



Inside:
Teachers reject 2142 contract... See /3
Bois Forte Veteran stories... See /11
Slow start to deer opener...See /4B

The TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 32, ISSUE 45 November 12, 2021 \$1⁰⁰

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

COVID numbers keep on rising across the state

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- While the country overall has seen new COVID cases decline for over five consecutive weeks, Minnesota appears to be headed in the opposite direction, at least according to the latest data.

Daily case numbers hit heights not seen since last year

On Monday, state health officials reported 4,253 new cases and 34 new deaths, which appears to be the largest single-day case count since the tail end of the massive November/December 2020 spike. All

counties in Minnesota are still in the CDC's "high transmission" category, with the seven-day case positivity test rate skyrocketing to 14.9 percent, three times the benchmark measure for unchecked

community spread. The news isn't any better in St. Louis County, according to the most recent data available on the county's COVID dashboard. The seven-day average of new daily cases hit 124.9

on Nov. 3, a whopping 42 percent increase in only two weeks. The total of 204 new cases reported on Nov. 3 was the highest daily case count for the county since

See...COVID pg. 11



VETERANS DAY

Vintage flag unlocks story of fallen soldier

Discovery linked to Sudan man who died in WW I

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

TOWER- For years, Clair Helmberger, of Tower, has hunted treasure of various kinds, so when the contents of an old garage in Tower were offered for sale this past spring, the hunt for treasure was afoot again.

And this time, there was indeed treasure to be found, historical treasures 100 years old and more, including an oversized 48-star American flag that once draped the coffin of the first area soldier to be killed in battle in World War I.

The garage had once belonged to lifelong Tower-Soudan resident Rick Nelson, a U.S. Army veteran who died in a Virginia care center in June 2021, at the age of 73.

The Tower Economic Development Authority had acquired Nelson's former property in May 2020, and as part of ongoing efforts to clean it up for future use, the



Above, Tower resident Clair Helmberger and Richard Hanson, museum curator of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society, display a 48-star American flag that once draped the coffin of the first area soldier to be killed in battle in World War I. photo by M. Helmberger

More veterans

Radio series preserves stories of Bois Forte veterans. Page 11

contents of the garage were offered for sale last spring. Helmberger's offer of \$250 was the only one received by TEDA, and they approved the sale in June.

Helmberger knew there was a lot of wood in the garage, but when she started looking around, it was an old suitcase tucked in a corner that caught her eye.

"I opened it up and found the flag and all these other things," Helmberger said, things that included old photographs and

See...FLAG pg. 10



CITY OF TOWER

Setterberg appointed as mayor

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— Dave Setterberg is Tower's new mayor following council action here on Monday. The council voted unanimously to appoint Setterberg to fill the remaining term of Orlyn Kringstad, who resigned as mayor in September.

Setterberg was first appointed to the council in January 2020 to fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of Steve Abrahamson. But Setterberg easily won election to a four-year term on the council just over a year ago. Setterberg had served as acting mayor under Kringstad and has filled in at the position over the past several weeks.

In accepting the mayor's job, Setterberg gives up the remaining three years of his current council term. He'll face the voters again in November 2022, should he choose to seek election as mayor or another council seat.

With Setterberg appointed as mayor, the council appointed Tom Suihkonen as a new member of the council. Suihkonen, the husband of current ambulance supervisor Dena Suihkonen, was the only applicant for the position. Suihkonen was not present at the meeting and will presumably be sworn into office at the council's next meeting, set for Monday, Nov. 22.

See...TOWER pg. 9



Dave Setterberg

ISD 696

Ely school board pushes back on open forum false claims

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The efforts of the Ely school board to protect the rights of free speech at their business meeting open forums has quickly morphed into a local conspiracy theory that ISD 696 wants to eliminate the right to address the school board.

In response to contentious

meetings over COVID face mask mandates earlier this fall, where some audience members, in a mob-like atmosphere of cheering and disruptive behavior, verbally attacked school district employees, the school board is considering updating their open forum policy.

At a study session last month, board chair Ray Marsnik introduced changes to the open

meeting forum that calls for those who wish to speak to the board to fill out a request form in advance. He also suggested possible school district action under Minnesota state disorderly conduct laws for those who continue to attempt to damage the reputation and credibility of school district staff.

The first reading of the locally-revised Minnesota School Boards Association Policy 206

concerning public participation in school board meetings was held Monday night. After three such readings, the board will vote to adopt the policy.

Marsnik went out of his way last month to directly say he was not seeking to eliminate the public forum at school board meetings.

Despite what Rep. Pete Stauber asserted in a recent locally-published editorial, neither

parents nor any other member of the public has a constitutional right to provide input at school board meetings.

In fact, public input is not required by any public body under open meeting laws, although most do allow for it as a courtesy to the public. Space must be made available for the public to attend

See...ELY pg. 9



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Community notices

Outdoor Story Stroll at Arrowhead Library System, Nov. 18

MT IRON- You're invited to an Outdoor Story Stroll at Arrowhead Library System (ALS) on Thursday, Nov. 18 from 2-4 p.m. The featured title will be Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear? by Bill Martin Jr., illustrated by Eric Carle. The Story Stroll will contain laminated big book pages attached to metal stakes placed at 8-foot intervals in a safe outdoor environment for families. This activity combines the joy of reading with the benefits of being active outdoors. Visitors are encouraged to park in the front lot and signs will be posted. Following your stroll, select free books from the ALS Little Free Bookmobile and pick up a take-and-make craft. This self-guided event is suitable for toddler and preschool-aged kids and their families. The event will take place snow or shine. Arrowhead Library System is located at 5528 Emerald Ave. in Mt. Iron.

Applications open for \$20,000 Alworth Scholarships

REGIONAL- The annual application period for STEM students hoping to be awarded \$20,000 Alworth Scholarships began Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 15, 2022.

To be considered, current high school seniors, including those who are homeschooled, must have an interest in pursuing a bachelor's degree in mathematics or scientific fields of study and reside in one of these northern Minnesota counties: Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Lake, Itasca, Koochiching, or St. Louis.

Application forms and full eligibility criteria, including the types of majors for which Alworth funds are provided, may be found at www.AlworthScholarship.org. To assist with the process, the Alworth Foundation is partnering with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation for three online sessions during the coming months. Salo Downs and Karen Sunderman of the Community Foundation will share application best practices with students and their parents at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 18; noon on Monday, Dec. 13; and 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 3. Send an email to alworth@alworthscholarship.org or ksunderman@dsacommunityfoundation.com to obtain the Zoom meeting information.

Call for submissions: The Thunderbird Review

CLOQUET- The English Department at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (FDLTC) is excited to announce "The Thunderbird Review, Volume 10" and is calling for high-quality creative work to be submitted. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 15.

The Thunderbird Review is an inclusive journal based out of FDLTC. Each year the journal looks for work that speaks to the human condition and that fulfills the college's goal to create a union of cultures.

Submission eligibility includes current residents or individuals with a strong connection to the Twin Ports area and the surrounding counties and tribal nations in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula in Michigan, plus current students who are enrolled at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, University of Wisconsin-Superior, University of Minnesota-Duluth, College of St. Scholastica, or Lake Superior College.

Submissions must fall into one of four different categories: short fiction (5,000 words maximum), creative non-fiction (5,000 words maximum), poetry (three poems maximum, submitted in one document), and art (three works maximum; any media, but art must be submitted as a JPEG via email).

Authors and artists may submit one entry per category except as noted above. The Thunderbird Review selection committee will not accept work that has previously been published, is under consideration elsewhere, or has received an award.

Submitted works must be sent via email to anthology@fdlcc.edu with the subject "Anthology Submission" and only email submissions will be accepted. On each submission, please provide contact information including the submitter's name, address, telephone number, email address, the title(s) of works being submitted, and a 50-word bio written in third person. The author's name should not be on submitted manuscripts, although artwork may be signed. Writing entries should use Times New Roman size 12 font and be sent as an attachment in .doc or .docx format. Submissions must be sent via email to anthology@fdlcc.edu using the words "Anthology Submission" in the subject line. All contributors selected for the final publication will receive one complimentary copy. Any questions, or requests to get a copy of the journal, may be directed to Darci Schummer at dschummer@fdlcc.edu.

CHARITABLE DONATION

Dr. George Erickson donates \$200,000

Gift was given to several organizations in memory of his wife, Sally



Eveleth resident Dr. George Erickson presented \$200,000 in donations to be split among North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity, American Red Cross serving Northern Minnesota, and United Way of Northeastern Minnesota. Pictured are from left; NSLCHF Executive Director Nathan Thompson, Dr. Erickson, UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay, and American Red Cross serving Northern Minnesota Executive Director Dan Williams. submitted photo

VIRGINIA- Growing up in Virginia, Dr. George Erickson says he "was always inspired by people who shared." Together, he and wife of 65 years, Sally, became people who shared, donating to local organizations and causes through the years, including playing a key role in the construction of the indoor tennis courts in Virginia.

Sally passed away last month, and in her honor George presented \$200,000 in donations to local organizations - \$100,000 to North St. Louis County Habitat For Humanity (NSLCHF), \$50,000 to American Red Cross serving Northern Minnesota, and \$50,000 to United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN). In addition, Erickson intends to donate \$150,000 more to 12 local and regional charities in Sally's name.

"Without (Sally's) encouragement and support, none of these contributions would have been possible," Erickson said.

NSLCHF Executive Director Nathan Thompson, Red Cross Executive Director Dan Williams, and UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay thanked Erickson for his generosity, all three noting the challenging landscape of fundraising in times of crisis while needs increase.

Erickson, a retired dentist, has traveled the world - everywhere from the Arctic to Australia, served on numerous community boards, and has written five books, including a best seller. He chalks up his successes to "growing up in good times, in a good country, with good parents" - and of course, to his late wife.

"Everything that's worked so well for me couldn't have happened without her," he said.

The couple decided to make this donation prior to Sally's passing.

Erickson said it has given him and his wife "great pleasure" over the years to see their donations

in action. He said they chose to donate \$200,000 among the three organizations because they have the largest reach in the area.

The donations come at a fitting time for each organization. NSLCHF is currently planning next year's building season, and Erickson's donation will allow the board to explore ways to increase Habitat's capacity to serve more families with homeownership, during a time when affordable housing is a critical issue, Thompson said.

The Red Cross, facing dire blood shortages and increased costs for sheltering local fire victims, plans to create an opportunity for local donors to match Erickson's funds.

"I hope this encourages people who have the ability to give, to give," Williams said.

UWNEMN, currently in the midst of its campaign season, is facing increased needs, increased costs, and increased challenges to fundraising to support

local nonprofits and its own direct service programs like Buddy Backpacks.

"Seventy percent of our funding comes directly from individuals, and we are struggling to get in front of people to tell our story," Shay said. "(Erickson's donation) is huge."

Fundraising for nonprofits has suffered across the world in recent years.

"The nonprofit world works hard to help, and it also needs help in times of crisis," Thompson said. "We (local organizations) all hung onto each other to survive the pandemic and help those who needed it... We can't do it alone, but with our agencies, together, and our community - our volunteers and donors like George - that's the only way we will accomplish (our goals)."

Erickson said he considers the donation "a privilege."

"My wife is the one doing this," he added. "I'm just an agent."

ELY FOLK SCHOOL

A Quiltmaker's Journey

Folk school hosts trunk show and lecture, Nov. 13

ELY - Helen Smith Stone, a quilt maker for more than 40 years, will share her passion for this art form at the Ely Folk School on Saturday, Nov. 13.

A one-hour lecture/trunk show will begin at 2 p.m. and participants will hear what inspired Stone to become a quilter, see how her quilt making style has changed over the years, and learn who has influenced her work and why.

Tuition is \$20. Register at www.elyfolkschool.org.

While showing 20-25 quilts, Stone will share some of her proudest achievements as well as some of her challenges along this creative journey. She hopes to inspire participants to become quilt makers too, or, for those who already make quilts, to try some new techniques.

Stone is the founder/owner of Quilting on the Waterfront (QW), a small

business that focuses on providing education to quilt makers: machine piecing, machine quilting, and art quilting techniques. She especially enjoys teaching "beginner" quilters, helping them get off to a good start.

Her first experience with needles and thread was at the age of eight when her mother taught her hand-embroidery. Later she became interested in sewing machines and her journey of working with fabric and thread began.

Home Economics, 4-H classes, and good teachers propelled Stone forward into first sewing doll clothes and later making clothing for herself. But, when she saw her grandmother's collection of quilts, she was smitten. "I knew then that I wanted to learn how to create quilts," she said.

Many years later she made her first quilt, a baby

quilt for her son. From there, quilt-making became Stone's passion and art form.

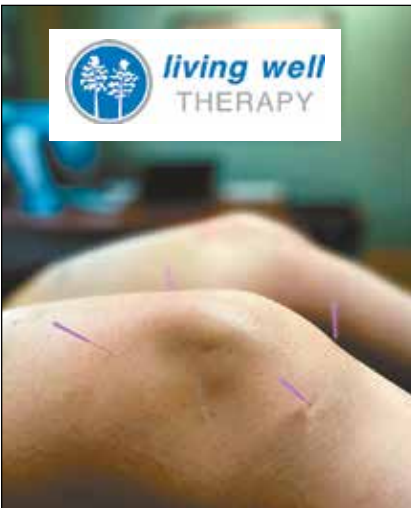
An award-winning quilter, she presented a quilt show/conference (Quilting on the Waterfront) at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) in 2002, 2004, and 2006, bringing in more than 6,000 attendees each year. She continued to produce smaller quilt shows at The Inn on Lake Superior-Duluth until 2012. She enjoys teaching and sharing her quilts through trunk shows, workshops, and special exhibits.

Her work has been published in Joanne Larsen Line's books: Quilts from the Quiltmaker's Gift, and More Quilts from the Quiltmaker's Gift. She has also been featured in a machine quilting book by Sue Nickels, Machine Quilting: A Primer of

Techniques; in a paper-piecing book by Claudia Clark Myers of Duluth, A Passion for Piecing; and in three QuiltArt Engagement Calendars by American Quilters Society (AQS).

In 2001, Stone started a quilt guild to help educate and inspire new and experienced quilters and to encourage the making and donating of quilts to local charitable organizations. Northern Lights Machine Quilters Guild (NLMQG) is based in Duluth and has 70 members.

She worked in the education profession for over 35 years: The Marshall School, Duluth Public Schools, KUMD-Public Radio, WDSE-Public TV, and the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD). She participates in a variety of online classes and said she strongly believes in lifelong learning.



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GREAT RIVER ENERGY

GRE clean energy transition brings era of rate stability

Most Great River Energy member-owner cooperatives will see wholesale rates decrease in 2022

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The power supplier for most rural electric cooperatives in Minnesota, including Lake Country Power, will be reducing the price of its wholesale power as it transitions rapidly away from coal as its primary source of energy.

