



Record-setter!... See /1B

Inside:
Ely City Council... See /3
Fall sports... See /1B
Pike River Dam... See /2B

The **TIMBERJAY**



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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

North Country schools caught in COVID surge

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook-Orr Editor

Local doctor confirms area surge, urges vaccinations and masking

REGIONAL- After state health officials warned last week of a sharp increase in the number of school-related COVID-19 cases, the surge has hit home in the North Country, with new cases reported at Ely, North Woods, Tower-Soudan, and Northeast Range schools.

Ely reported its second COVID case of the year in a post to the district's Facebook page on Sunday. Superintendent Eric Erie called the case identified in Washington Elementary the only currently "active positive test count" in the district. Masks are currently mandated indoors for all students, staff, and visitors at ISD 696.



Word of a larger outbreak at North Woods School spread on social media on Tuesday as parents and individuals shared

communications they received from the district about positive COVID tests.

One individual posted a text message sent Monday through the school's messaging system.

"We had six positive cases reported today in the high school setting. Masks are recommended. Students can continue to attend

school. Please watch for symptoms. Let me know if you have questions." The text was signed "Dr. E," the abbreviation used by ISD 2142 Superintendent Reggie Engebritson.

Another post was of a letter sent home in a child's backpack informing a parent of a North Woods elementary student that "a student or staff person in your

See...**SURGE** pg. 9

OUTDOOR RECREATION



ATVs and UTVs land in the North Country for annual convention

The **ATVMN Fall Ride and Rally** was held in the North Country last weekend. Hundreds of ATV and UTV owners participated in guided trail rides, especially along the new Prospector Loop Trail, near Tower, shown at right. The **Big Air Tour** show, shown above, was held in Babbitt and featured high-flying jumps, backflips and gravity-defying balancing acts. Pancake breakfasts, a tour of the proposed ATV Campground at the Lake Vermilion State Park, and a banquet rounded out the weekend. Timberjay staff



NEVER FORGET

Political group threatens to sue ISD 696

YAF claims civil rights violated over 9/11 event

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY – The Ely school district last week was accused of trampling on the constitutional rights of students and threatened with litigation by Young America's Foundation over the postponement of the student council's 9/11 memorial event.

The school student council organized a "9/11 Never Forget Project" memorial event marking the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America, in partnership with Young America's Foundation, a conservative youth outreach organization that provides "essential conferences, seminars, educational materials, internships, and speakers to young people across the country," according to their website. Local donations were going to be collected in connection with the event to support YAF.

YAF has sparked controversy in recent years through associations with speakers and leaders identified with extreme views.

After announcing and advertising the event, school administrators were made aware of the political affiliation of YAF. They pulled promotional advertisements that identified the group by name and moved to distance themselves from the group's partnership.

"We are not partnering with the Young America's Foundation," said a school administrator. See...**9/11** pg. 9

More ISD 696
Enrollment continues to drop. Page 9

STATE LEGISLATION

Bear feeding ban draws support in Eagles Nest

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP— A proposal to ban the feeding of bears in Minnesota drew strong support from many residents here who sounded off at a packed town board

meeting on Tuesday. State Rep. Rob Ecklund attended the meeting to hear from constituents and provide copies of draft legislation that the DNR had developed to address concerns about bear feeding.

Ecklund told the roughly 50 residents in attendance

that he would introduce the legislation but that he would need help from township residents in order to push a feeding ban through the Legislature.

"There are people who will be adamantly against this bill," said Ecklund. "A similar bill did not pass in

2016 and it will be just as heavy of a lift next year," he said. The Minnesota Legislature reconvenes in 2022 in late January.

Ecklund urged township residents to reach out to Sen. Tom Bakk to ask

See...**BEARS** pg. 10

MORE BEARS



Back-to-back high bear harvests, limited natural foods pose challenges for bear recovery in northeast Minnesota. Page 2B



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Community notices

Dream Quilters to meet Oct. 7

TOWER- The Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet Thursday, Oct. 7 at 6:30 p.m. They will continue to gather at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower where there is space for social distancing. Wearing masks is encouraged. Members who have accepted the Age Is Just a Number Challenge are to bring their magazine inspirations and their creations. Noreen Saukko will present the program, a demonstration of the binding attachment for sewing machines. Visitors are welcome.

Pancake Breakfast for the Embarrass Fair, Oct. 2

EMBARRASS - Support the Embarrass Region Fair by coming for all-you-can-eat pancakes, choice of ham or sausage links, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee the first Saturday of each month through May at Timber Hall. Adults \$6, children (6-10 years) \$3, and under 5 years eat free. The next breakfast will be Saturday, Oct. 2 from 8 to 11 a.m.

Finnish Americans and Friends to meet Oct. 5

HIBBING- Finnish Americans and Friends are delighted to resume program meetings at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th Ave. in Hibbing, across from the movie theater, at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5. After long months of curtailed activity, come and have your horizons expanded as Tom Mattson shares interesting stories about meeting people off the beaten track in many countries! Tom is an engaging speaker of Finnish heritage, a native of Biwabik, and retired from a successful legal career.

Everyone is welcome to this event. Coffee and's provided by attendees will be served in a manner that is cognizant of COVID protocols.

Swedish meatball fundraiser for Care Partners, Oct. 12

VIRGINIA- Care Partners is having its annual Swedish meatball fundraiser on Tuesday, Oct. 12 from 3 to 6 p.m. at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia, 306 S 2nd St. Cost for a meal is \$11, children under 5 eat free. All proceeds will directly benefit local individuals and families facing cancer or life-limiting illness.

The meal has options to eat in, take out, or curbside pickup. To make an order, text name and order between 3 and 6 p.m. to 218-780-3366. Pick up is at 2nd St. S entrance. Meatballs only can also be ordered for \$11/dozen with or without gravy; limit two dozen while supplies last.

If COVID-19 prevents the dine-in option, to-go and curbside pickup will still be available.

Tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, call 218-404-1411.

Tower-Soudan Singers meet Sept. 27

TOWER- Put Monday, Sept. 27 at 5:30 p.m. on your calendar for the first 2021 rehearsal of the Tower-Soudan Area Singers. The group rehearses in the Tower Elementary School music room located by the north door of the building.

Plan on wearing a mask, it will be required. Music and folders are provided, just bring your voice and spirit to sing with others.

The winter concert is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. in the Tower school gymnasium. All kinds of wonderful seasonal music will be presented and all kinds of seasonal baked goods will follow in the all purpose room. Free-will donations will be accepted to defer expenses.

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EMBARRASS REGION FAIR

Embarrass Flying Finn race results



Runners take flight at the beginning of the Flying Finn race. photo by S.Ukkola

EMBARRASS - Congratulations to all of those who completed the Flying Finn 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, Aug. 8 during the Embarrass Fair. Jimmy Zupich was the overall men's winner with a time of 22:59. Sarah Packa was the overall women's winner with a time of 29:49. Each won a \$50 prize.

Women 19 and under
Maija Rantala 31:33

Men 19 and under
Jimmy Zupich 22:59
Ben Rantala 35:59
Kenny Akkanen: 54:39

Women 20-29
Britta Porter 49:25

Men 20-29
No entries

Women 30-39
Sarah Packa 29:49
Cassandra Hainey 39:40

Men 30-39
Mike Benehina 25:36
Brian Johnson 49:25

Women 40-49
Heidi Van Gailder 42:09
Lora Langowski 44:48
Chandra Koivisto 54:26

Men 40-49
Mike Mackai 42:06
Ben Akkanen 55:05

Women 50-59
Cheryl Carlson 40:55

Lisa Myers 49:24
Tina Thoreson 53:45

Men 50-59
Will Helms 26:14
Shane Johnson 48:09

Women 60+
Wendy Packa 32:56
Ruth Boedigheimer 36:46

Men 60+
Gary Grierson 26:59
Dan Packa 30:55
Mike Swanson 49:08

MSO appoints Buckman as general manager

VIRGINIA- Mesabi Symphony Orchestra welcomes Lisa Buckman of Gilbert who will serve as the new General Manager of the organization. In her role, Buckman will oversee business administration, fundraising, operations, and public relations.



submitted photo

Ms. Buckman is an Iowa native who also spent 30 years in Atlanta. While there, she built her career in travel, management, and hospitality at American

Express, Delta Airlines, and the Woodruff Arts Center. After returning to Iowa in 2013, Lisa started her own catering company, A Whimsical Kitchen, then directed her career into the non-profit world. Over the next seven years she managed the historic Castle Theatre, worked in fundraising at Regional Medical Center, was the Executive Director

at Families Helping Families, and worked as the Operations Coordinator for the African American Museum of Iowa. She and her husband Mike moved to the Iron Range in April of this year. After a hiatus during the global pandemic, the MSO is excited to perform in front of live audiences again. The orchestra is kicking off its 2021-22 season, Return To Harmony, with a concert at Vermilion Community College on Saturday, Oct. 23 at 2:30 p.m., followed by a performance at Goodman Auditorium in Virginia on Sunday, Oct. 24 at 2:30 p.m. The MSO has planned

four concerts in October, December, February, and April at various locations throughout the Iron Range. The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra brings orchestral music to the people on the Iron Range of Northern Minnesota. The mission of MSO is to keep orchestral music alive and thriving on the Iron Range. The musicians of MSO are committed to artistic excellence, community, and lifelong learning. Visit <https://www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org/> for news and more information.

New DFL office grand opening in Ely, Sept. 26

ELY- St. Louis County DFL Organizing Unit 03 will host a grand opening and ribbon cutting for its new office in Ely on Sunday, Sept. 26 from 2-3 p.m. The office is located at 1311 East Sheridan Street in Ely.

Featured speakers include Minnesota State Auditor Julie Blaha, DFL Political and Organizing Director Alyse Maye Quade, and House District 3A Representative Rob Ecklund.

Masks and social distancing will be required for the outdoor ceremony.

Minnesota DFL Party Spokesman Brian Evans said, "We are thrilled to be teaming up with DFLers in St. Louis County to open an office in Ely and bolster our voter outreach and engagement efforts."

"Our party is working to build a future where every Minnesotan has access to good health care, a strong public education, and a job that pays a decent wage," Evans said. "We are committed to campaigning hard across all of Minnesota because we know our vision for the future resonates with voters everywhere in

our state."

St. Louis County Organizing Unit 03 stretches from Proctor, Hermantown and other communities surrounding Duluth, north through Babbitt, Ely, Tower, Cook and Orr, and up to Kabetogama and Crane Lake on the Canadian border. The new Ely office is located in the center of Minnesota Senate District 3, the largest senate district in the state.

Activities coordinated through the office include educational forums on current issues, door-to-door canvassing, voter registra-

tion and get-out-the vote campaigns, and outreach to young people and other underrepresented groups. The office is staffed by volunteers and will be open each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information or to volunteer, contact the office at 218-365-3444, by email at DFLelyoffice@gmail.com or on the website at <https://slcou3.com/>.

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CITY OF ELY

Ely proposes 4.5-percent property tax levy increase

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Property tax payers here are looking at a 4.5-percent levy increase next year. City council members Tuesday night approved a 2022 maximum tax levy of \$1,977,900, an increase of \$85,600 from the 2021 budget.

Council member Paul Kess noted that as the maximum levy amount was set this week, the actual budget and final tax levy will be set in December.

“We are hopeful we can bring this down,” he said.

City residents will have an opportunity to

Hardware store owner to buy former grocery store buildings

sound off on the proposed property tax increase at a Truth in Taxation Hearing on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Mayor Roger Skraba advised residents that the proposed 2022 city budget will be available for viewing online or at city hall.

“We try to get as much information available for our residents so they can see what we see,” he said.

In the 2022 budget, proposed to increase from \$3,636,200 to \$3,893,200, property taxes make up about 13.5 percent of rev-

enues. Local Government Aid is projected to increase from \$2,448,500 in 2021 to \$2,497,100 next year.

In the property tax summary, the General Fund shows an increase of nearly 10 percent, from \$480,000 to \$527,100 for next year. The Library fund increases 2.23 percent, from \$340,700 to \$348,300. The Cemetery fund is projected to rise from \$34,500 to \$36,100. Debt service is proposed to decrease nearly 6.5 percent, from \$311,500 to \$291,400. Capital project costs show

an increase of 7.35 percent, from \$558,900 to \$600,000. Equipment replacement also shows a nearly five-percent increase, from \$166,700 to \$175,000.

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski said the Wastewater Treatment Plant renovation project, slated for next year, is set for going out for bids soon and depending on those costs, the city’s proposed street and infrastructure projects in the Pattison Street and 9th Avenue area, may be put on hold.

“If we’re short on our

wastewater plant project, we have to find the money somewhere, and one of the places is the street projects and we may have to forego one next year,” Skraba said.

New life for old stores

With the Zup’s Market and Northland Market buildings soon to be vacated due to the renovation of the former Shopko building and consolidation of the city’s two grocery facilities, speculation that one of the city’s hardware store owners could expand into a

larger retail space became clearer this week.

Jay and Jackie Poshak, owner of the J&L Hardware and Ben Franklin stores on Chapman Street, appeared before the city Projects Committee earlier this month. The couple, representing Eagle Wolf Development, discussed their proposed redevelopment project for both stores with committee members. They said they have purchase agreements for both properties and are seeking the help of

See ELY...pg. 5

Kringstad to step down as Tower’s mayor

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — Tower Mayor Orlin Kringstad has announced that he intends to step down as the city’s mayor, effective Sept. 30, due to personal reasons. Kringstad, in a Sept. 15 letter to Acting Mayor Dave Setterberg, characterizes his departure as a “retirement” and says he won’t be able to preside

over any future council meetings, nor continue to serve on any city committees or commissions.

Kringstad indicated on Wednesday, however, that he may still preside over the city council’s next meeting, set for Monday, Sept. 27.

Kringstad did not



comply with a request for his letter from the Timberjay, but city officials did provide it on Wednesday based on a data request from the newspaper.

“I am both proud of and pleased with the progress that the City of Tower has made over the past two

and 3/4 years,” wrote Kringstad in his letter. “I am extremely pleased that I had the opportunity to work with you and the other city council members, especially the team that was elected this past November. You all have special skillsets that are vital to smooth, efficient, operation of the City of Tower.”

In leaving, Kringstad urged the council to continue to pursue cooperation

with Breitung Township to achieve “economies of scale.” He also urged the council to consider appointing a woman to fill the vacancy his decision leaves on the council.

Kringstad was elected as mayor in November 2018 at a time of developing financial crisis for the city. Kringstad presided over the removal of former clerk-treasurer Linda Keith and former

ambulance director Steve Altenburg. He also clashed with current clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua, who announced her own resignation back in June.

Under the city’s current ordinance, the city council will have the obligation to appoint a replacement for Kringstad, who would serve until the next city election. Kringstad’s four-year term was set to expire at the end of 2022.

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Editorial

Greenwood's secrecy

Town board flouts state law and the constitution with its restrictions on access to government

A majority of the members of the Greenwood Town Board appear to believe that their township is somehow above the laws of the state of Minnesota. They demonstrated that stunning misperception yet again earlier this month when they reaffirmed an earlier motion that bans Greenwood citizens, and all but one pre-selected township supervisor, from attending meetings of the township's fire department.

The state's Open Meeting Law is clear. Local government meetings, including meetings of town boards, city councils, county boards, or school boards — or any committee, subcommittee, board, department or commission, of any of those same governmental bodies, are open to the public.

Given that most township fire departments in our area conduct considerable public business, have some independent spending authority, and conduct regular monthly business meetings where members vote on a wide range of matters, basic transparency (in addition to the law) argues for keeping these meetings open to the public. Townships have zero authority to supersede this state law, unless they wish to provide for even greater openness than state law requires. That, of course, is not Greenwood's way, at least not with the current makeup of the board of supervisors. No wonder no insurance company wants to write the township's errors and omissions coverage. The town board's illegal, authoritarian actions literally invite lawsuits.

In Greenwood's case, the context of the town board's decision to restrict access to fire department meetings is even more troubling than it might appear at first glance. When it comes to local governance, it's an axiom that “sunshine is the best disinfectant,” so when a government opts to close all meetings to the public, even from members of their own governing board, it's almost always because they're doing something they're not

proud of.

The public had a glimpse of that recently when a recording of a Greenwood fire department meeting revealed the department was blatantly involving itself in electoral politics. A three-judge panel at the Office of Administrative Hearings, while dismissing a formal complaint, excoriated the fire officials involved in the incident.

Yet, rather than disciplining the officials involved, the town board's response was to ban recording of fire department meetings, even by members of the department. For years, the town board had required recording of the meetings, apparently in hopes that such recordings could protect the township from complaints from members and aid in the production of meeting minutes. But when a member's own recording formed the basis for the electioneering complaint, the town board responded, not by disciplining those responsible for the misconduct, but by prohibiting anyone from recording the meetings in the future. In the town board's mind, apparently, the solution to misconduct is to get a bigger rug.

This town board directive almost certainly violates the state's constitution, under which the laws of the state apply to all citizens, including citizens of Greenwood. Minnesota is a one-party consent state for recording conversations, which means anyone in the state can record any conversation they want without permission from anyone else.

What is perhaps most appalling about the town board's actions is that the intent is so transparent. The town board's majority is either unable or unwilling to address misconduct and is clearly taking steps to keep the problems under wrap. Unfortunately, just as sunshine is the best disinfectant when it comes to government, secrecy is the primary cause of rot. And the smell in Greenwood is getting pretty strong.



Letters from Readers

Two countries, two very different results for COVID

In China, where the pandemic began, they have done a very good job fighting the virus. With a population of 1.4 billion they have lost only 4,636 people (1 in 302,000) to the virus, and most of the deaths occurred in the first two months of 2020. The rate of mortality has been essentially zero since then. Their hospitals are empty. Daily life has returned to normal. Why did this happen? How is this possible?

In the United States we have done a very bad job of fighting the virus. With a population of 328 million we have lost 674,000 people (1 in 500) to the virus, and we are now in the middle of a fourth surge in the rate of mortality. Our hospitals are full. Daily life has not returned to normal. Why is this happening? How is this possible?

Jim Ganahl
Cook

Greenwood should support the Cook Hospital

My family owns a seasonal home on Lake Vermilion located on Fraser Bay. It is in Greenwood Township.

My late husband and I purchased the property in 1988. At that time there was no easy way to go east towards Tower and Ely. Route 115 did not exist. As a result, there were “Tower people” who could shop easily in Tower, and “Cook people” who shopped in Cook. The Tower people left route 53 via 169 and 77 to go to their homes. The Cook people left 53 via routes 24 and 1 to go to theirs. Greenwood Township was split.

Greenwood Township public buildings are on the Tower side of that old divide. This may explain the reluctance of township officials to support the Cook Hospital with taxes. I find that shortsighted. The Cook Hospital is a local

treasure and its presence should be fully funded by area residents, seasonal and permanent.

Over the years, as “Cook people” my family had two near emergency occasions requiring a hurried trip to the hospital. The care was outstanding and the experience positive. To support the hospital further, my husband and I have contributed to the WC Heiam Medical Foundation since its founding. Its work in improving the hospital has led to its being recently awarded a Level 4 Trauma designation. That is quite an achievement for a rural hospital. It even has a helicopter pad for transporting patients to Duluth! My mother-in-law was one of them.

The hospital should have both private donors and tax funds. Greenwood Township should get on board.

