli Lilly, there was little use of the free treatments



in the spring and early summer as COVID-19 cases dropped dramatically.

But ever since cases began to rise again, monoclonal antibody

treatments have grown as well, although not for use by hospitalized patients like Trump. Based on the developing research base, the FDA has issued emergency use authorizations for monoclonal antibodies to be used within 10 days after the first symptoms of COVID-19 appear. This application decreases the severity of the disease and has proven effective

in drastically reducing the likelihood of hospitalization and death from COVID-19.

The treatment has become so prevalent that Twin Cities hospitals recently were booked solid for infusions of the monoclonal antibody “cocktail,” so called because the most-used Regeneron and Eli Lilly versions each contain two different forms of monoclonal antibodies.

See...COVID pg. 11



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## Community notices

### Ely Folk School hosts open house

ELY – The Ely Folk School will host an open house during the Harvest Moon Festival on Sunday, Sept. 12 from 1-3 p.m. at their campus on Sheridan St. Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the new ceramics studio, check out the 20-foot birch bark canoe, meet the EFS board of directors, celebrate Betty Firth's tenure, and enjoy a popped wild rice snack.

### 5K Glow Run supports mental health programming, Sept. 24

ELY- Run and have some fun at the Northern Lights Clubhouse's 5K Glow Run on Friday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. beginning at Ely's Whiteside Park. The run takes you through glow zones as the sun sets. People of all ages and abilities are welcome to participate. Costs are \$30 for adults, \$20 for students and \$5 for kids. Proceeds support the Northern Lights Clubhouse, a place where adults with mental health challenges have the opportunity to make and reach personal goals. For more information and to register, visit [www.elymarathon.com/5k](http://www.elymarathon.com/5k).

### Eagles Nest Fire Department fundraiser 3K/5K walk

EAGLES NEST TWP- The Eagles Nest Fire Flies and the Eagles Nest Fire Department will be hosting their First Annual 3K/5K Walk on Saturday, Sept. 11. The event will begin at 9 a.m. at the Eagles Nest fire hall. The entry fee is \$22 per person the day of the event. The fee includes a T-shirt, water, and snacks. All proceeds will go to the Eagles Nest Fire Department.

### ATVMN Fall Ride and Rally, Sept. 17-19

REGIONAL- The ATVMN Fall Ride and Rally will be held Sept. 17-19. The event kicks off on Friday, Sept. 17 in Embarrass with a pancake breakfast at Timber Hall. There is a morning guided ride on new sections of the Prospector Trail and a bus tour to the site of the planned ATV Campground at the Lake Vermilion State Park. At 4 p.m. there is a free ATV Big Air Tour show in Babbitt which features jumps, backflips, incredible balancing acts, launching a Polaris RZR, crowd games, good music and more. The crew are role models with positive messages for kids and adults.

Saturday, Sept. 18, starts out with a pancake breakfast at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely from 7 – 11 a.m. The pancake breakfast is open to the public. Then registered riders can choose from a series of over a dozen guided rides. Rides leave from Embarrass, Babbitt, Ely, and Tower and range from 40 to over 100 miles. Saturday evening features a silent auction, live auction and banquet at the Historic Pioneer Mine in Ely. The event wraps up on Sunday with the ATVMN board meeting at Grand Ely Lodge in Ely.

For more information, go to [www.atvam.org](http://www.atvam.org).

### Tower-Soudan Historical Society annual meeting and dinner, Sept. 21

TOWER- Tower-Soudan Historical Society was unable to host an annual meeting in 2020 and looks forward to seeing and visiting with TSHS members and supporters again on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at the Tower Civic Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. The feature presentation, A Time to Remember: The Memorial for Soudan's Fallen Miners, begins at 5:30 p.m.

James Pointer, Interpretive Supervisor at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park, will describe the research and work to date on this project. With an anticipated opening on Memorial Day Weekend in 2022, the memorial display is intended to be a living document, allowing changes to be made as we receive more information from family members and visitors. This presentation is free and open to the public.

After the presentation, at approximately 6 p.m., Chefs Marko Stefanich and Pam Abrahamson will serve a buffet dinner of champagne chicken, beef au jus and all the trimmings. Dinner cost is \$16 and may be paid at the door. Advance reservations are required by Friday, Sept. 17. Please call TSHS at 218-753-5021 and leave a message with your name, phone number, and the number of attendees if you wish to join us for dinner.

A summary of TSHS activities will be shared at the annual meeting. Membership dues (\$10 single/\$20 family) may be paid at this time for the 2022 year or any past years that are owed. Membership numbers are significant to show community support for TSHS grant applications and for operating expenses at the Depot Museum. Membership is also important for supporting the vision, mission, and project goals of the society. If you have interest in a particular TSHS project, volunteers are also very much appreciated.

The beautiful, award-winning History of Erie Mining Company book will be for sale for \$45. A preview copy will be available.

## ELY FOLK SCHOOL

# Birch bark canoe put away for the season

## Ely Folk School project will be completed next year



by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – The Birch Bark Canoe Project at the Ely Folk School is done for the season, but plans are in the works to pick up the project again next spring to put the finishing touches on the 20-foot traditional Ojibwe-style birch bark canoe.

The project completion endured the coronavirus pandemic last year and Greenwood Fire this year, but Erik Simula, a Finnish-American outdoor educator and master birch bark canoe builder who has overseen the project for several summers, is committed to finishing the endeavor.

The goal was to complete and paddle the watercraft following this third year of construction, said EFS board chair Lacey Squier, but the Greenwood Fire put those plans on hold. “Despite the rain last weekend, the highway to

Finland is still closed and Erik can't make it over here to Ely very easily,” she said. “We wanted to finish the canoe yet

this season, but the project is hereby on standby until further notice. If nothing else, we will officially finish our canoe in Spring 2022.

An informal end-of-season gathering was held at the end of last month for the several dedicated students and supporters who helped with the project. They signed a thank you card for Simula and inspected the canoe that is on display in the Folk School.

Work was picked up again in June and continued all summer through the duration of the class that ended on Aug. 22.

“Observing and learn-



ing the process of building a birch bark canoe gives people an understanding of the past history, culture, art, and craft that is embedded in the canoe,” said Squier

Approximately 90 percent of the canoe was completed back in 2019 before the project was halted last year.

Several summers ago, Folk school students completed a smaller, 13-foot Ojibwe-style birch bark canoe under Simula's guidance during his first summer at the EFS. In 2009, Erik and his dog Kitigan paddled a solo birch bark canoe around the perimeter of Northeast Minnesota on a four month, 1,000-mile voyage and he is currently writing of his travels on

Arrowhead Journey. Another birch bark canoe enthusiast, Eric Stahl, of Baltimore, MD., was at the Ely Folk School recently doing some repair work on his own canoe, a 16.5-foot Ojibwe-style canoe. That watercraft has been on display at the Ely Folk School awaiting repairs and a return trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

“We bought the canoe in Duluth 30 years ago on the way to our honeymoon in Ely,” Stahl said. “We had to wait a year and picked it up in 1993 and went right into the Boundary Waters. We made another wilderness trip and our goal is to take it up there again on a trip, maybe next summer, with our grown children.”

The canoe is on display in Ely waiting for Stahl to finish the repair work. “These canoes are meant to be used,” he said.

# MDC set to launch digital crowdfunding campaign for Redhead Phase Two expansion

CHISHOLM- The Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC), one of northern Minnesota's largest non-profit museums and the official trailhead of Redhead MTB Park, will be launching a public crowdfunding campaign at [www.GOREDHEAD.com](http://www.GOREDHEAD.com) beginning on Friday, Sept. 3 to help fund the planned phase two expansion of Redhead.

The digital crowdfunding campaign will focus on raising \$100,000 from the public between Sept. 3 and Oct. 3 but will continue accepting donations after that deadline and until the project is fully funded. Funds raised during the campaign will directly support the phase two expansion plan, offsetting the total cost of the project. Members of the public are invited to visit the Redhead crowdfunding campaign website and social media platforms to follow and discover more about the project and support it with a donation.

As part of the campaign, the MDC will host a community fundraiser and screening of the documentary “Reclaimed,” a

short film sharing a glimpse of the story of Redhead MTB Park at the MDC's campus theater. A date for this screening will be announced soon on the MDC and Go Redhead websites at [mndiscovery-center.com](http://mndiscovery-center.com) and [goredhead.com](http://goredhead.com).

“We are thrilled to be officially launching this campaign and inviting the public behind the fences of the mines that built America,” said Jordan Metsa, MDC Fund Development and Marketing Coordinator. “A lot of hard work went into producing this campaign and we hope it helps people get excited about the unearthed potential Redhead has.”

The phase two expansion project at Redhead is anticipated to cost approximately \$1.9 million and would include up to 14 additional miles with some wider trails for adaptive cycling and competitive racing, a mining-themed paved pump track, a robust skills course, and enhanced user amenities throughout the trail system including changing stations, water stations, bike pump sta-

tions, shade shacks, historical and interpretive signage, and more.

Behind the scenes, the MDC will be forging new private and public partnerships, seeking community sponsors, and writing grants in a combined effort to raise the funds needed to complete the expansion of Redhead into its full potential as a world-class recreational destination.

“By acquiring phase two funding, one thing we are doing is incorporating our museum into Redhead, offering an educational experience as well as the recreational one everyone is coming for,” said Donna Johnson, executive director of the MDC. “This funding will not only build out the full experience Redhead offers, but it will allow us to share the rich history that is unique to this region.”

The expansion will help attract new visitors to the Iron Range, help the park attract new events, make the park more accessible and accommodating to beginning riders and individuals with disabilities, and promote healthy and vibrant communities. To recognize donors who

contribute, the MDC will have a sign portraying the names of donors at the trailhead once the project is complete.

Redhead Mountain Bike Park is free and open to the public seven days a week from dawn to dusk excluding rain days and seasonal change over. Permitted activities at Redhead include biking (on designated trails), and e-bikes. Dogs are allowed but must be on a leash no longer than six feet and must be cleaned up after. Water recreation is now open at Redhead as long as weather permits. Public vehicle access in the pit is not allowed. The MDC offers a public shuttle service and canoe and kayak rentals Thursday-Saturday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Details can be found online at [www.mndiscovery-center.com](http://www.mndiscovery-center.com).

Water recreation, a part of the phase two expansion plan, was made possible by a \$10,000 grant from the Chisholm Community Foundation that helped purchase a new floating dock system that was recently installed in the mine pit lake at Redhead.

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## MINING

# Minntac seeks weaker permit for tailings

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— U.S. Steel is seeking a permit modification for its Minntac tailings facility north of Virginia, that would eliminate the regulation of a number of pollutants that are covered in its current water discharge permit.

The request, submitted Aug. 24, comes in the wake of a decision by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to change the standards for class 3 and class 4 waters by eliminating numeric limits for a number of water quality parameters, including total dissolved solids, chlorides, hardness, and specific conductance. The Minntac facility has regularly exceeded numeric limits for most of those parameters for years, but with the change in the rules—which the MPCA approved earlier this year—it appears the company is no longer required to meet the standards as written in their current permit.

The MPCA said the changes in the class 3 and 4 rules were intended to provide “a more nuanced, localized approach to protecting water quality” as

well as greater flexibility in creating permits. The decision was strongly backed by the mining industry and Iron Range cities, many of which wrote letters in support of loosening regulations on dischargers of industrial pollutants.

The permit modification, if approved by the MPCA, would eliminate regulation of the above-mentioned pollutants on extensive seepage from the tailings facility, which directly impacts both the Dark and Sandy rivers. The Sandy River is a tributary of the Pike River, a major source of water for Lake Vermilion.

Native tribes and environmental groups had opposed the change in the Class 3 and 4 rules, arguing that the MPCA was, in effect, deregulating the mining industry by eliminating the only numeric water quality standards in Minnesota rules. MPCA officials dismissed those charges at the time, yet the permit modification now being requested by Minntac reveals the degree to which the MPCA’s action may have cleared the way for companies like U.S. Steel to forestall basic



file photo

monitoring, much less clean-up, of their pollution.

“U.S. Steel is attempting to remove all accountability for direct surface water pollution from the tailings basin,” said Paula Maccabee, legal counsel for Duluth-based Water Legacy, which has pushed the MPCA to require a clean-up of the Minntac facility.

Minntac’s push for deregulation of its pollutants could still face hurdles from the courts. According to Maccabee, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has yet to sign off on the changes to class 3 and 4 rules that the MPCA

approved earlier this year. The state agency can’t implement those changes without the federal approval, said Maccabee.

At the same time, U.S. Steel appears to be hoping that its recent installation of a seepage collection system on its Dark River discharge is sufficient justification for eliminating pollution monitoring at its surface water discharges on the west side of the 8,000-acre tailings basin. The company has previously claimed in court that it should no longer need to monitor discharges to the Sandy River because of its installation of a seepage

collection system on the basins east side more than a decade ago.

Yet, Minnesota courts have noted as recently as 2019, that considerable polluted wastewater from the tailings facility continues to flow into the Sandy River, effectively evading the collection system installed by the company.

The *Timberjay* sent questions and sought comment from the MPCA for this story. The agency did not respond prior to presstime.

## Briefly

## Babbitt man injured in motorcycle crash

BABBITT—A 70-year-old Babbitt man was injured last Saturday afternoon when he swerved his motorcycle to avoid a deer and ended up crashing.

Lester Allan Parson was driving a 2014 Erik Buell Racing RS motorcycle southbound on Hwy. 1 near mile marker 293 in Morse Township at about 12:30 p.m. on Sept. 4 when he attempted evasive maneuvers to avoid a deer, according to an accident report from the Minnesota State Patrol.

The motorcycle skidded across the northbound lane and came to a stop on the northbound shoulder. Parson sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was taken to Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital by the Babbitt Ambulance Service.

Police said the road conditions were dry at the time of the crash. The driver was wearing a helmet and alcohol was not involved in the incident.

The St. Louis County Sheriff Department also responded to the crash.

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### Texas abortion law

The Lone Star State tosses a monkey wrench at America's courts

If the U.S. Supreme Court ultimately upholds the Texas anti-abortion law, known as SB 8, far more than Roe v. Wade will be overturned. America's courtrooms could be turned into a free-for-all that will inevitably erode justice.

One of the key principles of civil courts throughout the western world is the concept of standing, which sharply limits who can sue. While any of us can go to court at any time and file a civil lawsuit, unless we have a sufficient legal interest and a documentable injury, our case will be tossed almost immediately for lack of standing.

Cases are tossed every day in courtrooms across the country for lack of standing and it helps prevent the courts, and individuals and businesses, from becoming bogged down with endless lawsuits from people who can't show they've legitimately been affected. For example, imagine PolyMet with 10,000 lawsuits, versus the half dozen they've faced from organizations that have actually been able to demonstrate standing in court.

But, now, along comes the state of Texas, with a law that says everyone in the state has standing to sue anybody who helps a woman, in any way, obtain an abortion. The law is, admittedly, cleverly written, in a transparent effort to deny women a constitutional right.

And given the current makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court, there's reason to believe that a majority of justices might look favorably at the desired outcome of this legislation. Yet the method of achieving that objective should certainly give the high court pause. In this case, regardless of anyone's position on abortion, the ends definitely do not justify the means.

