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PUBLIC SERVICE

Anderson confirmed to Interior Department post

Agency's new chief legal counsel is a Bois Forte Band member and Ely native

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL – Ely native and enrolled Bois Forte Band member Robert Anderson has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the new chief legal counsel for the U.S. Department of

Interior.

Nominated for the position of Solicitor in April by President Joe Biden, senators approved Anderson for the position on a 53-44 vote, split largely along partisan lines. Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Susan Collins of Maine, and

Lindsey Graham of South Carolina were Republicans who crossed the aisle to confirm the nomination.

Anderson, who has been serving as Principal Deputy Solicitor since the start of the Biden administration, sat before the Senate Committee

on Energy and Natural Resources for a hearing in May, at which time he came under intense scrutiny from Republican members of the committee. One point of contention was Anderson's view regarding issuance of additional oil and gas leases, which he said is currently

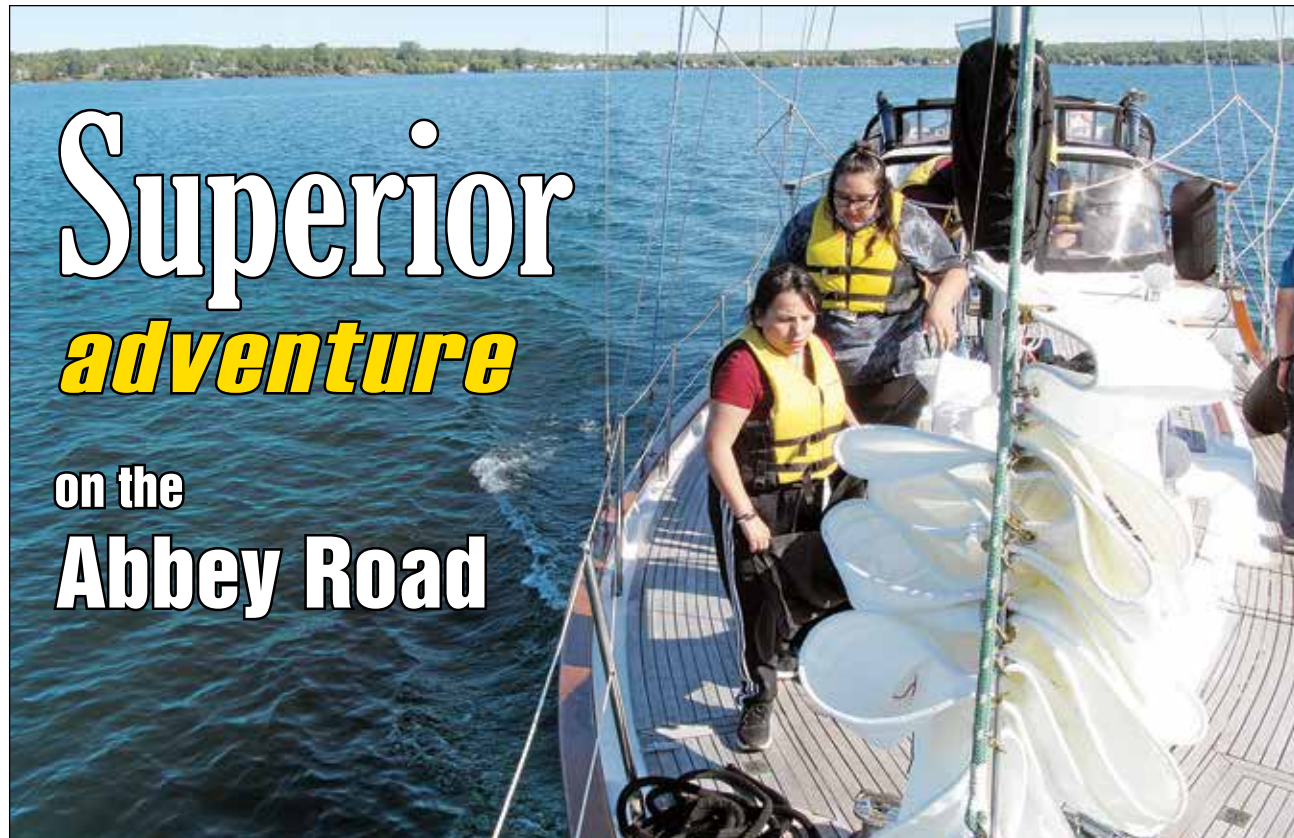
an open question subject to further consideration, and ranking member John Barasso of Wyoming called out Anderson for reversing numerous Solicitor's opinions issued under the Trump administration.

See...POST pg. 9



Robert Anderson

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL



VCS students trade their classroom for a tall ship

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- "Life on a boat is very different," wrote Vermilion Country School student Alyssa in a journal she kept while out on a tall ship. "You have to be aware of things more...and when you go to bed you feel like you are swaying still."

A week after their trip, Alyssa and four of her classmates were still excited about the experience they had learning to sail, living on a sailboat, and exploring the Apostle Islands area out of Bayfield Harbor. For all five, it was their first sailing experience,

Five students at Vermilion Country School, Mahlia Schuster, shown at right, Anna Chavez, Alyssa Costello, Abbi Zapata and Emilie Wojcik, spent three days and two nights on a sailboat last month exploring the Apostle Islands. submitted photos

and first time sleeping out on a boat.

These VCS students got to trade three days in the classroom for three days and two nights on a 57-foot

See...SAIL pg. 9



The 57-foot schooner "Abbey Road," at right, is docked in Bayfield, Wis. submitted photo



ISD 696

School board braces for anti-maskers

COVID-19 mandate decisions on agenda for Monday meeting

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – With two active positive case of COVID-19 reported in the Washington school here last week and this week, and biweekly case rates continuing an upward spike for the northern part of the county, the school's protective face mask mandate will likely continue this fall.

In light of these statistics, ISD 696 school board members will meet Monday for their monthly business meeting and could face another unruly crowd of hundreds of people demanding that school officials relax public health mitigation efforts in the school buildings.

The Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council returned to weekly meetings last week and continues to address the spiking case rate data in the area as they work to keep students in the classroom this school year despite guiding parameters that would have dictated a return to distance learning if the data were present last school year.

School board members will likely address an agenda item requested by Tony Colarich calling for the vetting and approval of all advisory council decisions pertaining to public health efforts. School board members last year, and again this year, authorized the school district administration to make such decisions for mandates within the school buildings.

Quicker reaction time by the admin-

See...ISD 696 pg. 10

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Gov. Walz implores legislature to act on COVID-19 crisis

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Bereft of the emergency powers he once had to take actions to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Tim Walz is imploring legislators to agree on a slate of actions to stem

the growing tide of new cases that threaten to overwhelm portions of the health care sector.

Walz's plea, issued in a two-page letter on Tuesday after meetings with lawmakers, calls for regulatory relief for hospitals and nursing homes to more effectively respond to the fourth wave



of the pandemic sweeping the state, as well as ongoing financial assistance and staffing flexibility

for childcare providers.

New supports and requirements that would be consistent for all schools are also a priority for Walz, including vaccine and testing requirements for all school staff, parental notification procedures, and participation in testing and masking.

"The pandemic continues to threaten public health, especially among Minnesotans who cannot yet get vaccinated. The Legislature needs to address a number of issues to keep our students, teachers, families,

See...COVID pg. 9



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Community notices

Ruby's Pantry food distribution

COOK- The next Ruby's Pantry will be a drive-through food distribution at the old Cook School parking lot on Thursday, Sept. 9 from 4:30 - 6 p.m. Please give a \$20 cash donation at the door. Ruby's Pantry is sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Alango.

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 pick up. 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 pick up will still be available.

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

Region faces serious blood shortage; plan to donate today

REGIONAL- Amid the ongoing challenges of recruiting blood donors during the COVID-19 pandemic, local nonprofit Memorial Blood Centers (MBC) is facing a shortage of blood and platelet donations.

The need for blood is constant, but due to the pandemic, many drives have been canceled or postponed. To replenish supplies for Northland hospitals, trauma centers, and air ambulance bases, more healthy donors are needed at blood drives and donor centers in the coming weeks. Appointments can be made online at MBC.ORG or by calling 1-888-GIVE-BLD (888-448-3253).

More than 50 percent of the blood supply was lost when community blood drives were canceled due to COVID-19 this year, and the supply remains low (less than a three-day supply of all blood types). Blood drives are resuming, with additional precautions at all donation sites; appointments are preferred to help maintain social distancing; and donors are required to wear a face mask or face covering.

Blood donation is safe and essential, and MBC has a COVID-19 self-screening policy in addition to general eligibility guidelines. In general, you may be eligible to donate if you are:

- In good health
- 17 years or older— or 16 with written parental consent (PDF available on MBC.ORG)
- At least 110 pounds
- Free of antibiotics for 24 hours, unless taken for preventative reasons
- Symptom-free for at least 72 hours following a cold or flu.

UWNEMN invites local nonprofits to apply for funding

REGIONAL- Non-profit agencies and programs serving United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's service territory are invited to submit Letters of Intent to apply for UWNEMN funding on the organization's website, www.unitedwaynemn.org. Letters are due Friday, Oct. 15.

Agencies are asked to detail how they work in one of UWNEMN's focus areas: helping children succeed, empowering healthy lives, and stabilizing families and individuals. Agencies are invited to apply for UWNEMN funding even if they have not applied or received funding in the past.

UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay calls the organization a "one-stop-shop for making community impact locally."

"Donations to UWNEMN help us fund local non-profits as well as our own programs," she said. "We are extremely proud to support non-profit agencies in our region, and we want to be sure that all those working on creating local community impact within our focus areas have a chance to be part of the UWNEMN network."

UWNEMN's Board of Directors will review Letters of Intent, and agencies moving on in the funding process will be sent full applications by Nov. 1. Full applications are due Jan. 13, and funding will be distributed in 2022.

"UWNEMN and our partner agencies would never be able to accomplish all we do in our region without the support of our communities," she added.

Businesses interested in hosting a workplace campaign to support UWNEMN's fund distribution and programming can contact elizabeth@unitedwaynemn.org or 218-215-2422.

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Ely to host Native American justice project

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - A Native American justice project, "Awareness... Then Change" will launch Tuesday, Oct. 12 with a Tuesday Group presentation at the Grand Ely Lodge featuring Minnesota State Sen. Mary Kunesh, co-chair of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Task Force.

Sen. Kunesh, the daughter and granddaughter of members of the Standing Rock Lakota Sioux Tribe, is the first Native American woman elected to the State Senate. Her presentation, "Building Awareness for Historical Change: The MMIW Movement in Minnesota," will focus on issues identified by the task force and plans for action to address the disproportionate incidence of violence against Native Americans.

The justice project is sponsored by the American Association of University Women-Ely Branch in collaboration with the Ely EMPOWER organization. The goals of the justice project are to increase understanding, honor the heritage of the area, and to set the stage for supporting policy and social action to reduce the risks for and support the resilience of Native American women and children.

Linda Sutton, chair of



submitted photo

the local AAUW public policy committee said, "As a committee we realized that we have issues of inequity in our own Northeastern Minnesota region and spent the pandemic year listening to speakers from the Native American community share with us the experiences that negatively impact their communities. Our intent has been to bring awareness into our Ely community so that we can be better allies to our Native American neighbors."

A Community Read of the book, "In the Night of Memory," by Linda LeGarde Grover, will also begin on Oct. 12. Area residents are encouraged to read the book, then par-

ticipate in one or more of the scheduled discussion events related to the book. "In the Night of Memory" is a moving story of loss and recovery in Native American communities.

A reading and book signing is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 21, from 1-3 p.m. at Piragis Northwoods Co. The author will also introduce her new book of essays titled "Gichmigami Hearts" in which she interweaves family and Ojibwe history with stories from Misaabekong (the place of the giants) on Lake Superior. Copies of the book are available at Piragis Northwoods Co. and the Ely Public Library.

A community writing

workshop with Grover will be held on Monday, Nov. 22, at the Ely Folk School. The workshop runs from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and will include a light meal. Registration for the event is through the Ely Folk School website. Grover will also provide workshops sponsored by Story Portage Foundation in several area schools.

The Community Read will wrap up with a reading and presentation at Tuesday Group on Nov. 23.

Additional local activities will be scheduled in 2022 and specific details of those will be made available in the near future. Following the first six months of activities, EMPOWER and AAUW will evaluate the project and determine next steps to promote continued awareness and action to promote equity.

The justice project features an illustration, "Survivor II," by Shaun Chosa, an acclaimed local Native American artist. "We are so grateful to Shaun for allowing us to use his image for our project," said Sutton. "Survivor II powerfully illustrates the impact of generations of historical trauma on our Native American friends and neighbors."

Story Portage and The Brunfelt-Sainio Fund provided partial funding of the first two months of activities.

LAKE VERMILION ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC BOAT SHOW

Low water levels disrupted annual boat show

by SANDY JACKSON
Contributing Writer

LAKE VERMILION- This year we tried again for our 30th Annual Lake Vermilion Antique and Classic Boat Show, traditionally held at The Landing Restaurant on Labor Day weekend. Unfortunately, this event had to be canceled because of the low water level on the lake; however, not all was lost! For those who kept their reservation and the folks who live on Lake Vermilion, we carried forth with a sunset cruise, the boat flotilla on the west end and capped it off with the Captain's Dinner.

The Lake Vermilion Antique and Classic Boat Show is honored to have the Vermilion Lake Association and the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade as its honorary Boat Show Sponsors. The VLA is dedicated to the preservation and protection of Lake Vermilion, and their presence at the show allows the association to display and educate the public of



The annual boat show was canceled, except for this sunset cruise and the Captain's Dinner. submitted photo

its achievements, goals and plans for the future, and maybe sell a hat or two. The Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade is dedicated to fire, search and rescue, and emergency medical situations. The brigade is the first line of defense for many people on the lake. During the show they have had several of their rescue boats on display and

available for tours. One of the show's highlights is a water demonstration of the fireboat's firefighting capabilities.

The boat show committee of Sandy Jackson and Mark Ludlow would like to welcome aboard two new committee members, Jeff Larson and Dana Hein of Sunrise River Boatworks in Tower.

We look forward to 2022 and the return of the Lake Vermilion Boat Show, our fabulous sponsors, and most of all the boats and their owners!

Mark your 2022 calendar for the weekend of Sept. 3-4, when we will try to celebrate our 30th year, for the third time!

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ELY BUSINESS

Retail reset: New stores opening, old stores closing

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – New stores are opening and current stores are relocating as this community experiences a retail business reset that hasn't been seen in a long time.

With exploding material costs and labor shortages, delays seem to be the new normal as communities look to return to some kind of stability. Nonetheless, the retail climate in Ely is improving.

The opening of this community's new grocery store has been pushed back again. Owner Jimmy Zupancich said this week that he hopes to be open by the end of the month. The newest delay is due to continued back-ordered building materials.

The last day shoppers

can use the existing Zup's Market location is Monday, Oct. 11. Employees and shoppers will cram into the Northland Market for a few weeks, until at least Wednesday, Oct. 27, the new date for the opening of the new store, unless it gets pushed back again.

On Monday, Zupancich sounded optimistic.

"Our Zup's crew and Northland crew will be working together at the Northland store for two weeks, and we hope to have a soft opening on Oct. 27," he said. "We have cases from the Northland store going to the new store that day, and it will be a bit chaotic to begin with."

Product placement at the new store started last week.

"The honey man comes up here every two weeks or

so, and he wanted to place his product, so he was the first one in," Zupancich said. "He even added a few new products."

He continued to lament the materials shortage and delivery delays.

"We're waiting on shelving and equipment. We're going to open with the best that we can do, and once we get everything in place and we're running full bore and perfectly, then we will have a grand opening celebration. That may not be until December or maybe in January," he said. "I hope people can bear with us as we put in cases on the day we open."