Even at a time when prices are rising for many other products and sources of energy, Great River officials say they see rate stability in the foreseeable future for most of the 28 member cooperatives

it serves across most of Minnesota. That includes Lake Country Power, which serves an 11,000-square-mile region with 43,000 customers.

“We spent over a decade transitioning to a portfolio of power supply and transmission resources to efficiently serve our member-owner cooperatives,” said Great River Energy CEO David Saggau. “The benefits of those decisions are now being felt. Wholesale rate stability is incredibly important to our member systems in greater Minnesota that are seeing

sharp increases in other costs.”

Mark Bakk, general manager at Lake Country Power, agrees.

“With costs increasing in many areas, we welcome stability on our largest annual expense,” Bakk said.

Company officials say their stable wholesale rate projections are due in large part to changes in the way Great River Energy produces and purchases energy. The cooperative plans to eliminate coal from its owned power supply resources, more than double

its use of renewable sources of power and purchase a greater portion of energy from the Midwest energy market, which increasingly relies on renewable sources of power.

According to the company, these changes put Great River Energy on track to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by more than 80 percent by 2023, surpassing Minnesota’s statewide emissions goal more than 25 years ahead of schedule.

The company’s transition to renewable sources of power includes selling off

its 1,150-megawatt Coal Creek Station in central North Dakota. At the same time, the company plans to convert its 99-megawatt Spiritwood Station from coal and natural gas to operate primarily on natural gas.

The company had planned to shut down its Coal Creek Station in 2022, due to high operating costs, but intense lobbying by the state of North Dakota eventually convinced the company to sell the facility to Rainbow Energy, a marketing company with no prior experience operating

a power plant. Under the controversial deal, Great River will purchase the plant’s electricity for two years, and then will buy a much smaller percentage of the plant’s output for eight more years.

The costs of alternatives, like wind and solar, have dropped dramatically in recent years, yet because these renewable sources are variable, they can create issues with reliability during periods when the wind doesn’t blow or the sun doesn’t shine. Power

See ENERGY...pg. 5

ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

ISD 2142 board, teachers at odds over contract

Tentative agreement nixed by union vote

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- When ISD 2142 school board members met on Oct. 26, they presumed that the new two-year teacher contract they approved was all but a done deal. But members of the district’s teachers’ union, Education Minnesota Local 1046, had other ideas, overwhelmingly rejecting the offer in their most recent contract vote. The decision will send negotiators back to the table.

“We had a tentative agreement with the teachers’ union, but when they went to vote, it did not pass,” Superintendent Reggie Engebritson informed the school board on Monday. “I am not sure why, as we have not heard from the union.”

Local 1046 President Tim Herring responded to a *Timberjay* email on Tuesday morning with more details.

“There was a tentative agreement in place,” Herring said. “We met with

the district four times before we filed for mediation, as we felt regressive bargaining was taking place. Once the mediator was involved things went very smoothly. Our negotiations team felt the tentative agreement was the best contract we were going to be offered. However, our membership did not feel the same. The school board approved it, and the teachers voted it down. As far as sticking points, we are in the process of surveying our members

to find exactly what those sticking points are.”

Herring said that the union took two votes on the contract. The first, on Oct. 27, ended in a tie. In a second vote on Nov. 3, the membership overwhelmingly rejected the offer, he said.

“It’s in our best interest to get the best contract possible for our teachers and ultimately our students,” said Herring. “If teachers feel valued and respected, it shows in their job per-

formance as well as the students’ education. It is in the district’s best interest to be financially responsible.”

Among items negotiated in the rejected agreement was a 1.25-percent increase in salaries in the second year of the contract. A one-percent stipend would be paid to teachers on steps G through P of the salary matrix the first year. The deal would have also removed the current step for starting teacher salaries, something Engebritson said

would, “allow us to offer a higher wage to attract new teachers.”

The agreement also included retirement plan enhancements, an extra personal day teachers could purchase, and increased hourly pay when teachers are asked to substitute during designated prep times.

Engebritson characterized the tone of negotiations this year as “professional,”

See 2142...pg. 5

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Editorial

The price of power

We need new ways of compensating utilities to encourage conservation

Minnesota Power’s proposed rate increase is further evidence that we need new ways to compensate utilities for the services they provide to society. Electrical utilities are in the business of selling power, yet we know that the generation of that power has environmental consequences. Even renewable sources of energy, like wind and solar, which we think of as the greenest sources of electrical energy, require resources and manufacturing production that impacts the environment.

There is, however, a totally clean and sustainable source of electrical power: energy conservation. It was energy expert Amory Lovins who coined the term “negawatt” to refer to the energy we can “produce” simply by never having to produce it at all.

For years, Minnesota has required utilities to invest in energy efficiency, which most have done through various rebate programs. But utilities have an obvious disincentive to really ramp up their conservation efforts. As Minnesota Power noted in its rate increase submittal, the company’s customers have been quite good at finding ways to cut their power usage in recent years. Appliances have become much more efficient and LEDs have transformed lighting in the U.S., both thanks to requirements put in place by the Obama administration. This saves consumers each month on their power bills.

Those savings, however, mean lost revenue for utilities that make their money by the kilowatt-hour sold. Which is part of the reason that Minnesota Power says it needs a rate increase. Ideally, home and business owners should respond to higher electric rates by continuing to reduce their power usage, which could easily blunt the impact of an increase in rates. The technologies that are readily available today that can help us manage our electrical use are remarkable. Keep in mind, we use electricity to provide the conveniences we expect these days. If we can enjoy all those conveniences with less electricity (i.e. less money out of the wallet each month), the better for everyone.

Everyone except Minnesota Power, that is. This is why we need to rethink how utilities reap the economic rewards for the essential service they provide.

For example, currently, regulated utilities like Minnesota Power are guaran-

teed a certain rate of return, based on the capital investments they make to produce and distribute power to customers. That means utilities have less incentive to invest in energy conservation programs, which aren’t considered capital investments, as compared to new investments in power generating facilities or distribution capacity. By allowing for investments in energy efficiency to be included in those rate of return calculations, utilities would have a major incentive to boost their conservation efforts. Tax incentives and grants for meeting conservation targets, would be another way to provide utilities with the incentives needed as we transition away from a carbon-based power generation system.

Energy conservation is one of the best investments we can make as a country. This doesn’t mean sacrifice. In fact, it means just the opposite. It means equal or even greater convenience for customers at lower cost. It also means huge numbers of productive new jobs for Americans that help in the fight against climate change and habitat destruction that follows every new investment in new power production capacity.

We know that there will be a need for new power generating capacity in the very near future. The stage is now being set for a transition from oil as the primary source of energy in our transportation system to electricity, and that transition will require new sources of electrical generation. We can help to limit the impacts from those new sources of power by doing all we can to improve efficiency at every level on the consumption side.

Our electric utilities have a major role to play in that effort, and many, like Minnesota Power, are proving that they are taking their role seriously. But they could do more, especially if we ramp up the rewards for investments in energy conservation and efficiency. As regulated industries, our laws guarantee power companies a certain rate of return on the megawatts they generate. We need to start providing the same guarantees on the *negawatts* they could, and should, be producing. That’s how we’ll transition to carbon-free power with minimal impact to customers.



Letters from Readers

Honoring all veterans in the endless fight for freedom

As we honor the veterans who have fought on the battlefields of war, let us also honor and remember those veterans who have fought on the battlefields of justice, equality and freedom.

On Dec. 2, 1859, John Brown was led to his execution. Louisa M. Alcott on that day christened him, “Saint John the Just.” On that same day, Longfellow wrote: “This will be a great day in history; the date of a new revolution, quite as much needed as the old one. Even now as I write, they are leading Old John Brown to execution in Virginia for attempting to rescue slaves! This is sowing the wind to reap the whirlwind, which will come soon.”

On that day that John Brown was hanged in Charlestown, Virginia, Thoreau said; “Some eighteen hundred years ago Christ was crucified. This morning, Captain Brown was hanged. These are two ends of a chain which is not without its links. He is not Old John Brown any longer, he is an angel of light.”

With every drop of his honest blood John Brown hated slavery, and in his early life he resolved to lay his life on Freedom’s altar in wiping out the affliction of slavery. He never faltered, so God-like was his unconquerable soul that he dared to face the world alone. His great heart was set upon a higher objective, and a loftier ambition. A race of human beings, despised and dismissed, were in chains, and this malignant crime was destroying the heart of civilization.

Who shall be our modern-day John Brown of wage slavery?

The Grand Old Woman of the revolutionary movement was the appropriate title given to Mother Jones. From the time of the Pullman Strike on May 11 to July 20 in 1894, she first came into prominence. Four thousand factory workers walked out after their wages were cut, with thirty workers dying.

This brave woman fought the battles of the oppressed with a heroism more exalted than ever sustained by a soldier upon the field of carnage. For many weary months she lived amid the most

desolate regions of West Virginia, organizing the starving miners, sharing her meagre staples with their families, nursing the sick. She was a true minister of mercy.

In the Colorado strikes Mother Jones was feared, as was no other, by the criminal corporations. She was as feared by them as she was loved by the sturdy miners she led again and again in the face of overwhelming odds. She had won her way into the hearts of the country’s labor forces, and her name was revered at the altar of their humble firesides and will be forever lovingly remembered by their children and their children’s children.

Who shall be our modern-day Mother Jones of justice?

No man has ever written more personal letters, clearly revealing the inner and spiritual processes of growth than Eugene Debs, whose acknowledged conscious kinship to the manifestations of the universe never ends. Whoever has brushed with his magnetism has never forgotten the experience. They became quickly conscious of standing in the presence of a fearless teacher for truth.

Who shall be our modern-day Eugene Debs, the fearless speaker of telling truth to the tyranny of power?

Following the election of 2021, and the election of our new sought-after hope, let’s all progress to become veterans in bringing about the single most important quality needed to resist evil—the establishment of the moral autonomy that the corporate state has set out to destroy.

Tim Duff
Ely and Tonka Bay

I’m pleased to have served on the EBCH board

My tenure on the EBCH board is coming to an end, and I would like to thank the caring, hard-working staff at the hospital. The dedication to quality compassionate care has continually amazed me and made me proud to be a small part of the hospital. Nine years ago, I was asked to join the hospital board and joined a group of men and women who brought various perspectives and skills to

the board. I was honored to be asked to serve. The hospital board consisted of various community members from different professions, such as business owners, bankers, teachers, professionals with a vision of the future and an understanding of our community. They brought a fresh perspective and a commitment to our viability in these changing times.

In my nine years on the board, I have watched our hospital go from considering being merged into a much larger entity with most services being provided farther away from Ely to an expansion of services that can be provided right here in Ely. We now have options for some infusions, a podiatrist, an orthopedist, and a surgeon who uses a state of art robot to perform a number of procedures safely and with quicker recovery. We have invested in radiology and laboratory equipment that allows our community members to stay right here in Ely.

Our reputation as a leading Critical Access Hospital has been recognized by the Minnesota Hospital Association. Our quality of care is excellent and the staff has been complimented many times by people who have received care at EBCH. Every week, a letter or email is sent to thank EBCH staff for their attention and quality of care. Healthcare is changing fast and many smaller hospitals are closing or being swallowed up by large medical systems. People are being forced to travel farther and personal service is diminishing.

Here at EBCH, we are bucking the trend and marching forward into the future. Our finances are strong, our care above average, and our staff and leadership are the envy of many hospitals. I am proud and humbled to have been a small part of it all.

I do believe having a diverse board with different backgrounds from various professions and skills has been vital in our ability to remain a viable independent hospital. That being said, I want to say thank you again to all the staff at the hospital for being such a shining example of how to provide excellent, compassionate care and have optimism for the future of our little hospital.

Susan Edgington
Ely

Fighting the urge to hibernate

This past weekend with my son was a blast. I took him for three hikes in three days. I finally got outside again after a brief “hibernation” over the month of October. I wasn’t ready to adapt to the cooling weather but I also knew I couldn’t realistically-



STEPHANIE UKKOLA

ly spend six months locked in my house.

After the last 80-degree day in early October I retreated indoors, unwilling to accept that the sun was lower in the sky, the days were cooler and the leaves falling. I’ve always been a summer person and

I was really dreading the thought of wearing jackets and trudging through the snow. Every time I had to go outside, I’d repeat to myself, “I don’t like it here; it’s too cold.” I dreamed of joining the ranks of my snowbird friends or going to see my family who lives in the South (and maybe not coming back).

Despite a fairly warm October I put my bike away and put off the outdoor projects I had hoped to get done before winter

because of my reluctance to adjust to and accept the cooler weather. Instead of bike rides I spent my time cleaning the house, playing games and doing puzzles with the kids, cooking, and watching too much television. After what felt like a summer of non-stop busy work in my yard and garden it felt really good to finally have some time to relax. I spent what felt like forever waiting for a frost to come and kill my garden. I love gardening

but I was not interested in caring for it in 50-degree weather and I was so ready for a break from it. “Can’t you just die already?!” It finally did on Oct. 21 and I haven’t bothered to do much of anything in there since, aside from pick the last of the carrots, cabbage and Brussels sprouts.

Many people say fall is their favorite season, including my partner. People love the colors, the fright, sweaters, scarves and pumpkin spice. I like

those things too; there was even a time when I worked on the Duluth Haunted Ship that October was my favorite time of year. It was incredibly fun dreaming up the monsters that keep people up at night and then watching them in action. After having kids, I dramatically lost my enthusiasm for Halloween and love of scary movies, though I still cherish the memories of my “scary family” on the ship.

See **COLD...**pg. 5

CALLING FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Group draws attention to climate for the kids’ sake

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Whether the weather is hot or cold, sunshine or rain or snow, Fred Schumacher, of Greaney, and others can be seen alongside Highway 53 in Cook every Friday holding up signs for passing motorists. It’s not about the weather, Schumacher said. It’s about climate change.

Schumacher said that the small group is responding in solidarity with Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg’s “school strike” for action against climate change in 2018, an event that has inspired a series of youth-driven global climate strikes in subsequent years, the most recent observed in more than 90 countries on Sept. 24.

“They’re the ones that are the motivation. It’s the kids that are really kind of driving this thing, because it’s their world,” Schumacher said. “We’re kind of following along with the kids. We just decided that every Friday from noon to 1 p.m. we’ll be out here with signs.”

Sporting signs with slogans such as “Climate Action Now” and “There is no PLAN(et) B,” three others joined Schumacher on the sidewalk last Friday, including Leah Rogne, his wife.

“Climate change is happening, and the human part of it is real,” Rogne said. “We know that because of

the fires this year. Anybody who’s lived here for any length of time knows that the forest is changing. I’m getting more maple trees on my land, and the boreal forest is receding at a rapid rate. And at our latitude, we are changing faster than many parts of the United States. So, it’s here, it’s happening.”