If a woman's constitutional rights in Texas can be eliminated through a cleverly-written statute, so can anyone else's constitutional rights, in Minnesota or any other state. And we're not just talking about abortion. The U.S. Constitution provides our citizens with any number of rights, which a state Legislature, or even Congress, could decide to undermine through a similar legal strategy. The Second Amendment, for example, currently prevents a state government from denying citizens access to firearms, even though some state Legislatures might be amenable to severely restricting that right.

If the Texas legal strategy is upheld, there is nothing to prevent a state from adopting a law that, for example, gives anyone the right to sue a gun maker or dealer if any of the guns they sell or manufacture is ever linked to a violent crime.

Under the legal theory established by the Texas abortion law, the state isn't banning the sale of guns, per se. In fact, the state isn't enforcing anything. It is simply empowering members of the public to become vigilantes, using the courts to punish anyone who aids a perpetrator in the commission of a crime through the sale or manufacture of the gun they used. And if the Legislature in Minnesota or another state provides a hefty financial incentive to encourage such litigation, as was done with Texas's anti-abortion law, every gun dealer in the state would be forced out of business virtually overnight.

Remember, anyone can sue if we're operating by the new Texas rules. No need for a plaintiff to demonstrate they've actually been harmed in some way. No need to demonstrate negligence or bad faith. No limit on the number of individuals who can sue over a single incident. A single bad gun sale and a dealer could face 1,000 lawsuits by modern-day bounty hunters seeking their own piece of the action. Talk about a lawyer's dream.

If this is the game that conservatives really intend to play, they should prepare for those on the other side to play as well, and perhaps use the new legal theory to defend some constitutional rights currently under threat. How about a state law that allows a person to sue anyone who tries to restrict another person's constitutional right to vote? That might slow down the voter suppression bills continuously tossed into the legislative hopper in St. Paul.

Conversely, a Legislature could authorize anyone to sue any individual who fails to get a COVID vaccination or fails to wear a mask when required. Those who claim they should have the freedom to choose what happens to their own bodies should talk to the women in Texas who just lost that right based on a law that threatens to turn America's courts into a joke.

Whether the U.S. Supreme Court favors the elimination of abortion or not, this is the wrong way to achieve it. The Texas law is a Pandora's box. Justices should avoid the temptation.



## Letters from Readers

### More wasted lives for would-be oil profits

If Al Gore's defeat of George W. Bush had been allowed to stand, I believe the incursion into Afghanistan would have been limited to the police action needed to get rid of Bin Ladin's group. In, out, and leave the Afghans to their marvelous collection of British 1890 model Enfield rifles and Russian AK-47s.

But no— Bush's oil friends had their eyes on the Kazakh oil fields and figured a pipeline across Afghanistan to Karachi would be a really easy thing to do, and a great way to stick a thumb in the eyes of the Russians.

So, we stayed. And put an oil company employee into Kabul as Premier. And only later discovered just how difficult it really was going to be to lay a pipeline across a country full of well-armed Afghans who belong to clans far more than to any "country."

**Dave Porter  
Minneapolis**

### Another view for Ely students

The Aug. 18 *Timberjay* editorial "Education over revisionism" epitomized progressive brow-beating telling Americans what should be taught in public schools. Apparently, the Ely School Board debated whether to make a book available to students. A decade ago, such decisions would never have garnered the public scrutiny seen today. Why judge a book by its cover? We all know it's all about the content of one's character. Can't anyone imagine why someone would question a book entitled "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness," by author Austin Channing Brown.

For balance, The Ely School Board might consider the book "The American Story" by David and Tim Barton, who wrote, "Slavery is indeed a great evil—but it is a human evil, not distinctively American." Like despotism and

evil throughout world history, victims' becoming oppressors and oppressors becoming victims isn't race specific. In fact, "The first occasion of legal slavery in America that wasn't punishment for a crime, or captured in a just war, occurred when a black man sued to own another black man" in 1654 not 1619.

**Warner Gouin  
Inver Grove Heights**

### Timberjay editorial about TAAS money is not up to par

The Sept. 3 *Timberjay* Editorial "Audit Questions", concerning the missing \$737,648 from the Tower Area Ambulance Service account is very misleading. For example, the newspaper conflates depreciation of an asset with actual dollars spent by the TAAS for maintaining the service. Depreciation is a non-cash, estimated expense that is scheduled, rather than an explicit expense that is actually paid out from the fund. Depreciation is an accounting tool used to track the value of an asset over time until the asset needs to be replaced. When the asset is replaced, the fund is debited for the exact cost of the item. In the ambulance service, for example, "depreciating" an ambulance vehicle on paper, over a ten-year period, would be a tool used to help set ambulance rates so the money is there in the fund when it's needed.

The city certainly should have receipts for everything that has been purchased for the TAAS and that should be easy to find on their ledger for the TAAS. The newspaper tries to blame the accounting firm for the mess that the city's accounts are in, but note that the accounting firm has alerted the City in each annual audit for many years that the City's accounting is not up to par. The accounting firm wrote in the "Management Letter" at the end of a recent annual Audit that "Since the ambulance department is aggregated with the General Fund on the financial statements, it has indirectly financed some of the capital project funds' deficits." A notable "deficit fund" is the Harbor Project, not remotely connected to

the TAAS. Does the city need to hire an outside accounting firm to do its daily book keeping and bill paying? Maybe so, at least for a few years.

When the accounting firm states on page 39 of the 2020 Audit that the Ambulance Special Revenue fund is "due \$737,648 from other funds," I believe them. Walker, Giroux and Hahne sent one of its accountants to the July 12 city council meeting to present the 2020 Audit. The council did not ask a question about the \$737,648. At the Aug. 23 city council meeting, the council voted unanimously to pay \$25,720 for the 2020 Audit. How many people, in their regular lives, would pay a bill like that if they thought the product was faulty? The *Timberjay's* efforts to shoot the messenger and to attempt to confuse depreciation estimates with actual money in-money out accounting is disturbing and it really isn't a very good smoke screen. The city needs to replenish the \$737,648 to the TAAS.

**Lee Peterson  
Greenwood Twp.**

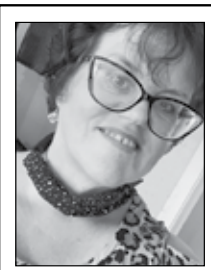
### Evidence, not guesses, needed to solve case of missing signs

It has been reported that a number of ATV safety and directional signs have been removed from trails located in or near Eagles Nest Township. Actions such as that are not condoned by the Eagles Nest Township Board of Supervisors and they may well be illegal. At the very least, removal of such signs can lead to unsafe trail riding. If you have any evidence pointing to the individual(s) who committed the act, you are encouraged to notify law enforcement. You are reminded, however, that casting allegations without evidence may be the basis of a defamation claim. Conjecture and speculation are not helpful, but sound evidence might help to hold the perpetrator(s) accountable.

**Richard P. Floyd  
Chairman  
Eagles Nest Twp.**

## Plumbing, pole dancers and partnership

With my column due in another two days, I am up at 5 a.m. sipping coffee, sitting at my old wood desk that has been dragged over to the middle of the dining room. A heavy-gauge orange extension cord runs from the back



**SCARLET  
STONE**

outlet. My red velvet wing back chair is to my left with the prized gold, Greek-goddess lamp standing behind it on a messy table. Under the parchment-colored bell-shade

with red beaded trim... the goddess has downcast eyes with hands up on her head

as if thinking, "I left the Mediterranean for this?" It will fall on deaf ears to tell her she's been relocated for her own safety because there's a clogged drainpipe upstairs and one access is through the ceiling of my office. Water is not a lamp's friend.

Cats are around me too, as always. I hear newspapers rustling and in the kitchen some food crunching and something, somewhere, just fell to the floor.

A few weeks ago, I decided to add a male kitten to the mix here because my two female cats needed a lively playmate. I got him from the shelter in Ely and have named him Grady. He is full of love, has an easy-going personality, and is a brilliant little thing even at 2.8 lbs. It's quite busy in general these days at the "House of Stone". There's much left to do before winter arrives like fix the current plumbing issue, stain the deck, lay

the roll of new office carpet that's taking up needed space in the hallway and kitchen, and clean the bloody garage. I am enjoying companionship and additional help as former husband, ongoing friend, Bill is back. We have had our ups, downs and yet we have chosen NOT to go our separate ways after a 16-month split. I went on a trip to Missouri in early June, he stayed at the house watching the cats and never left! He then moved out of

an apartment in Tower he'd been renting. (House of Stone - West as I called it.) We had a real nice summer with biking, swimming, weekend traveling and are back at doing projects like we always enjoyed...except for plumbing.

This old house was moved onto the two-lot parcel somewhere back in the 20s or 30s, and a small bathroom was added upstairs with plumbing that

See SCARLET...pg. 5

## Letters from Readers

### ISD 2142 ignoring the risks posed by COVID

It is back to school time in the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The town of Cook where I live is not free from COVID-19. I have at least one friend who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 despite being vaccinated and serious about masking and social distancing. It is unlikely that he is an isolated case.

So, I am completely confused about how the ISD 2142 Board of Education can be operating K-12 schools filled with vulnerable unvaccinated elementary children

without an apparent, let alone effective, COVID-19 prevention protocol. A short visit to the school on Tuesday showed no signs posted at the entrance recommending masking or even mentioning COVID-19. The staff at the desk were unmasked. Looking through the glass doors at students moving in the hallways showed about five-to-ten percent of students and staff wearing masks and no attempt at social distancing.

This apparent lack of concern for student and staff safety flies in the face of recommendations from the CDC, Minnesota Dept. of Health, St. Louis County Health Department, and several local health systems strongly suggesting an immediate

multi-layer approach at preventing the spread of COVID in schools. This includes vaccination of all possible people, universal masking, practicing social distancing, contact tracing and testing. In the Sunday *Mesabi Tribune* there was an open letter from Amy Westbrook of the St. Louis County Health Department and Dr. Kasey Kapella of Fairview Range Medical Center in Hibbing urging local school districts to follow these protocols.

If your plan for protecting children produces 5-10 percent success, maybe you need a new plan. When I went to school 5-10 percent correct was a F minus minus.

The district made little effort to inform the

staff about the danger that COVID presents. I have been told that Covid was not seriously addressed in the in-service training the staff received the week before school opened. Seems like a big oversight to me.

In my 40 years of mining experience, I attended 40 years of MSHA safety training. I learned that you have to take safety seriously to prevent accidents. Is ISD 2142 prepared for a COVID outbreak in the schools? The hospitals are already filled up. Wouldn't a rigorous plan to prevent the spread of COVID be better and cheaper and provide more educational opportunities?

The ISD 2142 website lists several core values on its mission statement page.

First is "Community - ISD 2142 believes that community schools are effective schools that provide a safe, positive, and supportive environment in which all students have the right to be educated."

I do not see how a total lack of COVID-19 protection plan aligns with this core value. I do not see how the superintendent's response to concerns about school safety, "Go look elsewhere if you don't like it." aligns with "every student deserves an education." After decades of support for ISD 710 and ISD 2142 by both my wife and I think our grandchildren deserve more respect than a callous dismissal.

And parents, why are you sending your children

to school without masks? Would you send your children into a burning building? These schools are currently super-spreader sites. If every student wore a mask in school, it would be so much safer for your child.

Brave school boards in Duluth, Ely, and other districts around the state and country have mandated masks. Bravo to them for being proactive and doing the right thing to protect children.

If you agree with any of my points, please share your opinion with your school board and administration as soon as possible. They need to hear from you.

**Bill Conger**  
Former ISD 2142  
School Board

### COMMENTARY

## Time to get big money out of Minnesota politics

Today, we are at a crossroad. On one hand, we have the growing threats of climate change which threaten us with fires, droughts, and violent weather. On the other hand, we have government that is increasingly being captured by special interests who, as a result of the 2010 Supreme Court decision known as Citizens United, is able to flood the campaign coffers of incumbents with massive funding.

Here in Minnesota, legislative caucuses of both parties have fully embraced this new wealth. In 2020, the caucuses went into the campaigns with over \$26 million. If this were to be averaged out evenly between the 201 members of the Legislature, the amount available to each

incumbent would be a staggering \$130,000. And this is money only from the caucus and does not include funds from the party or contributions to candidate committees.

This, along with partisan staffs that match or exceed those of political parties, certainly gives incumbents a huge re-election advantage. But, it comes at a cost to the public. A recent study by two Professors at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs concluded that generous donors were accorded special treatment by legislators including being able to "shape" legislation. We fully agree that money influences policy. For two legislative sessions we repeatedly petitioned the Governor and Legislature

for hearings on legislation designed to protect the waters of Lake Superior and the BWCA.

Time and again, we pointed out the dangers of allowing the PolyMet and Twin Metals projects to become reality. Others petitioned for answers to Enbridge Pipeline 3, which even the Minnesota Department of Commerce declared was not needed. At no point was there any willingness of elected officials to hold hearings or respond to legitimate inquiries. The Governor and legislative leaders simply stonewalled. We could not even get an answer as to why they denied a request by Minnesota's health community for a health study of the drinking waters that would be affected by the

seepage from the mines.

We pointed out the record of international corruption and environmental damage caused by the foreign corporations who own PolyMet and Twin Metals. We further noted the appalling lack of safety involved with Enbridge's Pipeline 3. We lauded the Governor of Michigan for taking decisive action in ordering the Enbridge pipeline project across Lake Michigan to close.

We have been unable to even get a hearing while big money donors were able to shape legislation. Now, many legislators will say this is not "Pay to Play." If that be the case, then please tell the public what it is.

All of us have a responsibility to play a role in our governance. We must

engage and engage now before it is too late. We cannot allow the forces of greed and the short term to convert public assets into private gain. Our quality drinking water is our most valuable and essential asset. It must not be for sale.

We can begin by adopting a constitutional amendment imposing term limits on Minnesota's Constitutional officers and Legislators. Caucus fundraising must be abolished along with partisan staffs and replaced by a system that provides robust public funding for campaigns as it is done in Connecticut.

As authors of "The Future is Today," we welcome a broad public debate that will allow us to build a government that is focused on the long term

well-being of the public and only that.

**Arne H. Carlson**  
Governor of  
Minnesota, Retired

**Janet Entzel**  
State Legislator, DFL  
Retired

**Tom Berkelman**  
State Legislator, DFL  
Retired

**Chris Knopf**  
Executive Director  
Friends of the  
Boundary Waters

**Duke Skorich**  
Communications  
Executive

### SCARLET...Continued from page 4

required steeper drainage than space would allow. Last fall while living alone here the shower gradually plugged up again. After trying the basic fixes I abandoned using it, opting instead to shower in the basement bathroom. One afternoon last week Bill decided to tackle the situation. He used his hand-held snake and attempted to clear the shower drain as he'd done in the past, but this time with no luck. He then removed the back shower panel and a couple pieces of hardwood flooring in an adjacent upstairs bedroom to get to the "guts". The P-trap for the upstairs bathroom sink and shower has to be accessed through a removeable ceiling panel in my main floor office. Clearing the pipes has so far proved unsuccessful because the clog is about eight feet in from the P-trap. Why couldn't this be easy? We even brought up the big portable electric drain cleaner with no success, just a mess from working overhead. Bill figures he knows where the clog is now, but to reach it he has to tear out the vanity, linoleum and some of the floorboards. The simple afternoon project clearly is moving into overtime.