Zupancich bought the former Shopko store last year and is nearing the end of a multi-million-dollar remodeling and expansion project that will combine

his store and the Northland Market into one facility. It will also house a pharmacy, run by Essentia Clinic, and a liquor store. The liquor store will likely open in early November and the Essentia Pharmacy started paying on their lease on Oct. 1.

"They should be open soon," he said.

"The few people who had a chance to see the new place said they were very pleased with how it looks and all the space. All the salesmen and all the employees all chipping in together to open this store in the next couple of weeks will be a great thing," Zupancich said.

On top of everything else, Zupancich said he heard from MnDOT that the store sign on Sheridan Street is likely hanging over



Chris St. Martin builds wine racks for his brother Eric's new Ely Liquor building, opening Friday, Oct. 8. photo by K. Vandervort

the right-of-way.

"The Shopko sign was there for years, but we will have to adjust that signage," he said.

Meanwhile, Jay Poshak, the owner of the J&L Hardware and Ben Franklin stores here, doing business as Eagle Wolf Development, recently

bought the soon-to-be vacant Zup's and Northland buildings. He is planning to move and expand his hardware store and equipment rental business to the former Zup's grocery store. He did not respond to numerous attempts by the Timberjay

See ELY...pg. 5

Illinois man takes his own life in Tower

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — An Illinois man who had recently lost his uncle to COVID-19 and who was suffering from the disease himself, apparently took his own life in an apartment above the Tower Café last week.

Jason Allan Mysliwec, age 48, of Carpentersville, Ill., was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound by a family friend

who had texted with Mysliwec just minutes before he took his own life. Mysliwec was reportedly depressed after the Aug. 30 death of his uncle, Tom Tomlinson. Tomlinson owned the café, which had been shuttered since March of 2020, when pandemic-related shutdowns went into effect. According to a report from the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, Mysliwec had been staying above the café since his uncle's passing and was

reportedly looking to buy the building and business from his uncle's partner, Donna Renkosiak, who had inherited the business and real estate in Tomlinson's will.

Mysliwec, an over-the-road trucker, had also recently separated from his wife Kristen and their children, who lived back in Illinois. Mysliwec's father-in-law told deputies that Jason suffered from bipolar tendencies and had talked of suicide in the past.

Studies show that from 60-90 percent of suicide victims have a diagnosable mental illness or a substance abuse disorder, according to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.

Studies have also shown that ready access to firearms is another significant risk factor, in part because suicide attempts with firearms are more likely to lead to death than other methods. Law enforcement reported finding three large hand-

guns near the bed where Mysliwec took his life. The Sept. 28 incident was the second reported suicide in Tower in just the past six months.

The incident had prompted a substantial late morning law enforcement response on Tower's Main Street, with four sheriff's office deputies, along with Tower Area Ambulance Service personnel, reporting to the scene.

Resources

If you or someone you know has contemplated or is contemplating suicide, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's toll-free number is 1-800-273-TALK (8255). The hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and will connect a caller to a nearby certified crisis center. You can also find more online at www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

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Editorial

Biden tax plan

Could Washington actually take a step toward economic fairness?

Who says Americans are divided? We hear it all the time from the media and politicians, but on some major issues, polling has consistently shown that vast majorities of Americans of both parties are actually in agreement. President Biden’s proposal to raise taxes on the very wealthy and corporate America is one such example, with supermajorities of Americans in poll after poll, including a majority of Republicans, saying they believe that the wealthy need to pay more to support the country that has made it possible for them to succeed. The only question is why the politicians aren’t listening to us.

We recognize that average working folks right here in the North Country feel that Washington doesn’t care. For too long, politicians from both parties have catered to corporate America and the super-rich, who have tremendous influence over the decisions made in our nation’s capital. Too many politicians just spew talking points meant to stir up division in hopes of keeping us distracted as they work to further feather the already well-feathered nests of America’s super-rich. Cable news talking heads just keep the spin going, generating anger and frustration in their viewers without actually informing them.

That’s how our politicians have gotten away with years of slashing taxes on corporate America and wealthy individuals, even though most of us recognize the inequity and the actual economic harm those reckless tax cuts have caused. These policies have concentrated more wealth in the hands of a few, at the expense of average Americans.

Each time, of course, the politicians tell us that the tax cuts are meant to help the typical American family, by which they actually mean that those of us in the middle see a few more dollars added to our paychecks while the super-wealthy collect windfalls larger than the annual income of that same typical American family. It’s all a con, hatched in Washington, and most of us recognize it. No wonder so many of us are disillusioned.

Biden’s tax plan is different, and remarkably so. It would represent the first tax plan in half a century that would substantially boost taxes on corporate America and wealthy individuals, while at the same time providing unprecedented assistance to families, which would lift many families with children out of poverty and help to bolster the finances of the entire middle class.

These benefits aren’t welfare. They come in the

form of tax credits for working people. Yet, paying them in advance in some cases, rather than once a year, makes it much easier for working families to make ends meet month-to-month.

Specifically, Biden’s tax plan does the following:

- Raises the corporate tax rate from 21 percent to 28 percent.

- Raises the global minimum tax from 10.5 percent to 21 percent.

- Raises the top bracket of the individual income tax from 37 percent to 39.6 percent, but only for those making more than \$400,000 annually.

- Raises the capital gains tax for those making \$1 million or more per year.

- Prevents U.S. corporations from claiming tax havens as their country of residence to avoid paying taxes on their profits.

It would also close a number of loopholes that corporations, in particular, exploit to avoid paying taxes. Among the loopholes that Biden’s plan would eliminate is the one that provides an incentive to ship U.S. manufacturing jobs overseas. At the same time, the plan includes some tax incentives for businesses that create jobs here in America.

Combined, these changes to the tax code are estimated to raise more than \$2 trillion over the next ten years, which will provide the funding basis for the tax credits and other related spending that Biden has proposed.

Among the tax credits benefiting families is a child tax credit of up to \$8,000, which could be payable in advance. The enhanced child tax credit, enacted as part of Biden’s COVID recovery plan passed in March, has provided monthly payments to families with children, including thousands of families here in the North Country, since the summer, and is scheduled to sunset at the end of the year unless it’s reauthorized as part of Biden’s tax and economic proposals. Yet, families would also see larger tax credits to help them afford health insurance, childcare, and long-term care for seniors.

We already know that putting money in the hands of middle and working class families is not only the right thing to do on moral grounds, it’s the right thing to do for an economy that is driven by demand for goods and services. Biden’s proposal would represent a remarkable about-face in Washington, from a capital that caters to the wealthy, to one that actually lives up to its rhetoric and provides real help to American families.



Letters from Readers

Another opinion on the Ely schools

The Aug. 18 *Timberjay* Opinion “Education over revisionism” demonstrated typical leftist education revisionism. The Ely School Board decided to make a book available for students and some leftist made sure to tell everyone they’d appropriately complied. Wokeness will never admit that throughout world history, victims becoming oppressors and oppressors becoming victims has never been race specific. But the commen-

tary’s implications regarding American principles, founders, and conservatives demands rebuttal.

The Ely School Board might consider “The American Story” by David and Tim Barton. They wrote, “Slavery is indeed a great evil – but it is a human evil, not distinctively American... The first occasion of legal slavery in ‘America’ that wasn’t punishment for a crime, or captured in a just war, occurred when a black man sued to own another black man” in 1654. Before America existed, Benjamin Franklin described attempts to abolish

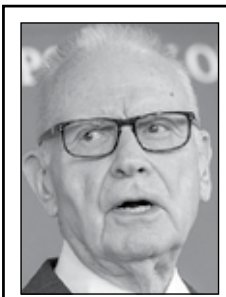
slavery repeatedly thwarted by the British Government. Historical records of a majority of the signers of America’s founding documents show over two-thirds opposed slavery. The original Declaration would have abolished slavery if not for two states opposed. The founders’ unceasing efforts against slavery even before the Civil War are seen in new state constitutions, like Minnesota’s, that abolished slavery.

Warner Gouin
Inver Grove Heights

COMMENTARY

Why I’m optimistic about the future

One of the great privileges of teaching and working on a university campus is the chance to be in regular touch with young people. Even better, I sometimes get asked to give talks elsewhere and to meet with young people of all kinds and descriptions—sometimes one on one, sometimes in small groups, sometimes with as many as 50 or 60 people.



LEE HAMILTON

Over the past few years, this has given me a chance to observe the upcoming generation of citizens and leaders, and what I’ve seen heartens me. Not least because the young people I’ve met are, for the most part, deeply concerned about the future of the country. They can be sharply critical, but it’s clear that most of them take a fundamental pride in what this nation stands for and how far it’s traveled over the centuries.

There are several key issues that dominate our conversations: climate change, COVID-19, student loans and college debt. If you ask what problems they’re most concerned about, racial issues also loom large: they see racial inequity and repairing historic wrongs as

a huge and important challenge to our representative democracy. Interestingly, more than the older people I encounter, they will often speak up in favor of U.S. engagement with the world and want the U.S. to exert a helpful leadership role.

When it comes to domestic politics, I’ve been struck by the extent to which the students I meet seem interested in making voting easier. Not infrequently, they’ll bring up the idea of making Election Day a national holiday. And they seem to like the idea of automatic voter registration for citizens, to encourage participation.

As for their own participation, I often ask if anyone wants to run for public office. I’m always pleasantly surprised at the number of hands that go up. More than a few want to pursue jobs in government at all levels, arguing that they can make a greater contribution there than they might otherwise—they recognize that working for government is not a path to great wealth, yet they’re still committed to that idea. Perhaps most heartening, even those who have no desire to serve in government confess an interest in serving their communities and improving their corner

of the world. I always come away stirred by the number of these young people who speak with knowledge and commitment about their desire to be of service.

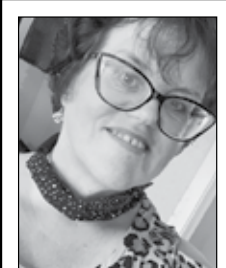
To be sure, it’s bracing to sit in on their discussions about where the country’s headed. They’re often robust, with plenty of differences of opinion. But underlying these conversations is a general optimism about the future—and, quite notably in this political climate, a wide tolerance for the viewpoints of others and a willingness to listen to one another. I wish it were more common among adults.

The one other thing I’ll note is that fairly regularly, I come across students—of all races, ethnicity, and description—who are clearly talented, engaged, and impressive. They are, I believe, marked for leadership. And if I’m right, we’re going to be in good hands.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Projects, perseverance, patience and pasties

Time flies between my weeks for column writing and the thought that I have nothing of value to say generally crosses my mind ahead of time. Usually my pieces are about humorous and sometimes shocking things that happen in life. I rarely delve into political, social or environmental issues. My head and heart are mostly



SCARLET STONE

elsewhere. There are still projects going on here at the House of Stone. The clogged pipe from that upstairs bathroom has been located but isn’t fixed yet. We got busy moving my office from its

temporary setting in the middle of the dining room into an enchanting kitchen nook that doesn’t get used like it could. Then Bill decided to drag all our large rugs and runners outside and clean them. He draped them over boards propped between our raised deck and a tall stepladder and beat them with an old rug beater he took off a display in my hallway. Many rugs have now been beaten, hosed, and sun dried and we will finish every one

of them if this great warm weather continues. This method has worked beautifully except our driveway looks like a garage sale in full swing with rugs and other things from the messy garage pouring out. Construction projects and creativity will do that, and knowing messes will be present until the project or piece is finished helps with patience.

Speaking of messes, last week my son and his fiancé moved into a

cute two bedroom upstairs apartment in Ely, so we borrowed a trailer from a friend and assisted them. They have younger friends but somehow seem to rely on us older ones to actually show up and get the job done. Last Thursday was the designated heavy furniture day. We headed east from Soudan at noon and stopped at the Northland Market Deli for lunch, and ordered a pasty to be shared later for supper. We were standing and waiting for

our food to be bagged up when a deli worker asked the two college-age guys next to us if she could help them. One quickly answered, “Yes, we’ll take two of those ‘paste-eez’”. Hearing that made my ears tingle with humor. I’d heard of folks mispronouncing the word pasty but had never been within earshot of someone actually saying it innocently. “We cannot have this I thought, young

See PASTY...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

GRE needs to account for all the costs of Coal Creek Station

Great River Energy (GRE), Lake Country Power (LCP), and the other 27 participating electric cooperatives are indeed “ahead of schedule when it comes to converting to a greener production of electricity” based on Minnesota’s renewable energy standard (*Timberjay*, Sept. 24 Opinion Page). That is a commendable achievement, a job well done.

The article overall attempts to justify the decision to sell Coal Creek Station (one of the largest coal-fired generating plants in the upper Midwest), buy back electricity from the new owner, and allow the plant to continue to emit 10.5 million tons of greenhouse gases each year, equivalent to the emissions

of over 2.5 million cars.

The article lists two critical factors.

The first was the necessity to maintain a reliable supply of electricity during a transition away from coal. But GRE had committed in July 2020 to shut down Coal Creek if a buyer could not be found, proving a path existed where continued use of Coal Creek was not required in maintaining a reliable low-cost source of power.

The second was it would cost \$130 million more shutting down Coal Creek. There are about 700,000 customers so the cost per customer is \$186/customer. If paid over the 10-year contract period mentioned in the article, the cost would be \$1.54/month per customer.

The description of the governance process describes an analysis that only looks at the direct cost to the utility but does not consider the complete cost to the customers, the

community, and the state. The missing part of the model is the measurable costs of greenhouse gases causing spiraling direct cost to every person in the world, including customers of GRE and LCP. The leaders of GRE and LCP did not account for the cost of greenhouse gas emissions in the GRE model and did not factor that into the decision.

We KNOW that climate change is here, NOW. The science and effects of climate are known, NOW. People are losing their homes, livelihoods, way of life, and, in some cases dying, NOW! Our family farmers, loggers, and our way of life are threatened, NOW. We know droughts and flooding are more common and more damaging with additional greenhouse gas emissions.

The Greenwood Lake fire exploded due to the drought. Do you believe the smoke we had to breathe was healthy?

Many GRE and LCP customers are loggers. Even as loggers stepped up to help control the fire, the loggers’ incomes were being impacted. Twenty-five homes and cabins were destroyed. Additionally, Minnesotans pay more each year to fight forest fires, paying \$23 million in 2020.

Many GRE and LCP customers are farmers. In July of 2021, twenty-one dairies closed in Minnesota due to the drought. Last month the state of Minnesota paid out \$17 million to farmers in drought relief.

In 2011, the Missouri River rose to a level never anticipated by the Corps of Engineers when designing flood mitigation structures. The cost to Nebraska alone was \$189 million, driving many farmers out of business and destroying several small towns. Coal Creek emits 28,767 tons of greenhouse gases per day, increasing daily the likelihood that a severe flood

will occur in Minnesota on the Mississippi, Red, Minnesota, or other river system.

We are at the point where any additional greenhouse gas emissions rapidly increase the deadly and costly effects of greenhouse warming. Carbon put into the air will take many decades or potentially centuries to be absorbed. The technology to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from burning coal does not yet exist, faces formidable technical and cost challenges, and is speculative at best. The coal needs to stay in the ground and the Coal Creek plant needs to be shut down as quickly as possible. Carbon released each additional day will add to our burden for the rest of our lives.

The decision was NOT in the best interest of the customers of GRE and LCP nor of the citizens of Minnesota. If given the full cost picture and full disclosure of coal burning

impacts of greenhouse gas emissions, customers would think \$1.54 a month is a small price to pay.

The decision by GRE, LCP and the other cooperatives following the traditional governance model was a decision based on limited criteria that excluded the major cost of greenhouse gas emission and showed a lack of urgency and disregard of the stark impacts of climate change. An enlightened leadership would recognize and acknowledge that the analysis and governance model needs to be brought up to date to account for ALL KNOWN COSTS including the cost and impact of greenhouse gas emissions. Such decisions must show leadership, sensitivity to future generations, demonstrate urgency, and not just maximize the bottom line.