Kathleen McQuillan said that she’s been observing changes for long time.

“I’ve been at this for 50 years, in truth,” she said. “My sign says, ‘Time is running out.’ The science is clear that we need to move faster on reducing the stress that we’re putting on the planet. I see an incredible change in the number of animals and the health of the forest. I know that this much pressure for this many decades has had an impact, even though it’s considered a renewable resource. There’s so many of us now, so we have to look at how we live, and how to reduce our personal impact in each of our lives. We live in a big world with a lot of people that are struggling just to get the basics. Americans are so beyond the basics, and we have to rethink the way we live.”

Kevin Steva framed the climate dilemma more bluntly.

“We’re at war with the future of our country, the future of our world, and the future of our grandchildren,” he said. “Climate change is the biggest issue in my family’s life. I have grandchildren, ten grand-

children. The science is clear – we know climate change is happening, and we’re not addressing it fast enough. My sign is all about doing something now. We’ve been talking about it long enough. We need to take action.”

Schumacher said he’s experienced the effects of climate change and erratic weather with farmland he owns and rents in North Dakota.

“My renter, I just talked with him this week. We have beans on our land. Their final yield came in at about 36 bushels per acre, just middling,” he said. “His fields and his father’s farm together ran between 19 and 60. I used to say that in 10 years you get two good years, five mediocre to middling years, and three really bad years. That’s how you could plan things out, but now you can’t plan anything.”

Reactions

All four present on Friday said that the overwhelming response from passing drivers has been positive.

“I think people are starting to recognize that we’re really up against the wall on this,” Schumacher said. “Something has to be done.”

“I would say (the response) is generally favorable, which is a little bit surprising,” Steva said. “Some people clearly don’t agree. They indicate that when they go by, using hand gestures, but you get a lot



From left, Kathleen McQuillan, Keith Steva, and Leah Rogne advocate for climate change action on a Cook street corner last Friday.
photo by D. Colburn

of people with very positive smiles, waving, honking. I think probably two-thirds, maybe three-quarters of the people, seem to agree, which is a pretty high percentage.”

In a time defined by the restriction of the COVID-19 pandemic, McQuillan sees a particular benefit to being out on the sidewalk with signs.

“It’s hard for people to connect right now. It has been all along,” she said. “To be out on the corner with our message just

makes people think about it for a few seconds, and that’s important. There’s so much pressing in on everybody about what to think. This deserves a few seconds of their time.”

And conversely, McQuillan draws energy from those positive acknowledgements from passers-by.

“We get lots of people beeping and waving, and I think it makes us feel like we don’t have these feelings just all alone, that there are other people that think like

we do or worry about the same things that we do. I get encouragement and strength from that.”

The numbers may vary a bit from week to week, but Schumacher said people can count on them being there at the corner of Highway 53 and River St. on Fridays from noon to 1 p.m., and he invited others concerned about climate change to join them.

COLD...Continued from page 4

I guess I regret not making the best of the last warmish days. But, for me, there’s an adjustment period. It took me a long while to accept and acclimate to the cooler time of year. Eventually I came to a point when I realized that I can’t stay inside all winter and I may as well get used to it. Once you get used to the new normal it’s not so bad anymore. After I re-learn how to deal with the 50-degree weather, the 30s and eventually negatives aren’t much harder. Picking out a new light jacket from Piragis is what finally got me out the door.

This weekend I made up for the lost time outdoors and took my kids on several hikes in the Tower-Soudan area. We started at

the Soudan Underground Mine State Park. There are many shorter, kid-friendly trails I like to take advantage of. My two-year-old daughter, Dot, is pretty pokey and doesn’t get too far too fast. We have to make a lot of stops for her to explore the world at her own pace. I remind myself that it’s about the journey, not the destination. We had to stop for quite some time while she got out her urge to hit a pine seedling with a stick out of her system. “I’m wapping the tree!” she said. Meanwhile, my son and I made ourselves comfortable and watched a squirrel who was yelling at us from his perch.

On our second walk, I took my three-year-old son Edwin on the state

park’s West Tower Mine Trail. We decided to leave dawdle duckling home with her dad. The trail goes by the park’s deepest open pit. Looking into the pit makes me sort of dizzy. It’s so deep it really rattles my brain. I explained to Ed how it was dug using explosives, he liked that. We tried to come up with ideas about how the miners could have gotten down so deep. We experimented by shouting “ECHO” over the different pits and into the elevator shaft to the underground mine.

It felt so good to be able to just be outside and freely enjoy my time. My summer felt like it had been lost to the demands of the garden. On our walk I tried to teach Ed some of the wilderness

survival tips I know. I told Ed about what to do if you see a bear or if you get lost in the woods. Oops! Ed started acting scared in the middle of our loop, “I want to go home,” he said. My educational talks freaked him out. We stopped and had a snack and he told me he was afraid of running into a bear. I talked some more about it. I told him there’s nothing to worry about and that there probably are not any bears around anyway. In retrospect, despite it being early afternoon, it was pretty cloudy and dark.

Our last hike we took as a family, on the Ancient Cedar Trail in Tower. Dot and her dad Mack hardly made it to the trail entrance and spent most of their time playing on the snowmobile

trail bridge while Ed and I took a short loop trail. The heavy, damp air of that forest makes my heart swoon.

Now that I’ve acclimated, I’m going to try to make the best of what we’ve got and stop complaining. After all, we only have one

life to live and most days won’t be 75 and sunny so it’s best to just be thankful for the days we have, no matter the weather or the season.

ENERGY...Continued from page 3

producers like Great River are increasingly relying on peaking plants to provide that backup source of energy for those periods when renewable sources aren’t producing.

“Great River Energy’s peaking plants can begin feeding electricity to the grid within minutes,” according to a report provided to the *Timberjay* by Great River Energy. “This allows Great River to respond rapidly to market signals, which can arise from reductions in renew-

able energy production, increases in demand, or imbalance on the grid.”

Most of Great River’s peaking plants operate on both natural gas and fuel oil, but because they only operate about ten percent of the time, their carbon emissions are much lower than plants that run all the time.

Great River Energy is working with Form Energy, a battery storage technology developer, on a demonstration project using multi-day storage

technology. If successful, the technology could allow utilities to bank variable sources of power for use during periods of lower production.

Great River’s announcement of rate reductions and forecasted price stability comes in the wake of last week’s announcement by Minnesota Power that it is seeking an 18-percent increase in its electric rates, in part due to the cost of its transition to carbon-free sources of power.

But for Great River customers, the shift is bringing multiple benefits.

“By shifting to more renewables and market energy, we are not only receiving wholesale power at a lower cost, but our membership is protected from any future regulations on carbon dioxide emissions,” noted Adam Tromblay, general manager at Nobles Cooperative Electric in southwestern Minnesota.

2142...Continued from page 3

with a willingness on both sides of the table to come up with a “fair contract.”

However, Local 1046 membership disagreed and with their rejection of the tentative agreement, negotiators will have to return to the table. “The plan is to go back to mediation,” Engebretson said. “We are working on a date that is agreeable for both groups.”

Other business

In other business, the board:

► Approved the sale of \$7,520,000 general obliga-

tion school building refunding bonds to BNY Mellon Capital Management, of Pittsburgh, Penn., in the amount of \$8,115,891. The proceeds from the sale will be used to pay off early \$8 million of school building bonds issued in 2014, thereby achieving debt service savings to be passed along to district taxpayers. “We are pleased with the results of the refunding bond sale bids as this will save taxpayers approximately \$345,000,” Engebretson said.

► Approved the pro-

posed sale of the district’s seven-bay bus garage in Orr to the city of Orr for \$10,000, provided that the district retains the right to use one bay for buses until such time as a bus route for Orr would be discontinued. Orr City Council members on Monday tabled the matter pending additional research, including obtaining a formal survey and assessment of the property.

► Hired Jani Jordan as Tower-Soudan community education coordinator.

► Hired Michelle Summerland as a parapro-

fessional at North Woods and Paul Kienitz as a paraprofessional at Tower-Soudan, both part-time.

► Approved Will Kleppe as North Woods boys basketball head coach, along with assistants Jerry Chiabotti, Dan Squires, and Tom Burnett (half-stipend); Liz Cheney as North Woods girls basketball head coach, along with assistants Becca Bundy and Taneesha Dupree (half-stipend); and Paxton Goodsky as NER girls basketball head coach, assisted by Ethan Stachovich.



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TIMBERJAY

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Moving? Questions about your subscription? Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.

Week of Nov. 15

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from **2:30-5:00 p.m.** Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Nov. 16.

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

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

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

Tower/Soudan Community Bible Study- Thursdays from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Tower Elementary School cafeteria. All are welcome. Call 218-984-3402 for more info.

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

Vendors needed for Tower Holiday Craft Show set for Saturday, Dec. 4
TOWER- The Tower Holiday Craft Show is tentatively being planned for Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. About half of the available tables have been spoken for, so please let us know as soon as possible if you want to participate. Tables are \$20 each (limit two 8-ft. tables per vendor) and must be reserved and paid for in advance. Checks can be made out to Friends of VCS and mailed to Friends of Vermilion Country School, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 or can be dropped off at the Timberjay office in Tower. For more information, call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

Lights of Love ceremony set for Dec. 5 in Tower
TOWER- Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners Outdoors Lights of Love Tree Lighting will be held on Sunday, Dec. 5 at 4 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. Carol singing with the Tower-Soudan Singers will follow, along with an opportunity to make donations to the Virgie Hegg Hospice program. Coffee an’ will be served outdoors.

Tower-Soudan Singers preparing for caroling
TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Area Singers are rehearsing on Monday evenings starting at 5:30 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church. The group plans to carol on Monday, Dec. 6 at the Breitung Community Hall in Soudan, and Monday, Dec. 13 at Sulu’s in Tower. They will also be performing at the Lights of Love tree lighting at the civic center on Sunday, Dec. 5 at 4 p.m.

COMMUNITY GIVING

Time to start thinking about Operation Santa

Donations needed by Dec. 16: toys, gift cards, clothing, and cash welcome

TOWER- We know it is early, but the pandemic is once again bringing challenges to this year’s Operation Santa toy drive. We are expecting to at least match last year’s tally of 195 children. We are also hoping to be able to do our shopping online if possible, so early donations are especially appreciated.

Operation Santa is a local fundraiser which purchases Christmas gifts (toys, gift cards, and warm winter items) for children whose families use the Tower Food Shelf. Last year’s total of 195 children was a new record, and thanks to everyone’s generosity, we had gifts for all!

Take advantage of the great deals, many of which are being offered right now, to bring some joy into a child’s life. Supply chain issues are expected to cause shortages of toys this holiday season, so it is best to shop early.

We have started to receive some donations, but much more is needed to make sure every child in our community receives gifts and warm clothing this Christmas season.

The effort is organized by the Timberjay and the Tower Soudan Civic Club, with help from many area groups, churches, organizations, and individuals. If your group or church is planning to donate this year, please contact Jodi at 218-753-2950. (This helps with planning!)

Lake Country Power’s Operation RoundUp® program has once again made

a very generous donation to the Tower Soudan Civic Club to help cover the cost of purchasing warm items for the children.

We are looking at donations of toys, games, art supplies, and sporting equipment for children, and gift cards to either Target or Walmart for our teenagers (\$10 or \$15). Stocking stuffer type gifts and holiday candy are also appreciated. We are always in need of gifts for infants and babies (must be labeled as safe for children under three). Gift ideas for children include games, action figures, building toys, dolls with accessories, craft sets, art supplies (including crayons and markers), sporting goods (basketballs, footballs, playground balls, sleds), puzzles, cars and trucks, and science kits. Please don’t worry about picking out the right gift; I promise there will be a child on our list who will love whatever you pick out!

If you purchase a toy that uses batteries, please also send a spare set! Donations of batteries (especially AA and AAA) are appreciated.

We also accept gently-used holiday decorations and gifts for the adults who use the food shelf. We do assemble gift bags for the senior citizens who use the food shelf, so small gifts for them are appreciated also, such as boxes of Christmas candy, candles, puzzles and puzzle books, holiday scented lotions and soaps, holiday décor, and warm socks.

Donations can be dropped off at the



Timberjay in Tower, and will be distributed at the food shelf on Dec. 21. Families who use the Tower Food Shelf and have not yet signed up, can sign up at the food shelf on Nov. 16 or call Jodi at the Timberjay at 218-753-2950, or email editor@timberjay.com.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION



Smooth driving ahead...



TOWER- The major road construction project of Pine Street between Main Street and Harbor Drive (by the entrance to Vermilion Country School) should be completed this week, though the final layer of blacktop will be applied next year. Blacktop was laid down on Monday. The road was expected to be opened to traffic by Nov. 12.

The project included a total reconstruction of the street, replacing sewer lines, installation of curb and sidewalks, rebuilding a portion of the parking lot at the civic center, and a reroute which curves the road closer to the Iron Ore Bar parking lot and joins the existing road at the entrance to the charter school. There is no longer a rear entrance (by the caboose) to the civic center parking lot. The project also installed new water and sewer lines that will connect to the proposed townhome development at the harbor. TEDA is in the process of updating the agreement with the townhome project developers. photos by J. Summit



SUPPORTING THE ARTS

Ely High school presents ‘Beauty and the Beast’

ELY - The Ely Memorial High School Musical returns for 2021 after a two-year COVID hiatus.

“Beauty and the Beast” opens at Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theatre, on Friday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 20, also at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 21, at 1 p.m. **Please note, dates have changed from the original schedule, due to COVID-19 cases among students.**

Seating could be at a premium this year as the VCC theater holds about 200 people, far less than the 900-seat capacity at Washington Auditorium.

Online tickets are available for purchase. More information is at the ISD 696 Facebok page.

From professional productions to community theatres to high school auditoriums, Beauty and the Beast has become a timeless classic for performers and audiences of all ages. It tells the story of an arrogant young prince and his castle’s servants after they fall under the spell of



Sydney Marshall plays the lead part of Belle in Beauty and the Beast this weekend at VCC. photo by K. Vandervort

an enchantress, who turns him into the hideous Beast until he learns to love and be loved in return.

Belle, the female lead, is played by senior Sidney Marshall. “Her character is a spirited, headstrong village girl who enters the Beast’s castle after he imprisons her father, Maurice, played by soph-



Ely Memorial High School students Morgan McClelland, Juliet Stouffer, and Gabe Mann worked on the set for the school play, Beauty and the Beast, during their free periods. All Industrial Arts students have had a hand in constructing the set pieces. Performances are held at VCC theater this year because Washington Auditorium is unavailable during the school renovation project. submitted photo

omore Esther Anderson,” Director Sarah Mason said. Senior Bryce Fairchild, plays the part of the Beast, a reclusive soul who finds himself with the help of Belle.