We set the tools down last weekend, were joined by son, Keaton and his fiance Ashley and took off to celebrate Bill's birthday with mini golf and dinner over on Vermilion, followed by a few cocktails under the canopy lights back home on our deck. We

were enjoying the ambience when suddenly we heard a lonesome, unsteady wailing coming through the darkness beyond my birch trees. We turned off our music to listen and the noise stopped with us wondering if it was an animal or human source. Just then an ambulance with a row of eyebrow lights and no sirens came slowly up the avenue from the church corner and turned and moved through the darkness headed up Superior Street past my house, easing out of sight. I wondered who was in peril. Curiosity overcame the string of lights and delights that had preceded, and Bill rose to go for a walk in the dark. "Ambulance chaser," I quipped, chuckled and took a sip of my wine. Bill was gone for a while then resurfaced from the shadows of the birch trees lining my empty lot that I call the vineyard. I remind you, there are no grapes, but I live partially in a fantasy world because too much reality is no fun at all. Bill reported the wailing was coming from within a large garage up the street that is paired with no house. He said the ambulance was parked up in front of an old two-story house in need of paint with disheveled window coverings and dim lighting that I've named "the spook house." At this point the kids decided to take their basket of clean laundry which we quickly folded and they headed home, dropping us off up the street to further investigate. As my Crocs touched

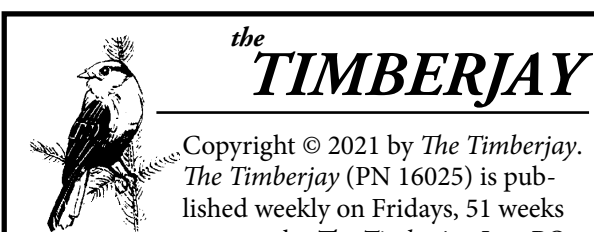
pavement and Bill exited his side of the car opening a bottle of beer, the ambulance rolled quietly away with nobody else in sight.

What an odd evening I thought. We hadn't had as much occurring in Soudan since the night this past July when an out-of-sorts neighbor punched our side door that was simply minding its own business. Glass flew, a small handful of sheriffs arrived to restore the calm to our corner lot. Further lively details of that night have been left to history.

In truth, on that July evening, we'd actually just arrived home fifteen minutes prior and I was reclining in my muumuu chuckling over details from a fun trip to Houghton and historic Hurley's Silver Street, where we met a traveling gypsy pole dancer at The Idle Hour Saloon. She was kind, then offered me a thirty-dollar lap dance because she misjudged my motive of friendliness. "Oh no, I just want to visit," I replied," after my jaw dropped. She was very interesting, tall and skilled at her craft, remaining "one with the pole" during her performance which she later explained as intentional slow movements to ease oncoming arthritis. Life's hardships wrote her face to be mid-forties, while her body appeared to be a decade closer to the innocence of a girlish tap dance. Our intention was to visit an old tavern next door called "Dawn's Never Inn" that is reported to be haunted by the ghost of Lotta Morgan,

a popular actress and scarlet woman who fell victim to an ax-wielding killer back in the late 1800's. To my disappointment that bar was closed, and I should have realized it would be from its title, Dawn's Never Inn! I must add, I can see pole dancing becoming an Olympic sport! I noted women's volleyball outfits to have only a few threads more than a pole dancer's costume. So many stories, so few words left in a column.

At any rate, Bill and I solved one of the mysteries on Superior Street in Soudan the other night, concluding that an unhappy dog was locked in the garage. A truck was haphazardly parked outside on the grassy driveway, and I was feeling so sorry for the lonely animal, but decided to mind my own business and see what the morning brought. The first thing I did the next day...pre-coffee... was peer out the kitchen window to see if the truck was gone and it was...so I knew I wouldn't be marching up the street to leave a reprimanding PETA-toned note on a windshield. The dog was probably okay, and I concluded it takes much work to be a busy-body, even in Soudan and it's best to remain a crazy cat lady minding her own business. The next mystery to be solved will be the plumbing issue and I hope by my next column everything is functional and in place again.



*the*  
**TIMBERJAY**

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Read online at [www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com)

**Week of Sept. 13**

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. at the civic center on Sept. 13

**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 Sept. 21

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

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 14

**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](http://vermilioncountry.org).

**Tower Farmers Market raffle tickets available**

TOWER- Residents who wish to support the Tower Area Food Shelf can purchase tickets for the Harvest Basket Raffle, sponsored by the Tower Farmers Market. The drawing for a basket loaded with goodies from farmers market vendors will be held on Sept. 17. Tickets are \$1. They are available at the market, Fridays from 4-6 p.m., or at the Timberjay office.

**Tower Loan Closet now located at Frandsen Bank, side entrance**

TOWER- The Tower Loan Closet has been moved to the side office at Frandsen Bank, Spruce St. entrance (the former law office location). The closet has medical equipment like crutches, walkers, canes, and toilet seats that can be lent out. The closet does not currently have a wheelchair to lend out, and if anyone has one to donate, please let them know. The loan closet is open by appointment by calling Joe Morin at 218-780-7306.

**Little Church to host worship service, Sept. 12**

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church of Vermilion Lake Township will hold a worship service on Sunday, Sept. 12 at 4 p.m. Jon Salo will officiate the service and there will be a potluck meal after the service. The Little Church is located on County Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. by the Pike River. Any questions, contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

**MCKINLEY PARK CAMPGROUND**



Above: Enjoying the music.  
Left: Donna Surface  
Below: Pat Surface  
Below right: Dennis and Cindy Rippentrop brought Pat and Donna Surface to the campground for a free show. photos by J. Summit

**Music in the park**

BREITUNG TWP- It was a musical program that promised jukebox hits from the 50s, 60s, and 70s, and it delivered that, plus a late-summer squall that screamed in off Big Bay and forced concert-goers under cover for a few minutes, while the music kept on playing. Once the rain passed by, everyone was back on the lawn. Pat and Donna Surface performed a free concert at McKinley Park Camp-

ground on Sept. 4, thanks to a generous donation from campers Dennis and Cindy Rippentrop, who arranged for the popular duo to perform. The couple, from Charles City, Iowa, have been campers at McKinley the last eight summers, though they are no strangers to Lake Vermilion, having spent the last 16 summers camping around the lake.



**Tower food shelf gets new shelves**

TOWER- The Tower Area Food Shelf will be open on Tuesday, Sept. 21 from 2:30 – 5 p.m. Shoppers will find a newly-designed look. New shelving has been added to make shopping easier and to make the space neater.

Many thanks to Richard Hanson and Hugh Wood for installing the new shelving units.

The food shelf is open the third Tuesday of each month and is located in the basement of the Timberjay building (use the rear entrance).



**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**TSHS Attic Sale continues Sept. 10 and 11**

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society's Charlemagne's Attic Sale will be open on Friday Sept. 10 and Saturday, Sept. 11 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The sale is being held at the Historic Fire Hall on Main St. The sale is featuring Weird and Wonderful Vendor Terry Heimann, who will be selling antiques, vin-

tage jewelry, vintage and brass lamps, and seasonal mixed media. There are also antiques, vintage, cabin, and fun items donated by community members, including many new items.

Proceeds will support Tower's Historic Fire Hall Restoration Project. Shop and enjoy a tour of the building's cistern, jail, city hall and fire hall.

The original table from the old liquor store when Charlie Adkisson was the manager years and

years ago was donated to the TSHS and it is being used to display items and will then become part of the permanent display in the building.

**Red Hat Belles to meet Sept. 16 at the Crescent in Cook**

COOK- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet for lunch at the Crescent Bar and Grill in Cook at noon on Thursday, Sept. 16. Please call Judy P. at

753-5504 or Judy K. at 753-3982 by Monday, Sept. 13.

**Local students graduate from Bemidji State University**

BEMIDJI- Two area students earned degrees from Bemidji State University during the 2020-2021 school year.

Maree Poppenhagen, of Embarrass, earned a bachelor of science in elementary teacher education

and a certificate in coaching.

Terry Defoe, of Tower, earned a bachelor of science in nursing. Enrolling around 5,000 students, Bemidji State offers 70 undergraduate areas of study and eight graduate degrees encompassing arts, sciences and select pre-professional programs. BSU is a Minnesota State University.

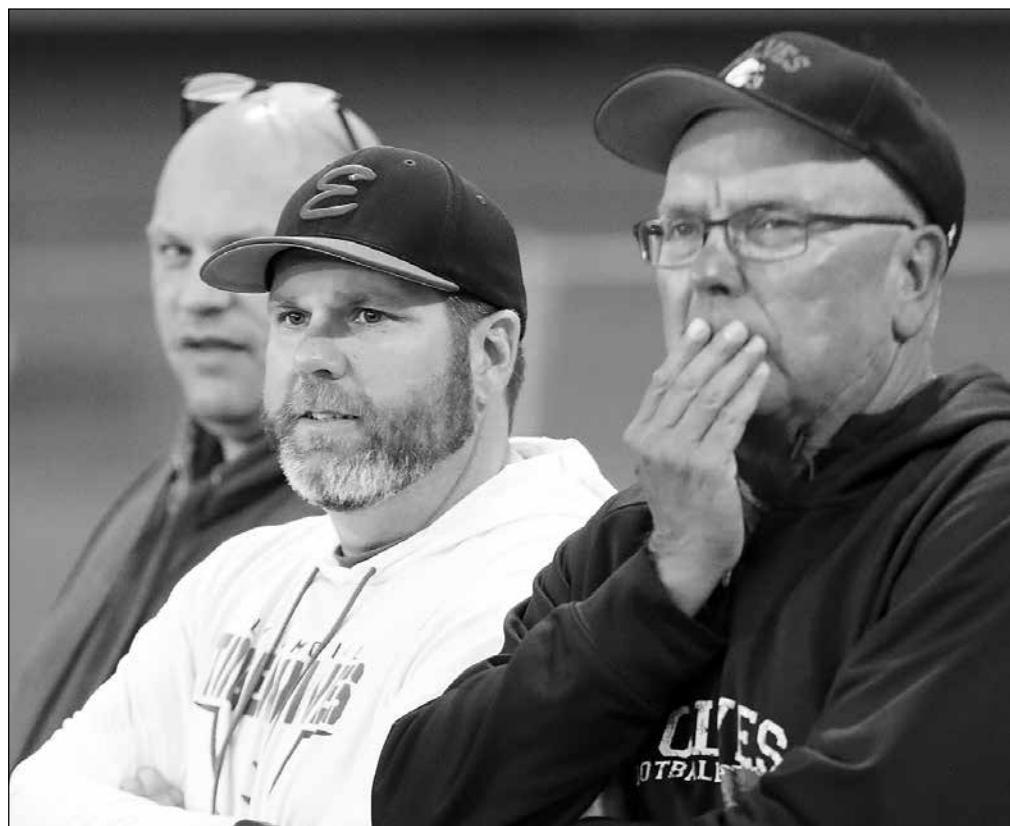
**HARVEST BASKET DRAWING**  
Sept. 17  
• Tickets Still On Sale •  
Market Time...  
Fridays 4-6 PM  
at the Train Depot

**Read us online at [timberjay.com](http://timberjay.com)**  
new e-edition available on Wednesday evenings

ELY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SEASON OPENER



New Ely High School football coach Louis Gerzin and the Timberwolves team, above, gathered before the start of their game against Carlton-Wrenshall Friday night. Three old coaches, Darren Visser, Cory Lassi and Brian Lamppa, below right, watched the action. With the opening kick-off return by Harry Simons, below, left, the season was underway. The Timberwolves won 26-6. See more coverage on Page B1. photos by K. Vandervort



Ely library makes some changes

ELY - The Ely Public Library will be open from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekdays, and closed weekends and holidays. The schedule will be in effect until the end of the year.

Along with the changes in the hours, the library will also offer limited in-person programming this fall, and will continue to offer monthly take-and-make kits for kids and online trivia contests.

The library resumed charging fines on overdue materials. Items that patrons are returning should continue to be placed in the exterior book drop rather than brought inside the building.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



a bird invasion starlings land to clean the yard soon they disappear

Libraries

Ely library

Hours: Monday — Friday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays Phone: 365-5140

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous  
**OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m.** Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.  
**SUNDAY NIGHT AA -** at St. Anthony's Catholic Church is cancelled.  
**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.  
**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED -** Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, 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

SUPPORTING THE ARTS



Wade Pharr meets with supporters recently in his new studio during an open house event. Pharr, owner of Pharr Thrown Pottery, built his expanded studio above his garage at his home on Forest Street on the south edge of town. His expanded facility will allow him to offer classes and tutoring for beginning and more advanced potters. Pharr, along with Nina Wray, owner of Moon Dog Studio, will be collaborating this fall with the Ely Folk School to co-manage a newly renovated ceramics studio that will offer monthly memberships and provide the space and equipment for aspiring and established clay artists to expand their skills. Membership fees will cover the cost of daily access to the EFS studio that will feature six electric wheels, two electric kick wheels, and an electric kiln. For more information, email ceramics@elyfolkschool.org. photo by K. Vandervort

PROTECTING PUBLIC LANDS



A panel discussion held at Ely's Historic State Theater following the screening of Patagonia's Public Trust documentary last week included environmental advocates, from left, Amy Freeman, Earnon Davnie, Tadd Johnson and Becky Rom. The moderator was Sydney Jordan, right. The film (available for viewing on YouTube) highlights America's three most threatened public lands, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Bears Ears National Monument, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The event was sponsored by Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters, and the Wilderness Society. photo by K. Vandervort

Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust

**We are now accepting 2021 Arts Grant Applications**

for Individual Artists, Project & Youth Grants, Scholarships & Operational Funding

Updated grant applications and guidelines are available online at [www.gardnertrust.org](http://www.gardnertrust.org)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: 12:00 noon on Fri., Sept. 24**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Keiko Williams, Executive Director, by mid-September for help and review of their applications. Call 365-2639 or email [info@gardnertrust.org](mailto:info@gardnertrust.org) Youth Grant applicants must call Keiko by Wed., Sept. 1 to schedule a grant review meeting.

COMMUNITY ARTS

# Cook council reviews River Street arts installations

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The contrast couldn't have been more stark at the Cook City Council meeting on Aug. 26.

On the one hand, the meeting started out with a lengthy provocative statement from Cook HRA Director Reed Erickson that generated little more than stone cold silence from council members before he departed.

But council member Elizabeth Storm brought an air of cheeriness to the normally businesslike session as she reported on the latest developments with the "It stARTS on River Street" downtown art project.

"The arts program is going well," Storm said. "It's changing all the time."

Storm shared several new additions to the installations along River Street since the council's July meeting.

"A Resting Place" is an installation by Britt-based artist Jim DeVries, who saw the need for more seating on River Street. He built two Leopold-style benches with Lake Vermilion landscapes painted on them that have been placed near the Northwoods Friends of the Arts

Gallery and the River Street Yoga Studio.

"Those beautiful benches are permanent," Storm said, noting that they have been thoroughly prepared to hold up through Minnesota winters. The benches have also been secured with cables, she said.

Storm also talked about her own art installation, "Under the Bumper-shoots," a canopy of colorful umbrellas placed atop the pergola at the Cook Public Library, inspired by her travels to Europe and Asia. The installation is both artistic and functional.