Kathryn E. Allen
Columbia, MO

Preparing for the next wildfire

The smoke has cleared. Rain is falling. Temperatures have dropped. A step in the right direction for the continued efforts to contain the fires that plagued and continue to plague the Arrowhead region this summer, including the Greenwood fire. Evacuees are slowly returning to the area. One, a personal friend, said the experience has been “disruptive, enlightening, challenging and compassion driven.” We have all been on edge this summer. I cannot imagine what it is like for those who lost their homes, cabins and their beloved forest land. Those losses can be devastating, but we are fortunate no lives were lost.

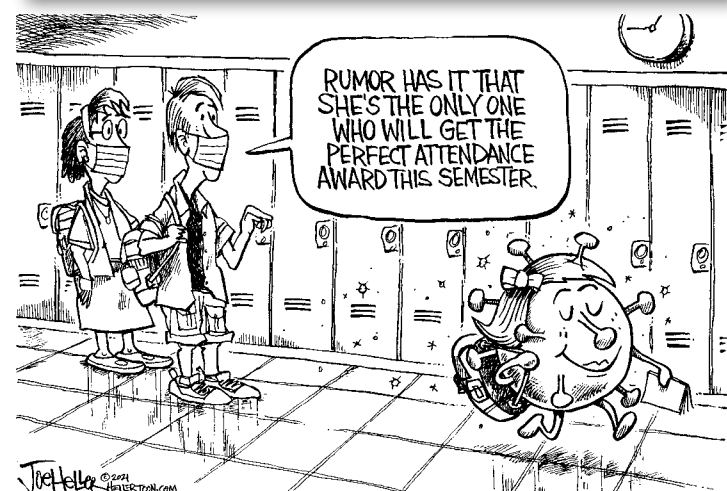
Leadership involved in combating these fires and keeping us informed of strategies, progress and setbacks in those efforts has been greatly appreciated. The courage and tenacity of the wildland firefighters both local and from afar is undeniable. Local loggers, contractors, restaurant and business owners, emergency personnel, and community members have all come together to do what they can to help and support the firefighting efforts.

That is why I love the communities of the Northland; we come together and provide help when needed.

However, once the smoke clears, hard work remains. Sadly, some homes were lost in the Greenwood fire. We must continue to support those who lost their homes, assist with clean up efforts, provide a place to stay, or maybe just a shoulder to cry on. Northern-Frontiers Thrift in Babbitt (218-750-4333) has been collecting items and cash for those displaced from the fire. Dozens of homes were spared though because of the ongoing hazardous fuels removal efforts by this community. We must continue our efforts in preparing our homes and communities to build wildfire resiliency. There are no guarantees, but if we work together we can reduce the risk to people and property in a wildland fire event.

Many of you are asking how to prepare. No one is immune to wildfire when living in the woods, and no one person or agency can reduce that risk alone. We need to work together to develop wildfire resiliency strategies across the landscape. Learn more about what actions you can take on your own property to reduce your wildfire risk and how you can be an Arrowhead Neighborhood Ambassador in your community by reaching out to me, Gloria Erickson, contracted St. Louis County Firewise Coordinator at gloria@dovetailinc.org (218-365-0878) or Aaron Molin-Kling, contracted Lake County Coordinator, at firewise@co.lake.mn.us (651-387-1770.) You can also visit our Arrowhead Fire Adapted Communities website which contains resources, tips and events at <https://minnesotafac.org>. Out of ashes, new growth begins; together, we got this!

Gloria Erickson
Firewise Coordinator
Ely



The power of flexibility in the face of despair

It's a cool, gray morning, unlike most we've experienced in the last few months. Although I listened to the sound of rain falling throughout the night, the rain gauge shows little measurable precipitation. The garden doesn't look as thirsty, nor the forest — after 20 years of war, quite as crackly. So, I'm taking comfort in whatever



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

er moisture made it to the ground.

In fact, I just heard that Minnesota's most worrisome wildfires are finally under control. And something else I'm grateful for we've decided to draw down our military engage-

ment in the Middle East. If I didn't know better, I might believe that things were actually calming down a bit out there in the bigger world. But, I know that isn't so.

With its new variants, the COVID epidemic rages on. So do the vicious debates over whether mandating vaccinations is or isn't “Constitutional.” Texas has decided to lead the charge among states determined to erode Roe v. Wade by empowering vigi-

lante-style tactics that allow any person to sue any “other person” who they think may be assisting a woman to terminate her pregnancy. That “other person” might even be a licensed medical practitioner merely offering information. (So much for one's right to privacy.) Then there are stubbornly persistent levels of extreme poverty, myriad examples of egregious racial disparities, and a variety of attacks on our democracy. Everything from hand-to-

hand combat on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to new and complicated legislation designed to undermine the voting rights of poor people, and people of color.

If all that were not enough, there still remains that over-arching threat to our future, called “climate change.” Permission has finally been granted to link our over-dependence on fossil fuels to global warming, as well as the associated ever-increasing

environmental disasters. There is no denying that we truly are in a world of hurt. And no longer can we rely on science and technology to supply us with a sure fix.

Last week, National Public Radio's Lulu Garcia-Navarro interviewed Caroline Hickman, a lecturer at the University of Bath who co-authored a recently published global survey of 10,000 young people between the ages

See **DESPAIR...** pg. 5

COMMENTARY

Ahead of schedule for greener energy

by MARK BAKK
Contributing Writer

I think it's fair to say we all want to preserve our most valuable natural resources. Personally, growing up right here in northeastern Minnesota, I am an advocate of eliminating anything that would adversely affect our world, which includes addressing climate change.

But is it that easy to shut down all fossil fuel energy generation overnight? I don't think so. There is a fine line between reducing our carbon footprint and maintaining reliability to serve utility members and their way of life.

With that said, Lake Country Power (LCP) as a member of Great River Energy (GRE) is ahead of schedule when it comes to converting to a greener production of electricity.

We met Minnesota's renewable energy standard of 25 percent by 2025 eight years early, and we will proactively meet the state's carbon reduction goal of 80 percent by 2050, 27 years early in 2023. And, with the addition of 900 Megawatts of wind energy and the development of long-duration grid-scale battery

storage to aid the transition, GRE will be more than doubling its renewable energy output. LCP is proud to be a part of this group of forward-looking cooperatives.

Sale of Coal Creek Station

We are always trying to balance what is best for our members when it comes to the operation of the cooperative. Recently, we were faced with criticism by some while justifying the sale of Coal Creek Station (CCS), GRE's coal-burning generation plant in North Dakota. In July, the LCP Board of Directors voted to support the sale of CCS instead of shuttering the plant.

It should be noted that many cooperative members support the recent decision concerning CCS, feeling it makes sense to maintain reliability as we work toward our renewable goals of eventually eliminating our reliance on coal. To some, however, the sale was seen as a broken promise by not demolishing the plant.

Part of the criticism we received centered around a perceived lack of transparency. As you can imagine, the sale of a large power plant and transmission line

is a very complex transaction. These negotiations require patience, adaptability and confidentiality. Both LCP and GRE have shared general information in our newsletters, press releases and social media channels, within the limits of our non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements. The cooperative model depends on member input and LCP remains committed to providing as much transparency as we reasonably can in all aspects of the cooperative.

I'd like to offer some understanding as to what goes into such decisions and specifically why LCP voted in favor of selling CCS, while giving a positive outlook on the co-op's future.

Electric cooperative governance

It all begins with what's called cooperative governance. The strength of electric co-ops is rooted in the fact that they are led by members who belong to the communities they serve. Democratic member control is a core cooperative principle. The LCP Board overwhelmingly voted yes to support the sale of CCS

after thorough discussion and considering all options.

Board members play a leadership role and guide the direction of the co-op. They play a pivotal role in strategic priorities and their input is key to keeping the lights on today and well into the future.

Each of LCP's nine board members spends significant time and energy serving their districts in a highly complex and rapidly changing industry. They have a fiduciary duty to the membership and accept the risk and responsibilities of their decisions.

Every electric cooperative adopts its own bylaws and policies, and the board as well as management exercise transparency, ethics, accountability and strive to communicate good governance practices with their membership and the public.

Value of the sale

Selling the plant offers other benefits for GRE's member-owners compared with shutting it down. The sale is expected to save the entire GRE membership an estimated \$130 million.

Should the sale proceed, GRE will contract to receive energy and capacity from Rainbow Energy,

purchasing 1,050MW for less than two years and then reducing our purchases to 300MW for the next eight years. GRE has options to exit the contract if clean energy goals are not achieved.

Reliability will be maintained by continuing to purchase from Rainbow for a period as we transition to a more renewable portfolio. The contractual relationship with Rainbow will also help insulate GRE and its member-owners from supply losses and price spikes during extreme weather events.

In addition, the associated high voltage, direct current (HVDC) transmission line will be sold to a subsidiary of Rainbow, called Nexus Line. Nexus will continue to utilize the experienced transmission employees of GRE under a contract for services for the next decade.

Lastly, it preserves hundreds of jobs and creates opportunities for the people who live and work in the plant's surrounding communities.

Next steps

The sale of CCS and the HVDC transmission system that extends between central North

Dakota and Minnesota is expected to close later this year, after required approvals are obtained.

The evolution of a power supply portfolio is complex and each of these steps is important as we strive to reduce emissions and maintain affordability without affecting the reliability of the electric system.

As we advance, I'm confident that Great River Energy's new power supply portfolio will serve its members for decades with cost-competitive renewables and market energy while retaining a fleet of natural gas- and oil-fired peaking power plants to assure reliable electric service.

Mark Bakk is the general manager for Lake Country Power. Lake Country Power, www.lakecountrypower.coop, is a Touchstone Energy® cooperative serving parts of eight counties in northeastern Minnesota. The rural electric cooperative provides services to more than 43,000 members and has offices located in Cohasset, Kettle River and Mountain Iron.

ELY...Continued from page 3

the city of Ely and the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board for remodeling and upgrading both properties for retail use, "the same use as they currently have at their Chapman Street property."

The city of Ely agreed to act as the fiscal agent and owner representative for

the Poshaks for a funding request to the IRRR commercial redevelopment program. In the meantime, a hazardous materials assessment for the renovation projects will be conducted by Braun Intertec for \$5,833. "This is an investment in our community," Skraba said.

Council member Jerome Debeltz asked for more information on what the Poshaks planned to do with the two buildings. The couple was in attendance at the council meeting but did not comment on their plans.

The Zup's store was built in 1983 and is about 22,500 square feet. The

Northland Market building was built in 1954 and is about 13,000 square feet.

Other business

In other business, the council:

► Agreed with the Budget Committee to approve the purchase of a new heating system for

\$7,100 for the former city garage building.

► Allowed Fire Chief David Marshall to pursue the replacement of the 1983 Seagrave ladder truck, estimated to cost at least \$500,000 for a used truck or \$1 million for a new model.

► Hired two probationary members of the fire

department, Louis Gerzin IV and Michael Smith. Chief Marshall noted that four generations of the Gerzin family have served on the fire department.

► Set a hearing for Tuesday, Oct. 19 for the disposition of a blight property at 1061 E Madison St., owned by Greg MacCallum.

DESPAIR...Continued from page 4

of sixteen and twenty-five. Participants were asked questions exploring the psychological and physical impacts of the "climate crisis" on their daily lives. The results were shocking. They confirmed that climate scientists are not the only people alarmed about the future.

Over half indicated a significant sense of hopelessness and depression, frequent bouts of anxiety, and a loss of motivation to study, prepare for tests, or direct attention to academic success. Eight out of ten participants reported significant disturbances to their eating and sleeping habits due to a "lack of faith in the future." Eight out of ten were angry at adults and governments "for not taking care of the planet." Half thought "humanity is doomed." Two thirds believed they were being lied to about the effectiveness of actions that were being taken. Many reported feeling "betrayed and abandoned."

Environmental advocates have been urging bolder action for decades.

While they called for life-style and policy changes, policy makers continued debating and delaying action. While some have been struggling to do "whatever they can," others continue to live in hopeless resignation or outright denial. For many, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a hopeful "keep-on keepin' on" attitude. They're beginning to wonder, at what point do we just "give up" trying to make a difference.

Recently, while cleaning drawers, I found a gift from my mother. It was a beautiful deck of what she called "Virtue Cards". She had received them from a friend who was a member of the Baha'i faith as an offering of support and inspiration during a difficult period of her life. She had found them useful and as she was nearly blind, she decided to pass them along to me. In finding them, I wondered if they might offer some inspiration in times like this.

I removed the pack from the beautiful brocade bag that my mother had

hand-sewn for their safe-keeping. I randomly selected a card. Across the top it read, "Flexibility". Beneath the title, a quote, "I bend but do not break." Then came a description of the "virtues" of flexibility and a list of "Affirmations", an internal pep-talk of sorts, to help get us through today and restore our faith in tomorrow. Here are those affirmations, seeds for our personal growth.

► I adapt when change is called for amidst the fluctuations of life.

► I trust the course of my life.

► I find creative ways to solve problems.

► I am open and seek the ideas, opinions and feelings of others.

► I rise to the challenges of life with resilience and confidence.

► I discern wisely the things I cannot change and those things that I can.

► I am open to life's unexpected wonders and challenges.

► I am in a perpetual state of growth.

► I am grateful for the gift of Flexibility. It keeps my spirit supple.


-Virtues Project International (2005)

Young people are calling on adults, especially leaders in government, to do more to stop the rapid rise in global warming. They know that time is running out. Many are planning to return to the streets in advance of the U.N. Climate Summit in November. They should not have to do this alone. This is our opportunity to prove that we hear them and care enough to join in this fight. They need us to show up to defend their right to a livable planet, their right to create and fulfill their own visions and dreams, their right to a future.

It's time for us to speak up, model our own resilience and confidence that it's not too late to fight for their future. Together, let's agree to be reso-

lute, on guard against the common enemy of "collective despair."

the
TIMBERJAY



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SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

<p>Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: 11am-5pm</p>	<p>Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm</p>
<p>County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm</p>	<p>Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun 8am-5pm</p>
<p>Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm</p>	<p>Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon</p>
<p>Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm</p>	<p>Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm</p>

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department
1-800-450-9278
Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday
www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle



ELY-WINTON HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Ely-Winton Hospital Scholarship Fund offers scholarships to students in the fields of:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Doctor of Medicine | 6. Physician's Assistant/
Paramedic |
| 2. Nursing (RN/LPN) | 7. Occupational Therapist |
| 3. Laboratory Technician | 8. Physical Therapist |
| 4. X-Ray Technician | 9. Pharmacy |
| 5. Medical Records Librarian | 10. Other approved by the Committee |

Applicants must have attended school in Ely or Babbitt for at least two (2) years and have graduated from that school.

Applicants must be engaged in obtaining professional, vocational, or scientific education or training leading to a degree or certificate in one of the above-mentioned fields.

Applications are available at the District Office, Ely Public Schools, 600 E Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or you may contact Mary Wognum at 218-365-1727 or mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us. Applications are due in the District Office by Friday, October 29.

TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORY

The history of the Skala Bar...

Good Ol' Days owner Randy Semo tells tales from the old days when bars lined Main Street

by KAREN BARTUNEK
Contributing Writer

TOWER- It could have been a Subway, or a realtor's office, but instead Good Ol' Days Bar and Grill hearkens back to exactly that, a bar named after an illustrious history.

The third and final installment of the History Talks on Main Street showcased the Skala Bar story, as told by Randy Semo, the owner of Good Ol' Days. His Main Street establishment is housed in the same building that once was home to the Skala Bar.

At the time, there were 22 taverns in Tower, and Jacob Skala's namesake bar was number seven on the 1893 Tower treasury report list. The liquor license cost \$500.

"I can't imagine how many beers you had to sell to make enough money to pay that. Probably two cents a beer, right?" Semo added, incredulously. "I doubt it was more than that."

The whole building is rife with history, having housed a laundromat and antique store as well. The laundromat still stands next to the 17-year-old Good Ol' Days.

Good Ol' Days might not be old enough to drink yet, but the building has seen its fair share of drinking throughout its illustrious timeline.

During Prohibition, the Skala Bar was associated with a truck bearing the same name that was rumored to have aided in bootlegging whiskey, hauled in five-gallon milk jugs across the Canadian border. "I don't know for sure what they did with [the jugs], but this place wasn't close so I [am sure you can] guess," Semo joked.

After Jacob's son, Matt Skala, sold the bar in 1965, the building was purchased by Ken Miller, who put in the still-running laundromat.

Records don't indicate specifics on another owner until the 1980s when Dick Martin bought the building. Martin added both a bookshop and antique store to the mix. When Martin died, his wife remarried and sold the building to Semo.

"The only people I could get to rent this building were realtors, and we've already got 15 realtors in this town; I don't want to see another one," Semo said. "I tried to get Subway to come in



Above: Randy Semo answers questions from the crowd. Left: Randy with Tower-Soudan Historical Society President Doug Workman. photos by K. Bartunek



here; I tried to get a lease. They wouldn't agree to it."

Having grown up in a Michigan town with 88 bars on the Main Street drag, Semo was no rookie concerning the establishments, and he decided to turn the space into a bar.

He designed it after "any old bar in early Wisconsin." Specifically, he designed the curvature of the bar with grill on the other end. "Theoretically, one guy can run this. You can cook, serve your customers beer, that was the idea behind it. But, it didn't ever work out that way because we've always been too busy," Semo added.

The walls are adorned with photos that mark the passage of time, which he proudly showcased at the end of his talk. Acting as tour guide, he pointed out the photo of the Skala truck that is still running to this day in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

He fixed on a couple of photos of Al Capone and told the story of Capone's crew staying at Idlewilde Resort on Isle of Pines. The photograph shows several members of Capone's gang with "a whole bunch of fish and a local guide."

Another photograph showed Jesse Swanson with Al Capone, whose doppelganger grandson came into the bar many years later. "It's just eerie how they looked exactly alike, and that's the first time he'd seen that picture; he'd heard about it from somebody that it was here," Semo explained.

But perhaps the closest to his heart is a photograph of a group of 80-90 veterans, sitting on the grassy bank on the side of the high school football field. Most still have their uniforms on, which implied to Semo that they were freshly returned from World War II, dating the photo from August or September of 1945.

Semo has a soft spot for veterans, so he set to work attempting to find the identities of everyone in the photo. He spent months tracking down all the information and was able to find all but two.

"If you live in this town or have lived in this town you're going to have a relative in that picture," Semo noted.

One day, he decided to take the photo to get enlarged. When he took the frame apart,

he learned there was a list of the people on the back of the photograph.

"Yeah, we did a lot of work, a lot of work, a lot of hours, and we took it apart and there was a list there. I couldn't believe it. We only had a couple wrong!" Semo laughed.

The history-buff-turned-bar-owner is understandably proud of his historic building that has stood in the community for so long. The building that's still sporting the original 1892-ish hardwood floor has definitely seen plenty of the "good ol' days" both tame and tart.

"I like to say a lot of horses and whores went across that floor," Semo laughed.

Semo said he was surprised at the crowd that attended the talk, filling the bar to standing room only.

"I had no idea it was going to be such a big deal," he said afterwards. "People were genuinely interested in the history, and I am certainly no expert."

Semo said some in the audience at the talk added more stories, including tales about bars located in Finntown, outside of Soudan. He said if he does a similar talk in the future, he would invite others with knowledge of the era, including the son of Matt Skala, the bar's former owner, who lives across the street from Good Ol' Days.

Week of Sept. 27

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Oct. 19.