Gaston is played by senior Jon Hakala. His hilarious sidekick, LeFou, is played by sophomore Gavin Marshall. Playing the role of Lumiere, the candelabra, is Gabe Mann. Feather duster Babette is played by Gracie Pointer; Cogsworth the clock is kept in time by Matt Janeksela.

Mrs. Potts the teapot is Juliet Stouffer, and her son Chip is Mattie Lindsay. Making up the rest of the cast of about 30 are many other students, from both the middle and high school.

“After years away from the stage, these kids are thrilled to be back performing for their community,” Mason added.

Tuesday Group

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

- Nov 16: Meet New Elyites
- Nov. 23: Author Linda LeGarde Grover. She is a member of the BoisForte Band of Ojibwe and a professor emeritus of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021

early morning light
soft pink, then flavored dusk hues

extended fall delights

OUR COMMUNITY

Ely PEO organization ‘reaches for the stars’

ELY – The Ely PEO (Philanthropic Education Organization), a non-profit group where women celebrate the advancement of women, support the education of women, and motivate women to achieve their highest aspirations, is continuing their focus on education.

“We see firsthand that when women are educated it creates a lasting impact on families, communities, countries and the world,” said, current Ely chapter President Marge Forsberg. “P.E.O. has brought together more than half a million women in the United States and Canada committed to helping women advance through education while supporting and motivating

them.”

PEO began in 1869 in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and is now one of the oldest women’s organizations in North America with close to 6,000 chapters.

Ely’s Chapter FD, organized in 1995, made its first grant in 1996 to Peggy York-Jesme. “Since then, the chapter has awarded more than \$124,000 in educational assistance to area women, including Paula Hill, Brenda Olson, Peggy York-Jesme, Gina Shere, Rhonda Guck, Sara Patterson Jue, Kari Podominick, Kristi Champa Mattila, and Kathy Udovich to name but a few past local recipients,” she said.

Worldwide, more than 116,000 women have been

able to pursue educational goals with support of more than \$383 million from PEO’s six international education grants, loans and scholarship projects. “Today, more than 50 percent of these project recipients are pursuing additional course work or degrees or certificates in education and health care,” Forsberg added.

The Ely PEO Chapter’s Project Committee Chair, Cathy Vanderboom, noted that this fall the Ely chapter’s 37 current members are focusing on two of the six international projects – the Project for Continuing Education and the Educational Loan Fund.

“The Program for Continuing Education pro-

vides need-based grants of up to \$3,000 to women whose education was interrupted and found it necessary to return to school to support themselves and/or their families,” Vanderboom said. “Many certificate and licensing programs qualify for these grants.” The Educational Loan Fund offers a revolving two-percent interest loan to qualified women students.

“Our members seek community assistance in spreading the word and connecting our chapter with local applicants,” Vanderboom said. “It might be your mother, sister, aunt, cousin or even a friend or neighbor. We assist all candidates through the

application process.”

Forsberg added, “Chapter members relish their PEO mission to ‘Pass Education On.’ This year our chapter again sponsored an Ely Harvest Moon Festival booth, selling handmade items and baked goods to raise funds for our annual contribution to the six PEO international projects. It proved to be another fine opportunity to share our mission and programs supporting women’s education with the community.”

For more information, please contact Cathy Vanderboom at cvander421@gmail.com or Muffin Nelson at muffinely@gmail.com.

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

Brainstorm Bakery (Crapola) nears opening at new digs

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Brian and Andrea Strom rebranded their popular “Crapola” business as Brainstorm Bakery this past summer, and are near ready to open their new bakery in the former Plum Bun Bakery building at the corner of Sheridan Street and Fourth Avenue.

Brian and Andrea Strom, owners of Brainstorm Bakery, are planning on moving the Crapola World Headquarters from First Avenue to Sheridan Street this fall.

“We officially made the name change in July,” Brian Strom said, “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 into the Crapola World Headquarters at the former James Drug building in 2016.

In order to accommo-



Andrea Strom, top left, pulls a tray of Crapola out of the oven at the new Brainstorm Bakery, located in the former Plum Bun building on Sheridan Street. Construction on the coffee shop, bottom left, is continuing. The Stroms hope to soon be open to the public. photos by K. Vandervort



date the rebranding and location changes and consolidate all of their offerings into one place, the Stroms

phased 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.

With the coffee shop and retail space at their new facility still under construction, Brainstorm Bakery is using their new kitchen and production space to fill orders. Andrea made several batches of pumpkin rolls over the last couple of weekends and is gearing up for the holiday season.

“We are moving along on our construction project and hope to open soon,” she said last week.

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 Ledgerock Church, 1515 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

Council member sounds off on airport requirements

A 20-year comprehensive master plan requirement for new construction is last straw for Orr’s Black

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Orr City Council member Bruce Black has made no secret of his disdain for all the convoluted and burdensome regulations and government funding issues required to operate a municipal airport. He often abstains from voting on such matters when they come before the council, his way of objecting to yet another set of hoops he feels the city is forced to jump through.

But when the issue of needing a 20-year master plan for Orr’s airport to facilitate any future new construction proposals came up at Monday’s council meeting, Black had clearly had enough.

The issue came up as the council considered a 2022 Grant Pre-Application Package for the Federal Aviation Administration. Rather than being a request for a specific amount of money earmarked for physical improvements to Orr’s

airport, the pre-application specified multiple activities to be conducted by the city, including a 20-year master development plan. City clerk Cheri Carter explained that the pre-application was a formality and that no money would be committed at the present time. But a master plan would be necessary if the city wanted to receive grant assistance for future new construction, as opposed to money for repairs and upkeep, Carter said.

“It’s going to determine whether or not we ourselves, the city of Orr, builds hangars in the future?” Mayor Joel Astleford asked.

“They won’t give you grants for any kind of capital improvement projects like that if you don’t have a master plan, which basically is a comprehensive plan for the airport,” Carter explained.

Council member Lloyd Scott was the first to question the pre-application, honing in on the estimated price tag of \$350,000 for development

of the master plan, of which \$315,000 would be eligible for federal funding while the city of Orr would have to come up with a \$35,000 match.

“The last line here says the grant is not a letter of intent,” Scott noted. “The project is estimated to cost \$350,000. Who’s going to bite that?”

“That’s why I told them unless there’s federal funding that’s probably not going to happen,” Carter replied. “But it definitely won’t happen if we don’t do this. If we get funding our engineers will walk us through it. Otherwise, if we don’t get funding, we’ll just push it back like we’ve been doing for the last ten years.”

Then Astleford opened the door for Black.

“What do you think, Bruce?” he asked.

Black responded with a heavily salted rejoinder expressing hefty frustration with the whole endeavor, a discourse the *Timberjay* will paraphrase down to its essentials.

Black said approving

the pre-application would put the city on a 20-year hook they couldn’t get off of.

“I’m not signing on to anything that says we are on the hook for \$300,000.”

“It’s just a procedural thing,” Carter said.

Black bemoaned the amount of money necessary to engage lawyers in the process, then took aim at the agreement again.

“We don’t have the money to support it now,” he said. “Every time we say yes we’re stuck for another 20 years. I get it. I understand that someday maybe when hell freezes over and everything else happens and climate change kills us all that we might make a profit at the airport. It won’t make any difference because we just OK’d two other things for the airport that put us on the hook for 20 years. I’m just trying to find a way to make somebody pay for the work besides us. Either way we’re still stuck for 20 more years. I’m just drawing my line in the sand – I’m not voting for

anything more for the airport. Today was my day.”

With the understanding that coming up with the required match would likely stand in the way of actually moving ahead with a comprehensive plan if the pre-application were awarded, council members approved the application, with Black abstaining.

Other business

In other business, the council:

►Heard that the ISD 2142 school board was favorable to moving ahead with the sale of their bus barn to the city for \$10,000 for use as a future home for the Orr ambulance service. Members discussed various aspects of needed developments before tabling the matter and requesting Carter to look into getting the property appraised and having a formal survey completed.

►Declared the dilapidated city-owned dock next to the DNR boat ramps behind Pelican Bay Foods to be surplus/obso-

lete property, a necessary step to dispose of a dock well beyond any means to safely repair. The dock is currently moored next to the shoreline south of the boat ramp, and it was suggested lake resort owners be contacted to see if any of them were interested in salvaging some of it.

►Heard that certified letters have been sent by City Attorney Kelly Klun to the owners of the property at 4735 Pine Drive notifying them that they are in violation of the city’s blight ordinance. Having received no response, council members agreed to hold a public meeting about the situation at the beginning of the next council meeting at 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 13. Should the parties not appear or respond, the city can proceed with cleaning up the property and assess the costs to the property owner.

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Local Girl Scouts helped Cook gardener and artist Priscilla Hiipakka plant perennials in and around Veterans Riverfront Park recently. Priscilla and Howard Hiipakka and Steve, Vincent and Evan Kajala prepared the ground and planted bulbs. Pictured are, front row, from left, Kady Scofield, Leah Gilley, Rory Bundy, and Elizabeth Udovich; back row, Victoria Gilley, Jennifer Scofield, Oriah Gilley, Merilee Scofield, Danika Udovich, Memory Malone, and Priscilla Hiipakka.



Members of the Baytree Field 4-H club recently completed their annual roadside cleanup. They were surprised by the quantity of garbage but enjoyed their role in improving their community. The Baytree Field club serves the Cook/Orr area through roadside cleanups, making festive table decor for community Thanksgivings, and hosting the Timber Days pet show.



Representatives of the Cook Area Food Shelf received a major donation from North Star Credit Union.

NSCU gives back with shopping spree

COOK – North Star Credit Union staff recently shopped for local and used items to raise funds for feeding local families in need.

Each staff member was given \$100 to shop at a local store in our communities as part of CU Forward Day, a statewide movement where credit unions come together to volunteer, give back to our communities, and spread kindness. Nearly \$2,900 was spent shopping local in the NSCU communities of Cook, Nashwauk, Brooks, and West Duluth and the surrounding areas.

Staff took the items that were purchased locally and put together packages for an online auction. The proceeds from the auction went to a local nonprofit chosen by our staff. Each staff had a vote for a local nonprofit and all the votes were then put on a random wheel generator for the final recipient.

The Cook Community

Food Shelf, which provides food to the Cook area, was chosen by the wheel to receive \$1,660 that was raised from the auction. Cleo Cottrell of the Cook Community Food Shelf was touched to receive the donation that will help with their mission. They typically are able to assist 60 to 65 local families a month.

The shopping spree and donation amounted to a total of \$4,560 flowing back into NSCU communities.

“This project was a way to give back to our communities by supporting our local businesses and also a nonprofit in the region,” said Jennifer Stedt, NSCU Executive Vice President. “Our local businesses and nonprofits are such an integral part of our region and make an impact with the work that they do. We wanted to find a way to show our support for all they do.”

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Parks group to host chili fundraiser

COOK- Get ready for an all-you-can eat chili dinner fundraiser from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20 at the Cook VFW Post 1757 to benefit Cook Friends of the Parks and their Veterans Riverfront Park project.

In addition to bottomless chili, the meal comes with cornbread and dessert, all for \$10.

But the fundraiser isn’t only a

meal, it’s an event, with basket raffles, a 50/50 drawing, and a gun board. Those who purchase squares on the board will have a chance to win a Savage Axis XP with scope in 7mm-08 Remington.

Many of the major features of Veterans Riverfront Park have already been constructed, but development will continue on into the spring, and all proceeds from the Nov. 20 event will be used to complete the park.

Up North Shop is Saturday at Cook center

COOK- Early Christmas shoppers will want to take advantage of the Up North Shop event this Saturday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Cook Community Center.

Organizers Ruth Huismann, owner of Rag Bag Originals, and Susan Thomas, owner of Northern Gnomology, had 18 vendors already confirmed a month ago, and have since

filled up nearly every available space for the shopping extravaganza, giving attendees a wide and festive variety of specialty items from which to choose.

Attendance could be heavy if Dorzo the Gnome does his assigned job well. The giant gnome, created by Thomas, has been making appearances at various Cook businesses to help advertise the event. Those who take their photo with Dorzo and post it to

Facebook mentioning Up North Shop will be entered into a drawing to win his little brother, Wick-et.

Christmas ornaments, food stuffs, handmade winter accessories, doll clothes, toys, sun-catchers, jewelry, and kitchen knick-knacks are just some of the items for sale at Up North Shop.

Lunch will be available on-site.

Cook man injured in one-vehicle accident

WILLOW VALLEY TWP- A Cook man suffered non-life-threatening injuries when the car he was driving went off the highway about six miles south of Orr on Friday.

Erich Joseph Grebner, 64, was driving northbound on Highway 53 near the intersection with Willow River Rd., commonly known as the Gheen Corner, at about 5:30 p.m. Friday when his 2018 Toyota 4-Runner crossed over the center of the roadway. According to a Minnesota Highway Patrol report, the Toyota entered the west

ditch, vaulted over a driveway, and collided with some trees.

The Toyota’s airbag did not deploy, but Grebner was wearing his seatbelt. He was taken to Cook Hospital, although the report did not specify which ambulance service was used.

St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office, MN DNR, Orr Fire and Virginia Fire responded to the incident, the report said.

ATMOSPHERIC STUDIES

Ely science students launch weather balloon experiment

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY-Ely Memorial Junior High School students launched the Timberwolves 4 weather balloon last Thursday morning from the school’s baseball field. Science teacher Matt LaFond had planned for the event Nov. 2 when favorable northwest winds were blowing over Ely, but consistent cloud cover prohibited a launch. “Federal Aviation Administration rules don’t allow for such an activity when cloud cover is at more than 50 percent,” he said. Bright sunny skies and brisk temperatures greeted students from two eighth-grade science classes early last Thursday. “Our predicted flight path looked safe for the payload, but we had flotation aboard the balloon’s experiment package. We preferred to avoid landing in the lake if possible,” he said. Surface winds initially directed the balloon to the north, toward the city’s cemetery, but once

Timberwolves 4 gained altitude, the winds aloft quickly pivoted the balloon in a predicted southeast direction. This is the third consecutive year for LaFond’s science class weather balloon launch. Last year, due to COVID-19 hybrid learning protocols, two separate launches were made to include both classes. “So this year we named our experiment Timberwolves 4,” he said. Dozens of science students gathered near the pitcher’s mound of the baseball field just after the start of school last Thursday. The eighth-graders were divided into a variety of section responsibilities including helium tank transport, balloon handling, inflation, payload, tracking, and equipment. Small direction-finding balloons were launched to verify the flight path of the payload. Inflation began precisely at 9 a.m. Only those students who wore rubber gloves were allowed to touch the rubber fabric. “The oils from their

skin could degrade the rubber,” LaFond said. Students gathered in the crisp fall air to watch the launch from the bleacher area. Timberwolves 4 was launched at 9:15 a.m. “This weather balloon carried aloft a parachute and a wooden frame,” LaFond said. Attached to the wooden frame was a flight computer, a SPOT tracker GPS, a Go Pro camera, and a couple of experiments designed by the students to see what happens at the cold low pressure of the lower stratosphere. As predicted, the balloon rose to reach an altitude of about 22 km. The balloon then popped, and the payload and experiments and equipment drifted down to earth under a small parachute. The payload traveled about 60 miles and landed just inside Lake County, north of Brimson and close to National Forest Road 15, according to a tracking website. LaFond said he was going to attempt to retrieve the payload.