"It provides shade for people who are working at the tables or eating under the pergola," Storm said.

She encouraged council members to take a drive down River Street after dark to see another installation come to life.

"You'll see that every one of the light posts has fairy lights that come on — some blink, others don't," Storm said.

And there were smiles all around when the council reviewed thank you letters from a family that took a day to do the tiny fairy house scavenger hunt to discover all of the creative little structures hidden along River Street. Storm said that exhibit would be

ending this month.

Finally, Storm also asked the council for their permission for Northwoods Friends of the Arts to install a winged mural in the city park by the library. Students from local schools and the Nett Lake and Vermilion sectors of the Bois Forte Reservation created individual feathers which were used to create two wings on plywood during a summer art camp in 2018. The wings provide a fanciful backdrop for people to be photographed with widespread wings. Council members gave their unanimous approval to the installation.

In other business, the council:

►Held a work session preceding the regular meeting to begin reviewing sections of next year's proposed city budget.

►Discussed local impacts of the drought, noting that to this point it has not negatively affected the city's water supply.

►Discussed and approved revisions to response time, call time hours, and mutual aid for the ambulance service.

►Approved two invoices for snow equipment building construction and crack seal work at the airport.



Fancy umbrellas and decorative benches are just two of the many art projects, both temporary and permanent, that are part of the "It stARTS on River Street" project. After being delayed by the COVID pandemic, the project kicked off this summer.  
submitted photos



## NORTH WOODS SCHOOL



# BACK TO SCHOOL!

North Woods School Principal John Vuknamich, above, has an expression of satisfaction as he watches students leave after a busy first day of classes on Tuesday.

And true to the old maxim that "boys will be boys," Nathan McClain and Joshua Long blow off some steam from the long day by engaging in a little playful roughhousing on the way to the bus. photos by D. Colburn



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Readers and Rappers to meet Sept. 14 in Cook

COOK- Readers and Rappers, a Cook area book club, will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 1 p.m. at the gazebo in the Cook City Park to discuss the book "Leaving Time" by Jodi Picoult.

Leaving Time is a novel that explores elephant behavior in regard to death and grief and combines it with a tale of human loss and a perplexing crime story that has an unexpected and powerhouse ending.

Jane Kujala will moderate the discussion. Members are asked to bring their own chairs.

### St. Mary's adds another monthly worship service

COOK - St. Mary's Catholic Church, in Cook, is adding another "first" to its Mass schedule.

First Saturday Mass will be celebrated on the first Saturday of each

month at 9 a.m. There will be no holy hour or confession prior the service.

St. Mary's also recently initiated a monthly First Friday Mass.

### NWFA's 50/50 Summer Raffle Winners Named

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook has announced the winners in their annual summer 50/50 Raffle.

Ticket sales at \$5 each began in June for the fundraiser, and a drawing was held on July 24 at the NWFA Gallery.

Tammy Skorich, of Mt. Iron, was the first name drawn, and she had her choice of taking a cash award of 50 percent of the ticket sales or painting by Sue Anderson Rauschenfels. Skorich chose the cash award.

The second entry drawn was illegible, so organizers had to draw again. Rauschenfels' painting "Birches" will be headed to Huntsville, Texas to the home of Amber

J. Ulseth.

NWFA board members expressed their congratulations to the winners and thank you to all those who purchased tickets and donated time and art.

The public is encouraged to stop by the gallery to view the September exhibit "Ancient Cedars Trail: An Artistic Exploration," a collaborative traveling exhibit by 11 regional artists who support preserving and protecting critical habitat within the new Ancient Cedars Trail

in Tower. The exhibit concludes on Thursday, Sept. 30 with a reception honoring the artists from 4 to 6 p.m.

The Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery at 210 S River Street, in Cook, is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The gallery is stocked with original works of art for exhibit and sale.

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## REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

## ISD 696 avoids political controversy over 9/11 anniversary program

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

## Tribute event partnership dissolved with conservative youth group

ELY – With ISD 696 officials facing controversies such as a recent book-banning request and a face-mask wearing policy reversal at the start of the new school year, another political hot potato was thrown into the lap of school administrators over a 9/11 tribute organized by the Memorial High School student council.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and United Flight 93 that took the lives of nearly 3,000 people. A public memorial is scheduled to be held at 9 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 10 at the Ely Veteran's Memorial baseball field.

Originally dubbed the "9/11 Never Forget Project," the event was organized by the school student council, led by senior Micah Larson, president of the organization's executive board, in partnership with Young America's Foundation.

According to its website, the Young America's Foundation (YAF) was founded in 1960 at the estate of conservative writer William F. Buckley Jr. with the promulgation of principles directed against Communism and in favor of economic freedom and

minimal government.

Young America's Foundation spokesman Spencer Brown said, "YAF's 9/11: Never Forget Project provides a meaningful opportunity to remember the everyday heroes forged in stairwells of the Twin Towers, on Flight 93 in the skies above Pennsylvania, and along the Pentagon's corridors. In trying and divisive times such as these, uniting Americans to honor a day of unbreakable loss that brought unbreakable unity reminds us that what we have in common matters more than our disagreements: We are all Americans—a fact worth being proud of."

Plans for the public event were announced early last week and display advertisements were developed for local media outlets, apparently with the authority of student council advisor Autumn Boedecker and 6-12 principal Megan Anderson.

A display ad that ran on page 5B of the Sept. 4, 2021 edition of the *Timberjay* read, "EHS Student Council Partners with Y.A.F. Foundation." The advertisement also stated, "The Ely Memorial Student Council is teaming up with Young America's Foundation to hold a ceremony in honor of the



## Ely to host somber 9/11 procession

ELY -There will be a somber procession of emergency vehicles here to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on Saturday, Sept. 11, beginning at 9 a.m.

Emergency vehicles from Ely, Babbitt, and Morse Township will proceed with emergency lights down Sheridan Street from Central Avenue to the Dorothy Molter Museum and back again. This procession is to remember the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and to honor the responders who lost their lives responding to the disaster.

The public is invited to view this procession along Sheridan Street. Officials ask that those in attendance remove hats and observe a moment of silence as the procession passes in recognition of the 343 New York City firefighters, 23 New York City police officers, and 37 officers of the Port Authority who paid the ultimate sacrifice twenty years ago.

victims and to recognize the efforts of local heroes."

"During the week leading up to the event, and at the event, donations

are being collected which will support the 9/11 Never Forget Project and benefit a veteran-related charity of EHS Student Council's

apolitical. YAF certainly has a strong political bandwidth on different issues. (Student Council advisor) Autumn unwittingly approved the 9/11 event, not knowing or understanding what YAF represents. Right or wrong, if it was a politically-liberal action committee or organization, we wouldn't endorse that either. Or anything in the middle."

Another Ely media outlet ran an updated version of the promotional ad last weekend for the school's 9/11 tribute event. There were no references to a partnership with Young America's Foundation

The updated advertisement said donations are being collected, but rather than supporting the YAF's "9/11 Never Forget Project," or a veteran-related charity of EHS student council's choice, monies collected "will support the Ely Student Council."

For the 9/11 tribute event, the outfield at Ely's baseball field will be lined with 2,977 American flags, one for each of the American lives lost when hijacked airliners were crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A fourth plane was crashed into a Pennsylvania field. A brief ceremony will be held for the public event. Plans call for the baseball field to be open the entire weekend to allow visitors to view the flags.

## MASKS...Continued from page 1

message out as soon as possible."

School officials also received correspondence from local medical professionals stating, "We are concerned that if these recommendations are not followed, our students, and the community as a whole, could suffer a severe outbreak of the highly infectious Delta variant and potentially overwhelm local medical resources at a time when the state and regional health care providers are under enormous strain."

The ISD 696 administrative team added, "This virus is ever-changing and we are constantly monitoring and modifying our plans. We know this is an inconvenience and everyone wants life to get back to normal, especially in the school setting. We are hopeful this is a speed bump along the path toward a more normal 2021-2022 school year.

The Ely School Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council was scheduled to meet on Thursday, Sept. 9, to review the mask mandate and discuss other moves to keep students and staff safe.

"We don't know how long the mandate will be in place," Erie said.

The recommendation from Essentia Health said:

"We are writing to you as physician leaders of the Essentia Health Departments of Pediatrics, Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, and the Hospitalists and Neonatologists of St. Mary's Children's Hospital to share our recommendations to prevent COVID-19 infections in the classroom this fall. The American Academy of Pediatrics recently came out with strong recommendations for both universal masking in the classroom as well as getting vaccinations for all those who are able.

"With the increased infectivity of the Delta variant and the inability

to vaccinate children less than 12, we are increasingly concerned about the possibility of a massive outbreak, should universal masking not be adopted. This could quickly overwhelm our pediatric hospitals locally and may end up leading to the deaths of children in our community."

There are valid concerns regarding the effect that masking has on student academic progress, particularly in the younger grades and in children with special needs. While these concerns are important to consider, we have data showing that virtual learning is likely a greater obstacle to academic achievement. Multiple studies estimate a several-month delay in academic progress related to virtual learning during the pandemic. A virtual environment also disproportionately impacts students with school-based therapy needs as well as those from lower socio-economic status households. For these reasons mitigation of viral transmission within the district, and thus a reduction in the probability of transition to a virtual environment is likely to optimize student achievement."

"We recognize that this will now be the third academic year affected by COVID-19. We also recognize that learning occurs best in the classroom and would like to make this possible for all children. The pandemic has taken a massive toll on learning, mental health, and nutritional status. To prevent further losses in this regard, we urge you to adopt these recommendations and mandate masking for all students, staff, and visitors for children in K-12 schools in the hope of having in-person and safe learning environments for our children this year."

Erie added that some other North Country school districts have issued mask mandates, including Cook County, while others, including ISD 2142 and

Rock Ridge school districts, have not.

"We have worked very well in tandem with the hospital and Essentia in getting our community vaccinated and in trying to keep people healthy in both our school and the Ely community," he said. "We rely on their expertise in this area."

## Related links

► Press release from Essentia Health that encourages universal masking in schools as the new year begins on Tuesday, Sept. 7:

<https://www.essentiahealth.org/about/media-article-library/2021/essentia-encourages-universal-masking-in-schools/>

► Best Practice Recommendations for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools for the 2021-22 School Year from the Minnesota Department of Health:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/school-recs.pdf>.

► American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools:

<https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>.

## Petition calls for optional face masks at ISD 696

ELY - The Ely School District's decision to require students to wear facemasks as part of their back-to-school attire this week has prompted a petition drive by some district residents seeking to reverse the requirement.

The group of residents is asking the school board to make mask-wearing optional, and they're circulating a petition seeking support for their position, which they claim is scientifically supported. The petition will be presented to the Ely school board and administration "once support has been collected."

By Wednesday, 255 petition responses had been sent to the school administration and school board members, according to the school's athletic director whose wife is on the school board.

Petition: REVERT TO MASKS-OPTIONAL AT #ISD 696

We encourage all parents, grandparents, AND extended family members, concerned community residents, taxpayers, and anyone else who wish to sign this if they desire to send a strong and clear message to the board and school administration.

By signing this petition, you agree that:

► Masking children should be the choice of the parent/guardian, and only the parent/guardian

► The ISD #696 administration changing the reopening plan at 1:43pm on Friday, September 3, is seen as misleading, considering that nobody was going to be in the office again until school started

► The open house on Thursday, September 2 raised families' hopes of a normal school year, before crushing them the following afternoon

► Science does not support the current requirements that ISD #696 has chosen to so hastily implement (see link below), and

► Caving to local and state pressure over this issue was clearly a catalyst for this extremely late decision

Please leave your comments for the ISD #696 school administration along with the limited personal information requested. THEN, SHARE WITH LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS. This will be presented to the school board and administration once support has been collected.

NOTE that you can only sign this if you are within the confines of the ELY SCHOOL DISTRICT, ISD #696.

A link to the petition can be found at <https://forms.gle/vRRSAD9fqFwK6giBA>.

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**Charlemagne's Attic Sale**  
Friday, September 10 • 9 am-4 pm  
Saturday, September 11 • 9 am-4 pm  
Antiques, uniques, vintage, collectibles, cabin and fun items donated by community members  
**Featuring: Weird and Wonderful Vendor Terry Heiman**  
Antiques, Vintage Jewelry, Vintage Brass Lamps and Seasonal Mixed Media  
• Join us for the Amazing SALE!  
Enjoy a tour of the building, see the cistern, jail, city hall and fire hall  
**Historic Fire Hall**  
504 Main Street - Tower, MN  
Charlemagne's Attic Sale supports Tower's Historic Fire Hall restoration project.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# New Zup's Market nearing completion in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

Shelving units mostly built, deli taking shape, freezer cases installed

ELY – “My father and my uncles would be so proud of this,” Theresa Jammick, granddaughter of the original John Zupancich Sr., said as she marveled at the size and scope of the new market set to open here next month.

Jammick is the daughter of Edward Zupancich, who along with five brothers maintained a life of community service by carrying on the grocery tradition across the region.

She paid an impromptu visit to the store last Friday and took a quick tour.

“I love the big signs up on the walls for the different departments and I like that it is nice and bright,” she said.

Jammick sized up the numerous aisles of metal shelving that were being installed.



Theresa Jammick, granddaughter of Zup's Market founder John Zupancich Sr., toured the new Ely store last week. photos by K. Vandervort

“Looks like you can get two carts down here with no trouble,” she added.

According to store owner Jimmy Zupancich, the plan to close the existing Zup's Market on the top of the hill on Sheridan Street is scheduled for Sept. 28.

His plan is to take all of his staff and move everybody down to the Northland Market.

Zupancich bought Ely's competing grocer and the former Shopko building late last year as part of his expansion project, estimated to cost upwards of \$7 million. When all is said and done, Ely area shoppers will have the benefit of a 35,000-square-foot, full service, modernized grocery store, complete with dry goods, expanded

sausage factory, a separate liquor store and the return of a second pharmacy in the community.

The two store staffs will work together at the Northland Market until the middle of October, when the new store will open. When the current Zup's Market closes at the end of the month, the computer system and freezer and



Shelving was prepared and constructed this week at the new Ely Zup's Market

refrigerator cases will be moved.

A quick tour over the Labor Day weekend highlighted the endless aisles of shelves under construction. The sausage-making room

was full of new machinery. Freezer cases and refrigerator cases were in place.

“I can't believe how long the dairy case is,” Jammick said. “That must be 80 feet long!”

## ATV...Continued from page 1

The township enacted its ban after the Prospectors Club denied a request from the township to remove Trail #4 from the ride and rally route. The club had agreed to remove Trail #4 as a numbered route from its website, but said they would continue to show a legal route through the township using several county roads along with Migisi Road.

In an email dated Sept. 3 to town board chair Rich Floyd, Prospector Club President Nick Wognum said the club would remove Trail 4 from the club's website, but would then make adjustments to the website map to indicate “ATVs can continue down Walsh Road, turn on Migisi Road to continue to the west.”

The township's latest move would appear to block the club's revised route.

The township had previously passed a resolution opposing any trail

route through its neighborhoods and has noted that a “substantial majority of property owners along Migisi Road in Eagles Nest Township are opposed to OHV traffic by non-residents there.”

Floyd opened the meeting by stating that the claims being circulated in the township that the meeting was in violation of the open meeting law were incorrect.

“I am confident we did not violate the open meeting law,” he said.