**Keith Steva
Cook**

PASTY...Continued from page 4

men on the Iron Range pronouncing one of our staple food items wrong.” I figured I better assist in protecting these gents from other busy-bodies who could overwhelm them in the future with teacher-like authority if I did not take it upon myself to correct them here and now. So I did. “It is pronounced ‘past-ee,’” I added. Then without drawing breath said... “paste-eez” are adhesive things worn by strippers to cover up their nips!” For the duration of the explanation I was gesturing with my fingers whirling in a circular motion in front of my chest! Their eyebrows lifted in surprise and mouths twisted in small smiles. One of them uttered an awkward “Oh!” That’s all that was said but I had given them material for their stories and they mine! For me it was a fun exchange and while I don’t want to be thought of as a know-it-all I do like to share my accumulated experiences with others at times.

Years ago I found myself at a Subway and was ravenously hungry.

I wanted to tear the glass off the display and dive into the bins. I had to wait my turn and move through the line like civilized men and women do. There was a ditsy boyfriend/girlfriend combo in front of me, giggling, distracted by the cuteness of one another. They were fussing excessively over the creation of their food with a growing string of hungry wolves behind them. I was thinking, “Just let the Sandwich Artist do his job.” Patience finally ran out and I blurted, “For god sake, you’re picking out a bloody sandwich...not a house!” That revelation sped up the line and no doubt left the wolves behind me wondering if I’d find my meds before the next day. I offered no apologies on that day; they really needed the awakening.

At any rate, before moving the kids’ furniture that day we did go into it well fed. Food can ease aggravations... anytime, anywhere. We took our lunch and headed to find a picnic spot, then when we finished it was time to get busy moving the large

furnishings and remnants. By remnants I must be referring to the five or so trips to the dump. I did some hauling and unpacking but my main job was to open and close the door and keep track of their two cats.

Being involved in a move always pushes me to the edge or slightly over. It’s a stressful business. I was helping arrange the kitchen in the new place, busy unpacking boxes and I heard my guy Bill and my son Keaton approaching up the back flight of stairs with the couch. I stopped what I was doing and for the next twenty minutes or so I stood in the middle of the kitchen watching two men try to twist and push the couch through a doorway unsuccessfully. I offered a suggestion, which fell on deaf ears, “You need to take the legs off.” The words flew right past their sweaty heads unnoticed and they continued to do their guy thing...shove, curse, huff and puff. It was so hard on my nerves! “Watch the paint,” I cautiously added... “Careful of that wood paneling guys!” This went on

for a couple more lifetimes it seemed, and I wanted to run barreling down the hall and dive through the front glass window, flying on huge wings of frustration... but held back. “Guys, it will work if you just take the legs off,” I chimed. Then my son spoke out in irritation, “Mom, just stop telling us what to do, we’ve got this!” My nose was bending outta joint after that remark but I decided to pick my battles in order to finish the project, knowing that the art of moving is not an art but rather a pain in the butt. I said no more. It was a rare last day of September with the thermometer touching eighty degrees, accompanied by a high humidity level. Their faces were red, and their shirts were sweaty from hauling previous loads up the twenty stairs from the trailer. I’ve moved so many times in my life it’s probably approaching a Guinness record but still, I wanted to help. Moving and packing belongings into boxes, car trunks and new spaces over the accumulated decades gives a

person great spacial-relation skills, but they can be unappreciated at times, so I opened a box of glasses and started plunking them in the cupboard, but I was irritated. I kept half-watching them struggle. My mind raced... “What if it won’t fit, it has to fit... they can’t afford another couch now, it’s the bloody legs!” Persevering with the regularity of Big Ben, I again chimed... “Geez guys, I can see it from my angle and if the legs were off it’d go.” No comment. I walked some item to another room and came back and Keaton was standing quietly at ease. “What’s up?” I asked. “He’s taking the legs off,” Keat replied in a monotone voice. I thought, “What a great idea, why didn’t I think of that?” My teeth clenched together, the legs were then

off, I sighed and shoved my right shoulder under part of the couch to raise it a bit. Five seconds later the couch popped through the door like an induced baby.

Every time I do a move, and there have been dozens... I think of becoming a minimalist and it occurred to me during their move, too. But, they are busy young people and learning how to get all their ducks in a row for something like a big moving event. Get all the laundry done, make trips to the dump ahead of time, etc. Some ducks were in a nice row and some had flown south on this move, but we did have fun and nobody got seriously injured.

Bill needed Advil later that evening and I had a glass of wine.

ELY...Continued from page 3

for additional information.

Ely Liquor

Ely Liquor prepared for a big move down Sheridan Street all summer, and owner Eric St. Martin opened his expansive new facility on Friday in the former Family Dollar store.

A walk-in cooler, or beer cave, located to the right of the front entrance, measures 720 square feet and will hold up to 36 pallets of cold beer, he said.

“We shouldn’t have to have much storage as we have the room to display our entire inventory. We have shelving that is about five feet tall for easy access and nice wide aisles,” he said.

Kegs of beer and microbrews and craft brews will all be kept cold.

“We have a new Reserve Room, kept at a constant 56 degrees for our specialty wines, Scotches and whiskies,” St. Martin said. “We also have a humidifier in there featuring a nice line of cigars and smoking materials. I’m hoping to have as many as 2,500 in there.”

That should be ready by the end of the year, he added.

“I will also be building a bar where we can do wine tastings and whiskey sampling,” he said.

St. Martin said he made

the move to expand the availability of his product and have a better selection.

“We have a parking lot now and will continue to service our customers with curbside pickup and delivery,” he said.

St. Martin’s “Drink for a Cause” days, where 10 percent of sales is donated to various non-profit causes, will continue.

“I came back to my hometown to support Ely,” he said. “Most people think I’m in the retail business, but I don’t. I worked my entire life as a bartender, and salesman in the service industry. I consider Ely Liquor to be a service industry. I want to help people.”

The current Ely Liquor location at 438 E Sheridan was scheduled to close on Thursday and the new location was set to open on Friday. He plans to sell the former location.

Piragis

Speculation on what Piragis Northwoods Co. will put in its new facility, under construction on the south side of Sheridan Street across from their expansive facility, was made clearer this week. Rumors of a new expanded bookstore reported by local media earlier this summer proved false.

Instead, a canoe, kayak

and stand-up board display showroom will be housed in the new building. The bookstore will stay put on the second floor of the existing building.

Steve Piragis said this week, “We’ll have an indoor display room and warehouse right behind it. In the world of paddle sports, there aren’t very many really nice, world-class display rooms. You have Rutabaga in Madison (Wis.), and another store out in New York, and as one of the top canoe dealers in the country, we can make ourselves look a lot better. Rather than taking our customers to the backyard through the snow and rain, we’ll have a nice indoor facility.”

Crapola

Crapola founders Brian and Andrea Strom, who started making a cranberry-apple granola mix more than a dozen years ago, rebranded their business as Brainstorm Bakery this past summer and are near ready to occupy their new digs in the former Plum Bun Bakery building at the corner of Sheridan Street and Fourth Avenue.


The Stroms are planning on moving the Crapola World Headquarters from First Avenue to Sheridan Street this fall.

“We officially made the name change in July,” Strom said, “and the move and the new name were supposed to happen together but planning never works the way you want.”

What started as one flavor of granola has grown to four year-round offerings. They also offer cookies, scones, bread and muffins with their granola products. They began expanding these baked goods, plus selling coffee and yogurt parfaits, when they moved to their current space in the former James Drug building in 2016.

In order to accommodate the rebranding and location changes and consolidate all of their offerings into one place, the Stroms are phasing out www.crapola.us and are developing a new website, www.brainstormbakery.com.

“At this new site you’ll still be able to order our same granola products, plus you’ll be the first to see our new product launches,” he said. “Thanks again for your continued support.”



the
TIMBERJAY

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EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION

BIG TRUCKS...big fun!

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- There were plenty of big trucks, and plenty of kids, too, at this year's Big Truck Night. Over 100 children and adults attended the event at the Breitung Recreation Area on Sept. 30. There were 12 big trucks: fire trucks from Eagles Nest, Breitung, and Tower; Breitung's loader and dump truck; Tower's new ambulance; DNR fire trucks; a St. Louis County Sheriff's Office squad; and Kenny Hinkel's boom truck. The highlight of the evening was when DNR firefighters let kids spray the fire hose onto the field.

"It went really well," said ECFE parent educator Sarah Hansen. Hansen thanked all the people who brought the vehicles and expressed gratitude for the support from the Breitung Township supervisors. "We couldn't have asked for a better day," she said.

The event was sponsored by Tower-Soudan Elementary Early Childhood Family Education Program along with Breitung Township. Hot dogs were served up by Tom Gorsma and Chuck Tekautz.



Above: Brooks Anderson checks out a big John Deere loader. Below: DNR's Ron Alarcon shows Ayva Anderson how to spray a fire hose. Also pictured is Zaija Schroeder.



Left: Quinn Jordan
Below: Lorenzo Stella
Right: Maci Zollar
photos by S. Ukkola



Vandalism by 4-wheeler...

SOUDAN- Sunday afternoon an ATV tore through Soudan's monument park. Grass between the baseball field and monument was ripped up in circles. Township officials estimated the damages at \$500. "It's a shame," said Breitung Chairman Tim Tomsich. "We put all this work into the parks and then this happens." An ATV was observed driving toward the park just prior to the damage being noticed. The incident has been referred to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office. photo by S. Ukkola

LOCAL NOTICES

Northern Red Hat Belles to meet Oct. 14 in Cook

COOK- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet Thursday, Oct. 14 at 12 noon at the Montana Café in Cook. Following lunch, the group will go to the Comet Theater for a movie. RSVP to Kathy by Oct. 11 at 218-753-2530. New members and guests are always welcome.

Tower-Soudan Area Singers now practicing at St. James; new singers are welcome

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Area Singers are now be meeting at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower on Mon-

day nights at 5:30 p.m. Anyone interested in singing with the group is encouraged to come and prepare for the Christmas concert.

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.

TSHS aluminum can drive fundraiser is still underway

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

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

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.

ISD 696 BUILDING PROJECT



Bricklayers built interior walls Tuesday morning at the Ely School District facility renovation project. photo by K. Vandervort

Tuesday Group

ELY – The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering meets every Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge. 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:

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

► Oct. 19: Neurodiversity: Experiences and accommodations for the Autism Spectrum, ADHD, and anxiety with Hannah Lammer

OUR COMMUNITY

Big day for burnouts in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The Jake Forsman Memorial Car Show and Burnout Competition last weekend attracted a big crowd for the scholarship fundraiser after taking a year off last year because of COVID-19.

Congratulations to the 2021 Burnout Competition winners: first place: Brandon Perushek, Mt. Iron, 1996 Ford F-350; second place: Dan Forsman, Ely, 1994 Chevrolet Camaro Z28; and third place, Mike Forsman, Ely, 1985 Chevrolet Corvette. There were 19 morning burnout participants and 17 afternoon burnout participants.

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, accord-



Albert Forsman burns the rubber off the tires of his vintage Chevrolet Monza Saturday morning in front of Ely City Hall to open the 2021 Jake Forsman Memorial Car Show and Burnout Competition. photo by K. Vandervort

ing to organizer Albert Forsman. A light rain fell most of the day

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.

The event is run solely by volunteers and all pro-

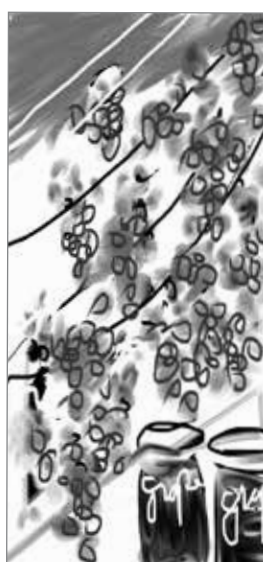
ceeds are put into a scholarship fund. High school seniors in Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass and Tower pursuing a mechanical and/or building trade career are eligible to apply for the Jake Forsman Memorial Scholarship. Since the

inaugural Jake Forsman Memorial Car Show and Burnout Competition, \$24,000 in educational scholarships have been granted.

There were 74 Car Show entries.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



soon to harvest grapes waiting for the first deep frost

unless for the birds

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

Our Community

Ely Library changes hours, adds programs

ELY - The Ely Public Library is trying a new schedule this fall. The library is open from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekdays and closed on weekends and holidays.

"This change comes as a way to accommodate the patrons who asked for hours later in the day without losing the 9 to 10 a.m. hour that has been very popular since the library reopened," said Library Director Rachel Heinrich. Patrons should continue to return items through the outside book drop rather than inside the building.

In-person programming returned to the library this fall in a limited capacity. "The library board asks that all program attendees over two years of age wear

masks in the meeting area and that everyone registers for any program that they attend," she said. "There is a maximum attendance limit on all in-person programming for the immediate future."

Some of the upcoming programs for inside the library are:

► Oct. 11, 3 p.m., Friends of the Library Book Discussion, Becoming Nicole, by Amy Ellis Nutt.

► Oct. 19, 3:30 p.m., Get Crafty with Tricia – String Art.

► Oct. 27, 3 p.m., Family Movie-E. T.

Preschool Storytime is now held indoors at 10:30 a.m. on Fridays.

The library continues to offer online and "take and make" programming. The take and make kit for

October will be a 3D paper pumpkin and will have everything included except for a pair of scissors.

An Outlander Trivia Kahoot! Is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 12. "Kahoot! is an online game that can be played from a smartphone, tablet, or computer that is connected to the internet," Heinrich said. "It is very easy to use, and, although there is an app available, you can also play it in a web browser without downloading anything to your device."

For those interested in the Kahoot! trivia contests, the library will need a separate email address to send each player the invitation to the games. Contact the library to register for these programs.

ECR hosts Pumpkins in the Park event

ELY - Join Ely Community Resource for the 2nd annual Pumpkins in the Park. They need families to carve 100 pumpkins that will be lit in Whiteside Park and at Carefree Living on Halloween, Sunday Oct. 31.

Pumpkin pickup will be on Monday, Oct. 25 from 12-5:30 p.m. at the ECR office, 111 S. 4th

Ave. Please return carved pumpkins by Friday, Oct. 29 to ECR.

On Halloween Night, Sunday, Oct. 31, from 4-7 p.m. participants are invited to gather at Whiteside Park and Carefree Living for Trunk or Treat and Pumpkins in the Park. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place for the

most creative adult and kid pumpkins. Costumes prizes for adults and kids will be awarded too.

Pumpkins can be picked up after the event or you can choose to donate them to Cook's Country Connection farm. Please specify during sign up.

For more information and to sign up, call 218-365-5254.

ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



Bryce Fairchild and Raven Sainio were selected as the King and Queen of the 2021 Memorial High School Homecoming. King Candidates also included Joe Foster, Alec Cook, and Harry Simons. Queen Candidates also included Katrina Seliskar, Charly Flom, and Annikka Mattson. photo by K. Vandervort

Ely ArtWalk is hiring

ELY - The Ely ArtWalk is seeking to fill two temporary, part-time, paid positions from October 2021 through February 2022.

Ely ArtWalk is a community event that displays the artwork of more than 60 local artists in Ely storefront windows during the month of February.

The Coordinator works with the board and volunteers to manage and produce the event. The Set-up Manager works with artists and local store owners to install the artwork.

To see both Job Descriptions and to apply, go to elyartwalk.org. Deadline is Oct. 15.

Higher Education Briefs

Dalberg graduates from Bethel

ST. PAUL - Lindy Dalberg, of Ely, graduated from Bethel University, St. Paul, following the spring 2021 semester. Dalberg earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary

Education, Grades K-6. She is the daughter of Robert and Diane Dalberg from Ely.