Ely eighth-grade science students gathered on the baseball field last Thursday to launch Timberwolves 4, a weather balloon experiment. photo by K. Vandervort

ELY...Continued from page 1

the meetings and the meetings must be advertised in advance under the open meeting law. At the ISD 696 school board meeting this week, during the open forum portion of the agenda, Washington elementary teacher Nancy Preblich pushed back against the recent false statements published in an *Ely Echo* editorial. “I was at the last board meeting and I did not in any way get the impression the board wishes to take away free speech,” she said. “The message I got was that the board is trying to protect free speech and people’s rights by clarifying how the open forum process at a board meeting is supposed to work. This clarity would

help protect the integrity of the open forum, allowing people the continued opportunity to express their perspective and ideas.” Also during the open forum, ISD 696 parent Frank Udovich criticized what he characterized as the board’s efforts at “eliminating the school board meeting open forum.” He said parents and taxpaying citizens are “simply trying to help,” and considered his efficient use of time in addressing board members all at once, rather than through private emails or off-the-record phone calls. “I dare you to eliminate the open forum and see what the fallout is,” Udovich continued. “I have three kids in this school. Unfortunately, half of you

don’t even have kids in the school and you are making policies that greatly affect them.” He said he did not consider his tax dollars to be more important than anyone else’s in the district, and went on to reveal that he pays “approximately \$29,000 a year in taxes on two properties,” and will soon “be obligated to pay” \$45,000 to \$50,000 a year on three properties. “I might be more invested than your average citizen. I want you to think how hard that is to make that much money per year just to pay property taxes,” he said. Later in the meeting, Marsnik presented the public meeting participation policy with minor

language revisions and the addition, “Before the meeting, all participants must fill out the open forum request form (see addendum 1). The form may be obtained in advance at the district office, the district website under policies, or at the meeting site.” He told board members that they still have the opportunity to make changes to the policy before the board votes on it for adoption after two additional readings at school board meetings. Board member Darren Visser looked to clear the air over the conspiracy that the school board is attacking the community’s free speech rights. “I just want to make sure that everybody understands that we are not

looking at eliminating the open forum,” he said. Marsnik agreed, “Absolutely not.” Visser continued, “We do value that, and we want to make sure that we maintain that part of our business (meeting) process here.” Marsnik added, “I thought I made that clear when I presented this. If you take a look at this (policy), the only big change there is the form that we have them fill out. The reason for this (form) is that we want everyone to read the rules and sign it. By no means are we trying to infringe on anybody’s First Amendment rights or freedom to speak. I have been on this board for 20 years. I welcome public input. On the other hand,

the First Amendment does not (allow) slander or to defame anyone’s character.” School board member Rochelle Sjoborg added, “The school board is responsible for the Minnesota Statutes that have those protections in there. Those are simply the only statutes that we as a board are looking at to ensure in protecting our students, teachers, parents, etc. I don’t recall anybody requesting to remove the open forum. That was not part of our discussion.” The public participation policy will be presented for a second reading at the ISD 696 school board’s next business meeting on Monday, Dec. 13.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

Suihkonen’s appointment will expire next November, so he’ll need to face the voters next year if he hopes to remain on the council. In other business, the council set a special meeting to hear presentations from representatives of at least one community foundation and Frandsen Bank and Trust about options for investing the Gundersen Trust. On Monday, the council heard from Steve Wilson, a member of the trust board, who has been looking at options to improve the trust’s abysmal returns. The roughly one-million-dollars in principal in the trust could be generating tens of thousands of dollars a year to support the city and enhance recreational opportunities in the community, but poor investment decisions over the years have left the trust barely able to cover its legal and auditing expenses in recent years. Wilson cited a 2018 decision by the board to limit the trust’s investments to only the lowest-yielding instruments as “ill-advised,” noting that the decision had cost the trust as much as \$400,000 based on the returns the trust would have achieved since then in an S&P 500 index fund. “Let that sink in a moment,” said Wilson. Wilson said the trust board had been hampered for years by its own lack of

investment expertise along with faulty recommendations and advice from its auditors and legal counsel. The trust board, over the past several months, has sought to chart the best path forward, with advice from a new attorney who specializes in trust management. Wilson said the trust can either continue to self-manage, which he strongly recommended against, or it can rely on an investment advisor from an area bank, or turn over the assets to an existing community foundation, which would invest the funds on behalf of the trust. Wilson said the foundation could set a pre-determined amount of income, typically four or five percent of the principal in any given year, from the trust, which would be available for community grants or funding city operations. Based on the current principal in the trust, the fund could likely generate between \$40,000-\$50,000 a year under such a scenario. In recent years, the trust has essentially yielded nothing for the community.

The trust board is asking the council to weigh in on the path forward. Ultimately, any decision would need approval from the court which currently oversees the trust. In other action, the council: ➤ Rejected a motion by council member Joe Morin to give retired city maintenance supervisor Randy Johnson \$1,773 to compensate for potential lost interest he could have gained if the city had sent his outstanding sick leave payout to a state-run fund as was required in the city’s union contract. The city had failed to send the funds to the state when Johnson retired in 2018, but Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua, who took over at city hall in 2019, did submit the funds last year once she learned of the requirement. The council decision came after lengthy discussion with city attorney Mitch Brunfelt, who said the council had no obligation under the union contract to pay Johnson the money, but could do so if

they felt like it. “It’s your discretion,” Brunfelt said, although he noted that the council’s decision would likely set a precedent for another employee who retired shortly after Johnson. Ranua noted that Johnson had received a considerable payout from the city at the time of his retirement, including \$23,299 for unused sick leave and an additional amount of at least \$11,334 as part of a medical flex spending account that he could draw on to cover

medical expenses. Brunfelt said some of the payments to Johnson were unusual because they were negotiated by Johnson outside of the union contract. After considerable discussion, Morin made the motion to compensate Johnson for the lost interest, but his motion died for lack of a second. ➤ Set a budget working session for Wednesday, Dec. 1, at city hall. The session will begin at 5:30 p.m. ➤ Heard from Morin that the city may be able

to obtain a used grader from St. Louis County to replace the city’s existing equipment, which needs major repairs. Morin said public works supervisor Ben Velcheff would investigate further and provide more information at an upcoming council meeting. ➤ Heard from Morin that the final draft of the police contract with Breitung Township is done and should be ready for council action at their Nov. 22 meeting. ➤ Appointed Morin to serve as acting mayor.

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FLAG...Continued from page 1

albums, and two printed cards commemorating the death of World War I Army soldier and Soudan native Charles G. Nelson.

“I brought it home and started going through all the photos and kind of pieced it together,” Helmberger said.

Two large photos of a long procession along a town road provided a telling clue. The procession was led by a horse-drawn funeral caisson carrying a flag-draped casket. She shared her discoveries with her brother, Marshall Helmberger.

“I had known about that funeral procession,” he said. “When I saw that flag and put two and two together, I realized this was an important item.” He concluded that the flag had to be the one covering the casket of Pvt. Charles G. Nelson during his 1921 funeral procession.

Charles G. Nelson

Charles Gustaf Nelson, born in 1893, was the third eldest of ten children born to Gustaf and Mary Nelson of Soudan. Gustaf and Mary emigrated from Sweden to the United States, he in 1888, she in 1889, and they married that year.

A farmer at the turn of the century, by 1910, 50-year-old Gustaf was working in the Soudan iron mine, with his now 17-year-old son Charles working beside him. In 1914, the pair were surely aware of the onset of a “great war” in Europe, but as President Woodrow Wilson had declared America’s neutrality in the conflict, life continued much as it had.

That changed when Wilson declared war on Germany in April 1917. Charles, now 24 and still working at the mine, was among the first wave of thousands of Americans between 21 and 30 required to register on June 5 for a newly created draft. He wasn’t called up immediately, but his time was growing closer in February 1918 when he went to Duluth with numerous other conscripts from the region for



The 1921 funeral procession for Charles G. Nelson was held in Soudan. photo courtesy of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society

military physicals.

Finally, on May 25, 1918, Nelson was sent to Camp Lewis, a new Army camp near Tacoma, Wash., capable of housing more than 40,000 soldiers, to train as a member of Company G, 364th Infantry, 91st “Wild West” Division, so named because most of its troops came from western states. Soldiers from Camp Lewis were routinely being pulled and reassigned to fill other units headed overseas. As a new arrival, Nelson was there only a few weeks before his company boarded a train in late June or early July for the six-day trip to Camp Merritt, N. J. to prepare to go overseas. Along the way they passed through town after town where well-wishers stood by the tracks waving flags and cheering support.

On July 12, Nelson and his unit left the military harbor in Hoboken, N.J., on the HMT Olympic, sister ship of the Titanic, which had been retrofitted and camouflaged for the war to carry up to 6,000 troops, two-and-a-half times more than its peacetime capacity. Charles Nelson was going to war, and it was the last time he would see American soil.

The trip to England typically took 12 days, owing to the need to chart a zig-zag course to avoid possible attacks by enemy submarines. After landing, the troops were transport-

ed by rail to ports on the English Channel for the final boat leg to France.

Like all units arriving in France, the 91st Division was supposed to receive three months of intensive training before engaging in battle, but after barely a month the division was pressed into duty as a reserve unit for the Saint-Mihiel offensive. Nelson, with barely two months of training total, was not needed in that battle, and instead would see his first action in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, the largest and bloodiest military offensive in U.S. history.

Tucked into the northeast corner of France, the Meuse-Argonne region was a rough, hilly mix of thick forests, ravines, and farmland. The main rail supply line for German forces ran through the region, and the primary objective was to mortally wound the German war machine by cutting that line, hopefully bringing the war to a swift end.

Traveling only at night by truck and marching to avoid detection by the Germans, Nelson was among 600,000 U.S. troops that made their way to the “jump off” line for the battle, which was to begin Sept. 26. Again under darkness, Americans replaced French soldiers along the battle line, with Nelson’s untested division drawing

one of the most daunting assignments. Deployed along the western front of the nine-division offensive, the 91st Division was to cut through three successive lines of German wire entanglements, machine-gun positions, and concrete fighting posts to outflank and help capture Montfaucon, a hilltop German stronghold that had withstood numerous previous French attacks. With any luck, the division was expected to cover only about four miles that first day.

As Nelson hunkered down on the night of Sept. 25, any notion of sleep was shattered by the thunderous roar of U.S. artillery shelling German positions, beginning shortly before midnight and increasing in intensity until 5:30 a.m., Sept. 26, when the troops were ordered to attack.

Thick fog made worse by the smoke of artillery fire limited visibility in places to only 50 feet throughout the morning as the troops advanced. Nelson’s infantry unit followed another into territory that was largely forested, with ravines and hills along the western edge. The Germans had focused their defenses more in open areas, not expecting the enemy to send a full complement of forces through the forest, so the 91st Division moved ahead more quickly than those on either side.

However, somewhere, sometime during that first day, Charles G. Nelson of Soudan became one of over 26,000 Americans who eventually died in the most decisive offensive of the war. Nelson was buried in an isolated grave in the vicinity of Vaquois, likely quite near where he was killed, as the forces relentlessly moved onward in an offensive that would last until the armistice ending hostilities went into effect on Nov. 11.

Gustaf and Mary Nelson did not learn of the fate of their son until Dec. 1, well after the country had been celebrating the end of the war, news which began a surely excruciating wait for his body to be returned home.

In May 1919, Nelson’s body was retrieved from its isolated grave and re-interred in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in Romagne-sous-Montfaucon. It would be two more years before the USS Wheaton funeral ship returned Nelson’s remains to the same New Jersey port he left from in August 1921.

His casket arrived home in Soudan on Sept. 16. A delegation from the Nelson-Jackson American Legion post, named for Nelson and Fred Jackson, a Tower soldier killed in November 1918 who was returned and buried earlier that summer, stood watch as Nelson lay in state at his parents’ home until his funeral on Sunday, Sept. 18. Services were held at the Swedish Baptist Church in Soudan, after which the long procession to Lakeview Cemetery, led by Nelson’s flag-draped coffin, began.

“The procession included practically every member of the Nelson-Jackson Post American Legion, in uniform, the Soudan Concert Band, the Red Cross, fraternal societies and others, who marched, a long line of automobiles bearing friends of the deceased bringing up the rear,” the *Tower Weekly News* reported.

Passing the flag

A plaque on Tower’s McKinley monument recognizes five area soldiers who lost their lives in the war. Two of those individuals, Anthony and Frank Znidersich, were Soudan natives who were killed in May and August 1918, but both had moved away years before the start of the war. They still were considered “Soudan boys” because they were raised there, and their stepmother still lived there in 1918. Fred Jackson’s name is there,

and Hillard Aronson, the fifth soldier memorialized on the plaque, died of pneumonia in a hospital in England on Sept. 28, 1918, two days after Nelson.

So, Nelson was the first soldier living in the area at the time of his induction into the Army to die in the war, a fact that has long interested Tower-Soudan Historical Society curator Richard Hanson.

“I’ve been interested ever since I had photos that said he was the first person from here killed in the war,” Hanson said. “I didn’t realize he was related to Rick Nelson.”

Hanson was uncertain of the relationship, believing him to be perhaps a cousin, but additional research by the *Timberjay* discovered that Rick was actually Charles Nelson’s nephew. Rick’s father, Richard O. Nelson, was Charles’s youngest brother, only 10 years old when Charles was killed in 1918.

Hanson met up with Clair Helmberger at the *Timberjay* office last week to receive the flag and other memorabilia on behalf of the historical society.

“I didn’t know there was this much stuff,” Hanson said. “I didn’t expect to have this much. I thought it was a flag and a couple of pictures.”

Nelson said he plans to create an exhibit featuring the flag and Nelson at the historic Tower Fire Hall when renovations there are completed.

“This is becoming a bigger exhibit than I was thinking of,” Hanson said. “I see it as probably a permanent exhibit about World War I as it involved Tower, Soudan, and the surrounding area.”

Toward that end, Hanson would welcome hearing from others who may have photos, memorabilia, or records from the war years. He can be reached by calling 218-404-2810, or by email at rv.hanson42@gmail.com.

(Editor’s note: While Charles G. Nelson is recognized annually with other fallen service members on Memorial Day, his story would not have been told without the stewardship of Nelson’s memorabilia by Army veterans Richard O. and Richard A. “Rick” Nelson. The *Timberjay* hopes that this story, compiled from numerous historical sources, serves as a timely reminder of the sacrifice all veterans have been willing to make for their country as we celebrate Veterans Day this week.)