Floyd went on to state that while in the past he had said that the board wasn't discussing banning ATVs, that was true at that time.

“We did not plan on it,” he said, “but now we are here talking about banning ATVs on a 2/3-mile long dead-end Migisi Road.”

Floyd said the township had made their feelings clear about the issue with club officials.

“The club chose otherwise,” he said. “Our hand

has been forced.”

Floyd said the town board could either allow the Ride and Rally through the township, or make part of the route illegal, effectively prohibiting the club from using the route.

Soderberg noted the town board had never formally endorsed the Prospector Trail route through the township. He said ATV use in the township has historically been done responsibly, with little complaint.

Soderberg said the board was never formally notified of the published route through the township and had just received notification from ATVAM president Ron Potter that the township might temporarily see an increase in traffic from a reroute due to a bridge project on the Prospector Trail.

“But then I saw the free map they published last year,” Soderberg said, with the route mapped through the township on

both county roads and Migisi Road.

Soderberg said the DNR had told the township they were not interested in opening up use of the Taconite Trail (snowmobile trail) that goes through Bear Head State Park to OHV use if the township did not approve.

“This is a trail system we never agreed to,” said Soderberg. “Voting on a ban is something I never wanted to do, but we didn't have a choice.”

Soderberg said the ban may be temporary, but this will prevent the route on Migisi Road from becoming “a trail forever.”

Sherman said the purpose of the meeting was to consider the resolution, not to resolve all the other OHV issues.

“People have ridden ATVs in the township for many years,” he said. “I've never had a problem with people riding ATVs. They are just as annoying as people on jet skis, or those

who play loud music. But we lived with it.”

Sherman said the township told the Prospectors Club several years ago that they were not interested in creating a trail system through the township.

“The problem we are dealing with today is created by an outside group,” he said. “They failed in their lobbying efforts to get what they wanted [use of the Taconite Trail] and decided without input from the township to make our roads, which are in and out, usable for their specific purpose.”

Sherman showed a copy of the original Prospector Trail map which showed the trail running along the Taconite Trail from Ely to Tower. “They were unable to get that accomplished,” said Sherman, “so the Prospectors Club and Ely Echo, both run by the same man, printed the map in 2020 showing Trail 4 going on Walsh Road, Bear Head Road, and Swanson Shores Road.”

Sherman said he hoped this issue would not lead to divisions in the township.

He reminded members of the Prospectors Club that they have repeatedly told the township that they would abandon the Ride and Rally route through the township if ATV use was banned on Migisi Road.

“Then we can address the bigger issue of what we can do to allow our residents to use their ATVs. I do not view this as the final word.”

The audience, that numbered over 50, then had time to speak, although only four people took advantage of the opportunity.

Township resident Jeff Benn, a retired deputy sheriff, asked how the township would enforce the ordinance.

“I don't think you can enforce it,” Benn said. “I think the resolution is B.S.”

Floyd replied that the resolution is a “stop-gap” measure and the town board is planning to have an ordinance in place before the Ride and Rally. “The Prospectors Club and ATVAM have said in writing they will follow the law and only ride on roads that are legal,” he said.

Penny Reedy, an ATV user from Ely, said the ATV users she has ridden with are all respectful and careful riders.

“The rally is only one day,” she said. “You are not going to see hundreds of ATVs a day on the trails.” She said most organized

rides are fundraisers.

“We aren't trying to cause you trouble,” she said.

Another audience member, Don Pasanen, who lives on Hwy. 169, said he's been riding four-wheelers “all his life” and has never had a problem with other ATV riders. “It's not like Sturgis,” he said. “These people are respectful.”

He said the route through the township is needed. “I don't want to ride 40 miles through Babbitt to get to Tower,” he said. “I want to go 10 miles to Tower.”

Planning for a more direct route from Ely to Tower, through the new Lake Vermilion State Park and planned OHV campground, is underway.

“I feel you are stepping on everyone's toes,” he told the town board. “You are playing games. That is all you are doing.”

Pasanen urged the township board to work together with the Prospectors Club to find a route.

“There are enough smart people around here to figure out a route,” he said. “Nothing gets done by fighting.”

Resident Frank Pengal said he has used the Migisi Road route for many years. “What you are considering really pissed me off,” he told the board.

“Common sense is to use the Bear Head State Park Taconite Trail,” he said.

### Final decision

“Our ultimate objective is to block an official route through the township,” said Floyd, “and banning OHVs from Migisi Road is the only way we can accomplish this on short notice. If the Prospectors Club commits to removing Trail 4, and no rally ride, there will be a strong incentive to remove the ordinance after it passes.”

Soderberg urged OHV users to talk to the Prospectors Club and ATVAM.

“They are the ones insisting they have to have this ride through the township,” he said.

Soderberg reiterated that the “vast majority” of township residents he has spoken to do not want the ATV route on township and county roads as a primary route through the township.

The next regular town board meeting is on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 5 p.m.



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CITY OF ELY

# Ely city council considers public art project

## Bronze sculptures celebrating canoe culture proposed for Whiteside Park

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – City council members here expressed concerns at a public hearing this week about the donated bronze canoe sculptures proposed for Whiteside Park, including possible vandalism, safety, location, and the need for two similar pieces of public art.

While no citizens participated in the hearing, held prior to the council's regular business meeting Tuesday night, council members discussed the issue at length.

Last month, William Rom Jr., son of one of Ely's storied and largest canoe outfitters, and his wife, Holly, presented to the council their vision of displaying a dedication to the city's long history of canoeing through a pair of bronze sculptures to be erected next summer in Whiteside Park.

One sculpture, a life-size representation of a pair of Voyageur explorers in a 16-foot birch bark canoe traversing down river rapids, would be displayed in the middle of the park. The other sculpture, to be located near the park's band shell, would be a one-quarter scale representation of local adventure canoeist Bill Mason.

The council's Park and Recreation and Projects committees reviewed the plans and support the project. When introduced to the council last month,



A model of a bronze sculpture proposed for Whiteside Park in Ely shows a lone paddler.

council member Heidi Omerza said, "I don't see anybody having a problem with this."

Mayor Roger Skraba related a couple of comments he heard from at least one individual who expressed concern about the size and location of the art. Skraba also asked about any city ordinances that dictates the display of items in the park.

City Attorney Kelly Klun indicated that she was not aware of anything that prohibits the city from displaying public art in the park.

"The general standard is if the council accepts it, it is okay," she said. "There is nothing in the original deed from the Whiteside family."

A stone sculpture, located just north of the band shell, already exists in the park.

Council member Angela Campbell said she was concerned that the size of the sculpture may entice "kids to hang from it, jump on it or play on it."

Council member Al Forsman suggested a sculpture could be placed in the flower garden in the middle of the park.

"That seems like an obvious place to put a sculpture," he said.

Omerza, chair of the Parks and Rec committee, said the locations were considered because of nearby access to electric power for lighting and security.

Clerk - Treasurer

Harold Langowski said city officials and the Roms toured the park and considered various locations, settling on the proposed areas.

"They were drawn to the center of the park and also a location in line with the stone sculpture," he said. "We can always adjust the final location."

The Roms were not present for the public hearing.

Skraba wondered if safety and security were considered in committee-level discussions. "The last thing I want to see is a fence around them," he said. "I hope people will respect it."

The mayor also indicated his concern with having

two similar sculptures in the park.

"I can't support the smaller one, and I'm a (canoe) guide," he said. "Bill Mason? Bill who? What did he do for Ely? We don't need two."

He added, "My concern is that next week, or next year a group comes in and wants to put something up for the miners in the park. To me, the park is hallowed ground. It should be a long process to get the use of it for a permanent monument."

The Park and Rec Committee will consider the proposed locations for the sculpture and bring a recommendation back to the council for approval.

### Other business

In other business, the council:

► Established a committee to review a proposed purchased offer and business plan submitted for the Community Center.

► Approved a resolution seeking a \$30,000 grant from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for the Pioneer Mine Memorial Project.

► Accepted the resignation of Ely police officers George Burger and Maxwell Brewer, and Ely firefighters Matt High and Bob Zupancich.

► Approved a recommendation from the employee relations committee to approve the job description for an assistant police chief position and to post the position with a starting salary of \$79,000 per year.

► Approved a commercial renovation loan for Pengal's Inc. for \$6,000 for a new roof at 137 E Sheridan St.

► Approved a temporary liquor license for the Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation to have a beverage garden at the Ely Marathon in Whiteside Park on Saturday, Sept. 25.

► Approved the resignation of Chris Steele from the Ely Library Board.

► Appointed Todd Crego to fill the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust seat that was vacated by Chris Steele.

### CELEBRATING THE SEASON

# Ely's Harvest Moon Festival runs Friday-Sunday in Whiteside Park

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY – Ely is hosting the 2021 Harvest Moon Festival this weekend in Whiteside Park. This year's festival will feature about 100 booths filled with arts, crafts, and food. For all of those who missed visiting the Blueberry/Art Festival, which was canceled after

a Friday evening storm damaged vendors' booths, took out power, and felled large trees in Whiteside Park, Harvest Moon is a second chance to browse and shop unique handmade arts and crafts items.

This year marks the 27th running of the Harvest Moon Festival. Historically, the three-day event has drawn 10,000 to

15,000 attendees.

"We are very excited about the fall festival. We have a number of returning art and craft vendors, plus some really unique new ones, too," said Chamber events director Ellen Cashman. "With all the planning and modifications, we are excited to see the festival come to fruition."

The festival layout will be similar to the Blueberry/Art Festival with six feet between each vendor.

"The extra space is recommended by Stay Safe Minnesota and part of our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan," Cashman added.

"We have five food vendors that are familiar to the festival: Becky's Oriental Foods,

Schweiby's Concessions, SB Concessions, Best Way, and of course the Kiwanis Club with their delicious blueberry pies and sandwiches," she said. "The Ely Hoop Club will also have a booth with refreshing ice-cold beverages."

Festival hours are: Friday, Sept. 10, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 11, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday,

Sept. 12, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Running in conjunction with the Harvest Moon Festival is Harvest Days, featuring area businesses offering specials, end-of-season sales, and autumn product lines. Harvest Days starts on Thursday, Sept. 9 and runs through Sunday, Sept. 12.

## COVID...Continued from page 1

The *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* reported last week that Twin Cities residents were flocking to hospitals in greater Minnesota to receive treatments.

If any decide to travel as far as the North Country, they'll find that the Ely-Bloomenson and Cook hospitals are both providing the intravenous treatments. However, they may also find there's competition here, too, as the northern region continues to be one of St. Louis County's least vaccinated areas with accompanying higher rates of COVID infection.

### Tried and true

Those who believe that monoclonal antibodies are a novel new therapy developed specifically in response to the COVID-19 are almost half a century wrong. Monoclonal antibodies were first produced in 1975 and licensed for use in 1986. Since then, unique varieties have been developed to treat certain forms of cancer, chronic inflammatory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, and infectious disease. Their use for treating COVID-19 is only the most recent and most visible use of the medical technology.

The word monoclonal gives a clue as to how they are developed. Unique white blood cells are cloned

repeatedly to create monoclonal antibodies, which function in a manner that mimics the body's natural immune response.

In the case of COVID-19, monoclonal antibodies work by attaching to the spike proteins of the coronavirus and its various strains. With their spike proteins disabled, the virus and variants lose the ability to attach to and invade human cells. As with vaccines, the effectiveness of monoclonal antibodies varies somewhat with the type of strain. Regeneron

has been the most robust in maintaining its edge against the delta variant, which currently accounts for 95 percent of the new cases in the U.S., but the others are also highly effective at reducing the severity of COVID infections.

### Getting treatments

The Minnesota Department of Health has issued the following guidelines for people to use to determine if they might be a candidate for monoclonal antibody treatment:

► You test positive for COVID-19.

► Your symptoms started less than 10 days ago.

► You are not hospitalized.

► If you have not been fully vaccinated and you have a weakened immune system

Individuals who believe they may qualify should consult directly with

a health care professional to discuss their situation and determine their eligibility for a referral for treatment.

Appointments for monoclonal antibody treatments at Cook Hospital, in Cook, can be made by calling the Outpatient Services Department directly for assistance at 218-666-6247.


More information about monoclonal antibody treatments is available by contacting Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital pharmacists at 218-365-8770, according to EVCH communications team leader Jodi Martin. The hospital also provides the treatments for qualified individuals.

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## VOLLEYBALL

### First set comeback lifts Grizz

Blanks Bigfork after close call in opening set

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook-Orr Editor

**FIELDTWP-** The North Woods Grizzlies volleyball team averted a first-game collapse and won their first home match of the season on Tuesday by blanking Bigfork 3-0.

North Woods raced to a 7-0 lead at the outset, stretched the lead to eight at 15-7, and looked to be

comfortably in control and on the brink of an easy win at 23-17.

But the Huskies refused to go quietly, stunning the Grizzlies with seven consecutive points, and suddenly it was North Woods staring at a possible loss, trailing 23-24.

Coming out of a time out, Addy Hartway brought the Grizzlies back to even with a kill. Facing a second Bigfork game point, it was Hartway

to the rescue again with a scoring slam to midcourt.

With the game tied at 25 and Karah Scofield serving for North Woods, Bigfork saw its rally fizzle with a pair of unforced errors, handing the game to the Grizzlies 27-25.

“We came in super confident and then all of a sudden, out of the blue, we got tentative,” North Woods Head Coach Kandi Olson said. “Once we hit that it was hard to shake. For some reason,

**Right: Karah Scofield and Addy Hartway (#16) team up to defend at the net.**

photo by D. Colburn

they just weren’t communicating like they normally would with each other.”

Skyler Yernatich caught the Huskies by surprise with a flat-footed kill shot to break a 6-6 tie in the second game. A Hannah Kinsey tap down at the net and consecutive

See **VOLLEY...pg.2B**



**Left: Ely’s Chase Sandberg recovers a Carlton fumble during football action in Ely last Friday.**

**Below: Ely’s Harry Simons holds the ball seconds after crossing the end zone for a two-point conversion.**

photos by K. Vandervort

## VOLLEYBALL

### Ely takes three at Littlefork

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

**LITTLEFORK** — A road trip here ended with a 3-0 victory for Ely on Tuesday, as the Wolves dominated the Vikings 25-17, 25-9, and 25-20 in a match that featured plenty of intense volleys.

As with the Wolves’ season opener with Northeast Range, several Ely players put up impressive stats as Ely relied on strong net play to keep the Vikings off-balance. Ely came from behind in the first set after spotting Littlefork a 10-5 lead early. The Wolves tied it up at 11 and took the lead minutes later as the Vikings appeared to lose their early focus, allowing Ely to dominate at the net the rest of the way.

Juniors Kate and Rachel Coughlin combined for a strong offensive performance, each with nine kills on the night. Kate added six digs and three aces, while Rachel padded her performance with five digs. Senior Kellen Thomas added to the mix with seven kills of her own. Senior Annikka Mattson worked her magic in the backcourt, tallying ten digs and recording five aces, while setter Katrina Seliskar put up 29 assists, ten digs, and four aces. Junior Courtney Eilrich added three aces.

The win lifts the Wolves to 2-0 on the young season. They were set to travel to Cherry Thursday and will take part in the Greenway tournament this Saturday. They take on Mesabi East on Thursday, Sept. 16, in Aurora.