Root honored at St. Scholastica

DULUTH - Ellen Root, of Babbitt, gradu-

ated from the College of St. Scholastica in Spring 2021 with a Master's degree in Social Work. St. Scholastica is a 109-year-old private, independent college founded in the Catholic Benedictine tradition.

COOK CITY COUNCIL

Council sets preliminary levy at eight percent

Maximum amount could go lower, not higher, by December Truth in Taxation meeting

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Cook City Council members approved an eight-percent tax levy increase at their Sept. 23 meeting that would bring in an additional \$35,620 to supplement the city's general fund budget.

The current year levy generated \$445,248, and the increase for 2022, if enacted, would bump that total to \$480,868. The funds support general operating expenses of the city.

Total operating revenues for 2022 are initially projected to be \$571,743, versus projected expenses of \$598,265, resulting in a shortfall of \$26,522. The 2022 airport budget is also projected to have expenses exceed revenues by \$12,885.

However, with the eight-percent levy increase used as an offset, the overall projected shortfall would be only \$3,787. Also, projected operating revenues include only lo-

cal government assistance and projected tax collections, but do not account for additional funds from sources such as grants that the city might obtain.

Councilors have been reviewing sections of the budget in working sessions held prior to each monthly council meeting, and no final decisions will be made until the Truth in Taxation meeting set for Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. The preliminary levy cannot go any higher, but may be lowered.

Liquor revenue

Citizens in Cook and the surrounding area may be losing their taste for beer, as the monthly report of liquor revenue for August, approved as part of the council's consent agenda, shows that receipts are down in year-to-year comparisons with 2020.

Revenue for the month of August in 2021 was \$195,671.96, \$25,775.74 less than in 2020. About \$22,700 of that amount resulted from a drop in beer sales.



A year-to-year comparison shows that liquor revenues are lagging a bit from 2020, and it appears one particular type of beverage is the reason.

file photo

That holds true when comparing year-to-date revenues as well. Revenue through the first eight months of 2020 was \$1,225,552.63, but that fell in 2021 to \$1,189,655.81, a drop of \$35,896.82. Year-to-year beer sales for the same eight months were down by \$41,567.44 in 2021 to \$656,247.34.

As the report was part of the consent agenda, no

discussion about the report was held during the meeting.

Other business

In other business, the council:

► Approved payment of \$1,425 to JPJ Engineering for work related to lift station improvements.

► Discussed ongoing issues with North River St. and West Vermilion Dr.

► Granted permission for city staff to apply for

funding for repairs to the arrival/departure building at the airport. City administrator Theresa Martinson described issues including cracked and separated flooring and roof leaks. On the advice of state officials, Martinson said she would prepare a package funding application to cover all of the identified needs.

► Approved payment of \$67,511.83 to Kurita

for replacement of the filtering media at the city's water plant.

► Heard a report on updates to the city's emergency preparedness plan presented by Crystal Phillips. Last updated in March, the changes reflect updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

► Informally discussed the possibility of making the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade building on Oak Narrows Rd. a substation of the city's fire department. Mayor Harold Johnston said he had been approached about the possibility as a way for homeowners in that area to reduce their fire insurance rates. Councilors agreed that if any such agreement would be pursued in the future, the city would not bear any additional expenses for the service. The discussion was not a scheduled agenda item and no actions were proposed or taken.

Readers and Rappers Book Club to meet on Oct. 12

COOK- Readers and Rappers, a Cook area book club, will meet again on Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 1 p.m. at the gazebo in the Cook City Park. The book to be discussed this month is "A Confederacy of Dunces" by John Kennedy Toole.

The book is an American comic masterpiece, and the hero is one Ignatius J. Reilly, "huge, obese, fractious, fastidious, a latter-day Gargantuan, a Don

Quixote of the French Quarter. His story bursts with wholly original characters, denizens of New Orleans lower depths, incredibly true-to-life dialogue, and the zaniest series of high and low comic adventures," according to Henry Kisor of the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Food classes on tap through community ed

FIELD TWP- The Community Education program at North Woods

School has several upcoming classes that are suited for kitchen novices and experts alike.

Steve Kajala returns on Tuesday, Oct. 12 with a Cast Iron Pizza class from 6 to 10 p.m. He will discuss cast iron cooking in general, and students will then cook their own pizza in cast iron cookware. The fee is \$25 and all supplies are provided.

In Kajala's Charcuterie Class on Thursday, Oct. 14 from 6 to 10 p.m., students will learn how to build a delicious charcuterie board of meats,

cheeses, and more. All supplies including the board are included in the \$25 fee.

October Freezer Meals will be the topic for a Sunday, Oct. 17 class with instructor Emily Koch from 6 to 10 p.m. Meatloaf, egg bake, chicken taco chili, pizza hot dish, chipotle pork chops, and carmel rolls will be the meals prepared. The fee for the course is \$81, and students must be pre-registered by Saturday, Oct. 10. Class size is limited.

Register for these

classes and explore others online at <https://slc2142.revtrak.net/rw-northwoods-community-education/>.

Art scavenger hunt adds culture and charm to River St.

COOK- There's a new game in Cook, a scavenger hunt for small pieces of art on display along River St.

The activity is the brainchild of well-known area artist Jim DeVries, and is part of the ongoing downtown arts project "It

stARTS on River St."

Nineteen art objects gathered from Cook-area artists are hidden between Highway 53 and the Little Fork River, all visible from outside area businesses. Each piece has a unique tag, and is secured in place to be available for hunters in years to come.

Join in this unique art scavenger hunt, and while looking for the art pieces, you're encouraged to stop in and check out the many local business establishments in Cook.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Principal shares reflections on Class of 2021

by JOHN VUKMANICH
North Woods Principal



Karl Kubiak

Each year I spotlight new teachers at North Woods School. I feel it is important that the community learns about them as they become a part of our teacher team.

The school band has a role in the community as well as the school, so having a solid music program is very important to me. I would like to introduce everyone to Mr. Karl Kubiak, our new band director.

Where are you originally from and where did you go to high school and college?

Bagley. I graduated from Bagley High School. I received my Bachelors Degree in Music from UMD, and then went to Montclair University in New Jersey, where I received my Masters in Music.

Were there teachers who were an influence on you? Please name a few if you can.

Yes, my elementary music teacher was inspiring and a great influence. Nila Bassett was her name. My bassoon instructor at UMD was very kind and calm, and he motivated me to be better with patience. My professor at Montclair was very regimented and tough on me, but I also learned a lot from her.

What characteristics of these teachers were important to you?

Nila Bassett taught us to have fun, and to embrace the moment. She also taught us that music is a universal language. She passed away three years ago. My college bassoon teachers had different styles, but both wanted to motivate me to be the best I could be.

What do you teach at North Woods?

Band 5-12.

Why did you choose music teaching as a profession?

I knew I wanted to do music since my 11th grade year. My band director was very influential and gave me a chance to be a teaching assistant and work with the fifth-grade band. Then in college, I decided to be a music performance major and not teach. While at graduate school, one of my professors encouraged me to become a teacher, so I decided to pursue it. Music is what unites us; for me it is about building a well-rounded human being

and creating community.

What are your hobbies?

I love to ski, both Alpine and Nordic. I am a swimmer as well. Used to be a runner, half-marathons. I want to do a triathlon. I love to read. I love to garden and cook.

What is something you love about North Woods?

The sense of community. I am from a small

town and see a similar sense of community. It's a breath of fresh air.

What is a professional goal for you?

My number one goal is to build up the numbers in the band, but another primary goal would be to start a marching band.

What is something you love about northern MN?

The seasons. I love the distinct seasons. I also love the remoteness with-

out being too remote.

What is a piece of advice you'd give your students?

Persistence and grit are the most important things you can possess. Have a goal. Be ready for the bumps in the road, enjoy the present but look to the future.

Do you have a favorite saying or expression?

"Practice makes perfect," but more so meaning that some things in life

are worth working hard for.

What do you hope your students remember you for?

Always having the best interest of my students at heart while pushing them as much as possible.

Welcome to our team Mr. Kubiak! We look forward to hearing your student musicians perform.

DIG PINK!



North Woods students, most decked out in pink shirts and accessories, gather around a banner proclaiming "Her Fight is Our Fight," the theme for the annual breast cancer awareness night staged by the Grizzlies volleyball team on Monday. Fans bought raffle tickets for a chance to win one of 30 prize baskets on display in the cafeteria. Proceeds from the fundraiser, which was organized by parent volunteers, were designated for the support of cancer patients and their families being served by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners. photo by D. Colburn

SAIL...Continued from page 1

schooner named "Abbey Road" which is docked in Bayfield, Wis. The trip was made possible by a generous grant from Lake Superior Tall Ships, a non-profit whose mission is to teach youth seamanship, personal responsibility, teamwork and self esteem, while building skills in leadership and citizenship. LSTS gave scholarships to the VCS students and their two chaperones, including the cost of transportation. The group will also sponsor another group of students next year.

Gordon Ringberg, who also serves as Bayfield's Mayor, started the non-profit in 2014.

"We wanted to find ways to get kids who can't afford it out on Lake Superior to see what it is like."

Captain Gordy, as his VCS crew fondly called him, has been sailing since he was six years old. After graduating from college, he earned his captain's license and has found ways to bring his love of sailing and Lake Superior to countless others.

The non-profit sprang to life after someone donated the 57-foot schooner to him to use for educational trips. He started offering trips to local Sea Scout groups, and then with the help of many generous donations, was able to expand his reach to smaller charter schools, 4-H clubs, and even some college programs. LSTS also offers small group experiences for families and other groups.



The five Vermilion Country School students who sailed in the Apostle Islands last month include, from left, Emilie Wojcik, Alyssa Costello, Anna Chavez, Mahlia Schuster and Abbi Zapata. submitted photo

"This is not just a boat ride," he said. "They are sailing the boat. Taking turns at the helm, pulling in the sails. They cook and clean."

The goal is to get each group working as a team as he teaches them the different jobs required to sail a large boat.

"Sometimes it does get a little scary," he said, "but it's never unsafe."

"What I want the students to take away from the experience is more self-confidence. They are learning new skills and getting ideas about future jobs."

One of the VCS students showed enough initiative that Capt. Gordy offered her a summer job.

"Anna was very capable," he said. "She could learn to be a captain herself."

Anna said she was thinking about it.

"It would be cool," she

said. "Then I can learn to sail out of here."

Mahlia Schuster was surprised to learn that she and her classmates would be doing all the work required to sail the ship.

"I thought there would be a crew," she said. "But we were the crew. We had to pull ropes to get the sails up and tie lots of knots."

Mahlia said her favorite job was piloting the boat, though it took some practice and patience, she said.

"Everyone got a chance to try all the positions," said VCS paraprofessional Michelle Maki, who was one of the chaperones on the trip. "We were deckhands, helmsmen, navigators, and galley workers." The crew took readings of water temperature and depth, latitude and longitude, as well as keeping track of the boat's speed, and noted all the information in the ship's log book every 30 minutes while out sailing.

Back at school, they have been mapping their trip on a large topographical map of the islands, using the latitude and longitude readings they took out on the lake. The students are preparing a slide show to present to the rest of the school later this month, and they are now busy sorting through the hundreds of pictures they each took on the trip.

The drive to Bayfield was through pouring rain, with radio warnings of a tornado sighting in the region. But by evening, when they reached the boat, the weather had calmed and they spent their first night in calm waters docked in Bayfield Harbor. Sleeping on the narrow bunks was a challenge, they said, and some worried they might fall off the top bunks. The boat, tied securely to the dock, swayed only mildly, but often creaked as the boat rubbed against the dock.

The next morning, they departed from Bayfield and sailed most of the day.

The weather the two days they spent out on the water was "glorious," said chaperone Sue Beaton, one of the school's board members.

"The leaves were just starting to turn," Beaton said.

Learning on the lake

The focus of the trip was both on sailing skills and environmental learning.

"We learned how to adjust the sails depending on the winds," Allysa

said. Sails went up in the morning, and down each evening, both chores taking plenty of arm strength.

The students also got a good dose of area history, with the captain telling tales of hermits and abandoned mansions and runaway wives. They visited an abandoned rock quarry, played on a beach with "singing sands," and got good views of three different shipwrecks. The second day they docked on Madeline Island, and visited some shops, but unfortunately the ice cream shop that Capt. Gordy wanted to go to was already closed for the season. He had promised to treat them to ice cream. But there were plenty of other treats... getting to watch eagles, loons, gulls, and plenty of ducks, climbing rocks and trees on the shoreline, and dipping their toes in the not-yet-too-chilly Superior waters.

Abbi Zapata saw her first-ever shooting star one evening while sitting out on the deck.

Abbi was also tasked with backing the boat out of the harbor the first morning. "It was kind of like backing up a car," she said. "I wanted to try it. I put myself in that situation. And she did great," added Maki.

Students kept a daily journal while out on the lake and are now working on writing essays about their experience. The five were chosen for the trip based on their willingness to learn new skills, their

listening skills, willingness to follow orders, and willingness to work as part of the group. Students also had to be a certain age and had to be competent swimmers.

The sailing was generally quite smooth, they said, and the only real waves they encountered was when a large sightseeing boat came by, creating a wake.

"It made some big waves we had to sail through," Abbi said, "but we mostly felt safe."

Before boarding the boat, the group had all learned how to tie several types of knots, along with lots of new sailing vocabulary.

The food on the boat was great, they said, and they all enjoyed taking turns in the galley.

Beaton was impressed with how well the girls worked together, and said she heard no complaints even when they were doing the more menial ship chores. She was also impressed with their willingness to try new and unfamiliar things.

The trip to and from Bayfield was also fun. They stopped for cheese curds, the state specialty, and had some terrific chicken dumpling soup, they said.

The trip fits nicely into the school's environmental learning focus, and the school's staff is hoping that this first successful voyage is one of many to come, and that many of the school's other students will work hard to qualify for a future trip.

POST...Continued from page 1

The arguments were not enough to sway committee member Murkowski, whose affirmative vote accounted for the 11-9 decision to advance Anderson's nomination to the full Senate.

As Solicitor, Anderson is the chief attorney for the Interior Department and legal adviser to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary.

"Bob has extensive legal expertise with regard

to Native American Tribes, public lands, and water—all of which will help advance Interior's mission to steward America's natural, cultural and historic resources and honor our nation-to-nation relationship with Tribes in accordance with the spirit and letter of the law," Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said in a statement issued in support of his nomination.

A leading national figure in Native American law, Anderson has written that tribes should have more influence in federal

decisions, like the controversial permitting for the Dakota Access Pipeline, that affect their lands and people. Former President Barack Obama's approval of construction for the Dakota Access Pipeline, which transports crude oil from the Bakken formation in North Dakota to Illinois, sparked protests over concerns that a spill would threaten the water supply for the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and other areas near the proposed path.

"Tribal input into most projects affecting tribal

lands and water is advisory only," he wrote in a 2018 law review article. "The [Dakota Access Pipeline] experience shows the shortcomings in this approach and should serve as a springboard for changes in federal law... It is not enough to be consulted if the permitting agency is free to reject tribal input subject to deferential judicial review."

A 1983 graduate of the University of Minnesota, Anderson began his career as a staff attorney for the Native American Rights Fund, where he practiced

law for 12 years. He was a law professor at the University of Washington for 20 years, directing its Native American Law Center. He has been the Oneida Indian Nation Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School for the past 12 years.

He is a co-author and editor of the leading federal Indian Law treatise, Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law, and is a co-author of a leading textbook on American Indian Law. He has extensive expertise and has published

many articles in the fields of natural resources law, water law, and American Indian law. Anderson also served as the Associate Solicitor for Indian Affairs and counselor to the secretary under Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

As Solicitor, Anderson will oversee the work of about 430 attorneys and additional staff working in six areas within the Interior Department.

Ely editor Keith Vandervort contributed to this report.

COVID...Continued from page 1

workers, and communities safe," said Walz. "I urge them to move quickly to keep our kids in school and to allow our hospitals, nursing homes, and child-care facilities to effectively respond to the virus."