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

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

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

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

St. Martin's to hold Christmas Bazaar

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower is happy to announce that they will once again be hosting a Christmas Bazaar. The event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 6 in the church social hall. They are in the early planning of the event and are now looking for local crafters to participate. The cost for a table is \$20. If interested, please contact Maryann at the rectory (218-753-4310) by Oct. 13. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Big Truck Night set for Sept. 30

SOUDAN- Tower-Soudan Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and Breitung Township are again sponsoring Big Truck Night. This free family event will be held on Thursday, Sept. 30 from 4 - 6 p.m. at the Soudan Recreation Area (skating rink area). The event is geared for toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary age children and their families. There will be a variety of large trucks for the children to explore. Hot dogs will be served.

Joint Powers Rec Board, Sept. 28

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 8:30 a.m. at Sulu's. Any requests for funding must be made in writing, prior to the meeting, and dropped at Tower City Hall.

Tower Loan Closet now located at Frandsen Bank, side entrance



Fortune Bay makes donation to Tower Food Shelf

Fortune Bay Resort Casino donated \$1,639.84 to the Tower Area Food Shelf, Tuesday. The money was raised through the casino's "ticket in, ticket out" program, which allows patrons to donate cash out slips to a selected area non-profit. Fortune Bay also kicks in \$500.

"I'd like to thank all our guests for being this generous," said Brian Anderson, Director of Sales and Public Relations at Fortune Bay. In July the program made a donation to United Way's Buddy Backpack program, and in June the program supported Ruby's Pantry in Cook.

Pictured (from left) are food shelf volunteers Kay Hanson, Marge McPeak, and Richard Hanson. photo by J. Summit

Trail clearing help needed at Tower Ski Trails

TOWER- Volunteers will be helping to clear brush from the city of Tower/Howard Wagoner Ski Trails on Sept 25 and 26. Do you enjoy skiing or hiking on these trails? Then consider coming out to help brush the trails this weekend to get them ready for winter trail grooming. Meet at the south parking lot/trailhead (one mile south of Tower on Hwy. 135) on

either day at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. for a two-hour brush clearing session. Choose the best time for you. Bring a tool you like to use such as nippers, hand saw, machete, or a small chainsaw. If you need to borrow a tool, have questions, or want to do some trail clearing on your own schedule, call Mary Shedd at 218-830-2457.



Market Is Still Open
Market Time...
Friday, September 24
4-6 PM
at the Train Depot

OUR COMMUNITY

Big Truck Night at Ely school



Andrew Blessing, top, and Claire Schwarze, above, try out the driver's seat of some big vehicles at the recent Ely School Big Truck Night. photos by J. Greeney



Safety Open House at Ely Fire Department



A variety of emergency services were represented at the recent Safety Open House at the Ely Fire Department. Eve Chase, 6, and her little sister, Zoe, 2, tried out the cockpit of a fire truck. photos by K. Vandervort

Tuesday Group

ELY – The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering meets every Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge. Participants have an opportunity to order lunch. For those interested in being a host, or who have a speaker suggestion, contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com or call her at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

►Sept. 28: Meet New Ely-Area Residents.

►Oct. 5: Forest fire behavior and tree mortality with Lee Frelich.

►Oct. 12: Building Awareness for Historical Change: The MMIW Movement in Minnesota with Sen. Mary Kunesch.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



pulling golden beets
plucking ripe red tomatoes

morning glories smile

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

Jake Forsman Memorial Burnout event set for Oct. 2

ELY-The Jake Forsman Memorial Car Show and Burnout Competition is a go this October after a hiatus in 2020 due to COVID-19. Previously held on the third weekend in October, the 2021 show was moved to the first weekend, Oct. 2, to hopefully cancel out some of the potential for inclement weather, according to organizer Albert Forsman. "Being held at this time of year, our hope is still to bring a last little boost of

extra business to our small-town community before the winter slow down," he said.

After a road trip to Montana in the famous Car Show mascot, the Chevy Monza, the event became the brainchild of Albert and son Jake Forsman prior to Jake's untimely passing in 2016. "It has been a dream-turned-reality for the Forsman family to honor Jake's memory with such an amazing event," he said.

This event is run solely by volunteers and all proceeds are put into a scholarship fund. High school seniors in Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass and Tower pursuing a mechanical and/or building trade career are eligible to apply for the Jake Forsman Memorial Scholarship. Since the inaugural Jake Forsman Memorial Car Show and Burnout Competition, \$24,000 in educational scholarships have been

granted. Every year the Jake Forsman Car Show and Burnout competition includes the car show and burnouts in the morning and the afternoon, and a silent auction, face painting, and an appearance by the Good Neigh"bear" mascot. The event is held in front of the Ely City Hall, 209 Chapman St., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Silent Auction runs from 10 a.m. to 3:15

p.m. Kids' activities are held throughout the day. Burnout events are scheduled for 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. A raffle drawing for Vikings/Packers game tickets will be held at 3 p.m., followed by the presentation of car show awards. "This year you can expect the same horsepower show, with some added activities and games for children. A whole day of family fun," Forsman said.

Ely Police Department Activity Report Sept. 1-15, 2021

Arrests/ Citations

►Parking Complaint- Officers were called about a vehicle blocking an alleyway. The owner was issued a citation and the vehicle was moved.
►Parking Complaint- Officers issued three citations for vehicles parked in prohibited zone.

Complaints

►Loud Music- Officers were contacted about loud music playing outside. Officers arrived in the area and did not hear any music.
►Animal Complaint- Officers were called about a dog that was barking earlier in the day. Officers informed the individual to call when the dog was barking.
►Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a generator running after working hours. Officers located the generator and educated the owner of the hours of operation.
►Disturbance- Officers were contacted about three people arguing in a local business. Officers located two people and they agreed to leave the property.
►Theft- Officers were contacted about a bike theft. Officers located the bike and returned to owner. This case is under investigation.

►Disturbance- Officers were contacted about two people inside a dumpster. Officers arrived and the individuals agreed to leave until they got the owner's permission.
►Hazard- Officers were called about a hole forming in the road. Officers notified the State about the problem.
►Check Welfare- Officers were contacted to check on an individual. Officers determined the individual had moved to another residence.
►Trouble Neighbor- Officers were called about bear bait that was starting to smell. Officers contacted the owner who agreed to move it.
►Suspicious Activity- An individual said that a few night's prior someone knocked on their door and wanted it on file.
►Callback- Officers were contacted about a vehicle that hit mailboxes. Officers referred this case to the proper agency.
►Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a dog left in a vehicle. The vehicle was gone prior to officers' arrival.
►Residence Check- Officers were contacted to check on a house that was supposed to be empty. Officers located an individual inside and determined it to be a misunderstanding.

►Public Assist- Officers were contacted to assist a person with getting a key to their vehicle. Officers made arrangements with the person.
►Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a deer with an injured leg. Officers evaluated the deer and determined that it was able to get around.
►Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a group of people arguing about a cat. Officers mediated the situation.
►Motor Vehicle Crash- Officers were informed of a deer that ran into a vehicle.
►Unknown Trouble- Officers were called to a local business with no information. Officers arrived and determined it was phone problems.
►Theft- Officers were contacted about a theft out of a vehicle. This case is under investigation.
►Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with an unwanted person.
►Trespassing- Officers were contacted about an individual that was no longer welcome at a local business.
►Disturbance- Officers were contacted about three people in a yard yelling. Officers arrived and determined it

was an argument over lost keys.
►Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a suspicious activity call.
►Suspicious Person- Officers were contacted about a suspicious person. Officers were unable to locate the person.
►Motor Vehicle Crash- Officers responded to a two-vehicle crash with minor damage and no injuries.
►Lost Property- Officers were informed of a phone that an individual lost.
►Security Alarm- Officers were called to a security alarm at a local business. Officers determined the alarm to be false.
►Theft- Officers were contacted about a theft of a trailer. Officers determined it was a misunderstanding.
►Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a dog running loose. Officers brought the dog to doggy jail before being bailed out by the owner.
►Burglary- Officers were contacted about a vehicle that was parked at a local business. Officers arrived and the vehicle was gone and the building was still locked.
►Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.

►Suspicious Activity- Officers were contacted about a person that was not leaving a local business. Officers arrived and the person left.
►Theft- Officers located a sign that was stolen during the day. This case is under investigation.
►Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a dog running loose. Officers brought the dog to doggy jail. Owner bailed the dog out a short time later.
►Intoxicated Person- Officers were called about an intoxicated person. Officers were unable to locate the person.
►Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a dog that ran away. The dog returned a short time later.
►Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a trespassing case.
►Found Property- Officers were contacted about a found item. Officers located the owner and it was returned.
►Damage to Property- Officers were contacted about damage to a window. This case is under investigation.

ORR CITY COUNCIL

Property tax levy could increase by 7 percent

Council sets December date for Truth in Taxation meeting where levy could go down, not up

ORR- Property taxes in Orr could be going up by seven percent next year after city council members approved the levy increase without discussion at their regular meeting on Sept. 13.

Such action is typical at the onset of the annual budget process, as the council will continue to review the proposed 2022 budget and possibly make adjustments for the next couple of months. Nothing is set in stone until the Truth in Taxation meeting scheduled for Monday, Dec. 13 at 5 p.m., at which time the public can weigh in on the budget and tax levy. The approved seven percent proposed increase sets the maximum amount the city can levy, but the amount can be lowered.

If passed as proposed, the increase would generate an additional \$6,187.73 for the city, raising the total amount

levied from \$123,754.39 to \$129,942.12.

Muni to get safe

Liquor store manager Chet Nieman sought and received approval to purchase a wall-mounted safe for the Orr Muni.

The safe, which would be accessible only by full-time employees, is a safeguard against a recurrence of a discrepancy in the petty cash fund that arose this past summer. After thorough review, Nieman and city officials were unable to determine exactly how a small portion of the fund disappeared, but the amount was not enough for a criminal charge that would warrant engaging law enforcement, city clerk Cheri Carter said.

Council members also gave Nieman permission to replenish the petty cash fund to its original amount.

Nieman also indicated that he intended to get

a laptop computer previously approved by the council for the Orr Muni's inventory and sales system. The purchase had been delayed until the system configuration was finalized.

Leaky roof

Maintenance supervisor Paul Koch reported that a leak had developed in the wastewater treatment plant roof but said that the roof "is still in good shape." Bids have been sought for replacing the roof.

"Right now, the roof is still in good shape, but let it leak too many times and underneath, that's going to be a lot more expensive," Koch said.

When Mayor Joel Astleford asked Koch if he thought the roof could last until next year, a more extensive conversation about timing ensued. Councilors approved an either/or solution. If both

contractors can do the project this year, Koch was instructed to go with the low bid. However, if the higher bidder can do the work this year but the lower bidder can't, Koch was authorized to go with the higher bid.

Airport manager Rocky Hoffman reported that the crack seal project had been completed and that lines for the apron and taxiways were scheduled to be painted Sept. 23-24. A break in the electric line powering the airport beacon had been located and was also scheduled for repair, Hoffman noted.

In other business, the council:

►Received a report from ambulance director Donna Hoffer that the service had 21 runs in August. Change orders in the amount of \$700 for minor modifications to the new ambulance currently on order were approved.

►Approved payment of \$125,352 to Asphalt Surface Technologies for the airport crack sealing and sealcoating project. The council also approved a one-year warranty on all labor, traffic control, equipment and materials needed to make repairs in the spring, as Asphalt Surface did not perform the crack sealing according to plan details.

►Approved acceptance of \$22,000 from the American Rescue Plan to be used for general maintenance and operation costs at the airport.

►Approved an agreement with Lake Country Power allowing the city's communication/control conductor line to be placed on Lake Country Power's poles. The city will pay an annual attachment fee of \$13.85 per pole used. LCP will also charge the city a one-time installation fee, which had yet to be deter-

mined.

►Awarded a bid for a new high-efficiency boiler at Old City Hall to Gabrielson Heating and Service in the amount of \$18,096. Three vendors were contacted, but Gabrielson was the only one to submit a bid.

►Reached tentative consensus on a new labor contract with Local 49. Union representative Dan Manick said he would submit the agreed-upon changes for final review and revisions that will be formally voted on at an upcoming meeting.

The October city council meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 5 p.m. in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day that Monday.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cook library closed but pickup is open

COOK- The current COVID-19 outbreak in the Cook area has caused the Cook Public Library to close for onsite services out of an abundance of caution for the health safety of its patrons and staff.

However, pickup of items in the lobby is still available Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to the library's announcement, which also indicates they are sorry for any inconvenience.

NWFA cancels two receptions due to COVID-19 concerns

COOK- The Northwoods Friends of the Arts has announced the cancellation of two receptions scheduled for the NWFA Gallery in Cook, due to concern over the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the area and high community transmission rates.

NWFA member exhibit coming

COOK- October is the month at Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook when all members are invited to exhibit and sell their arts and crafts as part of the Susan Martin Memorial Member Show from Oct. 7 through Oct. 29.

The show and sale honors the memory of a founding member of NWFA, Susan Martin. The member show was named in Martin's honor after her death a few years ago.

Cancelled is a reception on Thursday, Sept. 30 for the "Ancient Cedars Trail: An Artistic Exploration" and an Oct. 8 reception for the Susan Martin Memorial Members show.

Etching classes featured in October at NWFA gallery

COOK- Learn the art of etching with art teacher Lyn Reed in two October classes at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

Etching is a printmaking technique that uses chemical action to produce incised lines in a printing plate that holds applied ink to form an image. The art of etching is one of the oldest printmaking mediums, originating in the 15th century and evolving out of techniques developed by armorers.

In the "Etching One" class on Saturday, Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., students will design and print

a simple etching.

"Etching Two" on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., will have students coloring their etching prints.

Reed has created lovely pottery on display at NWFA Gallery along with many other works of art as a professional artist. She was the art teacher at North Woods School before retiring.

For each session there is a \$5 materials fee in addition to minimum class fees of \$10 for NWFA members and \$20 for non-members. Call 218-666-2153 to register or come by the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St., open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through the end of the month. In October, the gallery will not be open on Wednesdays.

NWFA's is a non-profit arts organization inspiring, nurturing and celebrating the arts in the

Cook area. More information is available online at nwfamn.org, on Facebook, or by emailing nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

Cornelius chili cookoff is Sept. 25

ORR- The second annual Tony Cornelius Chili Cookoff to benefit a scholarship fund in his honor is set for Saturday, Sept. 25 from 4-8 p.m. at the Orr Community Center.

The Tony Cornelius Memorial Scholarship is given annually to a North Woods School graduate who is entering a two-year trade program.

Teams and individuals will be competing in the chili cook-off, with awards for Peoples' Choice, Not Your Mother's Chili, Fire In The Hole and A Round Of Applause.

There will be raffles and a cash bar as well.

Admission for ages 12 and up is \$10 and includes voting rights for the chili awards. Kids 6-11 will be admitted for \$5, and those

five and under are free.

Lost Forty to play in park on Sept. 30

COOK- COOK- The Cook Public Library is bringing folk music to Cook City Park on the last Thursday in September with a concert by The Lost Forty.

The Sept. 30 concert is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. at the park gazebo.

Bemidji native Brian Miller and Wisconsinite Randy Gosa perform the fascinating folk music that once rang out across the Great Lakes region in the days when pine was king. Their sources and their approach celebrate two centuries of Irish musical influence on the under-explored musical traditions of the north woods. Their show includes rich regional history, colorful stories and beautifully interwoven accompaniment on bouzouki and guitar.

Miller is a recipient of the Parsons Fund

Award from the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and has been awarded several grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board for his revival of regional folk music. Randy's versatile musicianship has been described by critic Alex Monaghan (Folk World) as "driving, percussive, lyrical, gentle, dominant by turns." As a duo, they mix a passion for north woods history and folklore with their approach to song arrangement. They have performed at the University of Chicago Folk Festival, Milwaukee Irish Fest and over 100 venues across Minnesota.

**Read It
HERE**

GRIZZLIES VOLLEYBALL



The Grizzlies' Hannah Kinsey goes up for a kill shot during the team's 3-0 match road win at Cherry School on Tuesday. The team won with only six starters and two reserves available for the contest. photo by D. Colburn



Susan Martin

There is no charge for members to participate in this event. Items need to be delivered to the gallery on Tuesday, Oct. 5 or Wednesday, Oct. 6 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Members should provide an inventory of items delivered including a description and prices. NWFA will collect sales tax and a 15-percent commission on all items sold.

The gallery at 210 S River St. is open in October on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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ISD 696

Enrollment continues to drop at Ely schools

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — ISD 696 enrollment is down nearly 30 students this year compared to last, according to district administrators. And enrollment kept dropping this week.

Enrollment in grades K-12 was reported at 531 students to start the 2021-22 school year, down 28 from a year ago at this point. The enrollment figure is also 12 less than reported at the end of the previous school year last June.

However, in the first two Memorial High School daily bulletins this week, as many as six more students were listed as “no longer enrolled in our school.” No reason was given for the students leaving the school.

Enrollment could drop even further if students

drop out in protest over the recent face mask mandate put in place here. Memorial High School senior Micah Larson told school board members last week he would leave school if his petition request to rescind the public health measure was not honored.

“I will lose out on scholarships, possibly even college opportunities. And you will lose a high-achieving student and current Valedictorian of the Class of 2022,” he said.

The school board made no move to rescind the face mask mandate. In fact, a second positive case of COVID-19 was reported in the Washington school community this week.

The *Timberjay* could not confirm whether Larson followed through on his threat to drop out.

Superintendent Erik

Erie said the outgoing senior class of 37 graduates was replaced with an incoming kindergarten class of 34 students. But that only accounts for a three-student drop.

In the Washington school, grades K-6 enrollment of 231 students includes: 34 Kindergarten students; first grade, 34; second grade, 33; third grade, 29; fourth grade, 48; and fifth grade, 53.

In the Memorial school, grades 6-12 enrollment of 300 students includes: sixth grade, 43; seventh grade, 48; eighth grade, 37; ninth grade, 55; tenth grade, 40; eleventh grade, 45, and twelfth grade, 31.

Erie said school district budget planning assumed as many as 538 students would start the new school year. He said he would be analyzing the numbers with

ISD 696 finance manager Spencer Aune, and expected a drop in state revenues.

“There are still some students in flux,” Erie said. “We may gain some students, as we typically do; we hope we don’t lose any more.”

He acknowledged that some students were sent home because of recent mask mandate compliance issues.

Since 2009, when school enrollment hit 538, ISD 696 recorded years of enrollment figures in the high 500s. Before that, decades of enrollment figures in the 600 and 700 range were common. Enrollment in 1995 was 921. Enrollment in 2000 was 783 and the numbers have showed a steady decline.

A home school census count is expected to be

released next month by school officials. Nearly 30 students were listed as home schooling in the district last year, about double from the year before. Erie said more enrollment analysis will be presented to school board members at their study session on Monday.

Other business

In other action at their Sept. 13 meeting, school board members:

► Set the Truth in Taxation budget meeting for Monday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m.

► Accepted the resignation of paraprofessional Gail Lekatz.

► Accepted the resignation of Melissa Hart from her cafeteria aide position and hired her for a temporary cafeteria aide position.

► Hired Anja Nienow as a .171 FTE Foreign Language teacher.

► Hired Ronda Puzel as a playground aide.

► Hired Bobby Ridings and Cindee Wright as paraprofessionals.

► Hired Justin Olson as a temporary full-time custodian.

► Hired Mary Schwinghamer as a temporary nurse.

► Approved Sarah Anderson as Youth in Action advisor and Amy Kingsley as Junior/Senior Banquet advisor.

► Approved a cooperative sponsorship with Northeast Range High School for football for the 2021 season.

► Were introduced to new teachers Brittany Baier, Kindergarten, Suzanne Zobitz, Spanish, Tim Hogan, Industrial Arts and Sara Anderson, Mathematics.