Ask Brock the Doc

COVID-19 Testing Positive

Q: I tested positive for COVID; now what?
A: If you test positive for COVID, you need to

- Wear a mask any time you will come into contact with someone else
- Go directly to your home and stay there
- Isolate yourself in your home from anyone else who lives with you

Isolation means that people infected with COVID-19 stay at home and are kept away from others living in the home to prevent giving them COVID-19. If possible, you should stay in a separate room, use separate bathrooms, and do not share personal household items such as towels, cups, or toiletries.

Q: When does isolation end?
A: You can be around people ten days after the onset of your symptoms and when you are free of symptoms for 24 hours without using medication to reduce your fever.

If you tested positive but did not have symptoms, you are safe to be around others ten days after your positive test

Q: What is monoclonal antibody therapy?
A: Some people that test positive for COVID may qualify for an IV infusion treatment. Treatment must be given within ten days of the onset of symptoms. If you test positive, you should contact your primary care provider right away to see if treatment is an option for you.

Monoclonal antibody therapy helps prevent hospitalizations and lessens the severity of symptoms from COVID-19. This therapy relies on a type of antibodies that are similar to the ones your body would naturally make in response to infection. They give the immune system a chance to catch up until it can form its own strong response.

Dr. Brock Urie is an Emergency Room Physician and the Chief Medical Officer at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. Dr. Urie graduated from the University of MN, Duluth, with his Bachelor’s Degree in Biology and attended Medical School at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine. He completed his Residency in Emergency Medicine at Western Michigan Universities School of Medicine in 2015. During residency, Dr. Urie served as a flight physician and county medical control physician, and a clinical instructor of Emergency Medicine.

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VETERANS DAY

Radio series preserves stories of Bois Forte veterans

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

NETTLAKE—Stories of military veterans of the Bois Forte Band are finding a new voice, just in time for Veterans Day, thanks to an initiative at KBFT Bois Forte Tribal Community Radio.

Chaz Wagner, host of the station’s late morning show, “The Deep End,” has been doing recorded interviews of veterans and turning them into short audio and video clips highlighting various aspects of their service.

Averaging about five minutes each, the clips Wagner has produced so far follow a common pattern. A veteran describes the general nature of their military service, highlights a particularly meaningful aspect or situation from their experience, and reflects on the importance of Veterans Day and/or military service in the Band’s culture.

“They don’t get recognition as often as they should,” Wagner said. “It’s a way where we can give back to some of the important people of our community. I have a passion for radio and capturing stories and gathering stories from people because everybody has a story. I want to capture the little history that we have. They’re like libraries, their stories. I have the gift to do this and I’m going to take advantage of it now while all the stars are



Bois Forte Navy veteran Fred McDougall stands next to a replica of the USS Wasp he carved. That was the ship he served on during the Cuban missile crisis. photo by D. Colburn

aligned with grant money to do it and the elders are still here.”

The idea germinated this past summer as the radio station was looking for a way to highlight community veterans in a way that was also sensitive to the issues surrounding the COVID pandemic. Wagner also said the project is different from anything they’ve done in the past. They approached the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, a frequent supporter of programming efforts at the station, for financial assistance.

“I didn’t get the green light on this until maybe a couple of weeks ago,” Wagner said. “But we had the project in mind and it’s just perfect timing that Veterans Day is coming up.”

The Heritage Fund money isn’t going into production costs, however. It’s being used to give

participating veterans an honorarium.

“I could have paid for producers and stuff like that, but I just wanted to produce it myself and give 100 percent back to the veterans,” Wagner said.

Wagner interviews his subjects wherever they feel most comfortable, and there’s far more that gets discussed than can fit in a five-minute recording. Some of it can’t be shared, Wagner said, but the full recordings will likely be preserved, too, for some future use.

At 89 years of age, former tribal chairman and Army veteran Gary Donald is the senior member among those Wagner has interviewed thus far. After boot camp in 1951, Donald was tabbed as a trainer for troops who would be sent to the front in the Korean conflict. He commented on a common theme among Native Americans who took up military service,



Bois Forte member and U.S. Navy veteran Dianna Goodsky sits in front of a KBFT microphone to give her veterans series interview.

the influence of family and history.

“I looked at the veterans that we had then in those days, my relatives who had served, and I thought to myself, ‘There’s a chance for me to join the military and learn something,’” he said.

Jerome Whiteman, an Army aviation mechanic during the Vietnam War who has other relatives who served in the Army and Navy, believes that military service comes naturally to Native Americans.

“We’re warriors, it’s our culture, from the day we are born, providers, protectors, and it’s just in us,” he said. “I have some grandsons who are highly thinking about going in because our family is like that. We’re part of the Lynx clan, my clan is like that. We’re bred that way.”

Dianna Goodsky holds the distinction of being the first Native American woman to rise to the rank of chief petty officer in the U.S. Navy, something she came to learn after a 15-year stint in the service. She, too, believes military service is a good fit for Native Americans.

“To be the first Native American female chief is even more special to me for this reason,” Goodsky said. “I truly believe that we have the capabilities to serve in the Navy and any military establishment. As Natives we have natural leadership qualities, we just have so many good qualities that fit in the military. And the military has really good lessons for us to learn and be well-rounded.”

Perhaps all of the above might explain why a higher percentage of Native Americans participate in military service than any other racial/ethnic group. But Fred McDougall, also a Navy veteran who served on a carrier involved in the Cuban missile crisis blockade in 1962, believes it goes even deeper.

“Why (have) Indian people served disproportionately? I think it was more than being an American,” he said. “This is their land. It probably means a hell of a lot more to an American Indian, the Mother Earth here, the land where our ancestors are buried, means a lot more to Indian people than just being in the military.”

As of Monday, Wagner had completed four of the eight episodes he intends to produce, and he was confident the remainder will be finished by Veterans Day. He said he’s worked to enlist veterans who he hasn’t interviewed before, ones who may be less well-known for their service than some of the more visible and active Band members.

However, honoring veterans in the Band isn’t something relegated to a single-day observance, Wagner said. “We’re very proud of our veterans who are Band members, and the Indigenous veterans,” he said. “We hold those people to the highest honors that anybody could. We go to a pow wow, we have songs that are specifically to honor veterans. We always recognize and thank them for protecting us and for their service. They were willing to give up the ultimate sacrifice, willing to give up their lives for their people, for their country, and for the tribe. That deserves the highest honor anyone can get in my book.”

Wagner is airing the clips on his morning show at KBFT 89.9 FM between 11 a.m. and noon on Mondays and Tuesday, but they’re also being posted on the KBFT Facebook page and uploaded to the KBFT Radio YouTube channel. Wagner is also sharing them through PRX, a public radio exchange site.

COVID...Continued from page 1

Dec. 1, 2020.

Statewide, test positivity rates ran higher throughout September and October than the corresponding months in 2020 in the leadup to the biggest spike of the COVID pandemic. In 2020 at this time, no one was vaccinated because vaccines weren’t available. Schools were operating under a statewide masking mandate and protocols for hybrid and distance learning, state high school sporting championships were canceled, and Gov. Tim Walz had just issued an executive order limiting social gatherings indoors and outdoors to ten and restricting restaurants to a maximum of 50 percent capacity, provided six feet of social distancing could be maintained.

Today, nearly 3.5 million eligible Minnesotans 12 and older have been vaccinated with at least one dose of vaccine, representing 74.1 percent of the eligible population. Administration of vaccines to five to 11-year-olds is underway. But with the lifting of the state of emergency and the disappearance of any mandated COVID precautions, the COVID Delta variant continues to drive case counts well beyond what health officials had hoped. Projections from the Mayo Clinic indicate the situation could continue to worsen in most counties of the state, including St. Louis County, over the next two weeks.

More county data

Four of the six North County zip codes monitored by the Timberjay had double-digit increases in new weekly COVID cases in data reported last Thursday, with 65 new cases total. Cook was the region’s hotspot with 15, barely edging Ely and Embarrass with 14 each. Tower tallied 11 new cases, Orr had eight, and Soudan had three.

Bois Forte Health officials also reported a resurgence of COVID cases, with ten total reported on Nov. 2-3. Among active cases, four were individuals younger than 18.

Although school data lags behind other state reports, no new numbers were reported for North Woods School, which made the state’s list for schools with five or more cases over a two-week reporting period. The absence of a report only indicates that North Woods did not reach the minimum reporting threshold of five cases during that reporting period, and not that there were zero cases at the school.

ISD 696 Ely school district reported six new cases last week and postponed their school musical.

The bi-weekly case rate for northern St. Louis County schools remained well above the rate that

would have triggered full distance learning for students last year, coming in at 68.73, 13 points higher than Duluth-area schools.

Data for the week of Oct. 24 shows that the number of new cases among those ages 10-19 more than doubled compared to the prior week, rising to 15 in the northern area of the county. Four children ages 0-9 also were diagnosed with COVID, the same as the prior week. All areas of the county showed marked case increases across numerous different age categories.

Vaccinations remain the single best prevention against contracting COVID-19, according to St. Louis County Public Health Director Amy Westbrook, who encouraged all eligible individuals to work with their health care providers to start and complete a vaccine series

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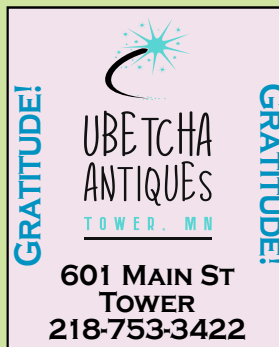
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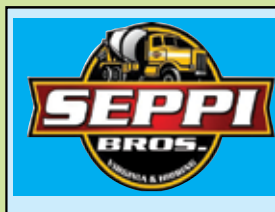


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CROSS-COUNTRY

Warm temps slow runners’ times at state

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

NORTHFIELD — Temperatures near 70 degrees appeared to slow the times for area runners who took part in the state cross-country tournament here last Saturday.

Several area runners had posted exceptional times during sectional competition held the week before in Cloquet, when temperatures were in the mid-30s. Freshman Addison Burckhardt, of Orr, who runs for South Ridge, had led the field at sections with a time of 19.54.8.

She still led area runners at the state meet with a time of 20:28.73, which put her in 42nd place in a field of 159 runners that started the girls state competition, held at St. Olaf College. Evelyn Brodeen, another Orr area runner who competes with South Ridge, finished just behind Burckhardt, with a time of 20:29.05, for 44th place. Brodeen had finished in seventh place at sectionals, with a time of 20:21.7.

Ely junior Zoe Devine, who qualified for state with her sectional finish in 20:19.4, came in 75th on Saturday, with a time of 21:09.44. Seventh-grader Molly Brophy, who finished second at sectionals with a time of 19:57.7, struggled with the crowded conditions in her first-ever state appearance, finishing 91st, with a time of 21:39.14.

“I think Molly ran as good as she could,” said Ely Head Coach Jayne Dusich. “It was a crowded race for the first mile at least.”

On the boys side, Alex Burckhardt, of Orr, running for South Ridge, finished in 75th place in a field of 160 runners, with a time of 17:47.54. That was close to, but still slower, than his sectional qualifying time of 17:42.2.

MINING

DNR accepting comments on mine siting rule

REGIONAL — The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will begin accepting public comments regarding possible revisions of the state’s nonferrous mine siting rule, revisions that could impact copper-nickel mine plans in the region.

Public comments will be accepted from Nov. 9 through Dec. 8.

The DNR has established a dedicated webpage for DNR’s review of the siting rule. This webpage contains information about the review process and a link to submit public comments online. Comments may also be submitted by U.S. Postal Service to:

Minn. Department of Natural Resources
ATTN:Nonferrous Mine Siting Rule
500 Lafayette Road N, Box 45
St. Paul, MN 55155-4045

All comments, both online and via Postal Service, must be submitted no later than Dec. 8.

The DNR is seeking substantive public comments to assist the department in its decision making. This comment period is associated with a court approved process, and the comment period is limited to 30 days.

It is important that commenters provide substantive information on why the siting rule should or should not be changed, not just on whether they support or oppose non-ferrous mining in the affected area.



SECTION 7A VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

NER edged for trip to state

Suddenly red-hot South Ridge ousts top two seeds in quest for 7A title

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

HIBBING- The Northeast Range Nighthawks’ bid for a berth in the 7A state volleyball tournament reached the end of the road Saturday in Hibbing, where they lost to South Ridge in the sectional final 3-1.

Both teams reached the

“I felt like the whole match was a matter of us always playing catch up.

NER Head Coach
Jodi Reichensperger

final with wins over the top seeds in the subsection brackets, and with rabid support from a packed section of NER fans, the Nighthawks came out on fire, racing out to a 9-2 lead. But the Panthers, who rallied from a two-set deficit to defeat Ely in

Above: Seniors Hannah Reichensperger, who was injured during the match, poses with teammate Audrey Anderson and their runner-up plaque from the championship match held Saturday in Hibbing.

Right: NER senior Thia Lossing goes up for a kill with a colorful backdrop of fans.

photos by D. Colburn

the semi-final round, weren’t fazed by a seven-point deficit. A five-point run got them back to within two at 9-7, and the game was a slugfest from there, reaching a tie at 22-22 before South Ridge put the game away 25-22. “I felt like the whole match was a matter of us always playing catch up,” NER Head Coach Jodi Reichensperger. “It’s 9-2, they get one point, and I felt the energy shift.”

The Nighthawks fell behind early in the second set 11-3 as

See NER...pg. 3B



Heartbreaking 3-2 loss for Ely

Down 2-0, South Ridge mounts unlikely rally to upset top-ranked Wolves

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

HIBBING — The top-seeded Timberwolves fell just short in their bid to reach the Section 7A volleyball championship round on Wednesday, as South Ridge rallied from a 2-0 deficit after two sets to walk away with a 3-2 match win.

Ely defeated South Ridge 2-1 in a regular season tournament match, and it was another tough matchup in Hibbing as all five sets were close and hard-fought throughout.

Ely appeared sharp and confident as they took the first set 25-21, with Madeline Kalberg stepping up with two big shots to break an 18-18 tie to spur the T’Wolves to the win. Knotted at 22-22 in the second set, the Panthers were called for a net violation, and then Kellen Thomas got a block to give Ely two opportunities at set point. Kalberg came through on the second with a kill for a 25-23 win and a 2-0 advantage.



The Timberwolves led 22-20 in the third set, needing just three points to secure a trip to the championship match. But with their backs against the wall, the Panthers dug deep to stave off elimination with a 5-0 run

and 25-22 win.