Also on Walz's agenda is reaching resolution on the issue of \$250 million that has been allocated for frontline worker bonus pay, a matter of partisan divide in the Frontline Worker Pay Working Group over who should qualify for payments. The group was supposed to submit its recommendations by Sept. 6.

Republicans reinforced their proposal last Thursday for a more limited pool of nurses, long-term care workers, hospice staff, first responders, and corrections officers to receive bonus pay. About 200,000 people would receive checks for \$1,200.

"We've said from the beginning, these bonuses need to be an amount that is meaningful, prioritized for those who took the most risk, and recognizes the workers who kept us safe," working group co-chair Sen. Karin Housley, R-Stillwater, said.

DFL representatives want to include about 400,000 more workers in the bonus pay pool, including such groups as grocery workers, janitorial staff, childcare workers, meat-packing plant workers, and

others. With a fixed total of \$250 million, payments would be reduced to \$375 for each of the 600,000 workers eligible under the DFL proposal. This plan has garnered support from numerous organizations representing frontline workers, including the Minnesota Licensed Practical Nurse Association.

"Excluding any frontline workers is a slap in the face to someone who put their life at risk for our communities," MLPNA President Deb Tauer said in a written statement. "It was the sacrifices of all frontline workers that gave us the ability to show up and care for our communities."

Walz is unlikely to call a special legislative session without an agreement on this issue, and comments made Tuesday by the Senate's ranking Republican, Jeremy Miller, of Winona, weren't encouraging.

"The growing list of requests from Governor Walz is not productive towards ensuring these dedicated workers receive their bonus pay in a timely manner," Miller said. "They took the biggest risk and kept us safe during the pandemic, and they deserve meaningful bonus checks."

A third item Walz wants the legislature to address is drought relief.

The Governor's requests are playing out

against a pandemic landscape that is perhaps the worst the state has seen this year.

More than half of the state's hospitals with intensive care units are reporting they are over 95 percent full. Only 49 ICU beds out of 1,161 were available as of this week.

Non-ICU beds are also nearing capacity, with about 500 vacancies out of 7,325 beds.

The Minnesota Department of Health reported more than 10,000 new cases of COVID-19 from Thursday through Sunday, and the test positivity rate is at 8.4, up from

6 just four weeks ago.

State health officials said last week that they don't yet see an end to the surge in sight, and that observation is amplified by new data showing the Midwest now has the highest average case numbers in the country, 38 per 100,000. This reflects a trend seen in prior waves where COVID cases in other regions started to decline while those in the Midwest peaked weeks later.

New coronavirus cases continue to flourish in the state's schools, with 1,063 buildings having at least one case in the most recent

data. About 600 of those reports include multiple cases in a building.

Local data

Orr remained the regional hotspot among the zip code areas tracked by the *Timberjay* last week, with 18 new cases reported by the state. An increase of 36 cases in just the past two weeks represents a 30-percent increase over the cumulative total for the entire pandemic in the Orr

area, based on the number of total cases reported as of Sept. 16.

Tower also hit double-digits with ten new cases. Cook had nine new cases, Ely had six, and Soudan and Embarrass each tallied three.

The seven-day rolling average of new COVID cases in St. Louis County hit 109 on Oct. 1, more than six times higher than it was on Aug. 1, and almost double what it was on Sept. 12.

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.

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WILDFIRES

Greenwood Fire contained; BWCAW fully opened

Prescribed burns could resume this autumn

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

REGIONAL - The U.S. Forest Service reduced the Greenwood Fire closure last weekend to the perimeter of the fire area, citing containment of the fire and decreasing fire risk. USFS forest fire managers hope to transition to conducting some prescribed burns this fall, mainly pile burning, if fuel and weather conditions allow.

The Minnesota Incident Command Team transferred responsibility of the Greenwood Fire back to the Superior National Forest last Friday, according to Public Information Officer Tim Engrav.

"The Forest is keeping a closure in place around the fire perimeter because some heat has been observed within the interior, along with snags and hazard trees being present in the fire area," he said. "We ask that the public act with caution when traveling through the area due to these hazards."

The reduced closure is generally south of Highway 1 and extends to the northern edge of Greenwood Lake. Forest lands and roads within the closure area will remain closed, including McDougal Lake Campground and



Burned and charred remains of a stand of trees along Highway 2 cast long shadows just after sunrise last week. photo by K. Vandervort

all associated recreation areas, and the Stony River Observation Point. Little Isabella Campground is also closed due to heavy use from firefighters, and bear sightings. This closure area will be in place until further notice.

Maximum containment of the Greenwood Fire peaked at 80-81 percent, as wetland areas prevented crew and equipment from building containment lines in those areas, according to Engrav.

"Where the lines have been cold and secure, crews and equipment have been working to repair the impacts of line construction and restore them to a near natural state to reduce the potential for erosion or other natural resource impacts," he said.

Equipment and hand

crews will rehabilitate and repair containment lines including the finishing work of seeding those areas with native grass seed to stabilize the surface soils. Crews removed hazard trees along the closed section of the Jackpot ATV Trail impacted by the fire.

In addition, trees and debris will be cleaned up and removed from the McDougal Boat Access area this week.

"The backhaul of pumps, hoses, and other supplies will be done as they are no longer needed on parts of the fire. A gradual process of downsizing equipment and personnel will be followed based on the amount of work remaining," Engrav added.

The McDougal Lake Road, North McDougal

Lake Road, Middle Road, and Stony Loop Road in the Greenwood Fire closure area are open to property owners via a security pass card from the Lake County Sheriff.

BWCAW closures

Last weekend, the Forest Service also lifted the last of the closures in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, the John Ek and Whelp Fire closures, citing low fire activity and decreasing fire danger due to fall weather conditions and rain.

Last month the forest received three to six inches of rain, which is normal for the month of September. This precipitation, in combination with lower temperatures, shorter days and higher humidity mitigated fire activity and limited the potential for heat to spread.

"We have not seen any smoke from the fire for a couple of weeks now, and we feel comfortable lifting this closure as this fire is unlikely to spread much, if at all," said Patty Johnson, East Zone Fire Management Officer for the Superior National Forest.

Last week, the forest pulled all equipment off the John Ek Fire, meaning that all hose and pumps staged at portages were backhauled.

Prescribed burns

Superior National Forest fire managers are planning to conduct some prescribed burns this fall, mainly pile burning, if fuel and weather conditions allow. Prescribed fire activity was scheduled to start this week.

The purpose of these prescribed fires is to reduce fuel buildup and potential for high-intensity wildfires to spread from the forest onto areas of intermingled ownership.

Due to COVID restrictions in 2020 and a dry spring and summer this year, the Superior National Forest was not able to complete much of its planned prescribed fire activity and has a backlog of accumulated piles. These piles are a result of fuels reductions and timber harvest.

Autumn has ushered in conditions that are favorable for prescribed fire operations.

"Our drought codes still remain moderate," Johnson said, "However,

recent rainfall coupled with shorter days, lower temperatures and higher humidity levels, has decreased fire danger and created conditions where we can again consider prescribed fire activity." Drought code is a numerical rating of moisture content in deep, compact and organic layers and shows the likelihood of fire involving deep duff layers and large logs.

Prescribed fire activity is planned by fire managers and coordinated across specialists from all resource programs at Superior National Forest, according to Johnson.

"Many considerations go into planning a prescribed fire including fuel types, presence of sensitive plants or animals, visitor use, fuel moisture, winds, relative humidity, and projected weather," she said.

Prescribed fires are only ignited when weather conditions are favorable.

"For example, in October, we expect precipitation to be normal or above normal," she said. "As we receive precipitation, managers will assess whether or not prescribed burning is safe. If we receive less rain than usual, the forest may hold off on prescribed fire activity."

For more information regarding these planned prescribed fires, please call the West Zone Fire Information phone at 218-248-2411 or the Gunflint Ranger District at 218-387-1750.

ISD 696...Continued from page 1

istration, as coronavirus case rate data change daily or weekly, was cited as being more responsive than waiting for a monthly school board meeting to decide how to keep students safe.

In making his request for the Oct. 11 school board meeting, Colarich said, "I would recommend that information that comes from the (safe school learning plan) advisory committee is vetted by the six (school board) directors, with due diligence by the six directors, and be voted on by the six directors. To me, that would be a good policy and would be the right way to do it. The (school) board would make the call on these decisions and would vote on it."

Four school board member votes would be needed to rescind the board's current policy and to replace the administration's safe learning mitigation authorization and put the responsibility on the school board.

The advisory council last week focused on the metrics related to a possible dialing back of mitigation efforts. The data appear to be going in the wrong direction.

On Sept. 30, the school district reported a positive coronavirus case in Washington Elementary. Administrators reported another case on Tuesday in the elementary school. The current COVID-19 active positive test count is at three cases. The cumulative positive test count is five in just the first month of the new school year.

In a current overview of the coronavirus pandemic, Amy Westbrook, St. Louis County Public Health Division director, said, "Area hospitals have been at capacity for weeks and have had to divert patients. More people in St. Louis County tested positive for COVID-19 in the last week

than last year at this time." She repeated her point, "Even with approximately 120,000 of our 200,000 residents now vaccinated, more people are getting sick now than a year ago at this time."

Westbrook continued, "There is a lot of misinformation circulating about vaccines, face masks and other prevention measures. And there may be some mistrust of health experts. We urge you to talk to your doctor or a trusted medical professional."

In just three months, the bi-weekly COVID-19 case rates for northern St. Louis County went from 1.24 positive cases per 10,000 people in July, to 8.67, and then 13.9 just before Labor Day, when the mask mandate was implemented. Since the start of the 2021-2022 school year, the case rate has exploded to 19.2, 29.1, 32.2, 47.68 and 67.5. Aubrie Hoover, of the St. Louis County Health Department, predicted a positive rate of 80.50 for this week.

As far as the metrics to be considered to dial back the public health mandates, including mask requirements, Superintendent Erik Erie said the positive case rate should be indicating a downward trend for at least a couple of consecutive weeks.

Hoover said another area school district has put a positive case rate of 30 or under as a point to relax mask mandates. "We are not seeing a peak within the next two weeks," she said.

"A neighboring county has a higher rate now than they ever did last year. We are going to go up, especially in central and northern St. Louis County."

The vaccination rate is another metric to be considered in dialing back public health mandates. "We are at 41 percent here for those ages 12 to 18," Erie said. "Having that vaccination rate at more than 50 percent would seem to be ideal."

Health officials at the Essentia Ely Clinic and the Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital are making plans to implement a vaccine protocol for children in the 5 to 11 age group once the vaccines are authorized later this year.

The Ely Community Voice group that sponsored the petition drive to get some 300-plus signatures demanding ISD 696 rescind the protective face mask mandate and return to mask-optional guidance, hosted a speech by a retired Ely doctor, Dr. Steve Park, who spoke at the Ely Senior Center late last month. He reportedly told the crowd that masks don't work in stopping the spread of the coronavirus and urged those in attendance to eat healthy and take more Vitamin D as a way to combat COVID-19.

At last month's ISD 696 school board meeting, held in the gymnasium because of an overflow crowd, hundreds of petition signers demanded the school administration rescind the 11th-hour face mask requirement imple-

mented at the start of the school year.

School board members, and Erie in particular, were treated with disrespect by some in the crowd and the meeting was interrupted numerous times.

ISD 696 administrators and elected leaders hope there is not a repeat of the antics on display at last month's meeting. Ely Police Chief Chad Houde attended the meeting last month. Ely is just one of many communities around the country experiencing a backlash against public health mitigation efforts.

According to a report last week by the Associated Press, a group representing school board members around the country asked President Joe Biden for federal assistance to investigate and stop threats made over policies including mask mandates, likening the vitriol to a form of domestic terrorism.

The request by the National School Boards Association demonstrates the level of unruliness that has engulfed local education meetings across the country during the pandemic, with board members regularly confronted and threatened by angry protesters.

School board members are largely unpaid volunteers, parents and former educators who step forward to shape school policy, choose a superintendent and review the budget, but they have been frightened at how their jobs have suddenly become a culture war battleground. The climate has led a growing number to resign or decide against seeking reelection.

"Whatever you feel about masks, it should not reach this level of rhetoric," NSBA Interim Executive Director Chip Slaven told the Associated Press.

The association asked

for the federal government to get involved to investigate cases where threats or violence could be handled as violations of federal laws protecting civil rights. It also asked for the Justice Department, FBI, Homeland Security and Secret Service to help monitor threat levels and assess risks to students, educators, board members and school buildings.

"As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous actions could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes," the association wrote.

The association represents more than 90,000 school board members in 14,000 public school districts.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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FOOTBALL

North Woods crushes Braham, 46-14

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

T.J. Chiabotti gains 348 yards to surpass 1,000 yards on the season

BRAHAM- Any high school team would love to have a running back rush for 200 yards and three touchdowns in a game.

It only took North Woods' T.J. Chiabotti three plays to accomplish that feat last Friday against Braham.

Chiabotti ripped the Bombers' defense for 348 yards and four touchdowns, and Eric Aune had

two touchdown receptions as the Grizzlies made the most of a long road trip by mauling the Bombers, 46-14.

There was little early on to indicate that a rout was in store, as the Bombers held a 14-12 lead at the end of the first quarter.

A Bombers' fumble deep in their own territory led to the Grizzlies' first score, an 18-yard Chiabotti run with just over

three minutes elapsed in the game. Braham struck back with a 35-yard touchdown reception by Braden Grams and a two-point conversion for an 8-6 lead.

That lead lasted exactly 17 seconds, the amount of time it took for Jared Chiabotti to pick up the ensuing kick off at the North Woods 14 and streak 86 yards for a touchdown, his second kickoff return score of the season. The

PAT failed, but North Woods was back in the lead, 12-8.

Two possessions later it was Braham's turn for a big play, an off-tackle run by Grams that went for 62 yards and a touchdown with 2:40 left in the first quarter.

Taking over at their own 25 after the kick, the Grizzlies immediately flipped the field with a 50-yard run by T.J. Chiabotti. The drive threatened to fizzle out

there, but Ty Fabish connected with Jake Panichi on a fourth-and-two pass as the quarter ended to give the Grizzlies new life at the Braham 13.

Fabish went to the air again on the first play of the second quarter, hitting Aune with a touchdown pass to put the Grizzlies ahead for good, 18-14.

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

VOLLEYBALL

'Hawks top Ely in four

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

BABBITT— The Nighthawks avenged a season-opening loss to Ely on Monday night as they downed the red-hot Timberwolves in four sets. The 'Hawks rallied after losing the first set 18-25 to take three straight, 26-24, 25-22, and 25-22 despite a strong serving effort by Ely throughout the match.

"This was an exciting win for the girls," said Northeast Range Head Coach Jodi Reichensperger. "They have been taking it one match at a time, staying focused on the here and now."

NER senior Hannah Reichensperger led the charge for the 'Hawks, with 34 kills, 22 digs, and five blocked shots. Natalie Nelmark added 13 kills and a block, while setter Maizy Sunblad tallied 43 assists and ten digs. Reichensperger noted some of the contributions don't

See **VOLLEYBALL...**pg. 2B



Left:
NER senior Hannah Reichensperger lofts a return over the outstretched arms of Grizzlies' senior Morgan Burnett.

Below:
NER senior Natalie Nelmark goes up for a kill while the Grizzlies' Addy Hartway reaches high for the block attempt.

photos by
D. Colburn

Red hot 'Hawks topple Grizzlies

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Northeast Range standout Hannah Reichensperger delivered as expected in the Nighthawks' Sept. 30 win at North Woods, but the Nighthawks showed they're more than a team of one in the 3-0 match victory.

A depleted Grizzlies squad held their own against the Nighthawks throughout the night, pushing the visitors

to the limit in a first-game thriller that NER won 28-26.