9/11...Continued from page 1

America Foundation. What we try to do is to stay apolitical,” ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie told the *Timberjay*. “YAF certainly has a strong political bandwidth on different issues. The student council advisor unwittingly approved the 9/11 event, not knowing or understanding what YAF represents. If it were a politically liberal action committee or organization, we wouldn’t endorse that either. Or any-

thing in the middle.”

The day after ISD 696 imposed a face mask mandate and other protocols (Sept. 10) over the surging COVID-19 pandemic, administrators postponed the 9/11 memorial event until the school’s Veterans Day memorial in November. The event had been planned to be held outdoors at the baseball field.

In a Sept. 15 letter to Erie, YAF deputy general counsel Steven M. Mairella

claimed the school district “engaged in unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination” that violated the civil rights of YAF and Ely students. Mairella’s letter threatened to “commence litigation unless certain corrective actions are taken.”

YAF demanded a public apology from the school to YAF and the students who intended to participate in the 9/11 event, to be published in the

Timberjay, on the ISD 696 website and all school-run social media accounts.

“The apology must admit to violating the constitutional rights of YAF and its students, as well as apologizing for the pretextual statement given to YAF and community about CDC guidelines as the justification for why the event was canceled,” the letter said.

Within 30 days of agreeing to a settlement,

YAF calls for the Ely school district to “publish clear guidelines that are consistent with the Constitution for all student advertisements and events to prevent future abuses by school officials.”

Mairella continued, “School officials are not free to simply suppress expression they do not agree with to avoid discomfort or controversy resulting from that expression, particularly when those

view are protected political speech like what YAF and the students were planning. YAF’s ultimate goal here is to ensure that (Ely) students are able to exercise their constitutional rights.”

Erie, citing advice from the district’s legal counsel, Klun Law Firm, of Ely, declined to comment when reached via telephone by the *Timberjay* on Friday.

SURGE...Continued from page 1

child’s classroom has been diagnosed with COVID-19.” Letters such as this are part of the standard notification procedure ISD 2142 uses, along with its text messaging system, to notify parents and others of positive COVID-19 tests associated with particular grade levels. Since such reporting became necessary last school year, cases are routinely not identified as being either a student or staff member.

In total, eight cases at North Woods were reported through social media contacts associated with the official school notices as of Tuesday afternoon.

Contacted Tuesday via email, the *Timberjay* asked Engebritson to confirm the reports and provide additional information for Tower-Soudan and Northeast Range schools. Engebritson declined to provide specific case numbers but confirmed all three schools have had positive COVID tests.

“At North Woods we have 1.89 percent of positive cases; in Northeast Range we have .81 percent and in Tower-Soudan we have 4 percent. T-S is a much smaller population,” Engebritson said, noting that the percentages are based on student enrollment at each school.

ISD 2142 recommends masks but does not require them, and Engebritson indicated that policy will remain in effect for now. ISD 2142 does not send students home who were in close contact to someone with a positive COVID test unless they start exhibiting COVID symptoms, but parents have the choice to keep their child at home for 10 days to monitor for developing symptoms, Engebritson said.

The surge is also being felt in the neighboring Chisholm school district, where Vaughan-Steffensrud Elementary School, which serves preschool through third grade, was shut down on Sept. 16

for a 14-day reset due to COVID-19 cases there.

State health officials warned that school-related cases had skyrocketed last week during a Sept. 15 press conference. State Health Commissioner Jan Malcom reported that in the week prior, about 150 new cases per day were being reported.

“It has really shot up this week,” Malcom said. “We had more than 600 cases reported on Monday, and yet another 500 on Tuesday.”

State epidemiologist Ruth Lynfield said she expects this troubling trend to continue.

“This is on the way up,” she said. “We do expect it’s going to continue to rise over the next few weeks.”

New cases in children 10 and under are also an increasing percentage of the state’s overall new cases, Malcom warned.

“The age distribution continues to trend younger, with over 10 percent of cases over the past two months in children under age 10,” she said. “Almost 6,500 children under 10 have tested positive since mid-July, 2,500 in the last two weeks alone.”

Relief in the form of vaccinations for students younger than 12 years old could be on the way within weeks after Pfizer announced on Monday that early trial results show its vaccine is safe and effective in children ages five to 11, at a dosage one-third of that for adults. However,

the company still must complete its analysis and submit the full trial results to the Food and Drug Administration for review and possible emergency use authorization. Full approval of the use of the vaccine in this age group could still be several months away.

Local situation

In a video posted on the Cook Hospital Facebook page on Tuesday, Dr. Nick Vidore emphasized the need for people to get vaccinated to combat increasing case numbers in the area.

“Locally, we’re seeing a surge of the Delta variant in individuals, primarily among the unvaccinated, although we are seeing cases of vaccinated people getting COVID,” Vidore said. “Getting vaccinated helps us cut down on numbers locally. If you get the shots, it cuts down your risk of death and needing to be hospitalized by 99 percent.”

Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are available in Cook, Vidore said, and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is also available in the region.

“Right now, one in 500 Americans have died of COVID,” he said. “That’s a pretty stark, concerning number to me. Locally, the best things you can do are to mask when you are in public and also get vaccinated.”

Weekly state reports of new cases in the Tower and Cook zip codes monitored by the *Timberjay* clearly

illustrate Vidore’s concern about a recent surge, while other areas show smaller increases. Towns are listed by total number of cases reported since Aug. 5, and the increase in cases in the past two weeks:

► Tower, 47 total, 28 in the past two weeks.

► Ely, 33 total, seven in the past two weeks.

► Cook, 28 total, 20 in the past two weeks.

► Orr, 10 total, six in the past two weeks.

► Embarrass, 9 total, three in the past two weeks.

► Soudan, 2 total, one in the past two weeks.

The state counts, issued Thursday, Sept. 16, do not include the most recent cases in schools as reported above.

Also not included are eight new COVID cases reported by Bois Forte Health Services from Sept. 15 through Tuesday.

The notable increases are beginning to affect some area events and services.

The Bois Forte Tribal Government offices at Nett Lake were closed to the public on Monday. Other tribal buildings remained open but may have their own guidelines for visitors, according to a notice posted on the Band’s website.

KBFT 89.9FM, the Bois Forte Tribal Community Radio, announced that a Wild Rice Native Food Fest scheduled for Sept. 29 has been postponed indefinitely, as have writing workshops scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 22 and Tuesday, Sept. 28.

The Cook Public Library announced Tuesday that the library is again closed to the public due to the COVID outbreak. Lobby pickup is still available Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hospital visitation

Local and regional hospitals are watching the COVID numbers and making adjustments appropriate to their facilities for patient visitations.

At Cook Hospital, visitation guidelines are tied to the Centers for Disease Control community transmission rate tracker, according to chief operating officer Julie Lesemann. Since the current CDC transmission designation for St. Louis County is “high,” one visitor per patient per day would be allowed, but there are exceptions allowed.

“No matter what the transmission rate is, the physician still has the dis-

cretion to change this based on the status of the patient for example, a critical care patient or a patient who is at the end of his/her life,” Lesemann said. “All pediatric patients are allowed both parents/guardians. The CDC Data Tracker is checked daily. As a reminder, all patients and visitors must wear a face mask while in our facility.”

Jodi Martin, communications team leader at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, said, “Our team has monitored our local COVID numbers closely throughout the pandemic and continues to make changes to our visitation policies as needed.”

Meanwhile, Essentia Health has reinstated visitor restrictions in all of its hospitals due to increased transmission of COVID 19. In most cases, two adult visitors are allowed per patient per day. There are exceptions for pediatric, OB, and end-of-life patients, and visits to emergency departments pediatric inpatient units and neonatal intensive care units are allowed 24 hours a day. The complete visitor policy is available at <https://www.essentiahealth.org/covid-19/hospital-clinic-visitor-guidelines/>.

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Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

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Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Winter Hours Tue, Thu: 9am–noon Sat: 8am–noon	Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Winter Hours Tue, Sat: 1pm–4:30pm	County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon–5pm
Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am–6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am–3:30pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon–Fri: 8am–4:30pm Sat: 8am–3:30pm	St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle
Household Hazardous Waste Facilities 5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am–1pm	3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am–1pm	

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

Ely celebrates the Harvest Moon



Lena Meier, 2, and her brother, Hank, 5, enjoyed Corn Dogs at the 2021 Harvest Moon Festival in Ely's Whiteside Park. They were their with their mother, Jenny. photos by K. Vandervort



Lots of arts and crafts, above, were featured at the festival. The Ely Kiwanis Club's B. J. Kobierski, below, sold many blueberry pies, by the slice and by the whole pie, over the three-day festival.



BEARS...Continued from page 1

him to sponsor the bill as well. "We'll need a good co-author in the Senate," noted Ecklund.

Ecklund's bill would prohibit intentionally providing food to bears and would also prohibit the hand-feeding of bears, as has become a common practice with some residents of Eagles Nest Township. Ecklund acknowledged that the language of the bill, which was provided to him by the DNR, does not currently include an exemption for an educational facility such as the Vince Shute

Sanctuary, near Orr, which has become a significant tourist attraction. "We'll have to have a discussion on that," said Ecklund.

Bear feeding has long been a source of controversy in Eagles Nest Township, located between Tower and Ely, but residents said they have experienced an unprecedented influx of bears over the past two years, when natural bear foods have been limited due to drought. Several residents who spoke at the meeting described feeling like prisoners in their own

homes due to the high number of black bears in their neighborhood.

"We have never seen an influx of bears like this year," complained Donna Carlson, who lives on Armstrong Lake. "I have two bear feeding stations within 1.1 miles of each other surrounding our property," she said.

Her neighbor, Nancy Roe, said she has kept a journal of bear sightings in her yard the past couple years, as the number of bears increased. Roe said she and her husband moved

to Eagles Nest in 2007 and saw bears occasionally in those early years. "But they didn't bother us," she said. Now, Roe said she lives between two neighbors who feed bears and she faces a nearly constant stream of bears moving through her yard. She said last year she counted 228 bear sightings in her yard and she has seen bears 270 times so far this year, she said.

"You can't leave the garage door open for a second," she said. "You can't have children in the yard." She said in prior years, she had considered it a treat to see a bear. "Now, I have 270 bear sightings in my yard. That's way too many. These feeding stations are the problem."

Another resident, James McDonald, put much of the blame for the situation on Dr. Lynn Rogers, who has used habituation of bears as a means of studying the animals at close range.

He accused Rogers of glamorizing and profiting from bear feeding at his Wildlife Research Institute, located in the township.

Ann Thunhorst described in emotional terms an encounter the night before with a mother bear and three cubs. She said her dog had chased after one of the cubs and that the sow had raced around a corner of Thunhorst's house, coming within three feet of Thunhorst, who was out in the yard to retrieve her dog. "I feel like a prisoner in my own home," she said. "I can't go outside without a loaded gun. Firing shots doesn't even work anymore with these bears."

Thunhorst said her father worked for the DNR and she grew up exposed to bears. "I don't have a problem with bears. I love bears, but I prefer to see them in the wild."

Resident Barb Soderberg voiced her support for the measure and said she opposes the feeding of all animals, with the exception of birds, because it disrupts their natural behaviors.

But another township resident, responding to Soderberg, argued that bird and deer feeding and bear

baiting should be included in any proposed ban. "You can't zero in on one thing without including everything else," she said.

Ecklund acknowledged the emotions that people in the township have on the issue, but warned that opponents of his proposed legislation would also be emotional in their support of bear feeding. He encouraged township residents to develop a list of their neighbors who would be willing to testify at the Capitol on the problems they are experiencing.

Rogers' view

While the vast majority of speakers at the hearing supported Ecklund's legislation, Dr. Lynn Rogers acknowledged the fear that some township residents feel, but questioned whether it was justified. He said his research has documented the value of diversionary feeding of bears in reducing bear-human conflicts, even as it might increase bear sightings. Rogers said he brought his research to Eagles Nest because of the longstanding tradition of bear feeding by some residents, the impact of which he wanted to study. He said Eagles Nest was known for its lack of bear problems, despite the feeding by some residents and he said that this has largely remained the case until the past couple of years. "What this area is known for is no attacks, no aggression, and almost no home break-ins," he said.

But Rogers agreed with his fellow township residents that the influx of bears into the township in the past couple of years has been unprecedented. He said back-to-back years of exceptionally poor wild foods and this year's extensive wildfires have displaced large numbers of bears from Canada and neighboring parts of Minnesota, many of which appear to be finding their way to Eagles Nest. "I've never seen as many bears here as this year," he acknowledged.

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SULFIDE MINING

DNR ordered to review adequacy of mining rules

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Judge's action comes as a result of case against Twin Metals

REGIONAL — A Ramsey County judge has issued an order that gives the Department of Natural Resources one year to issue a determination of whether the state's existing non-ferrous mining rules are adequate to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area from mining within the wilderness watershed.

The order, by Judge Laura Nelson, gives the DNR until Oct. 4 of this year to establish a process to take public comment on the adequacy of the state rule, known as Minn. R. 6132.2000, in protecting the upper reaches of the Rainy

River watershed from a proposed copper-nickel mine. The mine, proposed by Chilean mining giant Antofagasta and its affiliate Twin Metals, would be located along the South Kawishiwi River, several miles upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Critics of the proposal argue that the sulfide-based ore that the mine would expose and process is highly likely to leach acids and heavy metals, potentially contaminating waters within the wilderness.

The latest order, issued Sept. 13, comes as part of a stipulation agreement

between the DNR and Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, which is fighting to halt the mine plan. The agreement is based on provisions in the largely untested Minnesota Environmental Rights Act, which gives the public the right to challenge in court any state action that has the potential to cause environmental degradation. NMW argued in court that the DNR's current rules on non-ferrous mining cannot adequately protect pristine downstream waters in the Boundary Waters and that only a prohibition on

watershed could achieve the protection afforded the wilderness area under both state and federal law.

Twin Metals had sought to block the lawsuit and intervened earlier this year to seek dismissal of NMW's claim. But the judge denied the company's request back in May, which should allow the examination of the state mining rules to move forward.

Under the new order, the DNR will have one year to issue its own determination of whether existing state rules are adequate to protect the Boundary Waters from mining pollu-

tion. Both NMW and Twin Metals would then have the right to challenge that finding through a contested case process that would proceed in front of an administrative law judge. Such a process could take several months, or even longer, and any decision coming out of the process could be subject to further litigation.

If the DNR or a court were to find that the existing rules are inadequate to protect the BWCAW, the agency would have to begin a new rule-making process, that could take months or years to complete. The final results of

any rule-making process could also be subject to litigation.

The NMW lawsuit which prompted the new look at the state's 28-year old non-ferrous mining law, is part of a multi-jurisdictional effort by NMW and its affiliated national Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, to halt the Twin Metals project. The group is also litigating at the federal level to reverse a Trump-era decision to restore mineral leases that would make the mine possible. Twin Metals has yet to disclose financial projections showing the proposed low-grade ore mine would be financially feasible.

TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

New supervisor for Eagles Nest

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP — By a 3-2 vote, Dave Chiabotti will be the next member of the board of supervisors here. The decision came at the board's Sept. 21 meeting, with supervisors Kurt Soderberg and Rich Floyd, and township clerk Keely Drange, voting for Chiabotti, while supervisors Frank Sherman and DeAnn Schatz backed Scott Elliott for the position.

Supervisors lauded both candidates, who had offered their services to fill a vacancy on the five-member board.

WILDFIRE UPDATE

Fire restrictions lifted in BWCAW

Greenwood Fire at 80-percent containment

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

REGIONAL — With increasing rain amounts and continued fire suppression efforts, the Superior National Forest has lifted fire restrictions across the forest and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness management area.

Portions of the Greenwood Fire closure area were reopened on Tuesday. In conjunction with Highway 1 reopening fully, the forest is likewise reopening forest lands north of Highway 1. A reduced closure area remains south of Highway 1 in the McDougal Lake area.

As fire crews continue to make progress containing the Greenwood Fire and removing hazardous trees, U.S. Forest Service officials this week determined that it is safe to reopen some areas to through traffic and visitors. The decision was made in collaboration with the Lake County Sheriff's Office and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

"After more than a month of active fire activity and of closures, we are finally at the point where it is safe, from a fire standpoint and a personnel and equipment standpoint, to reopen some of the Greenwood closure. I want to thank our partners and the fire teams that have supported the forest and made reopening safe and possible," said Shannon Rische, deputy forest supervisor for the Superior National Forest.

Closures are being lifted where crews have made progress removing hazardous trees and hot spots. However, rehabilitation on control lines continues, and hot spots and dangerous trees are still a concern.

"These areas will remain closed as they are unsuitable and unsafe for the public to use at this time. If you plan to visit or drive through the area, please practice caution, watch for snags and drive the speed limit," Rische said.

As a reminder, drones are not allowed in the fire area, she added. There is a

temporary flight restriction over the closure area.

"Remember, if you fly, we can't. Please respect the flight restriction and allow firefighters and aircraft the space to do their jobs," she said.

By early this week, the Greenwood Fire was at least 80-percent contained and the number of firefighters battling the wildfire was drastically reduced from a high of almost 500 people to less than 150. The size of the fire remains at 26,797 acres.

The fire, believed to be ignited by a lightning strike, was first detected on Aug. 15 and started approximately ten miles southwest of Isabella. More than a dozen primary structures and 57 outbuildings were destroyed when the fire grew dramatically on Aug. 23.

Over the weekend, crews minimized work along public roads due to an increase in traffic from hunters and fall leaf peepers. Crews continued to identify and remove hazardous trees, which remain a significant danger to firefighters, and include those that have structural defects from age, fire, or disease, and could impact "targets" such as people, homes, and cars, according to SNF officials.

Rehabilitation is ongoing, done by pulling cleared vegetation back onto the dozer line to create a layer to protect the soil and return the area to its normal state as much as possible. A Type 3 helicopter and heat-detecting infrared flights are continuing to monitor the fire area.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office began issuing security pass cards to all property owners in the McDougal Lake Road area last Saturday. Fire restrictions across National Forest System lands, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness management area, were lifted last Friday.

This means that visitors may again have campfires at designated fire grates in the BWCAW, and in the forest at rustic and backcountry campsites. The use of tiki torches, charcoal grills, barbecues and other stoves is permitted.

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- ▶ More than 49 million Americans six years of age and older enjoy fishing at least once every year.
- ▶ American anglers go on 18 fishing trips per year, on average.
- ▶ More than 82% of current adult participants were introduced to fishing during childhood.

HUNTING FACTS

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COMPETITIVE FISHING

Cook duo wins state bass fishing tournament

Brothers come from behind in bass tour finale on Gull Lake

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK—A pair of bass-angling brothers from Cook were the class of the field at the recent Minnesota Junior B.A.S.S. Nation High School Championship tournament on Gull Lake in Nisswa, rocketing from 11th to first on the second day to claim the championship.

Jake Panichi, a senior at North Woods School, and his brother, Louie, a freshman, play football for the Grizzlies, but when the Chisholm game came around on Sept. 10, they left the game in the able hands of their teammates. They had bigger fish to fry that weekend, bass, in the state tournament.

This is the second summer the Panichis have competed as a team, and having already qualified for nationals on the

Student Angler Tournament Trail tour, one of three they competed in this summer, expectations were high as they went into the Junior B.A.S.S. Nation finale.

“For the SATT, they had four tournaments, and we finished in the top 15 percent in all four,” Jake said. “We would have got team of the year (if they counted all four tournaments), but they take the top three. So, we finished sixth

Right: Brothers Jake and Louie Panichi took home the title in the Minnesota Junior B.A.S.S. Nation high school championship held in Nisswa on Sept. 10. submitted photo

for team of the year and we got to go to nationals that way.”