The lead changed hands three times in the fourth set, with neither team able to mount a lead of more than three points as

See WOLVES...pg. 3B

Above: Ely junior Rachel Coughlin (left) and senior Raven Sainio grimace as they attempt a block against a South Ridge hitter during their semi-final contest last week.

photo by D. Colburn

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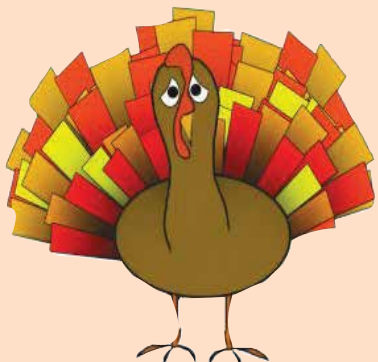
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Have A Safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

NER...Continued from page 1B

they had difficulty passing the ball to set up their offense with leading scorer Hannah Reichensperger. NER fought back to within four at 12-8, but a devastating 7-0 run by the Panthers erased any chance of an NER comeback in a 25-14 loss.

“That was our biggest problem, it was our passing,” Reichensperger said. “That is all we have worked on since playoffs started, and we had it. And then we didn’t.”

In a do-or-die third set, the Nighthawks got a scare when Hannah Reichensperger crashed to the floor chasing a ball in the backcourt and opened a gash on her chin that would later require stitches. But with her chin heavily taped, the senior hitter stayed in the match.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

they battled to a tie at 21-21. Once again, the Panthers put together a game-winning surge, scoring four consecutive points to win 25-21 and send the match to a deci-

South Ridge looked to be cruising, up 18-12, but a big block by Maizy Sunblad and Reichensperger rejuvenated NER. A kill by Natalie Nelmark and a service ace by Reichensperger cut the lead to two, 18-16. Strong play at the net vaulted NER into the lead, 21-19, but the Panthers forged a tie at 21-21. Nelmark stepped up big with three consecutive scores, and the Nighthawks stayed alive for another set when the Panthers handed them a 25-21 win by hitting the ball into the net on the final rally.

“That’s what we needed,” said Reichensperger about Nemark’s performance. “She came through when we needed her to come through. Natalie proved that she can handle our front row when

Hannah is not in the front row.”

NER battled on, this time getting good production out of Hannah Reichensperger, taking the lead in a tight fourth set and holding it up to 15-14, but South Ridge reeled off five straight points for a 19-15 lead. NER came back to tie the game at 22, but couldn’t get over the hump, falling 25-23 to end their season at 18-10.

There were tears when the match ended, but the loss couldn’t take the shine off what had been a historic run for NER, as it was the first time in Nighthawks volleyball history a team had reached a sectional final.

“At the beginning of the season, my goal was to have a .500 season and I would be okay with that,”

Coach Reichensperger said. “I didn’t expect to be in the section final. I don’t think anyone else expected us to be here, either.”

After her final match as a Nighthawk, Hannah Reichensperger had high praise for her teammates and their 18-10 season.

“The growth that we have seen this season is incredible,” she said. “(Reaching) finals is record-breaking. No one in Babbitt has gone to the section finals. We did that. We’re breaking records. I’m so proud of where we made it, and you can see how proud the community is of us that we made it, too.”

NER tops Barnum

NER powered its way into the sectional finals by getting past the section’s overall top seed, 22-3 Bar-

num, in a Nov. 3 semifinal match in Hibbing.

The Nighthawks took command early in the opening set and never let the Bombers get closer than two points in posting a 25-22 win.

“Last week, we made some changes to our defense, we just needed a tiny little tweak, but they were super comfortable with the change that we made and they executed like they’ve been playing that defense their whole lives,” Reichensperger said.

Barnum settled back into form in the second set, breaking a 5-5 tie and relentlessly pulling away from the Nighthawks for a relatively easy 25-15 win.

“What happened in that second match, we let them control the tempo,”

Reichensperger said.

The Nighthawks came back onto the court with a fury, stunning the Bombers with a 13-2 explosion to open the third set. The Bombers then had the Nighthawks on their heels with a run that closed the gap from 18-8 to 18-15, but NER’s Thia Lossing came up with a crosscourt kill that squashed Barnum’s surge and set the stage for a 25-19 win.

When NER broke an 11-11 tie in the tightly contested fourth set, they never trailed again. With good defense, strong net play, and setters feeding Reichensperger and Nelmark, the Nighthawks pulled away to seal the upset with a 25-17 win to advance to the championship.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Theano M. Sigford

Theano “Theo” Mae Demas Sigford, 91, of Tower-Soudan, died on Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021, in the Cook Care Center in Cook. By her preference, there will be no service, but a gathering of family and Tower-Soudan friends will be scheduled in the summer of 2022 when remote relatives are able to travel to Northern Minnesota. Donations in memorial are encouraged to organizations she has supported over many years: Minnesota Public Radio of St. Paul, Advocates for Family Peace of Grand Rapids, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy of St. Paul, The Mesabi Humane Society of Virginia, or Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, of St. Paul.

Theo was born on Jan. 8, 1930, in Aberdeen, S.D., the first child of Anthony “Tony” Demas and Emma (Potter) Demas. Theo graduated early from high school in Aberdeen, in 1947, then left college early and moved

to Minneapolis in 1950 where she became a legal secretary and, ultimately, the support staff/office manager for a major international law firm in the Twin Cities. She retired and married Robert “Bob” Sigford in 1977. For many years they enjoyed their cabin on Lake Vermilion, scheduling their lives to be on the lake three days a week, year-round, as long as they could cross either by boat or snowmobile. In 1985 they retired fully to a home on Lake Vermilion in the Tower-Soudan area. Bob passed away in 2005 and Theo lived out her life on the lake and in the community that she had come to call her home.

Theo was a voracious reader and both supported and made constant use of the Arrowhead Library System’s Bookmobile, sang in local choral groups, volunteered as a tax preparer, volunteered for the Tower Soudan Historical Society and supported the restoration of the Fire Hall on Tower’s Main Street. She volunteered for the Tower Food

Shelf, volunteered reading to school children, hand-knitted a mountain of colorful wool socks, played organized bridge with friends, and even occasionally went line dancing.

Theo was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bob; and three younger siblings, George Demas, Marian Demas and Tyrus Demas.

She is survived by her nephew, Dodd Demas; niece, Lisa (Demas) Jones; niece, Kristin Sigford; nephews, Rolf Sigford and Steven Sigford; niece, Ann Sigford; and nephews, Dale Sigford and David Sigford.

Vyonne D. Rozier

Vyonne Darlene Stieglmeyer Rozier, 86, of Babbitt, passed away on Monday, Nov. 1, 2021, at Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 27 at Woodland Presbyterian Church in Babbitt. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Inurnment will be in Argo Cemetery in Babbitt. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

She is survived by her four children, Greg Rozier, Mike (Barb) Rozier, Mark (Mary) Rozier and Laurie (Ken) Rozier Stoll; grandchildren, Kyle, Brett, Logan, Lorenzo, Fr. Blake, Alex, Kevin and Tracy;

Ely held the serve and was one point away from winning the set and match at 14-13, but Svea Snickers came through with a kill for the Panthers, who scored the next two points

to win the match and eliminate the Timberwolves.

It was a disappointing semi-final round loss for Ely after an exceptional 21-7 season. “I am so proud of the hard

work and effort these girls put into volleyball, both during the season and in the off season,” said Wognum.

and numerous nieces and nephews.

Doris M. Johnson

Doris Mae Marie Johnson, 85 of Cook, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021. Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 14 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 15 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Cook. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church.

Doris E. Nelson

Doris E. Bernath Nelson, 85, of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021, at Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. A celebration of life will be

at Grand Ely Lodge from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Doyle; children, Loren (Pauline), Mark (Gwen), Marie (Tim Sladek) and Chris; four grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Dennis L. Minier

Dennis L. Minier, 62, of Ely, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021, at Boundary Waters Care

Center in Ely. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Julia Puzel


Julia Puzel, 100, of Ely, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021, at Care-free Assisted Living in Ely. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
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2021 FIREARMS DEER SEASON

Most hunters report slow opening weekend

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Hunters had a consistent story coming out of the opening weekend of the firearms deer season: Not many deer and not much shooting.

“It’s been pretty slow,” said Terry Wagoner, of Soudan, who hunts along the Mud Creek Road between Tower and Ely. “I saw a little fawn and some of the other guys got glimpses, but that’s about it. There’s very little sign and there

wasn’t much shooting.”

There was more sign and more deer over in the Greaney area, but that didn’t necessarily translate into more hunter success, at least not over the opener. “We haven’t shot anything and none of my neighbors have shot anything,” said Dave Broten, of Tower, who hunts on property he owns along the Little Fork River.

Broten had opportunities over the weekend. In fact, when he spoke to the *Timberjay* on Monday, it was from his deer

stand. “I’m looking out at a doe in one [shooting] lane and a spike buck in another,” he said. With nearly two weeks of hunting still ahead, Broten said he planned to hold out, at least for a while, in hopes of getting a shot at the big ten-pointer that had shown up recently on a neighbor’s trail cam.

Rob Bryers, who hunts north of Lake Vermilion, near Buyck, agreed it was a remarkably quiet opener. “I thought last year was

See **OPENER**, pg. 5B



Area Deer Harvest			
Results through Monday, Nov. 8			
Year	Bucks	Antlerless	Total
2018	2,203	838	3,041
2019	1,730	648	2,378
2020	NA	NA	NA
2021	1,684	488	2,172

Preliminary harvest totals for permit areas in northern St. Louis, Lake, and Koochiching counties, including 107, 109, 117, 118, 119, 130, 176, 177, and 178.



BIRDS

Feeder frenzy forecast

Annual prediction suggests drought will bring more birds to area feeders

This past summer’s drought in western Canada is likely to bring more boreal finches to bird feeders here in the North Country this winter. The annual finch forecast, produced by the Canada-based Finch Research Network, is now out and if you’re hoping to have plenty of activity at your bird feeders this winter, you’ll like the predictions.

The boreal region of North America, which mostly spans Canada, but dips into northeastern Minnesota as well, provides the primary habitat for about a dozen species of colorful finches, whose seasonal movements are typically governed by food availability. For most of these species, preferred foods include fir and spruce cones, mountain ash berries, and birch and ash seeds.

Across Canada, Lake Superior provided a kind of demarcation between the extreme heat and drought experienced in western Canada this summer, versus more typical precipitation experienced in eastern Canada.

Our region, which is ecologically and geographically linked with northwestern Ontario, experienced the heat and drought typical of western Canada this past summer. Those conditions greatly impacted most natural foods for boreal finches from our region all the way to the Pacific and that means most of the finches in those areas, like pine grosbeaks, redpolls, and pine siskins will be moving south this winter. This happens almost every year, at least in our region, but we may end up with more finches

Above: A feeder full of grosbeaks may be in store this winter due to poor natural food crops across most of western Canada and northeastern Minnesota.

Right: Large numbers of redpolls can also be expected to show up at area feeders this winter.

file photos

than usual at feeders this year. Indeed, plenty of these finches have already moved into our area. I’ve been hearing pine grosbeaks in the woods for the past couple weeks and flocks of redpolls have descended on our area as well.

According to the forecast, the lack of mountain ash berries, from here northward, will send pine grosbeaks, which summer north of our area, southward. And given the same drought conditions here, our berry crops were a veritable bust, so as the grosbeaks arrive they won’t find much natural food. That means bird feeders stocked with black oil sunflower seeds should prove irresistible.

“Areas in the upper Midwest states and cities in western Canada may see flocks of hungry [pine] grosbeaks searching for fruiting ornamental trees and well-stocked feeders with black oil sunflower seeds,” notes the forecast.

Much the same dynamic is playing out with other finches, like pine siskins and redpolls and evening grosbeaks. Eastern Canada had excellent cone and birch seed crops, but that’s not the



case in the west, so the forecast predicts that siskins and redpolls will move south in large numbers in our region.

Many bird enthusiasts in our area likely remember last winter, when we saw the largest influx of evening grosbeaks in years at area feeders. According to the forecast, there’s a good chance of a repeat performance this winter, thanks again to the drought conditions. Black sunflower seeds are, again, the offering most likely to bring them in.

While both redpolls and siskins are attracted by black sunflower seeds, they’ll be even more excited if you offer thistle seed.

Two other boreal finches, red and white-winged crossbills, are likely to be unpredictable in our

area, given that pine and spruce cone crops were marginal due to drought. These birds only rarely come to feeders, so they’re not a bird that we expect to see most of the time, except up in the trees, hanging like parrots from cones.

But under certain conditions, these birds will come to feeders, and that’s when cone crops have generally failed across a wide area, which is largely the case this year in much of the boreal forest west of Lake Superior. So, don’t be surprised if a few of these birds opt for sunflower seeds around our area.

The bottom line is, it should be an interesting winter at the bird feeders. Let’s hope, anyway.

WATER LEVELS

Pike River dam repair expected this month

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

PIKE RIVER FLOWAGE — The Department of Natural Resources has given the green light for a repair to the Pike River dam that could be in place yet this month. That’s according to Jason Boyle, the DNR’s dam safety engineer.

The repair, to be undertaken by the Nordic Group at a cost of \$24,500, is designed to eliminate leakage around the dam’s former penstock, which has contributed to declining water levels on the Pike River Flowage, the artificial lake located just upstream of the dam.

The ongoing drought in the region had eliminated much of the water in the flowage earlier this year. The water level has remained well below normal for late fall, although it has recovered somewhat since late summer, at the height of the drought.

Even at the lowest level, back in August, a considerable amount of water continued to pour out of the former penstock in the dam, which threatened to all but drain the 214-acre flowage.

Boyle said gaps in stop logs that are supposed to prevent leakage through the penstock appeared to be allowing the outflow. One resident of the flowage, who is also a University of Minnesota physicist, had calculated in August that the flowage would be completely drained by October without a break in the drought or repairs to the dam to halt the leakage. More seasonable rains in September helped the water level recover somewhat over the fall, although it still hasn’t returned to normal levels.

The penstock is a large hole near the base of the dam, which was designed to house a turbine to generate electricity. The dam was built 110 years ago by the city of Tower to provide a source of power, but the water flow proved insufficient to provide a reliable source of energy.

While the city quickly abandoned the dam, the artificial lake it created just upstream has become populated over the years with more than a dozen homes and cabins, a natural constituency for maintaining the aging dam.

See **REPAIR**, pg. 5B



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER

REFLECTIONS OF FALL



Bare tree branches silhouette against a brilliant sunrise in Ely earlier this week. photo by K. Vandervort

OPENER...Continued from page 4B

quiet, but this year was definitely more so,” he said. Most hunters said they’re hoping for the more winter-like weather, including some snow, forecasted to arrive ahead of the second weekend. Broten said the mild weather over the first few days appeared to be limiting deer movement. He said he was seeing some of the same deer multiple times during the day. “They’re not moving far,” he said.