"We knew we were going to have to be everywhere on the court," Grizzlies Head Coach Kandi Olson said. "We made them run a little bit, which didn't give Hannah the opportunity to take it to us like she could have. And we were able to handle a lot of what she gave us. We tried to just give them something

See **VBALL...**pg. 2B



Marathon Man



Mike Korpi, of Soudan, ran the Twin Cities Marathon on Sunday, and it was the 80th time he had run a 26.2-mile race. He started running marathons in 1980. This was the 32nd time he has finished the Twin Cities Marathon. This was the second marathon he has run this year. He was awarded special recognition in June after finishing his 42nd Grandma's Marathon in Duluth, logging over 1,100 miles on that marathon course.

He finished the Twin Cities marathon with a time of 5:37:37, which was faster than his 5:48:14 time at Grandma's. This was also the 10th marathon he has run since he had knee replacement surgery about seven years ago.

CROSS COUNTRY

Devine, Burckhardt lead local runners at Ely Invite

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— Timberwolves junior Zoe Devine finished in the top ten among girls in the largest field of runners to take part in the Ely Invitational in years. Meanwhile, junior Jake Cochran was the top finisher among the Ely boys, taking 16th place.

It was the largest cross-country meet held in Ely in recent memory, said

Left: Ely junior Zoe Devine makes a move to the outside as she works her way past the competition during the Ely Invitational cross country meet on Tuesday.

photo by D. Colburn

Ely Head Coach Jayne Dusich, with a total of 12 teams, or nearly twice as many as usual in the annual Ely meet. "It was great weather and good competition," said Dusich. "Ely's course is tough with the hills at the Ely Golf Course. Some of my runners ran their best times while it was too hot for others."

Other top performing local runners included freshman Alex Burckhardt, of Cook, who finished 12th among the boys with a time of 18:05.9. Burckhardt, of North Woods, runs with the combined South Ridge cross-country team.

Devine took the tenth spot in the varsity girls competition with a time of 21:02.2, while teammate Phoebe Helms

See **RUNNERS...**pg. 2B



FOOTBALL

Wolves' struggles continue at Cromwell

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

CROMWELL— A trip to Cromwell did little to ease the Timberwolves' gridiron struggles last Friday as they lost 32-8 to the Cardinals to drop to 1-4 on the season.

Cromwell scored at will in the early going, racking up an 18-0 lead by the end of the first quarter. They added seven more before the break to take a 25-0 lead into the locker room. The Wolves added a single touchdown

Drop to 1-4 after 32-8 loss to the Cardinals

on a short run by Erron Anderson early in the third quarter. Harry Simons caught a diving catch on a deflected pass from Mason Davis for the two-point conversion, but their would-be rally fizzled after that.

The Cardinals added a final capper to pad their final margin. Cromwell's freshman quarterback had a strong night, with four touchdown passes, including an 85-yard strike to sophomore

receiver Tanner Collman.

Ely's Anderson tallied 94 rushing yards, while Davis rushed for 46 yards and completed five passes for 29 yards. Simons added 27 yards rushing and had 17 yards receiving to the mix.

On defense, Davis had eight tackles. "I thought Mason played pretty well defensively," said Head Coach Louis Gerzin. "He came up from his safety position and made some nice tackles for

us."

Prijatel had 10 tackles, Deegan Richards had six tackles. Hegman added five stops and Ashton Cook had four tackles on the night.

"As a team, I thought we played better than last week. We stayed with Cromwell for 98 percent of the game, but we had as many as eight catastrophic breakdowns that resulted in touchdowns or really long plays," Gerzin said. "They had some big scoring plays and two long punt returns to set them up to score

again. Other than that, I thought we were right there in the game. We have to make sure our mistakes aren't that costly."

Junior running back Jason Kerntz missed another game due to a knee injury, but Gerzin anticipates he will be on the field for Ely's Homecoming game against Cook County.

The Timberwolves have an open week next week that would have been a game at Northeast Range. They close out the regular season on Wednesday, Oct. 20 with a 6 p.m. game at Littlefork.

VOLLEYBALL

South Ridge topples North Woods

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- For the first time in a couple of weeks, the North Woods volleyball varsity was back at full strength in numbers on Monday, but a 3-0 loss to the visiting South Ridge Panthers suggests there's still some rebuilding ahead for the Grizzlies.

The Grizzlies played from behind most of the match, although they made it close in the first two games, losing 25-21 and 25-20.

The first game looked like it was going to be a blowout for the Panthers when Grizzlies Head Coach Kandi Olson called time with her squad trailing 13-5. Coming out of the pause,

Abigail Shuster fired a service ace that initiated a slow but steady march to get back into contention. A final five-point run brought the Grizzlies to within 22-21, but the Panthers responded with four consecutive points to take the game.

While the Grizzlies took an early 7-5 lead in the next game, the Panthers took command with a nine-point blitz, going up 14-7. This time service aces from Skyler Yernatch and Morgan Burnett and big kills by Burnett and Tori Olson provided sparks for the Grizzlies to climb back into this one. Down 21-15 and with Kara Scofield serving, North Woods reeled off five points to force a South Ridge time out with the Panthers leading by one, 21-20. As with

the first game, the Panthers snuffed out the surge to win 25-20.

The Grizzlies were never in the third game, falling behind 13-1 en route to a 25-8 loss.

"The most amazing part about having a full bench was the fact that the energy on that bench was fantastic, those girls were cheering for each other, and they just gave us such a good vibe for most of the game," Olson said. "However, there is a struggle when you're trying to blend people back together that just haven't played next to each other for a while. We haven't had enough practice days to put it all back together."

But playing short-handed for several matches wasn't without some benefit. With

numerous starters missing time, other Grizzlies picked up valuable game experience that will likely give Olson more options for the final stretch of the regular season. With that in mind, Olson tested numerous different rotations against South Ridge.

"We knew that there were going to be a few bumps in the road today, because we were putting in kids who had developed new confidence in new spots," Olson said. "We knew we had to try them in those spots and see how it went. I had hoped we'd have fewer struggles, for sure. But all in all, they did their best trying to figure it out. And that's all I can ask for."

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

11-play drive, but the North Woods defense stiffened, with the Bombers turning the ball over on downs at the Grizzlies' 10.

On the next play the Grizzlies' line opened a huge hole on the left side, and T.J. Chiabotti was off to the races, bolting 90 yards for the score and a 24-14 lead.

Aune killed the next Braham drive with a pass interception, setting the Grizzlies up with a short field at the Bombers' 30. On his first carry after the 90-yarder, Chiabotti took the ball into the middle of the defense, cut right, and found the end zone again. The Grizzlies got their first conversion of the night on a bootleg by Fabish to take a 32-14 lead at the half.

The Grizzlies had just one possession in the third quarter, but they made it count. On third-and-seven from the North Woods 48, Aune hauled in a long pass over the middle from Fabish and took it to the Braham 10. After a reverse went nowhere, Fabish dropped back and rifled a pass to Aune, who made a twisting one-handed grab for his second score of the night. T.J. Chiabotti ran in the conversion to make the score 40-14.

Braham came back with another drive deep into the North Woods red zone, but the Grizzlies turned them away again when Nick Abramson tackled Grams for no gain on fourth-and-goal at the 8-yard line.

T.J. Chiabotti got the call on the next two plays, moving the ball to a first down at the 20. The Grizzlies called his number one more time, and Chiabotti took advantage of another big hole to bolt 80 yards for the game's final score.

Grizzlies Head Coach Joel Anderson gave much of the credit for Chiabotti's field day to the offensive line and running backs Jared Chiabotti and Jake Panichi.

"I thought our offensive line played absolutely terrific," he said. "There weren't a lot of guys sneaking through in the interior of the defense. Jake and Jared blocked as well as I've seen them block all year. There were holes to run through that were as wide as a semi and there just wasn't

anybody around."

Fabish completed four of his nine passes, three to Aune for 65 yards and two touchdowns.

"Eric played a phenomenal game," Anderson said. "His second touchdown catch was one of the best I've seen in a very, very long time."

Panichi led the defensive surge with seven unassisted tackles and three assists, and Anderson had high praise for his senior linebacker.

"It was nice to kind of see him just break out last Friday night," Anderson said. "We've been waiting a little while to see him just shine and dominate. He was in the backfield quite a bit, and he was cleaning up everything that got through the line."

VOLLEYBALL...Continued from page 1B

always make it on the stats board. "Notable play by Thia Lossing with her passing in the fourth set, allowed us to run our offense successfully over and over again."

Ely posted impressive serving numbers, with a

total of 13 aces on the night, including five by senior Kellen Thomas. Thomas added five kills, six digs, and three blocks to her stats for the match. Junior Rachel Coughlin had a big night as well, posting 14 kills, 13

digs, and six blocked shots. Junior Madeline Kallberg added seven kills and two aces, while Kate Coughlin posted five kills and eight digs. Senior setter Katrina Seliskar added 31 assists and three aces, while senior

Charly Flom posted five digs, two kills, and three aces.

"I'm really proud of the way we served tonight," said Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum. "We had some excellent hitter coverage tonight as well."

VBALL...Continued from page 1B

they had to work for every single time."

The Nighthawks were up by as many as six points in the second stanza, but the Grizzlies fought back to a 19-19 tie before NER closed out the game with a six-point run to win 25-19.

In the third it was the Nighthawks' turn to play from behind. North Woods took an early lead at 6-5 and extended it to 13-10. But NER's senior-laden

squad didn't get rattled, coming up with a 12-3 run for a 22-16 advantage. The Grizzlies refused to go quietly, scoring on four consecutive match points before a kill sailed wide to give NER the sweep with a 25-22 win.

NER Head Coach Jodi Reichensperger said that her team, which claimed its third consecutive match win, is coming together at a good time.

"They are making gains every single match, every single player," Reichensperger said. "They're really working on complementing each other. They all have a job to do and they know what their job is."

And while NER starts five seniors, freshman setter Maizy Sundblad's play in mixing things up was an important key to the Nighthawks' success,

Reichensperger said.

Hannah Reichensperger hammered 32 kills in the match, and while her teammates can't match her power, they've discovered that hits with less speed count just the same when they drop in.

"People don't think that those off-speed hits are glamorous," Reichensperger said. "Anything that hits the floor is glamorous. That's

the object of the game, is to get the ball on the floor of your opponent."

The challenge for the Nighthawks for the remainder of the season, Reichensperger said, is learning how to embrace winning.

"They work so hard. Their practices are incredible. They deserve every win that they get," she said. "But historically, we're not a winning team, so it's

new territory. How do you win? How do you act when you win? How can you keep that hunger for more wins? We're on the longest win streak that we've had since I've coached here. They're just now getting to feel what that feels like, and they want more. And that's exciting."

RUNNERS...Continued from page 1B

finished 17th with a time of 22:08.7. As a team, the Ely girls finished in sixth place among nine girls teams competing with a total of 163 points. The boys tied with South Ridge for sixth place, with 138 total points.

Cochran led the way for the Wolves in the boys contest, with a time of 18:24.0. Senior Gabe

Pointer took 23rd place with a time of 18:44.2.

Hibbing competition

Competing against a huge field in Hibbing last Thursday, the Ely boys runners finished in the middle of the pack, with strong performances from senior Gabe Pointer and junior Jake Cochran, both

of whom finished in the top 40 in a field of over 300 runners. Meanwhile, the Ely girls struggled, finishing 18th out of the 20 teams competing. The Ely boys finished in the tenth spot overall.

Pointer led the way for the boys, with a time of 18:38.1, good for 36th place. Cochran was right

behind at 18:40.6, good for 39th place.

The rest of the team finished in the top 80, with freshmen Caid Chittum, (19:13.5) Jace Huntbatch (19:21.8), and Silas Solum (19:41.9) finishing 57th, 61st, and 70th respectively. Sophomore Leo Stalmer finished in 77th place with a time of 19:53.4, while

senior Jon Hakala finished in 19:54.4, good for 79th place.

Perhaps the biggest local boys standout in the Hibbing competition was, once again, Alex Burckhardt, who finished 15th with a time of 17:58.9.

Among the area girls, freshman Addison Burckhardt, also of Cook,

finished in 12th place with a time of 21:05.0, to help lift the South Ridge girls team to the eighth spot in the 20-team competition. Eighth-grader Tatum Barto, who attends North Woods but runs for South Ridge, finished in 49th place, with a time of 22:55.5.

Sports briefly

Nighthawks top Spartans for fifth straight match win

NASHWAUK— Don't look now, but the Nighthawks are on a roll, with a five-game win streak after topping both Ely and Nashwauk-Keewatin at the net this week to improve to 11-6 on the season. And while senior standout Hannah Reichensperger has gotten most of the attention from opponents this season, Natalie Nelmark is making her offensive mark as well after notching a career-high 25 kills Tuesday night.

The two combined for a total of 60 kills in Tuesday night's contest to top the Spartans in five hard-fought sets. The Nighthawks took set one 25-23, then lost the second set by the same margin. They won 25-16 in the third set only to fall 24-26 in set four before taking home the W with a 15-9 final set.

"It's quite impressive to see two players with over 20 and 30 kills in a match," said Nighthawks Head Coach Jodi Reichensperger. "I don't recall a time in my coaching career when we have had 60 kills by just two players. It's showing the growth and grit that is happening on this team."

Hannah Reichensperger led the way for the 'Hawks with 35 kills and 35 digs. Nelmark notched 25 kills and a blocked shot. Setter Maizy Sunblad added 56 assists and ten digs, while Thia Lossing posted 11 digs and a kill.

For details on the Ely game from Monday, see the separate story on 1B.

Ely dumps Lakeview Christian in three

ELY— The Timberwolves made short work of Lakeview Christian Academy, dumping the Lions in straight sets, 25-12, 25-5, and 25-11.

The blowout match allowed Ely to work some of the less regular players into the rotation, according to Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum. "Overall, it was a good game," Wognum added. "We were able to complete some successful plays."

Stat totals weren't as high as most recent games, in part because the match was over quickly. Junior Rachel Coughlin proved the team's kill leader again, with 11, along with four digs. Senior Kellen Thomas added six kills and three blocked shots, while junior Kate Coughlin posted five kills and four aces. Senior setter Katrina Seliskar added 22 assists, six aces, and two blocked shots.

Ely will be in Aurora on Saturday to take part in the Mesabi East tournament. They'll host Mt. Iron-Buhl on Tuesday.

ELY

Ely Council to interview assistant police chief candidate

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The position of Assistant Police Chief for the city of Ely will be filled with candidate interviews conducted by the entire city council. The process was altered following an objection Tuesday night to have an interview committee decide on the department's second supervisory position.

The Employee Relations Committee recommendation that a committee consisting of Mayor Roger Skraba, council

members Heidi Omerza and Jerome Debeltz, and the police chief, conduct the interviews did not sit well with council member Paul Kess, who insisted that the position should be filled with input from the whole council.

“This person will have the same kind of responsibilities (as the police chief),” Kess said, “and should be before the whole council.”

Omerza, employee relations committee chair, said their discussion considered interviews conducted by the hiring committee or the whole council.

“I don't recall the last time we hired an assistant police chief, so we went with the route I'm used to,” she said. She pointed out that whole council interviews are conducted in an open meeting format. “That doesn't bother me,” she said.

Council member Albert Forsman suggested that an interview committee vet the candidates so no more than three candidates would be interviewed by the council.

“There is no need to put six people through the council (process),” he said. Kess agreed.

The open posting period for

the position ended on Friday, Oct. 8. Chief Chad Houde said just one application had been received by Tuesday.

“We are down a few positions right now, so I would like to see the position filled as soon as possible,” he said.

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski said that an interview committee typically scores all the applicants for a position, with redacted personal information, based on a uniform point-system method. The number of interviews to be conducted is then determined.

Houde was hoping inter-

views could be conducted by the end of the month.

“After that there are background checks and psychological evaluations, so the earliest we could start this position would be in December,” he said.