The brothers took four days to scope out the lake for spots that would yield good

See **BASS...**pg. 4B



VOLLEYBALL

A good week for Grizzlies

Down Cherry in straight sets after finishing second in weekend tournament

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

CHERRY—The Grizzlies were decidedly short-handed when they faced Cherry here on Tuesday, with only two substitutes remaining in their lineup. Making matters worse, both had played in the junior varsity match, which restricted their available playing time for varsity.

That meant Head Coach Kandi Olson had only one real option available to her, which was to put her best six available players in the starting rotation and get the most out of them.

And that's exactly what happened, as the Grizzlies were calm, cool and collected, even though the rotation took several of them out of familiar positions at times. Building on what they'd practiced during a weekend tournament at Hill City, players were filling holes, diving all over the floor, and setting teammates up for winners.

It all paid off in a 3-0 win, with scores of 25-20, 26-24, and 25-18 over the Tigers.

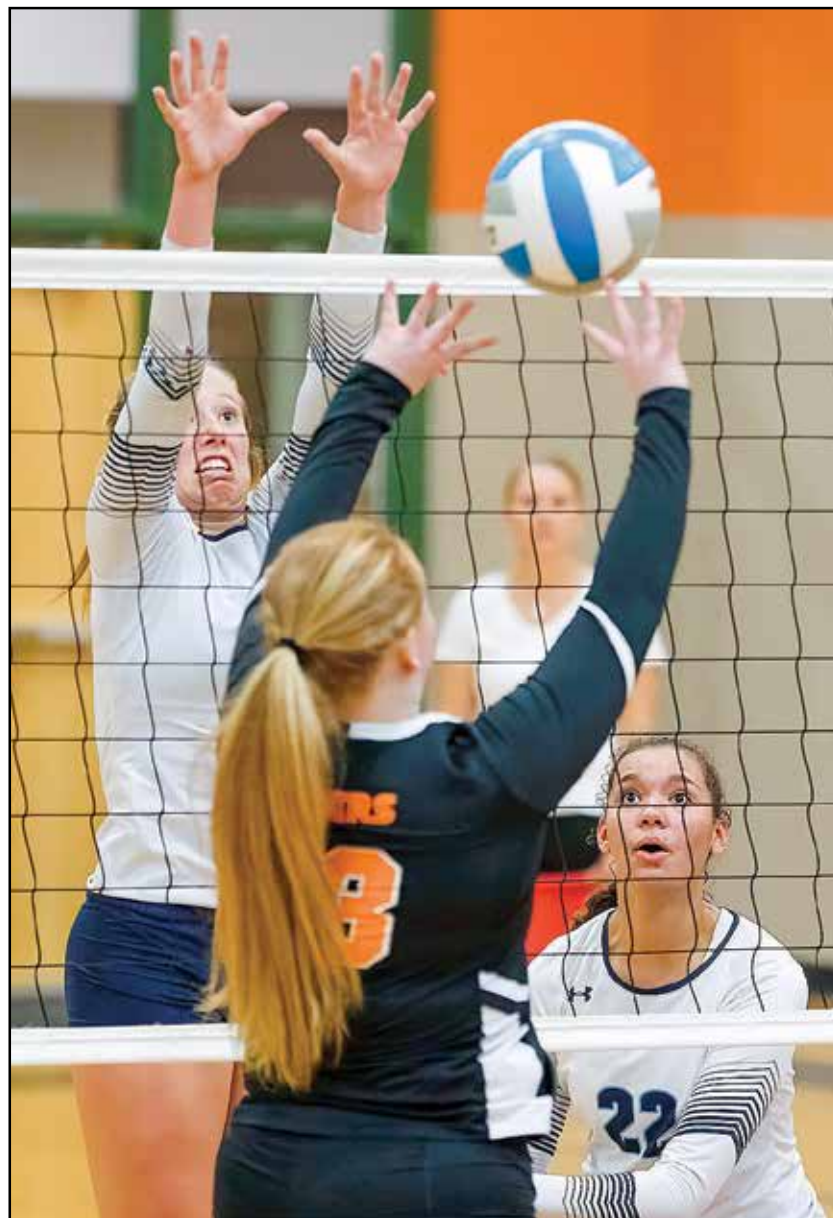
“We couldn't use those reserves until later, just in case we went five games, because they had already played a couple of JV games,” Olson said. “So, we told our starting six that they had to play from the second that ball is struck at the beginning to the end of the game. They did, and they worked hard tonight.”

That hustle and scrambling style paid off for the

See **GRIZZLIES...**pg. 4B

“We told our starting six that they had to play from the second that ball is struck at the beginning to the end of the game.”

North Woods Coach Kandi Olson



Above: North Woods' Morgan Burnett grimaces as she goes up for a block against a Cherry hitter on Tuesday, while Hannah Kinsey looks on intently.

Right: North Woods' Abigail Shuster pounds a kill attempt over the net during Tuesday action.

photos by D. Colburn



VOLLEYBALL

Ely tops Broncos in three

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

INTERNATIONAL FALLS—A huge night for Ely lifted the Timberwolves to a straight set victory over the Broncos here Tuesday night, 25-21, 25-19, and 25-14. It was a nice recovery after the Wolves dropped only their second match of the season last Thursday, to Mesabi East.

“We were really able to pick up the digs tonight,” noted Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum, as her team notched a combined total of 55 digs on the night. “This was key to getting our offense set up for success. It was nice to see some aces in the mix as well.”

Multiple players had big nights for the Wolves. Junior Rachel Coughlin posted ten kills, ten digs, five aces, and three blocked shots, while senior Kellen Thomas tallied 11 kills, nine digs, two aces, and a blocked shot. Senior Charly Flom added ten digs and a kill and junior Madeline Kallberg added nine kills and a block. Senior setter Katrina Seliskar posted 33 assists plus six digs and two aces, while junior Kate Coughlin added nine digs and a kill. Senior Annikka Mattson added seven digs.

In action last Thursday, Mesabi East used its height advantage to overpower the Wolves in straight sets, 25-23, 25-19, and 25-17.

See **VOLLEYBALL...**pg. 4B

MILESTONES

Reichensperger notches her 1,000th volleyball kill



by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

BABBITT—Senior volleyball phenom Hannah Reichensperger, of Tower, joined an elite group of athletes earlier

Left: Hannah Reichensperger (holding a K for kills) poses with her team earlier this month after reaching her 1,000th kill milestone.

submitted photo

this month when she posted her 1,000th kill, a mark that is likely to stand a long time in the Nighthawks' sports history books.

It was a high point in an otherwise tough four-set loss to International Falls. Reichensperger came in needing 16 kills to hit her milestone, but ended up putting down 29 shots, leaving her with 1,013 kills just as her final high school season gets underway. Reichensperger, who stands at least half a head taller than her teammates, has been a

standout for the Northeast Range volleyball team since she was in eighth grade.

Reichensperger, the daughter of Nighthawks' coach Jodi Rogers-Reichensperger and her husband Bob, was literally born to the sport, which has been a major part of her life since she was a toddler. It will continue to be a part of her life after high school as well. She's already committed to play for Illinois State, for which she will enjoy a full scholarship.



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Outdoors

Our lives in the
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DAM MAINTENANCE

DNR weighing possible repairs to Pike River dam

Disappearance of much of the water in Pike River Flowage prompts concern

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

PIKE RIVER FLOWAGE— The gradual disappearance of this formerly 214-acre lake due to the ongoing drought has caught the attention of officials at the Department of Natural Resources, who may take steps yet this year to address the issue.

While the relative lack of rain this summer has

played the biggest role in the dramatic drop in water levels on the Pike River Flowage, the continued outflow of water from a lower sluiceway (known as a penstock), has apparently contributed as well.

Calculations by University of Minnesota physics professor Prisca Cushman suggest that if the drought continues, the outflow from the dam's penstock would be enough

to all but drain the entire lake by mid-October.

DNR officials don't want that to happen. "We're going to try to do something," said Jason Boyle, the state's dam safety engineer, who works for the DNR. Boyle said he was surprised when Cushman recently sent him photos of the flowage, where a major bay has already been reduced to a mudflat. Boyle said he has since hired a diver to assess

Right: The center spillway on the Pike River dam shows the decaying condition of the 109-year-old structure.

the situation and develop a proposal for shutting off the flow of water through the penstock on a permanent basis.

The dam also has a central spillway, which

See **FLOWAGE**, pg. 3B



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Are bears in trouble in NE?

Back-to-back high hunter harvests, limited natural foods, pose challenges for recovery

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Are black bears in trouble in far northeastern Minnesota? After back-to-back poor food years and an exceptionally high harvest of female bears in management zones in the border country, wildlife managers believe it will take time, possibly a long time, for the bear population to bounce back.

It's already taken longer than DNR wildlife managers had expected. The DNR slashed the number of bear permits it issued to hunters in northern Minnesota beginning in 2012 in an effort to rebuild a population that had fallen by 50 percent between 2000 and 2010.

Twenty years ago, the DNR estimated the state's bear population at 20,000-25,000, which prompted the agency to boost the bear harvest in order to reduce bear and human conflicts. The management decision worked, perhaps too well, notes Andy Tri, acting bear project leader for the Department of Natural Resources. "The bear population declined faster than anticipated, which is why we cut permits so dramatically in 2012 as an attempt to stabilize

“The bear population declined faster than anticipated, which is why we cut permits so dramatically in 2012.”

Andrew Tri, DNR bear project leader

Above and right: The Arrowhead has long been the heart of Minnesota bear country. But continued high harvest levels, particularly of female bears, is putting pressure on the population.

the population,” said Tri.

For the most part, the state's bear population appears to be stable or increasing slightly, notes Tri, although that's mostly because the population is increasing in the state's no-quota zone, located on the south and west edges of black bear range. The bear estimate in the state's quota zone, which includes northeastern Minnesota, dipped slightly last year, as another poor food year pushed the bear harvest over 3,000. In northeastern Minnesota, DNR studies indicate that hunter take comprises about 80 percent of black bear mortality in any given year.

Because the DNR's population estimates reflect statewide data, they don't provide much help in understanding what might be happening here in the North Country, where the potential for bear recovery is more limited. That's true, in part,



because the region's limited food availability impacts bear reproduction. "The BWCA and areas of the Canadian Shield have the poorest foods in the entire state," notes Tri.

According to Tri, relatively limited natural food in the far north delays the onset of sexual maturity among female bears, or sows, which typically don't breed in the region for the first time until age five or six, about a year later than bears in more southerly parts of the state. Many, if not most, sows never live that long. The average age of a hunter-harvested sow is just three years of age, according to the DNR, which means a substantial amount of future reproductive potential is lost each year.

That fact reflects the somewhat limited tool kit available to wildlife managers when it comes to recovering the black bear populations. When the numbers of whitetail deer decline, for example, the DNR routinely restricts the harvest of female deer, or does, which are readily distinguished from adult male deer due to their lack of antlers. Maintaining more breeding does in the population allows game species, like deer, to recover more quickly from population declines, whether due to hunting pressure, predation, winter conditions, or disease.

While there are subtle differences in the appearance of female and male black bears,

See **BEARS**, pg. 3B

Outdoors briefly



Study hopes to understand the decline of perch

REGIONAL—Yellow perch are more than great table fare. They're an important Minnesota fish species as forage for predators such as walleye and as a targeted sport fish.

The DNR has surveyed yellow perch for decades. The data show a statewide decrease in catch over time.

Perch are very adaptable to different environmental conditions and populations can look very different from lake to lake, with some containing mostly smaller fish and others having destination trophy fisheries.

Standard nets used during population sampling only collect yellow perch larger than five inches so it is unknown if overall populations are decreasing or if populations are shifting to smaller individuals. Interestingly, research has shown that in some Minnesota lakes, yellow perch can live out their entire life cycle without reaching five inches in length.

A collaborative research project is underway to develop methods for more effective sampling of yellow perch two inches long and larger and to describe the range of population types that exist in lakes throughout Minnesota. These results will be used in future research to understand the fish community and environmental factors that shape yellow perch populations.

Burning bans lifted in Lake and Cook counties

REGIONAL—Recent rain and a return of near-normal temperatures have prompted the Department of Natural Resources to lift burning restrictions for Lake and Cook counties. The two counties were the last in northern Minnesota to have the restrictions lifted.

These changes reflect reduced wildfire risk in these counties and across the state. However, fall is traditionally a dry time in Minnesota and fires can start easily in dry grass and leaves. Minnesotans are encouraged to stay alert and keep current with the statewide fire conditions and burning restrictions.

The entire region remains in various stages of drought, which can raise the risk of fire as forest fuels remain drier than usual.

FISH STORIES

McKinley Park summer resident lands hefty walleye

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

LAKE VERMILION — Margie and Tom Butler, who summer at McKinley Park, will have a fish story to tell when they head to Florida later this year for the winter.

The couple had been struggling to catch walleye when they first arrived in June to find a prolific mayfly hatch in full bloom. While they've traditionally trolled nightcrawler harnesses, this year they tried slip bobbers with a crawler and a gold jig. It didn't take long for the payoff, as Margie hooked a 28-1/4 inch walleye.

While walleye aren't known as fighters, the sheer size of this fish challenged Margie, who eventually handed the pole to Tom after the fish made several runs away from the boat. A few runs later, Margie was able to net the fish while



Margie Butler hoists the huge walleye she caught on Lake Vermilion earlier this summer.

submitted photo

Tom kept the pressure on the line.

Tom, who had tried his hand at taxidermy several times before, decided this personal best for either Margie or himself warranted a mount. The fish now hangs above the refrigerator

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
59 40				57 40				65 43				67 44				68 45			
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.
09/13	65	34	0.00	09/13	65	32	0.00	09/13	63	44	0.00	09/13	72	37	0.00	09/13	65	33	0.00
09/14	73	34	0.33	09/14	72	32	0.26	09/14	70	45	0.22	09/14	66	50	0.16	09/14	72	40	0.28
09/15	64	37	0.05	09/15	65	33	0.00	09/15	65	46	0.16	09/15	73	41	0.00	09/15	65	34	0.16
09/16	75	36	0.15	09/16	75	33	0.44	09/16	74	45	0.32	09/16	75	57	0.45	09/16	73	34	0.54
09/17	80	52	0.78	09/17	81	51	1.20	09/17	75	52	0.08	09/17	64	43	0.09	09/17	78	50	0.50
09/18	65	33	0.00	09/18	64	31	0.00	09/18	63	42	0.00	09/18	72	41	0.00	09/18	65	32	0.00
09/19	71	33	0.00	09/19	71	48	0.00	09/19	70	42	0.00	09/19	88	61	0.00	09/19	68	33	0.00
Total 12.32				YTD Total 15.20				YTD Total 13.22				YTD Total 15.67				YTD Total 17.02			

BEARS...Continued from page 2B

DNR wildlife managers have determined that limiting the harvest of females isn't feasible, since most hunters won't be able to reliably recognize the differences in the field. Which is why the DNR has not limited hunter harvest of black bears to boars only.

Whitetails also reach sexual maturity much sooner in Minnesota than do black bears, which gives whitetails much greater reproductive potential. Female deer in the state typically enter estrus in the November of their second year, or about 18 months after birth. In better habitat, they can even reach sexual maturity in the November of their first year.

In addition, whitetails typically breed every year, while black bears in the state usually breed once every two years.

The one factor that can help protect female bears is their greater reluctance to approach baits left out by hunters. That reluctance means that in an average or good food year, the harvest mix often runs 60-65 percent males, according to DNR data.

That protective factor disappears, however, in poor food years. Without alternative foods on the landscape, hunger drives female bears to hunters' baits and the result is hunters taking more females.

"My quick summary of the Tower area shows 50.6 percent females in the harvest as of Sept. 14," said Tower DNR wildlife manager Tom Rusch. "This is clearly very high. A bear harvest with such a high adult female percentage could have long term impacts on the bear

Bear Harvest Numbers - Monday, September 20, 2021



Year	YTD	Total
2021	2,569	2,569
2020	2,869	3,203
2019	2,043	2,327
2018	1,442	1,768
2017	1,778	2,036
2016	2,359	2,633
2015	1,618	1,972

population."

Tri agrees. "When harvest is high during a bad food year, it can have significant implications on the proportion of the population that is made up of reproductive females," he said. "We won't know what the full effects of the season will be until we get the final age data back in February, but it's been a hard couple years for bears in the Northeast."

Bear recovery limited

Rusch predicts a decline in the region's bear population this year and he expects the DNR will need to reduce its bear permit numbers in the future in order to help the population recover. Tri said it's still too early to know for sure, although he acknowledges that the high harvests in 2020 and 2021 are "exceptional."

The impact of lower permit numbers isn't always predictable. DNR wildlife officials had hoped that slashing the number of permits issued to bear hunters, beginning in 2012, would allow the bear popula-

tion to recover, but the population in the quota zone hasn't shown much growth despite several years of historically low bear permits. That's true, in part, because the decline in the number of permits has coincided with a dramatic increase in hunter success in recent years, at least in the part of the state subject to harvest quotas, which includes the North Country. As recently as the early 2010s, only about one-in-four bear hunters was successful. In recent years, however, 45-50 percent of hunters have bagged a bear, a remarkable change that has blunted the impact of permit reductions. Last year, 57 percent of hunters in the quota zone bagged a bear, which pushed the total harvest up to 3,203 bears, the highest since 2006. Tri estimates a final harvest this year of 2,900 bears, which (except for last year) would be the highest since 2007.

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FLOWAGE...Continued from page 2B

normally allows for continued flow of water during more typical conditions. The spillway is set to halt the outflow once the water level has fallen about three feet below the lip of the dam. The water level is now down about five feet, well below the spillway, yet water is continuing to flow through the penstock, which is located even lower on the dam, continuing the drain.

Boyle said the DNR will try to address the issue yet this year, but only if the repair can be done with existing resources, which are limited. The Legislature typically allots funding for dam repairs every biennium, based on a priority list developed by the DNR. The Pike River dam is on the priority list, but hasn't been high enough to make the cut in recent years. The DNR is well aware of the dam's need for major repairs. A 2011 statewide dam assessment spreadsheet lists the 109-year-old dam in poor condition, but a 2016 consultant's report put the price tag for needed rehabilitation at \$2-4 million. That's a big enough number to pose a real funding challenge, noted Boyle.

Boyle said he hopes to hear from the diver soon about possible solutions to the penstock leakage. "I would hope to do the repairs this fall, if not too costly," he said. "That would take care of the situation for good," he said. "Of course, there are other things wrong with the dam that I don't know we can take care of."

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FOOTBALL

Another blowout loss for Timberwolves

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

BIGFORK — The Timberwolves suffered their second straight lopsided loss here last Friday as the Huskies' defense ruled the day on route to a 62-14 win over Ely.

"We came up against a very good Bigfork team," said Ely Head Coach Louis Gerzin. "I thought we did not execute very well defensively. I saw a lot of blown coverages, and not reading our assignments."

Gerzin credited the Huskies' play execution, particularly on a quarterback option play that "they executed phenomenally," making it difficult to defend against. "That is no excuse for us. We have to be able to adjust to that kind of play. We're going to see that more and more this season," he said.

Bigfork took a 40-0 lead by halftime and scored again to open the third quarter before Ely's junior running back Jason Kerntz returned the subsequent kick-off 99 yards for Ely's first score of the game. Kerntz also scrambled

for 45 yards for another score late in the third quarter. He notched 130 yards rushing on 14 attempts against the Huskies.

Senior quarterback Mason Davies struggled much of the afternoon, completing just five passes for eight yards. He added 21 more yards on five rushes.