## FOOTBALL

### Ely defense snuffs Raptors

Wolves debut with new coach, NER merger

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**  
Ely Editor

**ELY** — A new season, a new coach, and with more than twice as many players in uniform as their opponent, the Timberwolves cruised to a 26-6 home-opening win over Carlton here on Friday night.

Ely took the opening kickoff for six, in a drive capped by a five-yard run by junior Erron Anderson. Anderson had a stellar night for Ely, rushing for 138 yards and three

touchdowns, including two in the first half. His second score came from two yards out in the second quarter. Another failed conversion left the score at 12-0.

Davis’s quarterback-keeper from the one-yard line late in the second quarter, followed by a two-point conversion pass to Simons from Davis, gave Ely a 20-0 lead at halftime.

The Raptors put their only points on the board in the third

See **FOOTBALL...pg. 2B**



## FOOTBALL

### Grizzlies hang tough against Rock Ridge Chiabotti lights up opener on both offense and defense

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook-Orr Editor

**EVELETH-** The North Woods football team came close to pulling a David vs. Goliath upset in the first ever game for the new Rock Ridge

**Left: T.J. Chiabotti follows the lead blocking of Jake Panich for his second touchdown of the evening.**

photo by D. Colburn

squad, but they came up one rock short in a season-opening 20-14 road loss in Eveleth.

Light drizzle greeted the teams as they took the field last Thursday, but it had little effect on two squads that were both dependent on their running games. Excitement was high as the Class 7AAA Wolverines, who will switch to 7AAAA when Eveleth-Gilbert and Virginia high schools combine under one roof, took the opening kickoff

and marched 79 yards against the 7A Grizzlies for a 12-yard touchdown, clinched by junior back Ryan Manninen.

“We got caught out of position a time or two, got caught looking in the backfield, and that offense tries to misdirect as much as they can,” North Woods Head Coach Joel Anderson said. “That’s a tough opponent when we’re not at full strength

See **GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B**



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**GRIZZLIES...**Continued from page 1B

and you're playing that many classes up."

And after North Woods went four-and-out on its first possession, it looked like the oversized visitors were in for a long, long night. But one should never take a cornered grizzly bear for granted.

North Woods defenders stood tough on the next Rock Ridge series, forcing a punt on fourth-and-11 that handed the ball to the Grizzlies offense at their own 46.

The offensive line, playing shorthanded due to injuries and illness, gave T.J. Chiabotti the crease he was looking for and the senior running back gave the Grizzlies the big play they needed, streaking 54 yards for the score. The conversion attempt failed, but with 2:21 left in the first quarter, the score was tied 6-6.

"T.J. is phenomenal at finding the hole and exposing it and making the right cuts," Anderson said. "He's a very tough back to bring down. I think everybody, myself included, was waiting for one or two more



**Left: Pressure from North Woods defender Anevay Goodsky-Spears forces the Rock Ridge quarterback into an off-balance throw and an incomplettion.**

photo by D. Colburn

fool Chiabotti, who intercepted the ball and raced down the sideline all the way to the Rock Ridge 7. Two plays later, Chiabotti was in the end zone for a touchdown on a one-yard plunge, then tacked on the two-point conversion with an acrobatic spin to shed a Wolverine defender. The Rock Ridge crowd was stunned into silence as the underdog Grizzlies held a 14-6 advantage with just over five minutes remaining in the half.

Rock Ridge struck back in short order, taking only two plays to move from their own 33 to the North Woods 29, and two plays later Manninen scored on a 24-yard jaunt to pull the Wolverines within two, 14-12. The conversion attempt failed, leaving the Grizzlies on top at the half.

of those."

But it was on defense where Chiabotti turned in his next big play.

Rock Ridge came up empty when the Grizzlies stiffened on a drive that reached the North Woods 6-yard-line before stalling,

but the Wolverines were back in business at the Grizzlies 49 after a North Woods punt.

Rock Ridge quarterback Dylan Hedley tried catching the Grizzlies off guard with a first-down pass, but the play didn't

The second half was one of missed opportunities for North Woods. Jared Chiabotti had a scintillating return on the opening kickoff of the second half, taking it all the way to the Rock Ridge 27. But the Grizzlies failed to convert, turning the ball over on downs when quarterback Ty Fabisch was sacked on on a fourth-down pass attempt.

Wolverine defenders came up big again on the next North Woods possession, stopping Chiabotti short of a first down on a fourth-and-two run from the North Woods 43. Working with a short field, Rock Ridge regained the lead on Manninen's third touchdown of the night, an 11-yard dash. Griffin Dosan ran for the conversion, and with 2:35 remaining in the third quarter the Wolverines were back on top 20-14.

With North Woods unable to mount a passing game, Rock Ridge stacked its defenders at the line to effectively shackle Chiabotti. The Grizzlies defense held strong as well,

forcing two fumbles and holding Rock Ridge scoreless the rest of the way, but the Wolverines held North Woods at bay to close out their first-ever victory.

"Their numbers, their size, they started to wear us down," Anderson said. "We had a lot of guys going both ways for pretty much every play of that game, and we battled hard. They're a good football team. I wish we would have capitalized on some of those fumbles, but with the group we had in the game and what we had to prepare with, we played a heck of a football game. We're one missed tackle away from winning that game."

As expected, T.J. Chiabotti was the team's primary offensive weapon, carrying the ball 25 times for 168 yards, a 6.7-yards-per-carry average. He also led the team on defense with eight unassisted tackles, two more than Anevay Goodsky-Spears. Fabish and Jake Panichi both recovered fumbles.

**VOLLEY...**Continued from page 1B

errors by Bigfork put North Woods up 11-6. Getting big plays from Morgan Burnett, Tori Olson, and Kinsey, the Grizzlies went on a 14-3 tear to breeze to a 25-9 win.

"We are looking to get her more involved offensively," Olson said about Burnett. "She's a senior who's worked hard throughout several years of play, and she's going to reap the benefits of that with the way that she's working now."

Yernatich displayed

her versatility by winning a duel at the net for a score and finessing a little bump shot for another as the Grizzlies opened a 9-5 lead in the third game. That was as close as the Huskies would get, as North Woods got contributions across the board in closing out the match with a 25-14 win.

"Skyler really came together for us tonight in two different ways," Olson said. "With the flat-footed hitting, we've been working on that to get a



**Left: Morgan Burnett and Skyler Yernatich are both set for a big during their match-up with Bigfork on Tuesday.**

photo by D. Colburn

little more accuracy and choosing her spots better. But she also came together like gangbusters in the back row. She put together some perfect passes that we were able to convert into points, and to have such an offensive and defensive

threat was a great asset to us tonight."

The Grizzlies were scheduled to be on the home court again Thursday for a Parents Night matchup against Mesabi East. Another home match is coming up on Monday against Deer River, and then North Woods hits the road for a Tuesday tilt against Eveleth-Gilbert. All varsity contests start at 7 p.m.

**FOOTBALL...**Continued from page 1B

quarter, on a 10-yard run, but Ely held them off the rest of the way. Ely found the end zone again at the start of the fourth quarter on Anderson's third touch-

down of the night to lift their final margin to 26-6.

Senior quarterback Mason Davis had a big night as well, rushing for 57 yards, including a score,

while also completing seven passes for 97 yards. Harry Simons added four receptions for 35 yards.

It all combined to nearly 300 yards of total

offense for the Wolves, including 97 in the air.

Mason throws the ball really well," said Head Coach Louis Gerzin. "He understands where the

receivers will be, whether it is a back-shoulder pass or an inside pass. He's been playing quarterback for a while and is showing some big improvements

from last year."

Gerzin also said he was also pleased with his team's defensive performance. "They came out to play and looked great," he said. "We made that a point of emphasis during the week and they stuck to it."

Senior linebacker Eddie Prijatel lead the team with 15 tackles. Logan Meskill, Anderson, Chase Sandberg, Jackson Hegman, and Gavin Marshall each had eight tackles on the night. Simons had two interceptions and Sandberg recovered a fumble.

The Timberwolves came out with a few first-game jitters and committed a couple of procedure penalties with false starts and illegal formations. "Several of our guys haven't played on the varsity level before. We cleaned that up in the second half," Gerzin said.

With junior Jason Kerntz on the sideline to start the season, Anderson stepped into the starting running back role. "He did a great job this week and will only get better," Gerzin said.

"There were a few things that we need to work on this week, with a couple of fumbles and some missed passes, but I feel good about coming into week two," he added.

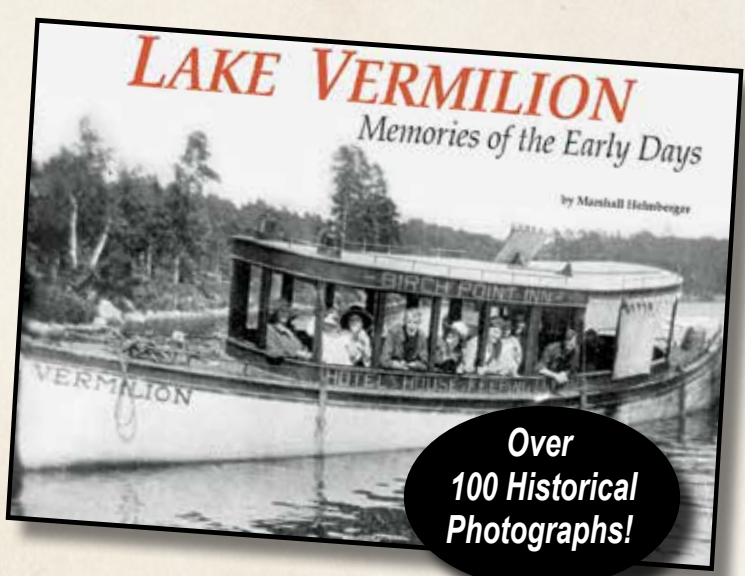
The Timberwolves were set to host Mt. Iron-Buhl at home on Friday, and travel to Big Fork on Sept. 17. Ely returns home to host Cherry on Sept. 24.



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## FOREST FIRES

## Greenwood fire at least 50-percent contained

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

REGIONAL – Fire crews working to contain wildfires burning in northeast Minnesota were aided by cool temperatures and scattered rain showers over the last week, and by Tuesday the Greenwood Fire, burning west of Isabella, remained at 26,112 acres and was nearly 50 percent contained. As many as 344 personnel were reported to be working on the fire.

“Thanks to favorable weather and fire efforts, the threat to cabins, homes, and recreational sites in the area is greatly diminished,” according to an update from the team managing the fire.

Crews working on the north and west perimeter of the fire “began hauling out fire hose and other equipment, as the threat to structures was reduced,” officials said. Meanwhile efforts to build fire lines on the south and east sides of the fire continued this week.

Early this week, firefighters patrolled and mopped up along Hwy. 2, paying particular attention to an unburned island of fuel near the southwestern fire edge. They continued to secure the southern and eastern fire perimeters with handlines and mechanical lines. Crews also scouted along the Hwy. 1 corridor and mopped up any remain-

## BWCAW was re-opened last weekend

ing hot spots.

A surface storm system and cold front over the region on Tuesday brought numerous showers and thunderstorms. Rainfall amounts were expected to range from a tenth to a quarter of an inch with locally higher amounts.

Hwy. 1 is closed from New Tomahawk Road to Lankinen Road. Hwy. 2 is closed between Hwy. 1 to Hwy. 11. Only residents with passes issued by the Sheriff’s Office may travel along these highways, officials said Tuesday.

The lightning-caused Greenwood Fire has burned 14 homes and cabins and several dozen other structures since it was first spotted Aug. 15. While some residents along and near Lake County Hwy. 2 have been allowed through checkpoints to visit their properties, about 200 homes and cabins remain evacuated due to the fire.

## BWCA reopens

Portions of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area were re-opened on Saturday, Sept. 4. The U.S. Forest Service made that announcement last Wednesday, after *the Timberjay’s* weekly press time.

The lifting of the closure, which had been in place since Aug. 21, includes all of the wil-

deness with the exception of relatively small areas around the Greenwood, John Ek, and Whelp fires. The Forest Service has also modified the areas affected by those closures.

“We’re thrilled to reopen some of our public lands to visitors,” said Connie Cummins, Forest Supervisor on the Superior. “The drought is not over but we’re starting to see more rain and lower temperatures. These conditions moderate fire activity and lessen the chance of new fires showing up.”

The Forest Service decision means any permits previously reserved on or after Sept. 4 are still valid. Users can now reserve available quota permits at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

Meanwhile, the two largest fires burning within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness also remained quiet early this week. The John Ek Fire is about 1,350 acres, and the nearby Whelp Fire is about 50 acres. Both were zero percent contained as of Wednesday.

Crews completed contingency lines on three sides of the fire. Should the fire become active again, these contingency lines will be used as necessary, including conducting burnouts along them and/or turning on sprinkler systems adjacent to



Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Sen. Tina Smith, and Gov. Tim Walz toured the fire scene on Sept. 6. USFS photo

those lines. Structure protection crews are still doing Firewise work (assessing structures, removing debris and thinning fuels near homes) on the south side of the Gunflint Trail, from Poplar Lake to Round Lake and Tuscarora Lodge.

“With stronger, gusty winds, some creeping and surface spread in exposed dry marsh grasses is possible, but no significant fire movement is anticipated,” fire officials reported.

Camping on Superior National Forest lands outside of developed campgrounds is again open to visitors. This includes backcountry sites and dispersed camping.

The Forest Service also lifted a heavy equipment restriction late last week which allows certain land management activities to again operate during normal business hours. Although the restrictions were lifted, officials asked that contractors and the public continue to practice diligence on forest lands as drought conditions remain, as does fire risk.

Fire restrictions also remain in place on the Superior National Forest, though campfires are now allowed in fire rings in specified fee campgrounds.

Please visit the forest website for more information or call your local district office.

## Ely Wolf Center ambassador wolf Denali euthanized

ELY - Denali, a 13-year-old ambassador wolf at the International Wolf Center, was euthanized last Saturday after his condition deteriorated quickly.

The gray wolf was born in 2008 at the Wildlife Science Center in Minnesota. He came to the International Wolf Center with his littermate, Aidan.

According to IWC Communications Director Chad Richardson, early reports last Saturday noted that Denali was very interactive and seemingly had no issues, but by Saturday evening that had changed.

At about 7 p.m. that night, a wolf care staff member noticed Denali’s gums were pale, his ears were cold and that he seemed dehydrated. Two additional wolf care staff members were quickly called in, including the Center’s longtime wolf curator, Lori Schmidt. As Denali’s condition deteriorated, the Center’s veterinarian, Dr. Kristine Woerheide, was also called in, Richardson said.

His condition continued to deteriorate and he was euthanized shortly



thereafter. A necropsy was performed at the Ely Veterinary Clinic where Dr. Woerheide found a tumor on Denali’s liver that had ruptured. There were also calcifications throughout his lung lobes and a mass on his right atrium.

Tissue samples were collected and are being sent to a pathologist for further analysis.

“The benefit of working with socialized wolves is the trust that is developed between wolf care team members and the animals in our care,” Schmidt said. “This trust takes hours and hours

to build during the critical bonding period as pups, but the benefits are never more important than those final moments when the hard decisions need to be made to end an animal’s suffering.”

Denali’s last minutes were spent surrounded by the wolf care team.