“Even if there is just one candidate, the entire council should be at the interview,” Kess insisted.

The interview committee will vet all applicants for the assistant police chief position, and the whole council will conduct interviews.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tower Ambulance Service having a busy year

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Needs to replace outdated secondary ambulance

TOWER- With the Tower Area Ambulance Service on track to have a “normal” year, members of the Tower Area Ambulance Commission (TAAC) got their quarterly update on the service's financials, status of the ambulance replacement fund, and an update on the two Tower ambulances.

The service responded to a total of 401 calls from January through September. Ambulance Supervisor Dena Suihkonen explained if the pace of calls continues at the current pace, the service will be close to 550 calls for the year. In 2019 calls totaled 548, and in 2020 there were only 441 calls, a trend seen across the state due to the pandemic.

“This is bringing us back to a normal year,” said Suihkonen.

Suihkonen said they are closer to providing 24/7 on-call service than ever before, with 72-percent coverage with on-call personnel. There are currently 16 EMTs and 14 EMRs on the service.

Suihkonen said some members of the Tower City Council are working with the service to use the information from the Minnesota Emergency Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB) report submitted in August to find ways to improve the care provided as well as the financial stability of the service.

But the biggest issue facing the service is the need to purchase another ambulance. The service's older ambulance is in only fair condition, and is more difficult for ambulance staff to use, harder to load and unload patients from, and does not have the higher quality medical equipment now offered on the new ambulance.

The ambulance commission consists of representatives from the area townships, along with the city of Tower, who are in the ambulance service area. Area townships and the city each contribute \$15 per capita per year to help fund the purchase of new ambulances. While the ambulance purchases were historically done on a predetermined schedule, rising ambulance costs and the falling value of used ambulances (the city historically sold their old ambulances to help fund the purchase of new rigs), has meant the funds being raised are not enough to keep up with the cost of replacement of the rigs on a regular basis.

“We need your help, just like you need our help,” said Suihkonen.

Over the past few years, the commission has struggled with its mission, and whether to focus solely on funding new ambulances, or to give more general oversight to the running of the ambulance service itself.

Eagles Nest TAAC representative Larry McCray noted that his township is “not in the ambulance business.”

“I am not here to tell Tower how to run their business,” he said. “There are smart people here in the city that can figure out how to make the ambulance profitable.”

“You have called for donations,” McCray said, “and that is what you are getting.”

But others appeared to want to be more of a supportive partner to the service. “We are lucky to have an ambulance,” said Breitung representative Chuck Tekautz. “The service is improving, and your input is important.”

Tekautz noted that Tower is not in the ambulance business, per se, but is a municipality that has an ambulance to serve its residents.

“They can't do it themselves,” he said.

McCray complimented the current leadership of the ambulance service and noted an article “in a paper that would be good for wrapping fish,” which claimed the service was better under its former leadership.

“That article was a total crock,” he said. “We are getting a better day today, compliments to Dena [Suihkonen].”

Tekautz said it was important for the commission to help generate ideas and opinions on

the service in general.

“We do value your opinions,” said Tower representative Kevin Norby.

Lee Peterson, a frequent critic of the ambulance service from Greenwood Township, said that Greenwood was not in the interest of running an ambulance service either.

“Tower owns the ambulance service,” Peterson said. “This group doesn't.”

Looking at solutions

McCray said he would like to see the commission able to get back on a regular ambulance purchasing schedule once again. “We will have about \$101,000 in the subsidy account at the end of this year,” he said. “And if everything stays the same, \$146,000 at the end of 2022 plus the city's transfer mileage payments.”

“The commission missed two intervals of purchasing,” McCray said. “And there was some smoke and mirrors with money previous to this administration.”

McCray said what was in the past should stay in the past.

“We can't get blood out of a turnip,” he said.

Tower Councilor David Setterberg, who attended the meeting, said there would be an update on the past ambulance fund issues at the Oct. 14 council meeting.

“I don't believe the money

was ever there,” he said. “That money wasn't cash.”

McCray asked the commission to consider asking for a one-time extra payment in 2023, effectively paying a double subsidy payment that year.

“As a one-time venture,” he said, “we could talk to our boards, and raise this money so we can order a new unit in 2022.” “This would get us back on track,” McCray said.

Tekautz agreed.

“It would put Tower back on track for ambulances,” he said.

Greenwood representative Carmen DeLuca said their township residents have resisted calls from the town board to increase their township levy.

“If you want more money, you had better find it yourself,” DeLuca said.

2021 contract

The townships are still waiting for the final version of the 2021 subsidy contract. The city council will be approving the final version at their Oct. 14 meeting.

Norby said the city's attorney had noted that language inserted at the request of the Greenwood Township attorney was too “one-sided” and the city would be looking to make that indemnification language more balanced for the 2022 contract.

The ambulance commission will meet again on Monday, Nov. 7.

DNR to seek public comment for mining rule review

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The Department of Natural Resources will begin to accept public comment on the adequacy of the state's non-ferrous mining rules beginning Nov. 9, in compliance with a court order issued last month. The

30-day public comment period, which will run through Dec. 8, is part of a court-mandated review of the rules that govern the siting of non-ferrous mines in the state, which would include copper-nickel mines currently under consideration. The process could eventually

lead to revisions of the state's rules pertaining to such mines.

The review comes in response to a lawsuit by Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness filed back in June under provisions of the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act. NMW claims in its lawsuit that

Minnesota's longstanding nonferrous mine siting rule is inadequate to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from toxic runoff from the sulfide-based mine that Twin Metals proposes to build upstream of a major wilderness watershed. The group advocates that

sulfide-based mining be prohibited within portions of the Rainy River watershed located upstream of the 1.1-million-acre wilderness area. Currently, the state's rule prohibits mining in the BWCAW and prohibits mining that disturbs the surface in a specified area around the BWCAW.

“This review will give Minnesotans the opportunity to demonstrate that the state's rules regulating where it is appropriate to conduct risky mining are not sufficient to protect the Boundary Waters,” said Becky Rom, of Ely, who heads the national Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. “Antofagasta's Twin Metals sulfide-ore copper mining project threatens the clean water, robust local economy, and world-class recreational value of our nation's most visited wilderness.”

Specifically, the DNR will be seeking comment on the following question: “With express consideration of how Minn. R. 6132.2000, subp. 2A and subp. 3A fit within the broader context of all applicable environmen-

tal protection in state and federal law regulating nonferrous mining, are the exclusion of mining in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) set forth in Minn. R. 6132.2000 subp. 2A, and the prohibition of surface disturbance in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Mineral Management Corridor as set forth in Minn. R. 6132.2000, subp. 3A adequate to protect the BWCAW from pollution, impairment, or destruction or should further restrictions on mining be extended to all or part of the Rainy River-Headwaters defined as HUC 09030001?”

The DNR has established a dedicated webpage for DNR's review of the siting rule at <https://engage.dnr.state.mn.us/siting-rule-review-nonferrous-mines>. This webpage will be used to house information about the review process and contains a link to sign up for future GovDelivery emails on this topic. The DNR will use the GovDelivery list to announce the start of the public comment period next month.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Anthony T. Galazen

Anthony “Tony” Tyler Galazen, 22, of Cook, died on Monday, Sept. 20, 2021, at the Waterview Pines Nursing Home in Virginia after a long battle with Juvenile Huntington Disease. Visitation will be held from 12 noon until the 1:30 p.m. funeral service on Saturday, Oct. 16 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Interment will follow in the Cook Cemetery, followed by a luncheon at the Evangel-

ical Covenant Church of Cook. The family wishes people attending the visitation and funeral service to wear a mask. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Mesabi Humane Society. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Tony was born on Jan. 14, 1999, in Worthington. He was an active participant in soccer and baseball at an early age, until his disease prevented him from pursuing sports into high school. Tony loved the Vikings. His favorite players were Adrian Peterson and Percy Harvin, whom he met at a “Make-A-Wish” event. His bedroom was dominated with Vikings' posters, clothing and blanket spreads. Tony loved to play his Play Station Madden Football games. He always selected the Vikings as the home team where they outscored opponents

by more than a hundred points. Tony loved to jump on his trampoline, ride his Honda XR70 motorcycle and Arctic Cat 440ZL snowmobile. He looked forward to the Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club's trail-clearing days where he could be the first one to set tracks on the trail.

Tony is survived by his mother, Lorrie Lappi of Cook; father, John Galazen of Buyck; sister, Ylonnda Galazen of Virginia; maternal grandmother, Charlotte “Dot-tie” Gallagher of Cook; paternal grandmother, Donna Galazen of Bayfield, Wis.; maternal grandfather, Bob Lappi of Cook; and many aunts, uncles and cousins. Tony touched the lives of many and will be sadly missed by all.

He was preceded in death by his maternal step-grandfather, Dan

Gallagher of Cook; and paternal grandfather, David Galazen of Bayfield, Wis.

Jason A. Mysliwicz

Jason Allan Mysliwicz, 48, of Carpentersville, Ill., died unexpectedly on Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021, in Tower. A memorial service was held on Monday, Oct. 4 at Bauman's Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower with Bill Bauman officiating. Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

He is survived by his wife, Kristen McCubbin; children, Amelia, Justin, Benjamin and Violet; mother, Tracy Tomlinson Mysliwicz Kupferberg; sister, Michelle O'Keefe; extended family and many friends.



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

MILESTONES

Longtime area wildlife manager Tom Rusch set to retire

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — Wildlife manager Tom Rusch is reflecting on 31 years as a biologist for the Department of Natural Resources as he finishes the final month of his professional career. Rusch, who has been the DNR's area wildlife manager in Tower since 2003, announced he'll be retiring next month. He said he'll take thirty-plus years of fond memories with him.

"It's been a good run and I've really enjoyed the journey," said Rusch. "I could never have dreamed it would work out the way it did when I started in the wildlife field over 40 years ago."

Rusch started with the DNR at Karlstad, in northwestern Minnesota, before moving to the Orr area office and later to Eveleth, where he spent ten years before taking the manager position in Tower.

For residents of northern St. Louis and Lake counties, Rusch has been among the most public faces of the Tower DNR staff,

having conducted countless public meetings over the years to take input and share information on a wide range of issues, from deer management to wolves to wild rice. He also worked closely with local media, recognizing the importance of local newspapers in getting information about wildlife management out to residents of the area.

Throughout his tenure, Rusch has been a strong advocate within the agency for management practices that enhance wildlife habitat, which

Right: A younger-looking Tom Rusch during a DNR open house on Big Rice Lake back in 2012. He's looking a little grayer now as he heads into retirement.

sometimes put him at odds with foresters. He wasn't shy about weighing in, even during media interviews, about what he views as the negative impacts of overly aggressive timber management on a number of species in the region, including whitetail deer

See **RUSCH**, pg. 5B



OCTOBER GOLD

With the maple leaves mostly on the ground, it's time for the aspen and birch to make their appearance. They should be at their peak this weekend, so make a point of checking them out. And also make note of the differences between the big-toothed aspen, (see leaves above) which often show more reds and peaches than the quaking aspen, which tend to limit their color shift to brilliant yellows and golds.

Timberjay staff photos



Outdoors briefly

DNR seeking spruce grouse feathers for study



REGIONAL — Spruce grouse hunters in northern Minnesota's boreal forests can voluntarily submit samples for the final year of a genetics research project being conducted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in partnership with the University of Minnesota.

Spruce grouse are a climate-sensitive species that rely on boreal forest habitats containing black spruce, jack pine and tamarack — all of which are expected to shift northward on the landscape as temperatures increase. This study will use grouse genetics to form a baseline of data to establish how spruce grouse currently use the landscape and identify changes in habitat connectivity over time. When habitat becomes fragmented and a species loses connectivity to its former range, the species can form smaller distinct genetic groups over time.

"Hunters who enjoy pursuing these birds are critical to the success of this project and our work to conserve this species," said DNR grouse research scientist, Charlotte Roy. "Data collection for this project is simple and we hope to receive another 100 to 150 samples in this final year of the two-year project."

Hunters who would like to assist with the project should collect three to five large wing or tail feathers along with the GPS coordinates of the harvest location. The feathers, GPS coordinates and the hunter's name and telephone number can be mailed to: Grouse Research, DNR Regional Headquarters, 1201 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. Harvest locations will not be made public. Hunters are asked to mail samples from each bird in a separate envelope and not mix feather samples from multiple birds.

Small game harvest surveys show hunters have harvested anywhere from 7,081 – 19,130 spruce grouse annually over the last 11 years. More information about spruce grouse management can be found on the DNR website.

FROM THE GARDEN

A few tips for storing your winter squash

I wrote earlier this year about the woodchuck that wreaked havoc on my winter squash. Despite the critter's ravages, and thanks in part to an exceptionally mild fall so far, it turns out I will have at least a mediocre crop of winter squash to store this year.

As I've written before, it's tough to beat winter squash in my mind. It's great to eat, it's amazingly versatile, and it's packed full of all kinds of nutrients. And, of course, it stores for months without much effort. When I think of all the time that my wife Jodi spends over the kitchen stove each fall, putting up tomato sauce, and pickling beets, cucumbers, and beans, the ease with which we can put up winter squash is remarkable.

Yet, while it's easy, there are steps you need to take if you want your cache of squash to hold out until it's time to plant next year's crop in the spring. We've learned the hard way a few times, when improper preparation turned what are normally months-long keepers into moldy messes come January. And given that this year's



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



A nice selection of winter squash curing in the sun last year, including Hopi gray squash (the big ones), delicata (with green stripes), butternut, and a single kabocha squash. Our crop this year will be somewhat diminished due to drought and the havoc wreaked by a devouring woodchuck.

crop is going to be lighter than usual, I read up on some of the tricks to ensure we don't lose any of our crop this year. Thanks in advance to the blog Growfully and *The Guardian* newspaper for information for these squash storage tips.

Tip number one is to leave a small portion of the squash's stem intact on the fruit. An inch or two is all you need. If it breaks off, it's an entryway for rot to set in, so keep such a squash close to the kitchen to use no later than Thanksgiving.

Tip number two is to cure your squash in the sunshine for a week to ten days to ensure the rind has a chance to harden. A squash's rind is what enables it to keep for months at a time. Some squashes, like zucchini or other summer squash, lack the tough rind of a winter squash, which is why they'll only keep for days or a couple weeks at the most in the fridge. Yet, even with winter squash, the rind is often soft right after picking. You can test it with your fingernail. If it digs in, leaving a noticeable depression

outline of your nail, it will need curing. After a week in a sunny spot, the rind should toughen, and you'll barely be able to nick it with your nail. You'll want to turn the squash a time or two to make sure all sides get their time in the sun.

Tip number three is to wipe down the squash with a weak vinegar solution (like four parts water to one part white vinegar), to kill off the mold spores and bacteria on the outside rind. Some gardeners also use a very weak solution of bleach, which will do

the same thing. Tip number four is to use newspaper to separate the squash where you plan to store them. Squash prefer a dry location, preferably between 55 and 60 degrees, with enough air space around each of them so they aren't touching each other.

Be cautious about putting them in a back room with indirect heat, that might get too cool when the temps hit minus 30 or 40 outside. Squash don't like temperatures under 50 degrees and be especially careful about placing them near the floor, where the temperatures could be even colder depending on your situation. If you're lucky enough to have a root cellar, use it for your root crops, as the name suggests. Your squash won't last nearly as long in the cool and damp conditions typically found there.

Tip number five is to enjoy your winter squash on a regular basis. Don't store them in some out-of-the-way place where you'll forget about them. And don't think of squash as merely a side dish. There are few things better on a winter's evening than a meal of stuffed delicata squash, or a spicy butternut squash soup as the centerpiece for a hearty meal. And don't forget the leftovers. If anything, squash seems to taste even better the second time around.

So, take the time to cure and store your winter squash properly and you'll be able to enjoy great eating for months to come.