Junior fullback Erron Anderson rushed five times for 15 yards.

On defense, Harry Simons led the Timberwolves with 12 tackles while breaking up two passes. "He was all over the field.

He played some linebacker, safety and on the D-line," Gerzin said, referring to Simons. Davis had nine and a half tackles, while Kerntz had eight and a half. Sophomore linebacker Gavin Marshall and junior linebacker Gunnar Hart each made five tackles.

"We had some young guys come into the game that actually did pretty well," Gerzin said. He noted that eighth grader Jesse Oelke was in at safety for a few plays. "Freshman Conner Baltich came in and made some nice

plays, and so did junior Ashton Cook," he said.

The Timberwolves are scheduled to host Cherry on Friday. Logan Meskill, who suffered a hit to the head last week against Mt. Iron-Buhl, was set to be back on the practice field this week, according to Gerzin.

A trip to Cromwell/Floodwood on Oct. 1 will be followed by Ely's homecoming game on Friday, Oct. 8 against Cook County.

FOOTBALL

Grizzlies edged by Deer River, fall to 2-1

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

DEER RIVER— Deer River came up with a big play and a monster drive when they needed them most, getting two fourth-quarter touchdowns for a 22-16 win over the visiting Grizzlies on Friday.

The big play was a punt block that set the Warriors up on the North Woods 19 with Deer River holding a slim 10-8 lead. The Warriors put the ball in the hands of senior running back Joe Herfindahl, who scored on a three-yard plunge to extend the lead to 16-8.

Jared Chiabotti returned the ensuing kickoff 15 yards to set the Grizzlies up at their own 40. Grizzlies wide receiver Eric Aune was shaken up on a second-down reception and had to leave the game, but he came back in two plays later on fourth-and-nine for an 11-yard pass from Ty Fabish to preserve the drive. A penalty and a sack left the Grizzlies staring at a third-and-23 at the North Woods 38, but lightning struck in the form of T.J. Chiabotti, who raced 62 yards for his second touchdown of the night. Fabish connected with Aune again for the conversion, tying the score 16-16 with 6:23 to play.

Grizzlies fans were hopeful that their defense could repeat the magic they used to keep Deer River out of the end zone multiple times

on drives that got as close as the North Woods five-yard line, but on first down from the Deer River 39, Herfindahl streaked through the right side of the line and dashed all the way to the North Woods 25. Four plays later, Herfindahl scored on a 12-yard run that proved to be the game-winning score.

North Woods had one more shot from their own 29 with 3:40 remaining, but lightning wouldn't strike twice for the Grizzlies, as the Warriors shut down Chiabotti on fourth-and-21 with less than 30 seconds to go.

It was deferred revenge for the Warriors after a 46-36 loss to the Grizzlies last season, the only blemish on their 6-1 record. The teams were on a collision course to meet again in the sectional championship game, but the game wasn't played due to the impact of COVID-19 on playoff scheduling.

Deer River threatened to take the lead on its opening drive of Friday's game, but Aune came up with an interception at the goal line for the Grizzlies' first big defensive stand of the night.

North Woods crossed the goal line three times at the end of the first quarter, but only one of those touchdowns counted. T.J. Chiabotti punished would-be tacklers on a 50-yard pass reception and score that was nullified by a North Woods blocking penalty. Then Fabish hit Aune on a slant pattern that

the senior receiver took to the house for a 16-yard score, but that was erased by a Grizzlies' personal foul.

Facing third-and-21 at the Deer River 29, Fabish flipped a screen pass to Chiabotti, who broke four tackles and waltzed into the end zone for the score that finally counted. Jared Chiabotti caught the two-point conversion to give the Grizzlies what would be their only lead of the game, 8-0.

Deer River quickly moved the ball for a first-and-goal at the Grizzlies 5, but huge stops from freshman Nick Abramson and junior Anevey Goodsky-Spears squashed the Warriors' threat.

However, the Warriors got on the scoreboard three plays later when Fabish was sacked in the end zone for a safety. Deer River quarterback scored the team's first touchdown of the night on a one-yard sneak with :43, and the two-point conversion by Austin Mundt gave the Warriors a 10-8 lead at the half.

When Fabish had the time to throw, he was red-hot, completing 12-of-16 for 115 yards, one touchdown and two conversions. Aune was on the receiving end of five of those passes for 44 yards and a conversion, and Jared Chiabotti also had five receptions for 16 yards and a conversion. T.J. Chiabotti caught two passes good for 58 yards and a touchdown.

Aside from giving up a

long touchdown run, Deer River's defense kept the Grizzlies' run game in check for most of the game. T.J. Chiabotti netted 109 yards on 25 carries.

Freshman Nick Abramson and junior Anevey Goodsky-Spears received kudos from the coach for their defensive line play.

"He stepped up tremendously on defense Friday night," Anderson said about Abramson. "His quickness and strength and speed shone through there."

The performance turned in by Fabish was one Anderson said he knows the senior quarterback is capable of.

"When we gave Ty time, he found the open guy. It's a bit unfortunate there that he has to throw three touchdown passes in order for one to count. But he found the right guys and showed what happens when we give him any kind of time to be able to read the defense."

In addition to his receptions and interception, Aune led the Grizzlies on defense with 10 unassisted tackles.

"Eric is a phenomenal football player," Anderson said. "He can catch anything that's thrown his way. He's a strong kid, he runs great routes, and he's got very, very good hands."

The Grizzlies are scheduled to take on Barnum at home on Friday. Due to the lengthy road trip for the Bombers, kickoff has been moved up to 3:15 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

Ely boys take first at Eveleth

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

EVELETH— Ely senior Gabe Pointer led the Timberwolves' cross-country squad to a first-place finish last Thursday in Eveleth, with plenty of help from the rest of the team, all of whom finished in the top 20. Meanwhile, the Ely girls runners took fourth in the competition among seven girls teams.

Pointer took fourth place overall in the eight-team field on the boys side, with a time of 19:38.2, followed closely by junior Jake Cochran, who finished in sixth place with a time of 19:54.8. Eighth-grader Otto Devine took eighth place (20:21.4), while freshman Caid Chittum (20:33.4) finished in tenth. Also finishing in the top 20 were sophomore Leo Stalmer (13th-21:01.5), senior Jon Hakala (14th- 21:08.3), and freshman Silas Solum (19th-21:30.6). Combined, Ely finished with a total elapsed time of 1:41:29.1, topping second place South Ridge by 1:29.

"Gabriel, Jake, Jon, Leo and Ben are running pretty good right now," said Ely Head Coach Jayne Dusich. "The rest of the team are younger and have only run the 5K races this season so are learning as they are racing. Caid, Otto and Jake have been a good surprise."

For the girls, junior Zoe Devine was the top Ely finisher, taking third overall with a time of 22:10.7.

Fellow junior Phoebe Helms took sixth with a time of 22:52.9, while freshman Anna Dunn finished in 24th place at 26:17.5 and Gracie Pointer finished in 25th place at 26:26.5. Other Ely finishers included junior Sydney Durkins (33rd- 28:55.1), junior Juliet Stouffer (41st-34:12.7) and sophomore Kiarston Eaton (42nd- 35:04.9).

"Zoe moved up quite a bit in the last mile," said Dusich. "Phoebe looked really good as Anna and Gracie kept pushing each other."

BASS...Continued from page 1B

catches.

"We pre-fished the Saturday and Sunday before and then we took school off Thursday and Friday and pre-fished."

But fishing conditions one day can be different the next, as the Panichis found out when the tournament got underway.

"We found one spot that we thought was going to be filled with them, and when we went there the first day of the tournament it did not end up to be very good," Louie said.

They spent the day concentrating on three spots, tossing flipping jigs along shallow weed lines. Some tournaments use cell phone apps that allow competitors to see where they stand by recording catches in real time and releasing them, but this tournament followed the classic weigh-in format. Jake and Louie's haul tipped the scales at 15.41 pounds, good enough for 11th place in the 96-team tourney, but nearly four pounds behind the leaders.

Jake and Louie knew they were in striking range with a good second-day catch, and they decided to stick with what had worked for them on day one.

"We fished the same three spots and they just produced," Jake said. "The school of two- to three-pounders moved out and a school of three-and-a-half and four-pounders moved in there."

They pulled in 18.35 pounds of bass that day, although that wasn't certified until they arrived at the

weigh-in. They felt good about their total weight of 33.76 pounds, but they were only the sixth boat to come off the water, leaving them with a lot of time for nail-biting before they were finally declared the champions.

"We were on the hot seat all day," Louie said.

"We watched close to 50 boats weigh in and none of them had a better day than us," Jake said.

And as for the team they were chasing?

"They only caught

two fish the second day," Jake said.

As tournament champions, the pair claimed a spot in next summer's national championship event for this tour, but in that respect the victory was a bit bittersweet for Jake. As he's in his senior year of high school, by the time that tournament rolls around he'll be too old to compete. However, that doesn't disqualify Louie. He'll just have to find another partner, which likely won't be too hard at

all for a shot at a national championship.

On the flip side for Jake, "state champion" will certainly look good along with his other accomplishments as he markets his new bass guide service to customers.

And since Jake and Louie have been fishing together ever since they've been old enough to hold rods, there's one thing age and tournament rules will never change — they'll always be fishing buddies.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

Grizzlies, Olson said.

"The pressure that they put on the other team just by always being everywhere they put the ball is something that's hard for another offense," she said. "They don't know where to put the ball, they keep trying other spots, and we were there tonight, and that was good."

Hill City tournament

It was a long road trip

for the North Woods volleyball team on Saturday, but a productive one, as the Grizzlies took second place in the Hill City tournament with a 3-1 record.

The Grizzlies were seeded No. 1 after opening rounds wins over Bagley, 25-15 and 25-13, and McGregor, 25-14 and 25-8, and polished off Duluth-Marshall, 25-15 and 25-21, to reach the finals.

In the championship

match the Grizzlies had to contend with host Hill City and their home court advantage.

"Hill City still had fans there yelling, and being on their home court was helpful," Grizzlies Head Coach Kandi Olson said. "You could definitely tell they looked comfortable there. They definitely took charge at the net and made us work for every point."

Hill City came out on

top, 25-19 and 25-18, but Olson was nonetheless pleased with what the team accomplished.

"Each game provided something, some new dynamic that we had to work on," Olson said.

A consistent emphasis for the Grizzlies was play in the back row to facilitate scoring opportunities.

"One of the main things we talked about and focused on throughout

the day was making sure that we are in the correct hitting lane ready to take any shot that might glance off the blocker or miss the blocker," Olson said. "It takes a lot of time for a back row player to study hitters and figure out where to be. Over and over again I keep hearing from other coaches that they just love how scrappy our kids are, and I couldn't agree more. We have kids who are willing

to dive for any ball that's coming to try to get it to a playable point."

North Woods was scheduled for a road trip to Ely on Thursday. After a Saturday tournament at Virginia the Grizzlies will be back at home on Monday, Sept. 27 to take on Littlefork-Big Falls.

VOLLEYBALL...Continued from page 1B

"Although it didn't go as planned, I'm proud of the way the team worked hard tonight," said Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum. "Mesabi East has some height which made us have

to adjust both as hitters and defensive players."

The Coughlin sisters both had strong showings again for Ely despite the loss. Rachel Coughlin seemed to be everywhere

at once, posting 11 kills, 13 digs, three set assists and two blocked shots. Kate Coughlin added seven kills, eight digs, and notched three ace serves, while Kellen Thomas added

seven kills and nine digs. Setter Katrina Seliskar tallied 24 assists, six digs and two aces, while junior Courtney Eilrich added five digs and Annikka Mattson added four.

"We have made a ton of growth on our coverage and that helped us a ton tonight," said Wognum.

Ely was set to host North Woods on Thursday, Sept. 23, with an A-squad

start at 7 p.m. They'll head to Virginia on Saturday to take part in a weekend tournament before hosting Duluth-Marshall next Tuesday.

ENVIRONMENT

Protection is key to preserving area watersheds

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Reports detail restoration proposals for affected lakes and rivers

REGIONAL- The excellent quality of the water in the lakes and streams of the Vermilion River and Rainy River-Headwaters watersheds is a routinely touted feature of life in the North Country, and recent draft reports released for public comment by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency confirm that protection, rather than restoration, is the key to preserving it.

“The rivers and lakes in those watersheds are some of the cleanest waters in the state,” said Katrina Kessler, MPCA assistant commissioner for water policy and agriculture. “That’s why it’s so important that we focus not only on restoring waters that don’t meet water quality standards, but also protecting lakes and streams from becoming impaired in the first place. That’s especially true for areas like the Boundary Waters that are enjoyed and treasured by so many residents and visitors.”

The TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) and WRAPS (Watershed Restoration and Protection) reports identified only two water bodies – Myrtle Lake and the Blackduck River – as ones with conditions that merit corrective restoration efforts.

The MPCA and local partners found that the vast majority of streams in the two watersheds meet water quality standards designed to protect fish and other aquatic life; nearly all lakes meet standards for swimming and other recreation.

These assessments dealt with “conventional pollutants” such as fecal bacteria, phosphorus and nitrogen, and eutrophication indicators like algae growth, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and suspended sediments, according to comments made by MPCA watershed projects manager Amy Mustonen during a virtual public meeting on Sept. 8.

One notable exclusion from the assessments that has implication for the region’s extensive wild rice lakes and streams is sulfate, which is not included in the TMDL/WRAPS standards. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has identified



Swimming in the Samuelson Rapids on Little Fork River earlier this summer.
photo by F. Schumacher

30 rivers and lakes throughout the state that exceed the state’s maximum level of sulfate and has proposed that they be added to the list of impaired waters, but state law prevents enforcement against sulfate pollution if it costs permit holders money. If new standards are developed, Mustonen said, a WRAPS plan could be developed to address the issue.

Myrtle Lake

This shallow recreational lake east of Orr was found to contain high levels of phosphorus and chlorophyll-a, Mustonen said, and a unique characteristic of the lake contributes to frequent algae blooms that affect most of the lake’s surface. While the water in most shallow lakes is mixed all the way through, that’s not the case at Myrtle Lake.

“It was noticed that the lake stratified several times through the summer, which allows the sediments at the bottom to release nutrient into the water column,” Mustonen said. “A wind event would occur and then those nutrient would get mixed up into the water column and you’d see algae blooms occur.”

Mustonen outlined several recommended strategies for reducing the phosphorus load in the lake, including protecting and maintaining healthy buffers along the shoreline, assisting

landowners with restoration of areas without buffers, and identifying and upgrading or replacing septic systems.

Other methods could possibly be used to reduce internal phosphorus loading, but Mustonen said that “in shallow lakes it can be tricky, they can be short-lived, and they could be cost prohibitive.” She indicated further exploration of alternatives would be warranted, but at this time are not included in the plan.

Blackduck River

As previously identified and reported in the Timberjay in 2017, the Blackduck River, a small sub-watershed that flows from Blackduck Lake, was the only stream identified as not supportive of aquatic life or recreational use. The river has elevated suspended sediment and E. coli levels that Mustonen attributed to decreased protective forest cover due to timber harvesting and additional potential impact from livestock ranching.

“Those forested areas are helping to protect the banks and helping to protect the highly mobile soils and sediments from getting into the river,” Mustonen said.

Forest management guidance for landowners and pasture and grazing management guidance are among the actions proposed in the restoration plan,

which also includes stream bank stabilization, channel restoration, culvert upgrades, road and motorized trail maintenance, remnant railroad piling removal, and septic system upgrades.

The associated Lower Ash River also has been identified as impaired, but MPCA officials opted not to develop a remediation plan at this time. Mustonen said that the Lower Ash is being considered for reclassification from a cold-water body to a warm-water body, and strategies would differ depending on the classification.

Protection and priorities

While one purpose of the reports is to guide additional localized restoration planning efforts, Mustonen said that they also identify eight overall themes water quality professionals have agreed should guide protection strategy development in the two watersheds. They include:

- ▶ Drinking water protection
- ▶ Forestland management
- ▶ Habitat and aquatic connectivity management
- ▶ Lake management
- ▶ Recreational management
- ▶ Septic system improvement
- ▶ Stormwater runoff con-

trol
▶ Streambank and gully protection.

The reports also include which lakes the Department of Natural Resources and MPCA recommend should be targeted for phosphorus reduction efforts based on a cost-benefit analysis.

“These are based off certain water quality criteria,” Mustonen said. “They don’t take into account other things that locally would be considered.”

Local factors that might influence planners and decision makers include such things as the recreational uses of a particular lake, whether or not a lake association exists to support plans, and if the lake is part of tribal lands.

In the Vermilion River watershed, Eagles Nest No. 3, Pelican Lake, and Lake Vermilion were the top three priorities emerging from the cost-benefit analysis. Burntside, Big, Little Long, and Cedar were lakes topping the list for Rainy River-Headwaters.

Comments invited

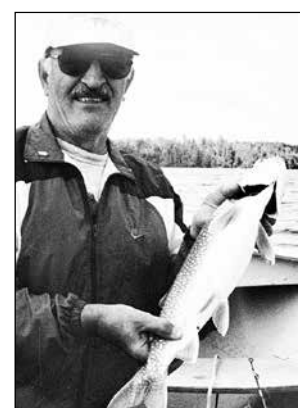
The MPCA is seeking public feedback on these reports, including suggestions for additional or revised protection and restoration strategies as they relate to aquatic life and aquatic recreation. The draft reports are available on the MPCA’s Vermilion River Watershed and Rainy River-Headwaters Watershed web pages.

Submit comments to or request information from Amy Mustonen, 218-302-6638, 800-657-3864, MPCA, 525 S Lake Ave #400A, Duluth, MN 55802 by 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29.

This public notice period has been set for 60 days rather than the standard 30 days to provide ample time for people to respond given the uncertainties associated with the threat of wildfires in the region, which include the possibility of evacuations.

Comments must include a statement of your interest in the report(s), and the action you are requesting from the MPCA, including specific changes to sections of the draft report(s) and the reasons for making those changes.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Karl Rukavina

Karl Rukavina, 88, of Winton, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019, at the Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. A Memorial Mass, postponed initially due to COVID, will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25 at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. Father Hoffman will officiate. Family and friends are invited to a small social gathering to follow at Dee’s, at 2 p.m. Arrangements are entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Karl was born in Ely on Nov. 13, 1931, to Steve and Katherine Rukavina. He was the youngest brother of George and Steve, Mary Jaworski and Olga Rolando, and also Tony Yakich, Jean Stocks and Rose Charpentier.

Karl led a full and active life always. After graduating in 1949 from the Ely Schools and serving as a Korean War Veteran, he attended Ely Junior College and St. Cloud Teacher College,

with interests in biology and history. His most notable work was for Basswood Lodge as a fishing guide, Ely’s Shagawa Lake Restoration Project, and for what became the EPA, in Oregon, from which he retired in 1994. His interests included all forms of fishing and hunting, reading about history, gardening flowers, cooking and photography. He loved music of all kinds, especially the opera. He was most fond of his numerous friends, their times together, and sharing noteworthy memories of life guiding at Basswood Lodge.

The children of his siblings survive him.



Patricia E. Sokoloski

Patricia “Patt” E. Sokoloski, 76, of Grand Rapids, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021, at Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital. Visitation will be

from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 23 at Rowe Funeral Home in Grand Rapids and on Friday, Sept. 24 at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Grand Rapids. The funeral service will follow at 11 a.m. at the church. Fr. Blake Rozier will officiate. Burial will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25 at Forest Home Cemetery in Buyck, with a luncheon at the Echo Trail Tavern afterwards. The family would like to thank the staff at Grand Itasca Hospital for the excellent care that Patt and the family received during this difficult time. Arrangements are with Rowe Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Grand Rapids.