“He will be fondly remembered for his foreleg stabs, seeking attention from fellow packmates and staff doing wolf checks, as well as his bounding play-bows, when he was inviting anyone to chase him,” Schmidt said.

After 12 years in the exhibit pack, Denali joined the center’s retirement pack last October. In retirement, he joined Grizzer, a former packmate, and he adapted well to a calmer and more restful environment.

“He and his packmates at the Wolf Center have educated tens of thousands of visitors at the Center’s exhibit in Ely, as well as thousands of people throughout the world through regular YouTube videos, wolf logs and webcams,” Richardson said.

## Death Notices

## William Kvas

William Kvas, 91, a longtime Ely resident, passed away peacefully at his home in Rosemount on Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021, after a battle with pneumonia. Plans for a celebration of life are pending COVID protocols for senior living facilities. Private interment will be at the Ely Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to the American Cancer Society.

He is survived by his sister, Molly (Kvas) Sinar of Grand Rapids; three sons, William (Suzanne) of Eagan, Robert (Laura) of Lakeville and Lawrence of St. Cloud; stepdaughter, Laura (Bird) Miller of Orlando, Fla.; several grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

## Thomas N. Tomlinson

Thomas N. Tomlinson, 77, of Tower, passed away on Aug. 30, 2021. An obituary was not available as of our press time.

Arrangements are by Bauman’s Family of Funeral Homes.

## PANDEMIC

## COVID activity and vaccinations appear to have plateaued

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The good news about the delta-driven surge of COVID-19 cases in Minnesota is that, for now, it doesn’t appear to be getting any worse. The bad news is that new daily cases aren’t expected to trend significantly downward in the next few weeks.

The current surge can be traced back to June 26, when an almost unbelievable low of only 35 new cases were reported. A month later, Minnesota was recording more than 550 new cases per day, and by August 26 daily case counts were in the mid 1,500s.

The number of new cases on Thursday, Sept. 2, reported this Tuesday, was 2,088, the third day that week daily cases topped 2,000. That’s an increase of 50 times the daily case count in only 68 days.

But if the various COVID-19 model projections are to be believed, then Minnesota should likely be staying around that level and begin seeing a slow decline by the end of the month.

The Centers for Disease Control created a composite projection using 20 different COVID-19 trend models, and the most recent shows the surge peaking during the week of Sept. 13, with a small trend toward declining numbers toward the end of the month.

## State fair, start of school could lead to further increases

CDC model indicates St. Louis County has flatlined at approximately 250 cases per day, which will continue over the next two weeks.

But the most widely cited model throughout the earlier stages of the pandemic is far less optimistic. The most recent projection from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington indicates daily COVID-19 cases in Minnesota will keep on rising through October, more than doubling to a peak of around 4,500 new cases per day by the first week of November before taking a downward turn.

## Changing conditions

Both vaccinations and the emergence of the delta variant have been game changers in how the latest surge is playing out.

Americans 65 and over were the first primary focus for vaccinations, and the effort has largely been a success. Nationwide, about 80 percent of that age group has been vaccinated, and in Minnesota the number is even higher, with 93 percent having received at least one vaccine dose.

But with only 68 percent of Minnesotans age 16 and older having completed their vaccinations, and with those under 12 ineligible to be vaccinated, the data reported by state officials has been consistent and clear

during the latest surge: the unvaccinated are overwhelmingly driving the surge, and cases have shifted to younger age groups.

While state health officials haven’t held a press conference since last week, the American Academy of Pediatrics tracks child COVID-19 cases, and the latest figures are troubling. Once believed by many to be largely untouchable by the virus, nearly 252,000 children 19 and under were reported as having contracted COVID-19 between Aug. 26 and Sept. 2. That represents 26.8 percent of all new cases in the U.S. for the same time period, and an astronomical jump over just 8,500 child cases reported for the week beginning June 24.

And in Minnesota, 123,786 children have been diagnosed with COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, representing 18.9 percent of the state’s total cases.

The vast majority of Minnesota school children returned to classes this week at a time when the seven-day case average has been running nearly double what it was at the start of the 2020-21 school year. State health and education officials have stressed precautions such as mandatory masking and frequent testing, but now that the peacetime emergency has lapsed, they have no authority to mandate such moves.

In the North Country, the bi-weekly case rate for COVID is 33.4. In September 2020, when masks were required, that number was in the range where schools were recommended to shift to only 50 percent capacity in schools and on buses, with elementary students alternating days of attendance and junior and senior high students doing all distance learning.

Listening to the information from their consulting health care providers, Ely Public Schools made a last minute shift to require masking for all students, staff, and visitors indoors starting the first day of class, and the district will continue to evaluate on an ongoing basis.

ISD 2142 students, including those at North Woods, Tower-Soudan, and Northeast Range, returned to in-person classes on Tuesday with a masks-optional-for-all policy. Given the immense size of the 4,000-square-mile district, administrators conduct localized ongoing evaluation at each school.

The Albert Lea school district, which started earlier than normal this year, provides evidence of why state officials are concerned about COVID-19 in schools this year. After the first week of attendance, 36 cases of COVID-19 had been identified in the district and 300 students and staff were in quarantine.

All states don’t report child hospitalizations and deaths, but for those who do, the percentage of hospitalizations from COVID-19 has doubled in many states from the pandemic-long rate of .9 percent to to 1.9 percent.

## Vaccinations

From a low of 41,600 weekly doses of vaccine administered in Minnesota in mid-July, weekly vaccinations had been on the rise to 67,900 in the last full week of August, an increase state officials said was due both to concern over the recent delta variant surge and state incentive programs. But that trend may have reversed itself last week, with only 44,000 doses having been administered going into the Labor Day holiday weekend.

## Local data

St. Louis County Public Health Director Amy Westbrook said last week that the northern part of the county is one of two regions where case rates are running higher than the overall countywide rate, while vaccinations are lower.

Last week was also the first in months in which all six North Country zip codes monitored by *the Timberjay* reported new cases. Ely topped the list with five, while Cook had four and Embarrass had three. Orr, Tower, and Soudan all had one new case reported in the state summary released Sept. 2.



# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

ODDLY ENOUGH

## Fish reportedly falling from the sky

Competition as large numbers of eagles on Vermilion vie for food could be behind the phenomenon

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Fish have, literally, been falling from the sky around Lake Vermilion in recent days and, perhaps not surprisingly, it has people talking.

It's not clear how widespread the phenomenon is, but numerous residents have reported finding dead, often decapitated, fish on their decks, in their yards, in the woods, or

on local roads. Most of the fish appear to be tullibees, although a resident on Breezy Point reported an 18-inch walleye ended up in his yard the other day.

"We found three dead fish on our Lake Vermilion property, and they were a long way from shore," said Jere Thompson, who lives on Isle of Pines.

Thompson is not alone. Numerous residents around the lake's mid-section have been reporting similar discoveries.

"My friend on Breezy Point said that everyone in his neighborhood all ended up with tullibees in their yards," said Peter McGillivray, another Isle of Pines resident.

How and why the fish are ending up scattered across the area is uncertain, although it's a safe bet the fish aren't getting there on their own.

Most are speculating it's eagles or osprey or a combination of the two, possibly taking

advantage of a late summer tullibee die-off. Tullibees require cold, well oxygenated water to breathe and when summers are hot, oxygen levels at the depths tullibees prefer can run low on Lake Vermilion, which does cause occasional fish kills.

That's one theory, but it's not one that Matt Hennen, the DNR's large lake specialist on Vermilion, believes is likely.

See FISH...pg. 5B



Large numbers of dead tullibees are being found near Lake Vermilion. submitted photo



## Where'd my lake go?

Residents of the Pike River Flowage wonder how much lower the lake's water level can drop

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

PIKE RIVER FLOWAGE— For the couple dozen residents who live in this corner of Vermilion Lake Township, a funny thing happened this summer—their "lake" disappeared. Months of worsening drought have literally dried up much of this 214-acre artificial lake, formed as the backup behind the Pike River dam. The flowage is currently down about five feet below its typical level, leaving docks high and dry and, in some cases, hundreds of feet from the water's edge.

The flowage's water levels have been subject to ups and downs for years. In fact, it was the irregular nature of the Pike River's flow that ultimately doomed the city of Tower's hopes of generating reliable electricity from the Pike River dam, which the city built in 1912 but soon abandoned.

Much later, discharge from U.S. Steel's Minntac tailings basin maintained more consistent water levels on the flowage for a number of years, but also elevated levels of sulfate and other pollutants. When the state's Pollution Control Agency required U.S. Steel to reduce its discharges into the Pike River watershed, the flowage began to exhibit a more

**Top: A lakeshore owner looks forlornly from the end of his dock on the Pike River Flowage, now left completely high and dry by the dramatic drop in water levels due to the ongoing drought.**

**Right: A boat sits on its lift, surrounded by rocks. The closest navigable water is now nearly a quarter mile away.**

**Lower right: Lily pads hang on in the dried and cracking mud of the Pike River Flowage. Much of the water has disappeared this summer due to the ongoing drought.**

photos by M. Helmsberger

natural variation in its water levels again.

Even so, this year is unprecedented, at least in recent memory. "We've been here 40 years and we've never seen it this low," said Corky Eloranta, who lives on the flowage with her husband Jack. The flowage was low during droughts in 2007 and 2013, but Eloranta said this year is clearly worse.

Eloranta sees this year's water level as cyclical and "part of nature."

But her neighbor, Prisca Cushman, sees the current situation as an emergency and she wants the Department of Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction over the dam, to take stop-gap measures to help slow the loss of water coming from a central



sluiceway located near the bottom of the dam. The sluiceway used to house the turbine that was supposed to generate electricity, but the turbine is long gone and water from the flowage continues to pour out of what is now a gaping hole near the bottom of the dam. Cushman, who has owned a residence on the flowage for nearly 20 years, said she's calculated the current outflow of water from the sluiceway and fears the flowage could be almost entirely drained by October without a dramatic reversal in the current drought conditions. Cushman is a professor of physics at the University of Minnesota, so her calculations could well be accurate.

Much of the flowage has traditionally been no more than about six feet deep, so the loss of so

See FLOWAGE...pg. 5B



## Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower  
PURPLE-STEMMED ASTER



The **Purple-stemmed Aster**, *Symphytrichum puniceum*, is one of our largest and showiest fall asters. Distinguishing asters can be tricky, but this one can be told by its relatively large blooms (averaging a bit over an inch wide), and an abundance of pale blue/violet petals (typically 30-60 per flower) as well as its reddish to dark purple stem. Also look for the bright yellow center of the flower, which fades to purple as it ages.

This wildflower is typically found near wet areas, like lakeshores or swamp edges, hence its other common name, Swamp Aster.

## Outdoors briefly

### Zebra mussels confirmed in Rainy Lake

REGIONAL — The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussel larvae in Rainy Lake, in St. Louis County. Around one-third of the lake is located within Voyageurs National Park, although the zebra mussel larvae were found in waters outside the park boundary.

Four of five DNR water samples taken in July of 2021 contained zebra mussel larvae, suggesting a reproducing zebra mussel population. These samples followed up on a July 2020 report of a single adult zebra mussel.

At that time, the DNR did not find zebra mussels in Rainy Lake and none of the microscopic zebra mussel larvae were found in water samples.

The DNR has been in contact with the Canadian government, the National Park Service and the Bois Forte Band about this zebra mussel confirmation.

While recent NPS samples did not show veligers, the larger monitoring effort will be important to understanding how extensively zebra mussels may be spread throughout this connected system of lakes, which includes Namakan, Sand Point, Kabetogama, and Crane.



**Fishing report**

**Basswood, Vermilion yield two new state record fish**

REGIONAL — Anglers in the North Country caught and released a new Minnesota state record northern pike and tied the record for muskie this summer.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources certified the state catch-and-release record northern pike, a 46-1/4 inch fish caught June 19 on Basswood Lake by Brecken Kobylecky, a 15-year-old from Geneva, Ill. The previous record was a 45-1/4 inch northern pike caught on the Rainy River in 2018.

The record pike was the biggest fish Kobylecky had ever caught. He was fishing with an Ely-based fishing guide and with about 10 minutes left of their final day fishing, they were trolling for pike.

“We hooked onto a huge pike that was barely hooked, and could hardly land it due to the sheer size and weight of the fish,” Kobylecky said.

Once the fish was in the boat they carefully took a few photos and measured the pike before releasing the fish back to the open water.

The DNR also certified a 57 1/4 inch muskie caught July 23 on Lake Vermilion by Todd Kirby of Hudson, Wis. His catch tied the 2019 record muskie, also caught on Lake Vermilion.

With two Vermilion muskies now tied for the state record, this well-known water body continues to prove itself as a top muskie fishing destination. Kirby had fished the lake a handful of times and was familiar with small pockets that muskie seem to inhabit.

Kirby and fishing partners John and Will Gavic thought the fish looked 50 inches and were amazed seeing they caught a fish even longer, and one that would earn state record status.



**Carol Booth, of Cook, caught this 27-1/2 inch walleye while fishing on Lake Vermilion last week as part of a family reunion based out of Pehrson Lodge. Booth, her brother John and his son Aleutian, look on as she poses with her fish before returning it to the water. The crew was fishing with guide Jarek Wujkowski.** submitted photo

**FISH...**Continued from page 4B

DNR fisheries staff have been out on Vermilion in recent days conducting their annual test netting and he said there’s been no sign of struggling tulibeas, also known as ciscoes. He said he conducted an oxygen sample in recent days in 37 feet of water and found it fully oxygenated to the bottom. “I don’t believe there’s a cisco die-off,” said Hennen, noting that water temperatures are also significantly cooler now than they were back during the record heat in July.

While the tulibeas may not be dying, Hennen said they do tend to move into shallower water this time of year, both to spawn as well as to find more of the zooplankton they often feed on. At the same time, Hennen said there appears to be an exceptional number of eagles on the lake right now, and that could mean more competition for a limited food supply. That competition frequently takes the form of in-flight fights between birds if one is carrying a fish and those fights can sometimes lead eagles to drop their prey. Hennen said he and his crew witnessed two eagles

fighting over Frazer Bay the other day and he suspects this kind of competition may have something to do with the sudden phenomenon of fish falling from the sky.

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST**

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
<b>75 55</b>				<b>69 46</b>				<b>62 45</b>				<b>67 50</b>				<b>68 49</b>			
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.
08/30	74	52	0.08	08/30	76	40	0.00	08/30	71	53	0.09	08/30	70	54	0.00	08/30	74	52	0.02
08/31	71	43	0.00	08/31	77	39	0.00	08/31	70	52	0.00	08/31	75	45	0.00	08/31	71	42	0.00
09/01	76	42	0.01	09/01	67	54	0.00	09/01	74	49	0.00	09/01	77	46	0.00	09/01	76	40	0.01
09/02	76	42	0.00	09/02	66	56	0.02	09/02	76	49	0.00	09/02	73	55	0.00	09/02	77	43	0.00
09/03	68	50	0.00	09/03	74	49	0.08	09/03	70	54	0.05	09/03	63	55	0.00	09/03	68	52	0.00
09/04	67	57	0.00	09/04	64	35	0.04	09/04	66	56	0.05	09/04	72	55	0.00	09/04	66	56	0.04
09/05	73	50	0.07	09/05	74	36	0.80	09/05	73	50	0.04	09/05	64	48	0.00	09/05	73	49	0.11
Total			9.93	YTD Total			11.71	YTD Total			11.92	YTD Total			14.15	YTD Total			14.27

**FLOWAGE...**Continued from page 4B



**Top: A paddle shows the water is down about five feet from the lip of the Pike River dam.**



**Right: The sluiceway located near the bottom of the dam continues to allow water to drain out of the flowage. Unless rain boosts river flow in the coming weeks, the flowage could actually empty.**

much water has already diminished the surface area of the water body by about fifty percent, Cushman estimates. Much of the remaining surface area is down to about 1-2 feet in depth, so any significant additional drop in the water level could leave water largely limited to the original streambed, which Cushman said is probably around five feet deep in most locations right now.