Hunters weren’t the only ones reporting limited success. Conservation officer reports from around the area cited similar results. Orr area CO Troy Fondie described the opener as a “non-event”, with the lowest number of deer harvested in his memory. He said most hunters reported few deer and plenty of wolf sign. “A number of camp sites and hunting cabins were vacant,” Fondie added.

Aaron Larson, the new CO in the Tower area, reported hearing little success from hunters over opener, with minimal deer movement. Ely area CO Sean Williams reported a relatively high number of hunters in camps along the Echo Trail, but said the majority had reported no success.

So far, deer registrations in the area suggest that the reports from hunters and COs are right on the mark. Through the first three days of the hunt, hunters had registered a total of 2,172 deer in the nine permit areas within the *Timberjay* coverage area. That’s well below opening weekend results from 2018 and 2019, while 2020 results weren’t available as of press time.

Not that every unsuccessful hunter lacked opportunity. Bryers, who reported seeing little sign over the weekend, had his chance at “a brute” on Monday. But without tracking snow, Bryers went for a head shot, not wanting to wound an animal he might not find. As most hunters know, that’s a lot smaller target. In this case, said Bryers, it was a clean

miss. The buck stood stock still for a second or two after Bryers’ gun sounded, before bounding off.

Hunters may have more favorable conditions for the hunt’s second weekend, with snow and colder weather forecast to set in by Friday. Temperatures over the weekend are expected to be more seasonable, with highs around freezing and overnight lows in the low 20s.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
34 23					31 21					30 19					31 18					36 19				
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.
11/01	41	31	0.03	0.1"	11/01	41	31	0.00		11/01	40	30	0.01	0.1"	11/01	37	30	0.00		11/01	42	29	0.00	
11/02	38	28	0.03	0.5"	11/02	38	26	0.00		11/02	37	26	0.04	0.3"	11/02	36	27	0.00		11/02	39	26	0.00	
11/03	35	27	0.00		11/03	35	26	0.00		11/03	39	27	0.02	0.2"	11/03	41	27	0.00		11/03	35	26	0.00	
11/04	39	21	0.00		11/04	39	16	0.00		11/04	40	25	0.00		11/04	48	25	0.00		11/04	39	17	0.00	
11/05	48	20	0.00		11/05	48	15	0.00		11/05	46	26	0.00		11/05	52	32	0.00		11/05	47	17	0.00	
11/06	54	34	0.00		11/06	54	34	0.00		11/06	52	32	0.00		11/06	61	43	0.00		11/06	55	34	0.00	
11/07	61	30	0.00		11/07	61	26	0.00		11/07	59	34	0.00		11/07	61	34	0.00		11/07	61	27	0.00	
YTD Total			15.63	0.6"	YTD Total			18.88		YTD Total			18.03	0.6"	YTD Total			19.93		YTD Total			21.48	

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EMPLOYMENT



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Vermilion Country School in Tower, MN is seeking to hire a .5 FTE Social Studies Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Position open until filled.

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

Range LP Gas – Ely FULL TIME OFFICE HELP

Range LP Gas in Ely has immediate opening for full time office help. 40 hrs/week, M-F. Basic office duties, customer service, answering phones. Please bring/mail resume to 102 Hoover Road South, Virginia. 11/12



Foundation Executive Director MAPE MnSCU Academic Professional 1 Unlimited, Part Time

Vermilion Community College is seeking to fill a unlimited, part-time 45% FTE (18 hours per week) MAPE MnSCU Academic Professional 1 – Foundation Director position. This position will manage and support the organization and operation of the Vermilion Community College Foundation through stewardship, fundraising, and alumni relations.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Experience in financial/budgeting processes or related experience.
- Effective written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to organize, prioritize and meet deadlines on simultaneous projects.
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office software, database usage and media publishing.
- Ability to collect data, assess needs and accurately maintain records.
- Ability to act independently and make decisions accordingly.
- Commitment to diversity as well as a demonstrated ability to work successfully with persons of diverse backgrounds including sensitivity to their needs and concerns.
- Strong interpersonal/human relation skills.
- Ability to foster team building and cooperation with the Vermilion Foundation Board members, Vermilion Faculty and Staff and the community.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience in marketing and fundraising.
- Knowledge of reporting requirements of a non-profit organization.
- Experience managing grants and/or scholarship funding.
- Experience using QuickBooks

Application Procedure: Applicants must apply online using Vermilion Community College's People Admin online application:

Application Deadline:

Application review will begin on **November 22, 2021**, but will accept applications until position is filled.

Learn more about this position at: <https://www.nhed.edu/human-resources/employment/vcc>

For questions regarding this posting, please contact Kerri Dahl, HR: kerri.dahl@mesabirange.edu

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PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
ST. LOUIS COUNTY
6TH DISTRICT COURT
Court File No:
69DU-JV-21-351
Case Type: Juvenile

SUMMONS AND NOTICE
TRANSFER PERMANENT
LEGAL AND PHYSICAL
CUSTODY

In the Matter of the Welfare of
the Child(ren) of:
Lateara Cross, Parent
John Boshey, Parent

NOTICE TO: John Raymond Boshey, above-named parent.

1. A Transfer of Permanent Legal and Physical Custody Petition has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of Juvenile Court located at St. Louis County District Court, 100 N 5th Ave. W, Duluth, Minnesota, or electronically via ZOOM, on **December 8, 2021, at 9:15 a.m.** or as soon after as the Matter can be heard.
3. **YOU ARE ORDERED** to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date.
4. You have a right to be represented by counsel.
5. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant appropriate relief, including permanently transferring physical and legal custody of the child(ren) named in the Petition.

WITNESS, the Honorable Sally Tarnowski
Judge of District Court
BY: Jenna Palumbo, Deputy

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 12, 19 & 26, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICES

OPEN FOR BID Stuntz Bay Association

Removal and replacement of permanent dock and cribs. For more information, call Dan at 218-969-6374. Mail quotes to Stuntz Bay Association, PO Box 102, Soudan, MN 55782. Reply by Nov. 19, 2021.

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 5 & 12, 2021

DECLARATION OF LAND PATENT Michael William Vittori©

Located on the Land and Soil
St. Louis County, Minnesota

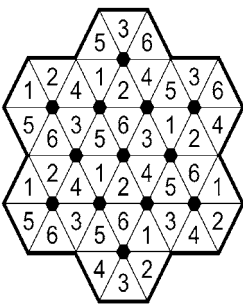
<https://minnesotaassembly.net/public-notice>

Land Patent is posted for 60 days starting
Nov. 5, 2021 until Jan. 4, 2022
by: Michael Vittori ©

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2021

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Call Jerry with questions at 218-984-3506. Please send proposals to Timber Hall, 4855 Hwy 21, Embarrass, MN 55732 or email timberhall@embarrassfair.org.

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 5 & 12, 2021

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

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Admissions

FT Patient Registrar

Hospital/ER

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Radiology

FT Radiologic Technologist

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

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PT Dietary Aide/Cook

Environmental Services

FT Housekeeper

Casual Laundry Aide

Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

Activities

PT & Casual Activities Assistant

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Equipment Operator II Position

The City of Ely is currently accepting applications for the Equipment Operator II Position. This is a full time position that includes a benefits package and is part of the AFSCME Base Union. Primarily responsible for the operation of equipment used in the maintenance and construction of the City's streets, roads, sidewalks, and parks; performs manual labor for some maintenance and construction activities. Minimum Qualifications include High School Diploma (or equivalent) and three years' experience operating and maintaining heavy equipment and a valid Minnesota Commercial Driver's license (Class B) with required endorsements. For more information, please pick up an application and supplemental application in the Clerk's Office at Ely City Hall (209 E Chapman St, Ely, MN) or on the City of Ely website (www.ely.mn.us). Deadline for accepting applications is Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 4:30 pm. Applications can be dropped off or mailed to the Clerk's Office at 209 E Chapman St., Ely, MN 55731, or emailed to deputyclerk@ely.mn.us. The City of Ely is an equal opportunity employer.

Harold R Langowski, City Clerk/Treasurer

11/19

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Greet the villain
- 5 Bummer
- 9 Wd. from Roget
- 12 Incite
- 13 Writer Rice
- 14 Scot's refusal
- 15 Time of youthful innocence
- 17 World Cup cheer
- 18 Jacket part
- 19 Cut wood
- 21 Hectic hosp. area
- 22 Sun block?
- 24 Satirist Mort
- 27 "Exodus" hero
- 28 Infatuated
- 31 Acapulco gold
- 32 Impose
- 33 "Delicious!"
- 34 Lugosi of film
- 36 Observe
- 37 Nick and Nora's pet
- 38 Cove
- 40 Room cooler, for short
- 41 Pal
- 43 Geronimo, for one
- 47 Mound stat
- 48 1987 Woody Allen movie
- 51 Hobbyist's 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		

- 52 Apple product
- 53 Pet-food brand
- 54 Snake's warning
- 55 Mediocre grades
- 56 Part of A.D.
- 8 Bas-relief medium
- 9 Winter "no school" times
- 10 Harvard rival
- 11 Grant basis, at times
- 16 TiVo, for example
- 20 Calendar abbr.
- 22 Vinegar bottle
- 23 Low-calorie
- 24 Weep
- 25 "Right you —!"
- 26 Work breaks
- 27 Church section
- 29 Belly
- 30 "I — Rock"
- 35 Moreover
- 37 National park in Maine
- 39 Ira Gershwin's contribution
- 40 GI's address
- 41 Hotel furniture
- 42 "Topaz" author
- 43 Helps
- 44 "Misery" star
- 45 Church song
- 46 Old U.S. gas brand
- 49 Gorilla
- 50 Fawn's mom

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Find It Here

753-2950

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

BOOS DRAG SYN
URGE ANNE NAE
SALAD DAYS OLE
SLEEVE SAWED
ER CLOUD
SAHL ARI GAGA
ORO PUT YUM
BELA SEE ASTA
INLET AC
BUDDY APACHE
ERA RADIO DAYS
DIY IPOD JAMS
SSS CEES ANNO

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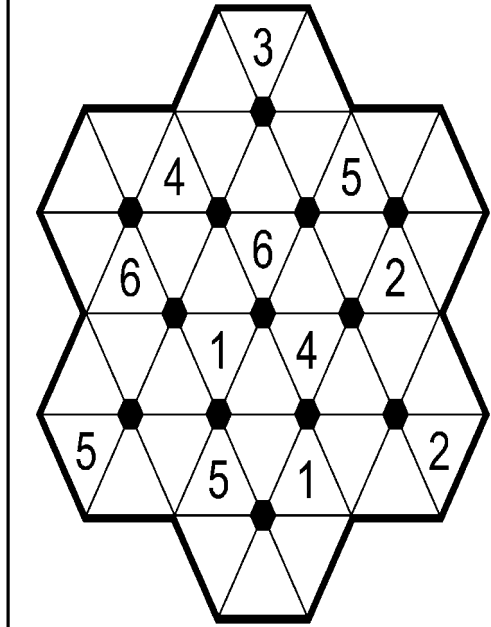
HELP WANTED- COOK NEEDED- full-time or part-time at Melgeorge's on Elephant Lake. WEEKEND CABIN CLEANERS also needed. Call 218-374-3621. tfn

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SNOWFLAKES by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦
♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

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ACROSS

1 John, James or Judas

8 GI show sponsor

11 13-digit publishing ID

15 Just barely

19 Taking place in cyberspace

20 Give a very bad review of

21 Piddling

22 Papa's mate

23 For a very long time

25 Experts

26 Body part over the eyes

27 Bakery units

28 Brand of fat replacer

30 Arouse the interest of

32 Auntie — (pretzel bakery chain)

33 Good-fortune symbols

35 Here, in Cannes

37 Beards on barley

38 State, in Cannes

39 Cruel ruler in "Alice in Wonderland"

46 High-ranking clergyman

49 Terrifying dino

50 With no muss or fuss

51 Nintendo consoles

53 CNN anchor Burnett

54 Dots on sea maps

56 Torah temple

57 Car ding

58 "a vacation!"

59 Volkswagen sedan model

61 Aspire to high goals

64 Seek the love of

66 100%

67 Thumbs-up vote

68 Their passengers stand in baskets

76 Skewered meat dishes

81 Old family name in violinmaking

82 "Dies —" (Latin hymn)

83 Castro of Cuba

85 Monte —

86 Nada

87 Round hammer part

88 Conical shelters

90 Bog grass

91 Enchants

93 Pursue impossible dreams

96 One-named singer who was a muse for Andy Warhol

97 Subpar grades

98 Historic start?

99 Get ringers and leaners

105 Topic to debate

110 In a disturbed way

111 Gem often on a string

112 Goddess of wisdom

113 Think (over)

114 Offers

116 Cereal associated with seven key words in this puzzle

118 Tablet

119 Composer Charles

120 LAX info

121 Icy treat

122 Stick around

123 Big top, e.g.

124 — Moines River

125 Old Greek harp players

DOWN

1 Home of St. Teresa

2 Attach, as a boutonniere

3 Financial adviser

4 Fend (off)

5 Listens to a broadcast

6 Deposits

7 "Slippery" tree

8 Samoan island where Robert Louis Stevenson died

9 More lucid

10 Getting a regular paycheck

11 Small demon

12 Tiny letter flourishes

13 Bucking ride

14 People cuddling up

15 Having mixed feelings

16 Place to set one's sights

17 Illicit affair

18 1920s U.S. veep Charles

24 Hugs, in a letter

29 Salamander

31 Memorizing process

33 Military flutes

34 Part of Q&A

36 Swindle

39 Swab brand

40 Celestial bear

41 Sinuous swimmers

42 Previous spouses

43 Gag reaction

44 Needle case

45 Men-only

46 Succinct

47 Arena part

48 Finales

52 Acct. accrual

55 Horror film sequel of 2005

57 Del Rio of old Hollywood

58 Sci-fi writer Asimov

60 Blue Jays, on a scoreboard

62 Andy Capp's missus

63 "Eww, micer!"

65 Some theater awards

68 Mental fog

69 Boding sign

70 Fast Italian whirling dance

71 How a nation with nukes is armed

72 Consist of

73 Cavalry weapons

74 Neck back

75 Bringer of a legal action

77 Catty remark

78 Nabisco bite

79 Erupted

80 Grassy turfs

84 Vaults

87 Put a ban on

88 Like grads' caps

89 Titled man

92 Folkie Phil

94 Dickens' Uriah

95 Nor's partner

97 "All for Love" playwright

99 Oil rig parts

100 Native Alaskan

101 Drab hue

102 Terre —

103 Killer whales

104 Wapiti

106 Ventriloquist Lewis

107 Kosovo inhabitants

108 Not fulfilled, as a goal

109 The Far and the Near?

112 Suffering a flu symptom

115 Old JFK jet

117 Big initials in fashion

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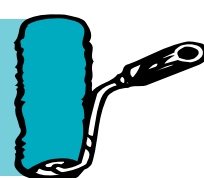
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