Patricia was born in 1945 to LeRoy and Gertrude (Goebel) Rablin in International Falls. Patt was raised in Buyck and graduated from Orr High School. She married Victor Sokoloski on Sept. 21, 1963, and together they owned and operated a logging and sawmill business. In 1977, Patt moved to Grand Rapids with her children. There she worked for the Country House (1977-1984), Itasca State Bank (1984-1995), and Grand Rapids State Bank until her retirement in 2016. Though she didn’t make a professional career in teaching as she dreamed, Patt diligently taught her family all she could. Her family was the

most important thing to her, especially her grandchildren. She also loved to cook and craft.

Patt is survived by her daughters, Kelly (Ken) Gunderson, Dee (Chad) Osborne and Tricia (Don) Wahlstrom; son, Michael (Char) Sokoloski; daughter-in-law, Shannon Sokoloski; brother, Wayne Rablin; eight grandchildren, Ashly (Adam) Bamberg, Ryan Sokoloski, Lindsay (Jordan) Winter, Brady Prebeck, Jaymeson Wahlstrom, Caylee Osborne, Elyjah Wahlstrom and Karley Sokoloski; great-granddaughter, Aurora Wahlstrom; and numerous nieces and nephews.

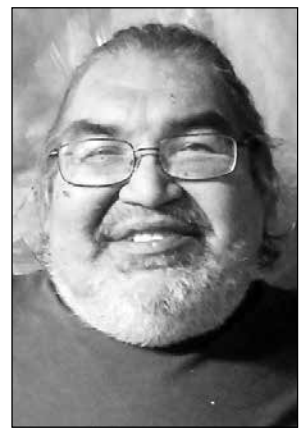
She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Darren; and 12 siblings, Fern, Sylvia, Harvey, Lester, Richard, Vivian, Jack, Robert, Marjorie, Frances, James and Jessie.

Raymond J. I. Pohto

Raymond James Isaac Pohto, 88, of Cook, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021. A memorial visitation will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 24 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

He is survived by his loving wife, Carol Lehtinen Novak Pohto; children, Guy Pohto, Brad (Peggy) Pohto, Mark (Jean) Pohto, Grant (Sheila) Pohto, Mike (Judy) Novak, Cin-

dy (Don) Aune, Lisa Kirk and Shelly (Kevin) Gwash; 20 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild and another expected in January.



Vernon K. Connor

Vernon K. Connor, 57, passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021, at his home. A wake and service were held on Tuesday, Sept. 21 and Wednesday, Sept. 22 at the Nett Lake Baptist Church in Nett Lake. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Vernon was born to Leslie and Marcella (Morrison) Connor on June 23, 1964, in Cook. He attended Rainy Lake College and Bemidji College, earning his Vo Tech degree in carpentry. Vernon enjoyed carpentry and woodworking. He also enjoyed fishing, playing cards, and popping wild rice. Vernon had a great sense of humor, which

he used to handle many circumstances. He was a carefree guy who was always joking and friendly. His family remembers his “burly laugh”. You didn’t need to see Vernon in the room; you just knew from hearing his laugh.

Vernon is survived by his mother, Marcela Connor; sister, Janice Connor; brothers, Marty Connor (Char Jordan), Mike (Tonya) Connor and Allen “Buzz” Connor; aunts, Edith Villebrun and Carol Chico; uncle, Floyd Morrison; nephews, Jordan, Michael John and Tate; nieces, Joy, Sharla, Nazhoni and Rhianna; and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Leslie; brother, Leslie John Jr.; baby sister, Angela Louise; maternal grandparents, John and Angeline Morrison; and paternal grandparents, Lafayette and Ruth Connor.

Andrea R. Bailey

Andrea R. Bailey, 73, of Ely, passed away at Vermilion Senior Living in Tower. Per her request, there will be no services. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

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

SEND COVER LETTER AND RESUME to: Jodi Summit, Board Chair, 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

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.

Ely Area Ambulance Service Executive Director

The Executive Director will have primary responsibility for overseeing the operation and goals of the Ely Area Ambulance Service as directed by the Board of Directors. The operation and goals include maintaining and promoting EAAS as a premier EMS service. The Executive Director will be responsible for management of human resources, budget preparation, maintain current financial reports and cost containment policies. The Executive Director shall initiate and promote fundraising opportunities to benefit the EAAS. The Executive Director shall accomplish all goals through proactive leadership, effective supervision, exceptional communication skills and adherence to policies and procedures.

Please send resumes and requests for a copy of the Job Description to Kavonc@msn.com 9/24

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF EMBARRASS Board Supervisor to Be Appointed October 13, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.

The Town of Embarrass is looking for a board supervisor. If you are interested in this position, please attend the board meeting on October 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Questions can be answered about the position by calling the Clerk's Office at 218-984-2084

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 24, 2021

FIELD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

The regular October - February board meetings of Field Township will be held at the Clerk's residence at 9998 East Lind Rd., Angora. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (unless otherwise published and posted) at 7 p.m.

Pat Chapman/Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 24, 2021

DNR NOTICE - PARKING CLOSURE AT VAN VAC PUBLIC ACCESS

The boat ramp at the Van Vac Rd (Co Rd 404) Public Water Access on Burntside Lake will be open from Wednesday, September 21, 2021 to Sunday, October 3, 2021. No parking will be available during this time as the parking areas are still under construction. If parking is needed, please continue to use the other public water accesses on Burntside Lake. Contact DNR Parks and Trails with questions at 218-300-7843.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 24, 2021

CITY OF TOWER FOR SALE

2012 Chevy Tahoe Special
105,000 miles
\$12,500
Contact Councilor Sheldon Majerle
218-780-4150

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 17 & 24, 2021

CITY OF TOWER FOR BID

2005 FORD AMBULANCE
Minimum bid \$5,000
Contact
218-750-3002

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 17 & 24, 2021



Steger Mukluks is Hiring!

- ▶ Positions include Sewing, Shipping, and Sales:
Sewing can be at our Factory or as a Contractor at home
- ▶ Full-Time, Part-Time, Seasonal, and Year-Round positions available
 - ▶ Competitive Wages
- ▶ Benefits Include: Health Insurance, Paid Time Off, and Employee Discount

Steger Mukluks has been providing employees a safe and fun work atmosphere in Ely, MN for over 30 years.

Call 365-6634 to join the team! tfn

Executive Director Wanted

Well Being Development, a mental health and wellness nonprofit organization in Ely, MN is looking for a 20+ hours per week executive director. See our website for more information, www.wellbeingdevelopment.org. 10/1



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

ELY BLUE LINE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION SEEKING COACHES AND ARENA ASSISTANT

The Ely Blue Line Hockey Association is seeking motivated and dedicated applicants for the following positions for the 2021-22 season:

- 1) Ice hockey coaches: multiple levels. For more info contact Luke Macho @ 507-461-2562 or lmacho59@yahoo.com.
- 2) Ice arena assistant: approx 10 hrs per week with potential for more. Starting wage \$11.50/hr. For more info contact Nicole Udovich at 218-235-8224. Send resumes to nicole.udovich@gmail.com.

October-April commitment. ***Please apply by October 4*** 9/24

PUBLIC NOTICES

Bearville Township Accepting Bids for Snowplowing (Cedar Lane)

Bearville Township is accepting bids for 2021/2022 snowplowing of Cedar Lane area-Beatrice Lake contract. Route would begin on the Snake Trail at the point where St. Louis County stops plowing (formerly Robertson's), 1.45 miles to Beatrice Lake Forest Road, .4 miles of Beatrice Lake Road to Cedar Lane, .48 miles of Cedar Lane, from Cedar Lane .8 miles of Beatrice Lake Road ending where Echo Lane meets Beatrice Lake Road (approximate total distance 3.1 miles). Plowing must begin when there is a 4" snowfall, and road must be kept open the entire season. The snowplowing seasonal contract would be in effect from November 1, 2021 until May 1, 2022. Requesting bids for

the entire season. A Certificate of Insurance is required upon acceptance of the bid. Please contact Bearville Supervisor Gene Baker: 218-301-9343 or Kathy Cressy-Clerk: 218-376-4495 or bearvl@frontiernet.net for more details and map. Sealed bids must be received by October 8th to be considered and will be opened and awarded at the October 12th Board of Supervisors meeting (meeting starts at 6:30pm at the Bearville Town Hall, 13971 Hwy 22- 1 mile East of State Hwy 65). Mail sealed bids to: Bearville Township Snowplowing bid, c/o Kathy Cressy - Clerk, 62949 County Road 557, Cook, MN 55723. Bearville Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 24 & Oct. 1, 2021

ELY-BLOOMENSON SEEKING BIDS FOR SNOW PLOWING

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is seeking snow plowing proposals for the 2021-2022 snow and ice season. The proposal shall include plowing, sanding/salting, and removal of snow/ice as needed for all campus parking lot's in an effort to maintain safe conditions. Efforts shall be made to provide services before and after business hours to ensure customers, staff, and property safety. Please provide an equipment list with your proposal. Hospital staff will clear all sidewalks, stairs, and entryways. Certificate of Liability

insurance will be required. If you have any questions or would like to review the areas to include with the proposal, please contact EBCH Facilities Team Leader Keith Beal at 218-365-8731. Proposals must be submitted no later than September 30th, 2021, to:

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital
Attention: Keith Beal
Snow removal proposals
328 W Conan St
Ely, MN 55731

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 24, 2021

BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP CALL FOR BIDS

Bearville Township will be accepting bids for the sale of a 1978 International Cargostar 1950B Fire Truck. Details: Air brakes, Allison Automatic Transmission, 3208 Caterpillar Diesel Engine, 1000 GPM Waterous Pump, 500 gallon Steel water tank, Odometer-36,703 miles. No Title.

"As-is" condition-Truck may be seen at the Bearville Fire Hall: 13949 Co. Rd. 22 (one mile east of Hwy 65). To view contact: Kathy Cressy - Clerk 218-376-4495. Minimum bid: \$1,500.00. Submit your sealed

bid by October 8, 2021 to: Bearville Township-Fire Truck 62949 County Road 557 Cook, MN 55723

Bids will be opened and considered at the Bearville Town Board meeting, Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m at the Bearville Town Hall. Bearville Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 24, 2021



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Admissions

FT Patient Registrar

Hospital/ER

PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting at \$34.06, \$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)

Radiology

FT Radiologic Technologist

Care Center

FT Director of Nursing (Sign-on bonus. Competitive Wage)

PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$16.36/hr - \$1,500 Sign-On Bonus)

PT RN or LPN (\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)

Dietary

PT Dietary Aide/Cook

Environmental Services

FT Housekeeper

Casual Laundry Aide

Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

Activities

Casual Activities Assistant

TO APPLY:

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

More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220

humanresources@cookhospital.org

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

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Paraprofessional

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year; background check required.

Qualifications include:

- ▶ Associate's Degree/equivalent or Para Pro Certification
- ▶ Preferred experience working with school age children
- ▶ Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting.

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

A complete application must include the following:

- ▶ District Application
- ▶ Resume
- ▶ College Transcripts
- ▶ 2 letters of recommendation

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

Start Date: September 13, 2021

Starting Rate of Pay: \$16.90/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: October 5, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 24 & Oct. 1, 2021

PART-TIME CUSTODIAN

Vermilion Country School in Tower is seeking to hire a Custodian for the 2021-2022 school year. Position can be combined with other openings (paraprofessional) and will remain open until filled. Pay scale \$13 per hour. Approx. 10 hours per week. Please email jsummit@vermilioncountry.org with a letter of interest and resume.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME:
Dirty Steve's Landscaping
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 7425 Leino Rd., Embarrass, MN 55732
NAMEHOLDER:
Steven A. Webb, 7425 Leino Rd., Embarrass, MN 55732

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Dated: Sept. 7, 2021
SIGNED BY: Steven A. Webb

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 17 & 24, 2021

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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SUBSCRIBE TODAY
218-753-2950



TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

Langevin Auto & Truck Repair
Full Service
Auto Repair & Garage
Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F
2 Miles South of Tower
218-749-0751

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.

BUILDING SERVICES

JDL Landscaping
Cook, MN
Schedule Your Work Today!
• Cut/trim trees & brush
• Brush removal

Jack Luecken
780-9750
Brad Luecken
780-1852

EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC

"Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota In Your Home"
Superior Quality
• Plank Paneling
• Trim
• One-Of-A-Kind Moldings
• Industrial Lumber
218-744-1788
8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

WANTED

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

FOR RENT

FURNISHED HOUSE TO RENT IN ELY - Oct. - June. No dogs, no smoking. 3BR, 1.5BA. 2 blocks from Ely High School. \$900/month plus utilities. 818-963-0369 or 818-348-7721. 10/1v

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

MARINE

MERCURY OUTBOARDS
Frank's Marine Sales & Service
Mercury, Crestliner, Lund
www.franksmarinesales.com
franksmarine@centurytel.net
Hwy 53, Orr • Call 218-757-3150

Handberg's MARINA
ALLUMAHVED • POLARIS • YAMAHA
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218-993-2214
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LAKE VERMILION, TOWER
Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169
Summer Hours:
Mon-Fri: 8:30-5:30
Sat: 9-5, Sun 9-3
MERCURY • LUND • TECHNICAL SERVICE
Storage • Complete Service • Sales

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED- COOK NEEDED- full-time or part-time at Melgeorge's on Elephant Lake. WEEKEND CABIN CLEANERS also needed. Call 218-374-3621. tfn

LOST CAT

MISSING: BIG ORANGE KITTY WITH BLUE COLLAR. 333 E. James St., Ely. If seen, please call 218-365-5378 or 218-235-3141, ask for Shirley or leave a message. 9/24

MARINE



Centrally Located On Lake Vermilion

Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage
Lease or Purchase Options
Marina • Mechanic on Duty
Convenience Store
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4551 Bradley Road, Tower • 753-5457
www.shamrocklanding.com

MOCCASIN POINT MARINE

4655 Moccasin Point Rd
Lake Vermilion
218-753-3319

Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales
Mechanic on Duty

moccasinpointmarine.com



• Boat launch, rental, store & repair
• Cabins for a great, fun vacation

See us at: www.grubbens.com
Call us at: 218.753.5000
4296 Arrowhead Point Rd, Tower MN 55790

TIMBUKTU MARINA ON LAKE VERMILION 218-666-2131 7401 Oak Narrows Rd - Cook, MN Cabin rentals Year round boat storage and dockage Boat and pontoon rental Convenience store Gas, bait & liquor timbuktumarina.com	TIMBUKTU MARINE ON LAKE VERMILION 218-666-2276 2125 Vermillion Dr - Cook, MN Ranger Boats Premier Concessions Weeres Boats MERCURY SUZUKI YAMAHA Sales, service, storage, boat lifts, docks, trailers and accessories timbuktumarine.com
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Social Security Disability
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www.GetFields.com

Find the right senior living option for your mom or dad with our personalized process
Our service is free, as we're paid by our participating communities and providers.
1-888-715-1720
aPlace for Mom.
THE PLACE FOR SENIOR LIVING ADVICE

Super Crossword

PAIRS OFF

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| ACROSS | 54 Aquatint, e.g. | 98 "Alice" waitress who specialized in serving Dad's soft drinks? | 8 Fodder storer | 45 Actor Keach of "Man With a Plan" | 88 Actress Best of "The Man Who Knew Too Much" |
| 1 Gallery display | 55 Quaint newspaper sections | 104 Peated after | 9 "Move it!" | 46 Errand, e.g. | 90 Chest protector, of sorts |
| 8 Bits of fabric, e.g. | 56 Very little | 105 Get source | 10 Bighorn male | 48 Most hard and cold | 91 Thieving type |
| 14 "Quit that!" | 57 Enter gently | 109 Indisposed | 11 BP gas brand | 49 Rights gp. | 95 Dress border |
| 20 Low-cost and inferior, informally | 60 Actor Ron | 110 Sporty Chevy | 12 Carrier founded in 1927 | 50 Reasons | 97 Southwest art mecca |
| 21 Apple ad catchphrase | 61 Golf club | 111 Clay lump | 13 La — (opera house) | 52 Poking tool | 98 Foe |
| 22 For a short period | 62 Saints' org. | 113 Vixen's boss | 14 Rescuers | 53 Essence | 99 Antipasto bit |
| 23 Actress Freeman who lived in a European gambling mecca? | 64 Like someone who has moved to America again? | 114 Sight-related | 15 Hostess classic | 58 Monogram letter: Abbr. | 100 Cindy Brady player Susan |
| 25 Cello relative | 66 Coup group | 116 Apt getaway spelled by this puzzle's missing pairs of last two letters | 16 "So that's your game!" | 59 Final degree | 101 Goes very quickly |
| 26 Classic Ford | 68 Like a black chimney | 119 Get even for | 17 Stove light | 62 Papa's ma | 102 Facade |
| 27 Animated one, in brief | 70 Nothing, in Latin | 120 Follows | 18 Of a pelvic bone | 63 Edible fruit part | 103 Mature nit |
| 28 Like some radio shows | 71 Parasite on a passenger flight? | 121 Discharge an egg | 19 Extra inning | 64 — choy | 105 "The Practice" actress |
| 30 Cereal grass | 74 Mil. rank | 122 Usurer, e.g. | 24 Chess piece | 65 Rap genre | 106 "Barry Lyndon" star |
| 31 Palmist, e.g. | 75 Sonar sound | 123 Typists in trials | 29 Classic Ford | 67 Chest protector, of sorts | 107 Situation |
| 32 General —'s chicken | 77 Hound breed | 124 Rode a bike | 32 Burrito's kin | 68 Holy utensil | 108 Filled fully |
| 33 Two-masted sailboat painted bright red? | 78 Groom's vow | DOWN | 33 Very little | 69 Musical piece for eight | 111 Singer Laine |
| 35 Oahu beach | 79 Hound breed | 1 Zeniths | 34 Sword sort | 71 "— life grand?" | 112 A smaller amount of |
| 38 IV flow | 80 Laugh loudly | 2 — Island (part of New England) | 35 Nintendo game consoles | 72 Brain flash | 113 Valuable sire |
| 39 Land of ska | 82 Cut off with scissors | 3 Edgy | 36 Not engaged | 73 Old autocrat | 115 Conjunction in Cologne |
| 43 King or czar | 83 T-man Eliot | 4 Ocean filler | 37 Petty of NASCAR | 74 Slalom, say | 117 Wordplay bit |
| 47 Fluctuate | 85 Be too busy for a health-resort visit? | 5 German car | 39 Actress Ryan of "Boston Public" | 76 Neck area | 118 Actress Best of "Nurse Jackie" |
| 51 Really hurt the feelings of? | 89 Stun guns | 6 Ocask of the Cars | 40 God of love | 77 Alum | |
| | 92 Go to bed | 7 Of the "Ode on a Grecian Urn" poet | 41 Bikers' competition on a dirt trail | 80 Bygone days | |
| | 93 Acclimated | | 42 In no key, musically | 81 Former foes of Navajos | |
| | 94 Essence | | 44 Take — (plop down) | 82 Forest buck | |
| | 96 Making a snug home | | | 84 Labor Day mo. | |
| | | | | 86 Madre's boy | |
| | | | | 87 Postal slot | |

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

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

Find It Here

Call 753-2950
to subscribe to the Timberjay!

EMBARRASS REGION FAIR

Embarrass Fair 2021 Horse Show results

EMBARRASS- The Embarrass Fair Horse Show was held on Aug. 29. Organizers would like to thank all the participants, spectators, volunteers, and sponsors who helped make this year's show a success.