And given the extended forecast, which shows the same pattern of below-normal precipitation that has fueled the current drought, Cushman sees little reason to expect that most of the rest of the flowage won’t be dry within a matter of weeks.

Drought is clearly the primary factor behind the current circumstances, although Cushman sees the condition of the dam as another contributor to the problem. A 2011 DNR assessment of dams across the state listed the Pike River dam in “poor condition,” although no action was taken as a result.

When water is plentiful, the dam can continue to maintain average water levels, but there’s little to no inflow currently. Cushman said the Pike River above the flowage has all but stopped flowing, so there’s little new water being added even as existing water continues to flow from the sluiceway in the dam. It’s like a bathtub with a slow leak in the drain once the spigot is turned off. The eventual outcome is relatively predictable.

The situation has affected residents around the flowage, who haven’t had boat access for months this summer. Cushman, who runs an occasional B&B out of her “former” lake home, said she stopped advertising it earlier this summer when it became difficult to even launch a canoe from her dock. Now, it’s a long trudge through rocks and mud to reach the water.

Cushman said she’s also worried about the flowage’s substantial fish population, which is currently trapped between the dam at the

north end of the flowage and the rapids on the southwest side, where the Pike River normally enters the flowage. Without substantial recovery before winter, Cushman fears the flowage’s fish, mostly crappies, bluegills, suckers, small northern pike and a few walleye, will freeze out entirely, which would be a blow to many anglers, who have made the flowage an ice-fishing hotspot in recent years.

“It’s never been this bad before,” said Cushman. “I’m fearing this is too much for the lake this year. I think [DNR] fisheries should be paying attention.”

Eloranta is more sanguine, noting that the flowage has managed to rebound quickly in the past, particularly in the fall when the trees shut down for winter, sharply reducing their demand for moisture. “I’ve seen it fill back up in barely 48 hours in the past,” recalls Eloranta. Time will tell.

# CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

**CLEAN**

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

**DRAIN**

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

**DRY**

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

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Charter School Administrator Vermilion Country School Tower, MN

**SALARY: PER ESTABLISHED PAY SCALE (AVAILABLE BY REQUEST)**

POSITION OPEN UNTIL FILLED

FULL JOB DESCRIPTION POSTED AT [WWW.VERMILIONCOUNTRY.ORG](http://WWW.VERMILIONCOUNTRY.ORG)

SEND COVER LETTER AND RESUME to: Jodi Summit, Board Chair, [jsummit@vermilioncountry.org](mailto:jsummit@vermilioncountry.org), or call 218-753-2950.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Minimum 4-year degree in relevant area. Administrator licensure or coursework preferred but not required. Experience with charter schools and school leadership. Experience/interest in innovative learning and creating a democratic school environment. Ability to write/manage grants, interact with state agencies, VCS authorizer, and all stakeholders. The board envisions this to be a .50 position, with a possibility of the remainder of the position to be filled with a teaching, special education, or other assignment.

The Vermilion Country School is a grades 7-12 charter school that opened in the fall of 2013. It is located in Tower, on the shores of beautiful Lake Vermilion, in the heart of Minnesota's North Country. The school serves a multicultural student body of 30-35 students, with an innovative program learning model that is uniquely-adapted to this remote community. For more information, visit our website at [www.vermilioncountry.org](http://www.vermilioncountry.org)

The Vermilion Country Administrator will assist in several aspects of program development and implementation while working side-by-side with our staff to oversee the educational programming. Our school's staff oversees day-to-day student management. The administrator is responsible for guiding our staff to reach our school goals, and will report directly to the school board, and act as our administrator of record for MDE and our authorizer.



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### POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Cafeteria Aide

Ely Public Schools is looking for a Cafeteria Aide for the 2021-2022 school year; background check required.

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

Application available at: [www.ely.k12.mn.us](http://www.ely.k12.mn.us)

A complete application must include the following:  
 ► District Application  
 ► Resume  
 ► 2 letters of recommendation

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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$15.54/hour

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

Deadline to apply: September 16, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 10, 2021

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Pool stick
- 4 Gasoline dispensers
- 9 Attorney's field
- 12 "Right you —!"
- 13 Not moving
- 14 Blond shade
- 15 Online reference source
- 17 Carefree
- 18 By way of
- 19 Pancake top-pers
- 21 Museum tour guide
- 24 — Hari
- 25 Swelled head
- 26 Solidify
- 28 Semesters
- 31 Stately trees
- 33 Homer's neighbor
- 35 Mt. Rushmore's state
- 36 Seized vehicles
- 38 Dict. info
- 40 Sundial numeral
- 41 Hgt.
- 43 Ancient pyramid builders
- 45 Bale
- 47 Mineral suffix
- 48 Days of yore
- 49 Sibelius work or vodka

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13				14	
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48					49	50			51	52
54					55				56	
57					58				59	

- 7 Spectrum creator
  - 8 Patronize, as a hotel
  - 9 New York airport
  - 10 Now, in a memo
  - 11 Reasons
  - 16 "— been had!"
  - 20 Numbered rds.
  - 21 Woodland grazer
  - 22 Leer at
  - 23 Summaries
  - 27 Went first
  - 29 Primary
  - 30 Tackles moguls
  - 32 Auctioneer's cry
  - 34 Cecil B. —
  - 37 Arm's-length portrait
  - 39 Femme —
  - 42 Ore layers
  - 44 Longing
  - 45 Smile broadly
  - 46 Forearm bone
  - 50 Rebel Turner
  - 51 Morning moisture
  - 52 — -de-France
  - 53 Succor
- DOWN**
- 1 Crow's cry
  - 2 Mentalist Geller
  - 3 "A spider!"
  - 4 Slipcover trim
  - 5 Like leftovers
  - 6 Club —
- © 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

### Social Studies Teacher .5 FTE

Vermilion Country School in Tower, MN is seeking to hire a .5 FTE Social Studies Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Position can be combined with other openings.

Position open until filled.

Application material would include a cover letter, a resume, and license.

Only electronic applications will be accepted. Please send application material to: [jsummit@vermilioncountry.org](mailto:jsummit@vermilioncountry.org)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE CALL FOR BIDS ON VEHICLE Breitung Township St Louis County, Minnesota

Breitung Township is extending its call for sealed bids on a 2003 GMC Envoy. Vehicle to be sold-As Is. Unknown mileage, last registration 2018. For information or to make an appointment for viewing please call: Tom Gorsma at 218-780-9463 or the Township Office at 218-753-6020.

Sealed bids should be sent to:  
Breitung Township  
PO Box 56, Soudan, MN 55782

Sealed bids may also be dropped off at the Township Office, 33 First Avenue, Tuesday-Thursday, 8 am-4 pm. Please ensure to mark your bid "Vehicle-Sealed Bid" and submit by 09/23/21 at 12 noon. Bids to be open at the next Regular Township Meeting on Sept. 23, 2021 at 12 pm.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 10 & 17, 2021

### KUGLER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 6 p.m.

Chris Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 10, 2021



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP

Effective September 4, 2021, off-highway vehicles (OHV's) (which include all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-highway motorcycles (OHMs) and off-road vehicles (ORVs), as further defined by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources) are prohibited from traveling on any part of the Migisi Road right-of-way. The right-of-way includes the road surface and the terrain roughly 33 feet on both sides of the centerline of the road. All other public roads within the Township, including both County roads and Township roads, are open to OHVs, just as they always have been.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 10, 2021

### Public Notice:

TowerCo 2013, LLC proposes to construct a 199-foot monopole tower (with Appurtenances) located at 2135 Echo Trail in Ely, St. Louis County, MN 55731 (N 47-58-19.02, W 91-54-50.28). No lighting is anticipated. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1199538. We invite your comments pertaining to the effect of the proposed tower on historic properties. Please submit comments within 30 days to Amy Perrine c/o MartinEnviro at 4268 Oldfield Crossing Drive Suite 306, Jacksonville, FL 32223, [aperrine@martinenviro.com](mailto:aperrine@martinenviro.com), or call (904) 737-1034.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 10, 2021

## Super Crossword

### Answers

R	E	C	O	U	P	S	O	P	T	I	C	S	S	H	A	R	E	R		
A	R	A	L	S	E	A	F	A	N	O	U	T	M	O	D	U	L	E		
H	A	S	A	B	R	I	T	F	U	T	U	R	E	A	N	D	E	A	N	
S	T	E	D	W	I	P	E	L	E	F	I	E								
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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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		2			6				3
	3		5						8

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

### AUTOMOTIVE

**Langevin Auto & Truck Repair**  
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### HAIR CARE

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

### HOSPICE

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

### SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** - East Range meetings and information, call 218-749-3387 or www.district8online.org.

**AA FRIDAYS** - 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 262 E Harvey St., Ely. Meets in the basement.

### Advertising PAYS OFF!



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

King Crossword - Answers  
Solution time: 22 mins.

CUE	PUMPS	LAW	ARE	INERT	ASH	WIKI	PEDIA	GAY	VIA	SYRUPS	DOCENT	MATA	EGO	GEL	TERMS	ELMS	NED	SDAK	REPOS	DEF	III	ELEV	MAYANS	BUNDLE	ITE	ELD	FINLANDIA	ANI	INAL	ELI	MAA	ESTEE	WIED
-----	-------	-----	-----	-------	-----	------	-------	-----	-----	--------	--------	------	-----	-----	-------	------	-----	------	-------	-----	-----	------	--------	--------	-----	-----	-----------	-----	------	-----	-----	-------	------

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## Super Crossword

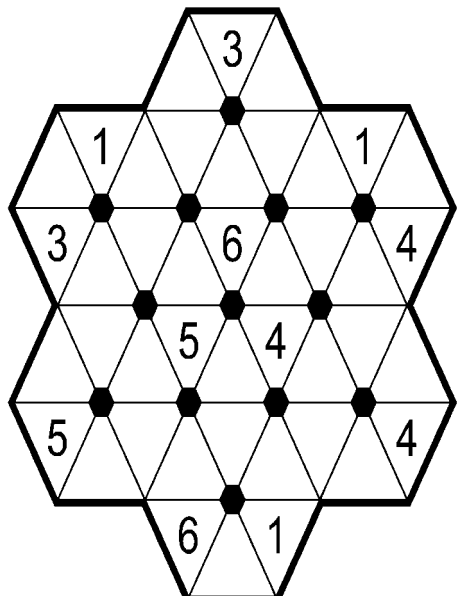
### VISITING THE ISLE OF WIT

- ACROSS**  
1 Earns back, as losses  
8 Study of vision  
14 One who's not stingy  
20 Shrunken Asian lake  
21 Disperse from a central point  
22 Spacecraft segment  
23 Will soon obtain U.K. citizenship?  
25 Like Peru's mountains  
26 Revered Fr. nun, maybe  
27 Motorist's crime, for short  
28 Soccer icon  
30 "Phooey!"  
31 "That louse just hatched a few hours ago?"  
39 Aim at  
42 Styling sites  
43 Hilarity  
44 Book after Song of Solomon  
45 "To recap ..."  
46 Swiss river  
48 Hairly pollinator's darting movement?  
56 Hairstyle  
57 On — streak (lucky)  
58 "Hamilton" composer — Manuel Miranda  
59 Watch over  
64 Partial mending of a paper cut?  
70 Excited pointer's cry  
72 Diner  
73 Pink pencil tip  
74 Siblings who compose legal orders?  
79 Spacek of film  
80 Dude's prom duds  
81 "Now, Voyager" actress Chase  
82 In — (as first placed)  
84 "My career as a tailor will start soon?"  
95 Tee lead-in  
96 Chris of tennis  
97 Certain pizza chain logo  
98 Depleted  
101 Major road  
103 4 p.m. social event, maybe  
105 Interweave while wearing a lustrous Sir Lancelot costume?  
109 Omelet need  
110 Get up  
111 Hockey hero Bobby  
112 Historical unit  
115 Headwear for Fred Astaire  
117 Occupy a chair to apply Visine drops?  
125 Invent  
126 Like green bananas  
127 Filthy place  
128 Closet staple  
129 Mini and midi  
130 Orthodontic separators  
**DOWN**  
1 Rally cheers  
2 "QED" center  
3 Costco unit  
4 Suffix with schnozz  
5 Kind of PC port  
6 For each  
7 Declined the offer  
8 "Come —" ("Get real!")  
9 NBAer Gasol  
10 Blasting stuff  
11 Debtor's note  
12 Mongrel  
13 Get involved  
14 Teeny  
15 Sweetie pie  
16 Tack (on)  
17 Very sorry  
18 Paige on a stage  
19 Backpedal  
24 Lookalike  
29 High rollers?  
31 End-of-workweek cry  
32 Make whole  
33 Moral tenet  
34 Lacks life  
35 Kimono belt  
36 Swivel  
37 Burial locale  
38 Ugly fairy-tale figure  
39 — for tat  
40 Silver-gray  
41 "Norma —"  
45 Less sure  
46 Outranking  
47 Fiddles with  
49 Talking- — (scoldings)  
50 With 77-Down, well-drilling structure  
51 Egypt and Syr., once  
52 Conductance unit, once  
53 Hallow  
54 German indefinite article  
55 See 113-Down  
59 Mafioso John  
60 "Yep"  
61 Siri's Amazon counterpart  
62 Ticket info  
63 Fishing boats  
65 Asian ideal  
66 "Addams Family" cousin  
67 "Eh, so-so"  
68 Determine beforehand  
69 — tai (drink)  
71 Drying ovens  
75 Ruling from a boxing ref  
76 Ball swatter  
77 See 50-Down  
78 Actor Gilliam  
83 Allow to flow again  
85 Life jacket, e.g.  
86 Himalayan humanoid  
87 Fifty-fifty  
88 Actress Polo  
89 — Mawr College  
90 Hurly-burly  
91 Epps of "House"  
92 Fish feature  
93 "Ltd." cousin  
94 Boot tip  
98 Brief outline  
99 Longhair cat  
100 Filthy place  
101 Horse's kin  
102 Monkey used in research  
103 Fills with black gunk  
104 Slip-ups  
106 Fuming mad stuff  
108 Stabs  
112 "Jane —"  
113 With 55-Down, back-door access  
114 Some cobras  
116 Ugly fairy-tale figure  
118 Signing stuff  
119 Prefix with cycle or color  
120 Holiday tree  
121 Make a pick  
122 Jay-Z's genre  
123 Ticket info  
124 List abbr.

## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦**

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

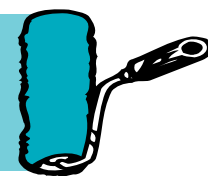
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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
Answer

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



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