RUSCH...Continued from page 4B

and fisher. Rusch has also been outspoken about what he sees as the negative impacts of bear feeding and was a longtime critic of Dr. Lynn Rogers and his research methods, which involve habituating bears to the close presence of researchers.

Rusch served as the area's wildlife manager at a time when many northern species appeared to be facing challenges from habitat changes, some caused by forest management and others by climate change. The area's moose population has declined significantly, as have fisher, and even whitetail deer populations are generally under goal throughout the region, a reflection of a string of harsher than average winters in the late 2010s.

But Rusch remains optimistic about the state of wildlife in the region. "We are blessed with incredible wildlife resources in northeast Minnesota and I have been lucky to be a part of that," he said. "I've also had the pleasure of working with top notch wildlife professionals throughout my career. It has been a total team effort and I could not have done it without them."

He noted that the area's vast amount of public land, the most of any state east of the Rockies, provides unmatched opportunity for those who love the outdoors—and that includes Rusch himself, who is an avid hunter.

In fact, Rusch was at his grouse camp this week and will be spending even more time in the field once he says goodbye to the Tower area staff for the last time, at least as a fellow employee. Rusch said he's grown to love northeastern Minnesota and plans to continue to live with his wife Deb at his current residence, located along the St. Louis River, south of Eveleth. "It's been a great place to live and raise our family," said

Rusch. "The relationships we've established will last a lifetime."

Rusch said he's incredibly thankful for the chance to work in the area and believes the region benefits greatly from the tremendous public interest in wildlife in the North Country. "Without passionate outdoors-minded people our wildlife populations cannot be sustainable," he said. "Thank you for fighting the battle with me."

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
67 55					68 53					63 46					63 45					62 44				
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.
09/27	78	37	0.00		09/27	77	34	0.00		09/27	72	45	0.00		09/27	70	41	0.00		09/27	76	34	0.00	
09/28	71	35	0.00		09/28	77	33	0.00		09/28	65	44	0.00		09/28	82	46	0.00		09/28	70	39	0.00	
09/29	78	47	0.00		09/29	79	47	0.00		09/29	78	47	0.00		09/29	84	54	0.00		09/29	80	46	0.00	
09/30	81	47	0.01		09/30	81	47	0.00		09/30	80	45	0.00		09/30	84	55	0.00		09/30	82	48	0.00	
10/01	83	49	0.03		10/01	83	50	0.50		10/01	80	52	0.04		10/01	66	61	0.12		10/01	83	48	0.40	
10/02	71	59	0.28		10/02	71	59	0.05		10/02	71	62	0.26		10/02	64	57	0.00		10/02	70	60	0.59	
10/03	65	59	1.03		10/03	62	58	1.07		10/03	65	55	0.57		10/03	68	48	0.00		10/03	65	58	0.76	
Total	14.68				YTD Total	17.83				YTD Total	16.52				YTD Total	17.19				YTD Total	20.05			

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CLEAN

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

DRAIN

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

DRY

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

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES! LEARN MORE AT CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG

EMPLOYMENT

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Position Available

Are you ready to make an impact on a small city? Join our amazing team of employees at the City of Cook, the gateway city to scenic Lake Vermilion!

Our next Deputy Clerk/Treasurer will work in partnership with the City Administrator and Utility Billing/Administrative Clerk to support our City and its departments.

Are you capable of performing a variety of tasks that involve working with groups and individuals, lots of data/information, and typical office software programs? Then please apply!

Training and experience in office administration and accounting/bookkeeping is preferred but we understand that good orientation, training, and goal-setting are key to the development of a productive employee. Our main goal is to work together with respect, trust, clear communication and an openness to sharing ideas.

Applications are available at Cook City Hall.

The position will remain open until filled.

Cook City Hall
127 South River Street
P O Box 155
Cook, MN 55723
218-666-2200
www.cookmn.us

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 1 & 8, 2021

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.

Part-Time Office Assistant

Vermilion Country School in Tower is seeking to hire a part-time office assistant for the 2021-2022 school year. May be combined with the part-time paraprofessional opening for a full-time job with benefits. For complete job description/qualifications, email jsummit@vermilioncountry.org.

Part-Time Paraprofessional

Vermilion Country School in Tower is seeking to hire a Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year. This half-time position may be combined with other openings (office assistant) and will remain open until filled.

For more information on these openings, please email jsummit@vermilioncountry.org or call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950

PUBLIC NOTICES

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: The Timberjay; Publication Number: 16025; Filing Date 9-30-21; 4. Issue Frequency: Weekly; 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 51; 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$39; 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: PO Box 636, 414 Main St., Tower, MN 55790; 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office: 414 Main St., Tower, MN 55790; 9. Full Name and Address of Publisher: Marshall Helmberger, 414 Main St., Tower, MN 55790; Editor: Jodi Summit, 414 Main St., Tower, MN 55790; and Managing Editor: Marshall Helmberger, 414 Main St., Tower, MN 55790. 10. Owners: Marshall Helmberger, same as above, Jodi Summit, 414 Main St., Tower, MN 55790, Gary and Edna Albertson, 9094 Hibbing Point Rd., Cook, MN 55723; 11. Known bondholders: None; 12. NA; 13. The Timberjay; 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 9-24-20; 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation- Average No. of Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: a. Total number of copies 2,740; b1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions: 468; b2. Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541: 1,540; b3. Sales through Dealers and Vendors: 690; b4. Other Classes Mailed through USPS: 7; c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 2,705; d. Free Distribution by Mail: 1. Outside County: 0; In-County as Stated on Form 3541: 38; 3. Other Classes Through the USPS: 0; 4. Free Distribution Outside the Mail: 25; e. Total Free Distribution: 25; f. Total Distribution: 2,730; g. Copies Not Distributed: 10; h. Total: 2,740; i. Percent Paid and/or Requested: 99; No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: a. Total number of copies 2,650; b1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions: 479; b2. Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541: 1,528; b3. Sales through Dealers and Vendors: 590; b4. Other Classes Mailed through USPS: 8; c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 2,605; d. Free Distribution by Mail: 0; d1. Outside County: 0; d2. In-County as Stated on Form 3541: 0; d3. Other Classes Through the USPS: 0; d4. Free Distribution Outside the Mail: 25; e. Total Free Distribution: 25; f. Total Distribution: 2,630; g. Copies Not Distributed: 20; h. Total: 2,650 i. Percent Paid and/or Requested: 99; 16. a. Paid Electronic Copies- Average No. of Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 361; b. Total Paid Print Copies + Paid Electronic Copies: 3,066; c. Total Print Distribution + Paid Electronic Copies: 3,091; d. Percent Paid: 99; No. Electronic Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date: a. Paid Electronic Copies: 372; b. Total Paid Print Copies + Paid Electronic Copies: 2,977; c. Total Print Distribution + Paid Electronic Copies: 3,002; d. Percent Paid: 99; 17. Total circulation includes electronic copies. Yes; 18. Publication of Statement of Ownership: 10-08-20. 17. Signature: Marshall Helmberger; Date: 9-30-21.

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 8, 2021



Steger Mukluks is Hiring!

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- Full-Time, Part-Time, Seasonal, and Year-Round positions available
- Competitive Wages and Benefits

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Planner/Senior Planner

Apply by 10/25/21

Heavy Equipment Mechanic

Apply by 10/25/21

Public Health Nurse- Hibbing

Apply by 10/15/21

Sign Technician- Virginia

Apply by 10/11/21

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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 10/8

PUBLIC NOTICES

KUGLER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 8, 2021

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP NOTICE

The Board of Supervisors will hold a special meeting on Monday, October 11, 2021, starting at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to consider a request for variance from the St. Louis County zoning regulations at 1356 Walsh Road. The Township cannot approve or disapprove variances, but can make recommendations to the County Board of Adjustment.

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 8, 2021

Residents of Soudan Proper SNOWPLOW ASSESSMENT DUE NOVEMBER 1, 2021 \$10.00

Mail payments to: Breitung Township, Box 56, Soudan, MN 55782, Attn: Snowplow Assessment

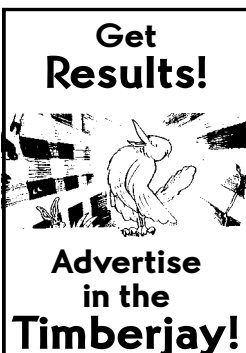
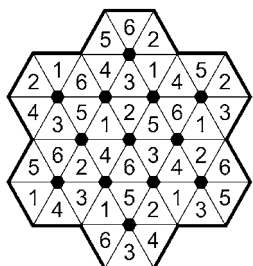
Or drop off in the Township Water Payment Box

This ensures that the total \$10 goes to the township. If paid through Property Tax Statement, the county takes a portion.

Dianna Sunsdahl, Clerk, Breitung Township

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 8 & 22, 2021

SNOWFLAKES solution



Super Crossword

Answers

BUSHISM KAPLAN OKSIGN
ENTENTE ENOUGH FRIDAY
FLUSTRERESTFULFLUTERS
OOP CANASTA LAGASSE
GOOGLEMERIEATER
SPRIESTPRIESTSPIERS
RITAEOS
RATTLESTARTLESTARLET
ALOHALIPOIDISRAELI
SIPBOOKEMALAIN
PASTIERPIRATESTRALIPSE
IOTASNOLESOER
CHUNNELMACULA CESAR
REVEALSEVERALVEALERS
IRE OSE ELIS
TRASHEDHARDESTTHREADS
POLIOINOWINSURE
ENTERINBAVARIANED
MAGENTAGATEMANNAGETAG
PEEDEEADORENITSTIME
TSLOTS GENTLELANCETS

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Sparkle
- 6 Word of denial
- 9 Early hrs.
- 12 — Carta
- 13 Japanese sash
- 14 Like sashimi
- 15 Surrounded by
- 16 Italian city where Marconi was born
- 18 Mexican entree
- 20 Optimistic
- 21 Honey holder
- 23 Jurist Fortas
- 24 De Mille of dance

- 25 Nepal's continent
- 27 Bakery lure
- 29 Italian port city
- 31 Italian city of canals
- 35 Soft leather
- 37 Pack cargo
- 38 Grinding tooth
- 41 Genetic letters
- 43 Storm center
- 44 Oil cartel
- 45 Pippa, to Kate Middleton
- 47 Italian city on the Adriatic

- 49 October birthstones
- 52 Crone
- 53 — de deux
- 54 "— Be" (The Beatles)
- 55 "Quiet!"
- 56 Illustrations
- 57 Yorkshire city
- 6 More altruistic
- 7 Bassoon's kin
- 8 Up to
- 9 Inert gas
- 10 Parson's home
- 11 Convinces
- 17 Church keyboards
- 19 Humiliate
- 21 Painter
- 22 Simile part
- 24 Soul, to Sartre
- 26 — -Lorraine
- 28 Pizza cookers
- 30 Where Lux. is
- 32 State repeatedly
- 33 Coquettish
- 34 Ram's mate
- 36 Most desert-like
- 38 Fluttery insects
- 39 Media mogul
- 40 Janet of "Psycho"
- 42 Coral reef
- 45 Flag feature
- 48 Hot tub
- 50 Cover
- 51 Rds.

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EMPLOYMENT



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)
FT & 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

PT & Casual Activities Assistant

TO APPLY:
www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/
More Info? Contact Human Resources
218-666-6220
humanresources@cookhospital.org

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Considerations of personal privacy, time and resources prevent the newspaper from investigating ads placed in the classified section...

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...

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

MS SUPPORT GROUP - meets the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building...

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...

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

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...

VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S MEETING - Ladies by the Lake. Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church...

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...

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.

Find It Here

King Crossword Answers Solution time: 26 mins. GLEAM NOT AMS MAGNA OBI RAW AMONG BOLOGNA TAMALE ROSY JAR ABE AGNES ASIA AROMA NAPLES VENICE SUEDE STOW MOLAR RNA EYE OPEC SISTER TRIESTE OPALS HAG PAIS LETIT SHH ART LEEDS

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AGE 55+ WORKERS NEEDED for light custodial work at DNR Orr Office. Contact Green View at 651-639-1913. 10/22v

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. Includes a hexagonal grid puzzle and difficulty indicators.

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

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Super Crossword SEVEN THREE WAYS

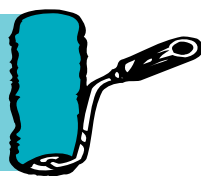
- ACROSS 1 Verbal quirk from the 43rd U.S. president 8 Actor Gabe 14 "Go ahead" hand gesture 20 Diplomatic agreement 21 "Stop already!" 22 Workweek ender 23 Disturb calm piccolo players? 26 Alley — 27 Card game with melding 28 Chef Emeril 29 Rival of Bing 33 Singer Wilson with the 1977 hit "Telephone Man" 34 Diner patron 35 Most agile men of the cloth persevere? 42 Moreno of film 43 Goddess of dawn 44 — Na Na 45 Noisy baby toys make an aspiring actress jump? 56 Hilo "hello" 57 Related to fat, in biochemistry 58 Neighbor of a Syrian 59 Tiny drink 60 Directive to Danno on "Hawaii Five-O" 62 French actor Delon 63 More sickly-looking buccaneers wander around? 71 Tiny bits 72 At minimum 73 Above, to poets 74 It links England and France 77 Retina part 79 Actor Romero 81 Shows where a few food-industry calves are hiding? 85 Rage 86 Suffix of sugars 87 Yale attendees 88 Threw away the most rigid filaments? 100 Salk vaccine target 101 — pronounce you ... 102 Make certain 103 Add to a database 106 Munich's state 109 Actor Romero 110 Doorkeeper's purplish-red uniform ID? 115 River through the Carolinas 116 Devoted fan 117 "Let's do this now" 118 Letter-shaped tracks in metalworking 119 Softhearted 120 Operating room knives DOWN 1 Enshrouds in haze 2 Remove a lasso from, e.g. 3 Mental torpor 4 "— So Fine" (1963 hit) 5 Bank acct. earnings 6 Fr. nun, maybe 7 Former div. of Ford 8 More acute 9 Actor Aziz — Williams' role on "Happy Days" 11 Liza Minnelli's half sister Lorna 12 Water, in Peru 13 Sabres' gp. 14 In the recent past 15 Diane who played Helen in "Troy" 16 Hindu lutes 17 May 15, e.g. 18 Needlefishes 19 Wall Street market inits. 24 Exit incline 25 Lickable envelope part 30 Waist size 31 Actress Arcieri or Kenzle 32 Punta del —, Uruguay 34 To be, to Nero 36 Prof's aides 37 Alien-seeking proj. 38 Recounted 39 Dot on an ocean map 40 Silverstein of kiddie lit 41 Comic actor Jacques 45 Filing tool 46 Inter — (among others) 47 Summits 48 Splashes liquid on 49 — torch (luau light) 50 Mimicker 51 Lovely stuff 52 Riverbed deposits 53 Old Russian autocrats 54 Opera tune 55 Hindu queen 60 Chewed leaf stimulant 61 Spoken exams 62 Give — of approval 64 Fork point 65 39-Down off Scotland 66 Series of gigs 67 Jazz legend Fitzgerald 68 Ask, as a question 69 Char 70 Blows it 74 Lit — (univ. course) 75 Mr., in Berlin 76 Middle layer of the eye 77 Arizona city 78 Say to be so 79 — terrier (Toto, e.g.) 80 "It's nobody — business" 82 Arty area of NYC 83 Doc for pets 84 K-12 89 Swimsuit brand 90 Certain wasp 91 Best-of-the-best groups 92 Merrill of old movies 93 Shift, as attention 94 Glossy paint 95 1957 Jimmy Dorsey hit 96 Mattress size 97 Mom's sis 98 Saw things while asleep 99 Marsh plants (replace) 103 Pre- — 104 Scottish turn downs 105 Neutrogena shampoo brand 106 Expressed, as a farewell 107 Lots 108 Blue dye 111 Comedy bit 112 — loss 113 Rival of AOL 114 Misc. abbr.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120

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