2021 Embarrass Fair Horse Show results

Listed in order, first through sixth, if applicable. Peewees are 12 and under. Juniors are 13-17. Seniors are 18 and older

Registered Mares: Adriana Sonnetag with Sierra, Bonnie Overton with Alba, Taya Waitalla with Myla

Registered Geldings: Cody Raad with Arlo, Corbet Hainey with Hoss, Lexi Wiebusch with Feather, Nicole Wiebusch with Ty, Taya Waitalla with Remington

Grade Mare: Dale Martin with Cammie, Bonnie Overton with Reba, Tyme Waitalla with Brandi, Dallyce Hardy with Honey, Taya Waitalla with Sedona, Sig Noyes with Patsy

Grade Gelding: Dina Scherer with Stetson, Sig Noyes with Playboy, Khepra Hainey with Bert, Tyme Waitalla with Dash

Ponies: Evelyn Atkins with Peanut, Taya Waitalla with Butters, Daycee Hardy with Pepper

Weanlings: Bonnie Overton with Stella

Grade and Reserve Champions: Dina Scherer with Stetson, first place; Evelyn Atkins with Peanut, second place

Peewee High Point winner: Taya Waitalla on Remington

Jr. High Point winner: Jennie Nelson on Daisy

Sr. High Point winner: Deanne Elhardt on Siren

Peewee Western Pleasure: Lexi Wiebusch on Feather, Cody Raad on Arlo, Dallyce Hardy on Honey,



Dallyce Hardy, with some help from her grandmother Terri Joki-Martin, leads Honey out during the Grade Mare competition, where she took third place. photo by S. Ukkola

Ada Boe on Arnie, Evelyn Atkins on Peanut, Khepra Hainey on Bert

Jr. Western Pleasure: Adriana Sonnetag on Sierra, Eli Boe on Slash

Sr. Western Pleasure: Bonnie Overton on Reba, Ava Bao on Queen, Nicole Wiebusch on Ty, Sig Noyes on Patsy, Dale Martin on Cammie

Peewee Egg and Spoon: Cody Raad on Arlo, Dallyce Hardy on Honey, Desi Mattson on Bubba, Ada Boe on Arne, Mason Elhardt on Levi, Lexi Wiebusch on Feather

Jr. Egg and Spoon: Adriana Sonnetag on Sierra, Maija Peterson on Tippy

Sr. Egg and Spoon: DeAnne Elhardt on Siren, Angelia Tuominen on Donkey, Sig Noyes on Playboy, Sandra Tuominen on Smoke, Nicole Wiebusch on Ty, Dale Martin on Cammie

Peewee Sack Race: Taya Waitalla on Remington, Mason Elhardt on Levi,

Desi Mattson on Bubba, Lexi Wiebusch on Feather, Evelyn Atkins on Peanut, Dallyce Hardy on Honey

Peewee Package Race: Taya Waitalla on Sedona, Mason Elhardt on Levi, Taya Waitalla on Myla, Desi Mattson on Bubba, Taya Waitalla on Butters, Taya Waitalla on Remington

Peewee Pole Weaving: Taya Waitalla on Myla, Taya Waitalla on Remington, Dallyce Hardy on Honey, Taya Waitalla on Sedona, Lexi Wiebusch on Feather, Desi Mattson on Bubba

Peewee Jumping Figure Eight: Mason Elhardt on Levi, Taya Waitalla on Butters, Taya Waitalla on Sedona, Lexi Wiebusch on Feather, Dallyce Hardy on Honey, Desi Mattson on Bubba

Peewee Barrels: Mason Elhardt on Levi, Taya Waitalla on Remington, Taya Waitalla on Myla, Taya Waitalla on Butters, Dallyce Hardy on Honey, Taya Waitalla on Sedona

talla on Sedona

Peewee Keyhole: Taya Waitalla on Myla, Taya Waitalla on Remington, Dallyce Hardy on Honey, Taya Waitalla on Butters, Evelyn Atkins on Peanut, Mason Elhardt on Levi

Peewee Speed Dash: Mason Elhardt on Levi, Taya Waitalla on Sedona, Taya Waitalla on Remington, Taya Waitalla on Myla, Dallyce Hardy on Honey, Ada Boe on Arnie

Jr. Sack Race: Adriana Sonnetag on Sierra, Tyme Waitalla on Brandi, Maija Peterson on Tesla, Jennie Nelson on Daisy

Jr. Package Race: Jennie Nelson on Daisy, Maija Peterson on Tippy, Adriana Sonnetag on Sierra, Maija Peterson on Tesla, Tyme Waitalla on Brandi, Tyme Waitalla on Dash

Jr. Pole Weaving: Maija Peterson on Telsa, Jennie Nelson on Daisy, Adriana Sonnetag on Sierra, Tyme Waitalla on Brandi, Tyme

Waitalla on Dash, Eli Boe on Slash

Jr. Jumping Figure Eight: Jennie Nelson on Daisy, Adriana Sonnetag on Sierra, Maija Peterson on Tesla, Tyme Waitalla on Dash, Eli Boe on Slash, Hannah Johnson on Bacardi

Jr. Barrels: Maija Peterson on Telsa, Adriana Sonnetag on Sierra, Tyme Waitalla on Dash, Tyme Waitalla on Brandi, Eli Boe on Slash, Maija Peterson on Tippy

Jr. Keyhole: Jennie Nelson on Daisy, Adriana Sonnetag on Sierra, Maija Peterson on Tesla, Tyme Waitalla on Brandi, Tyme Waitalla on Dash, Eli Boe on Slash

Jr. Speed Dash: Jennie Nelson on Daisy, Adriana Sonnetag on Sierra, Tyme Waitalla on Dash, Maija Peterson on Tesla, Tyme Waitalla on Brandi, Maija Peterson on Tippy

Sr. Sack Race: Sig Noyes on Patsy, Deanne El-

hardt on Siren, Ally Rolfson on Ariat, Ava Tveiton on Queen, Angelia Tuominen on Donkey, Sandra Tuominen on Smoke

Sr. Package Race: Angelia Tuominen on Trouble, Ally Rolfson on Ariat, Deanne Elhardt on Siren, Sig Noyes on Patsy, Sandra Tuominen on Smoke, Dale Martin on Cammie

Sr. Pole Weaving: Ally Rolfson on Ariat, Sandra Tuominen on Smoke, Ellen on Jake, Deanne Elhardt on Siren, Ava Tveiton on Queen, Sig Noyes on Playboy

Sr. Jumping Figure Eight: Deanne Elhardt on Siren, Ally Rolfson on Ariat, Sandra Tuominen on Smoke, Kaylee Iverson on CJ, Nicole on Ty, Angelia Tuominen on Donkey

Sr. Barrels: Deanne Elhardt on Siren, Mikayla on Shandy, Angelia Tuominen on Trouble, Ellen on Jake, Dale Martin on Cammie, Sadie Theel on Shandy

Sr. Keyhole: Deanne Elhardt on Siren, Dale Martin on Cammie, Ally Rolfson on Ariat, Angelia Tuominen on Trouble, Mikayla on Breeze

Sr. Speed Dash: Dale Martin on Cammie, Mikayla on Shandy, Deanne Elhardt on Siren, Ally Rolfson on Ariat, Mikayla on Breeze, Sandra Tuominen on Smoke

Team Jumping: Adriana and Lexi on Sierra and Feather, Maija and Tyme, Kaylee and Maija, Deanne and Mason, Lexi and Nicole on Feather and Ty, Evelyn and Adriana on Peanut and Sierra

Ribbon Race: Lexi and Nicole on Feather and Ty, Taya and Dale, Mason and Deanne on Levi and Siren, Angelia and Sandra on Donkey and Smoke, Adriana and Evelyn on Sierra and Peanut

A perfect Community Night Out in Embarrass

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

EMBARRASS- Attendees at Community Night Out in Embarrass had a wonderful evening at the annual event on Sept. 12. The weather was perfect, the band was excellent and so was the chili. The only thing needed was more pie, which ran out about halfway through the event. Bill Maxwell and Cowboy Angel Blue put on a great show for a crowd of about 150 people; adults and children

alike couldn't resist tapping their toes or getting up to dance.

All proceeds from the event go to fund Sisu Heritage projects, maintaining and preserving historical buildings around Embarrass, including the Seitaneimi Homestead where the event was held and also the Nelimark Museum and Hanka Homestead.

"It's a fun event," said Sisu board member Mickey White. "We really appreciate the support of the community and our sponsors."



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LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Bois Forte elder creates games to teach and preserve language

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- Three new board games created by a Bois Forte Band elder are intended to be a fun way to accomplish a serious task, preserving the Band's native language, Anishinaabemowin.

75-year-old Karen Drift is a well-known and beloved teller of ancestral stories and language teacher who is one of only four remaining members of the Band who are considered fluent, or proficient, in the Ojibwe language, she said, and one of only two actively teaching the language.

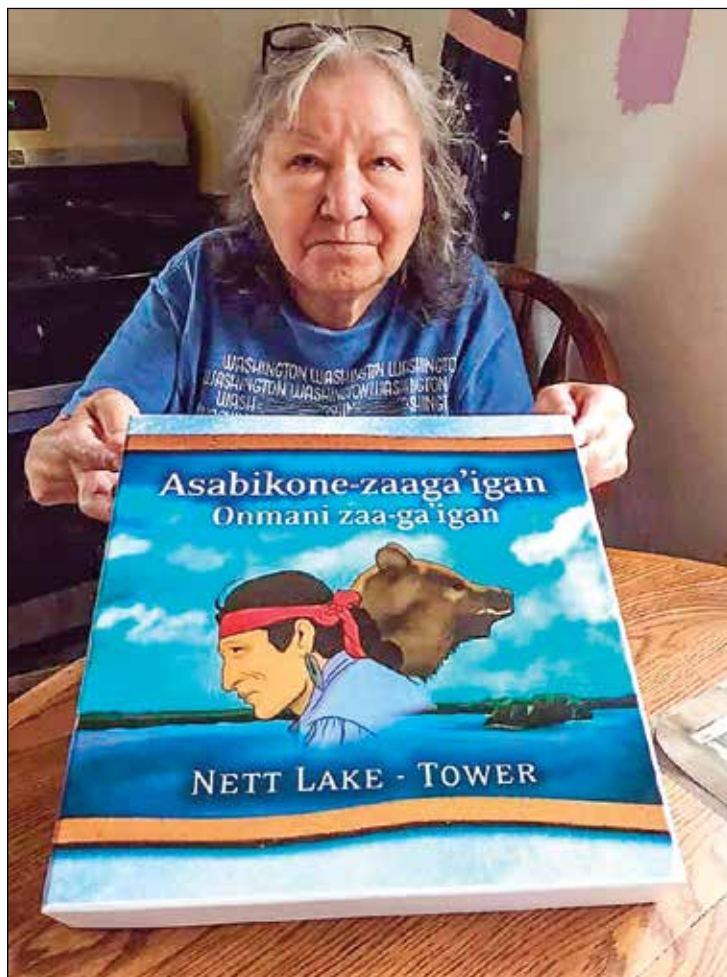
While the band has offered classes, and options for online language instruction are available, Drift decided to add a different approach by drawing on her 40-some years of experience as a Head Start and elementary school teacher. She designed two board games specifically for children, and another for adults.

"I want the kids to work with their parents and play these games," Drift said. "They can learn together, even parents. Parents don't know language."

Drift has words and phrases on the squares of the checkers-styled game boards, some in English, some in Ojibwe, and a roll of the dice determines where a player's piece moves on the board. Wherever they land, the player has to give the appropriate translation. The goal is to advance to the center of the board by giving correct answers.

Drift wanted the games to provide useful language for everyday life and routines, so the children's games include phrases about daily routines such as hand washing, going to the bathroom, and more. They also include basic vocabulary.

"They have all different



Bois Forte elder Karen Drift displays one of three games she has created to teach the Ojibwe language. submitted

kinds of foods on there like breads and oatmeal and cereals and milk, everything we eat daily I have on there," Drift said.

The adult game has language appropriate for fostering daily communication between adults.

Test run

As a young child, Band member Chaz Wagner was one of Drift's Head Start students, and now as an adult he's a serious student of everything Ojibwe, including the language. He considers Drift to be both a teacher and mentor. He's been working to gain proficiency

while also facilitating language learning for others. Wagner was among the first to get a look at Drift's prototype.

"She came up to me with this idea about a month or two ago," Wagner said. "She had this pretty large piece of paper and she said, 'I want to play a game with you.' It was all handwritten on a piece of paper. You had an object; I think we were using coins that we had in our pockets, and you roll the dice and we're moving them around the board. It was pretty fun."

So, Drift carried forward with turning the paper version

into a formal board game. To formalize the design and graphics, she turned to grandson Anthony for the "bear/man" cover art for the adult game box, and grandson Perry did the work for the children's games.

But producing the games in quantity was something that was going to need some seed money. She put up \$500 and got donations of \$400 from her son, Mark, and \$250 from Bois Forte Tribal Council Member Shane Drift. That was enough to approach W.A. Fisher in Virginia to turn out about 100 of the games.

Wagner was duly impressed with what he saw.

"She called me up and she was saying, 'You have to come over and check out these games,'" Wagner said. "I was really surprised and shocked at how well done these games were, how well they're made. They're just like beautiful artwork. They're real, real games."

"This is the first time something like that has ever been done on the Bois Forte reservation," Wagner continued. "We don't traditionally really play games like that, but I see how she's trying to bridge the gap between cultures and ages, trying to get more interaction from the younger community, because they're the ones who are going to have to carry on our teachings."

Drift wants the games to have a broader audience than parents and children. As an educator, she sees the potential for classroom use benefitting both students and teachers. Because the game comes with an instruction manual that includes all of the translations for the items on the boards, teachers or other classroom facilitators who may be unfamiliar with some of the terminology can learn

right along with the kids, she said. And the games also help children develop number and counting skills, promote good hand-eye coordination, and can help children to practice good attention, Drift said.

It didn't take long at all for demand to outstrip supply. Posted on social media at the beginning of this week, by Tuesday night Drift said that she already had more orders, about 200, than she can fill. Calls have been coming from as far away as Ontario, where some teachers there want to buy games for their classrooms.

"It's getting kind of like I don't know how we're going to keep up," Drift said.

Initial sale will help to support the production of the games, and Drift said she would welcome any donations to assist in getting them out to the people and institutions that want them.

But if there's one thing those who know her won't be surprised by, before this venture is completely up and running, Drift is already planning for the future. Her devotion to preserving the language won't let her stop.

"I'm getting up there in age," she said. "I'm 75 years old now, and I have Parkinson's, but I'm going to continue to make games. I'm going to make a memory game for the schools, elementary and high school, we're going to be starting that next time ..." and then she paused.

"But I have so many game orders," she said.

Those who are interested in learning more about Drift's language games, including pricing and availability, or those who would like to donate, should call her cell phone at 218-750-7268.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Anxiety disorder a candidate for medical cannabis use

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Public comment ends Oct. 1; decision coming by December

REGIONAL- Medical cannabis use in Minnesota could increase significantly next year if a petition to approve its use by people with diagnosed anxiety disorders is approved by state Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm.

Petitions to add anxiety disorder as a qualifying medical condition for medical cannabis have been submitted and denied every year since 2016, but after an in-depth review of the issue by the Office of Medical Cannabis, Malcolm asked that a petition be resubmitted for 2021.

Past petitions have failed largely because of a dearth of research specifically related to the effects of medical cannabis and its derivatives on anxiety disorder. Such was the reasoning of Malcolm in 2020 when she denied the petition, with a desire to avoid unintended consequences.

Of the 36 states with medical cannabis programs, only four – Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania – have added anxiety disorder to their approved use lists.

The largest change in the mix of medical cannabis users after approving anxiety disorder occurred in New Jersey, where 58 percent of approved conditions in 2020 were for anxiety disorder.

In North Dakota, anxiety disorder quickly became the number one condition among patients enrolled in the medical cannabis program after being approved in 2019. Forty percent of program patients had anxiety disorder

as a primary diagnosis. **Possible benefits**

While the research base is still small, the petition suggests multiple possible benefits for anxiety disorder patients from using medicinal cannabis.

The primary class of drugs used to treat anxiety disorder, benzodiazepines, can be addictive and lead to overdoses and fatalities, issues that could be avoided if a patient used medical cannabis instead.

Drawing evidence from those with post-traumatic stress disorder who are part of the Minnesota program already, this group has demonstrated decreased anxiety symptom relief from medicinal cannabis.

It may also be a viable legal alternative for high-risk medication and illegal drugs among historically disadvantaged communities, the petition suggests.

Among those who have already filed public comments, almost all are in favor of approving the petition. A sample of the comments include;

► "I am a retired RN/nursing educator. I have been prescribed anti-anxiety oral meds in the past but found them not helpful, so I discontinued. CBD has helped a little, so I am interested in trying oral cannabis as an anti-anxiety agent."

► "Marijuana helps me to feel actual balance my life, and not feel like a hazy cloud that other medications I have been prescribed do, such as Xanax. Giving people another option to help alleviate their issue, especially a more natural option, only seems like a good idea."

The petition asking for approval does not contain a section detailing possible disadvantages arising due to approving this particular use, but a comment from someone claiming to be a Minnesota psychiatrist registered in this detailed objection based on his/her clinical experience:

"As an acute care psychiatrist, I saw many people who were psychotic or manic as either the direct effect of cannabis or because it exacerbated an underlying major psychiatric disorder," the individual wrote. "In the outpatients that I have treated cannabis was associated with chronic depression and cognitive symptoms that were often seen by the patient as evidence that they needed treatment for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. In both scenarios, cannabis use was more than a psychiatric diagnosis - it led to these patients having significant impairment in their relationships, vocational achievement, and general ability to function. Some tried to stop and developed cannabis hyperemesis syndrome or other symptoms of withdrawal. There are better and safer treatments for anxiety disorders. There are better and safer treatments for anxiety disorders that do not respond to first line treatments. I recommend against an anxiety or panic attack indication for medical cannabis because in the vast majority of people I have seen it caused significant anxiety and panic."

The limited research available and reviewed by the department leans in

the other direction, saying that little evidence exists to suggest that medical cannabis use would routinely lead to such outcomes as those described by the psychiatrist.

Food delivery

A second petition being considered would add another delivery option for administering medical cannabis and its derivatives.

Formally called gastrointestinal uptake infused edibles, in simple terms these are food products that are infused with cannabis extracts that are eaten and swallowed and processed in the stomach or intestines, then processed in the liver.

GI uptake reported-

ly allows cannabinoids to spread more evenly throughout the body, something particularly of benefit for patients who require constant treatment, according to the petition. Patients who have sensory processing disorders or who find other methods objectionable may find edibles to be more acceptable.

Allowing manufactured edibles also lessens the possibility of contamination or improper dosages that can result from "home made" edibles, and is therefore considered a safety benefit, the petition says.

Public comment

Extensive informational materials for both

petitions can be found on the Office of Medical Cannabis website at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/cannabis/petitions/index.html>. The deadline for providing written comments in support or opposition to these petitions is Friday, Oct. 1, and submission information is posted on the same webpage.

The petition for use for anxiety disorder and submitted comments will then go to a Medical Cannabis Review Panel to develop a report identifying potential benefits and harms. The panel does not review the edibles petition. Commissioner Malcolm will approve or deny the petitions by Dec. 1.

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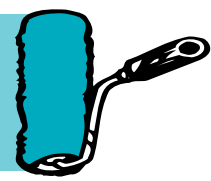


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