



Early Deadline:

Don't forget, the deadline for ads and articles for the Nov. 26 paper is Monday, Nov. 22 at 10 a.m. Watch for our special holiday edition, along with this year's North Country Christmas magazine in your mailbox on Nov. 24.

the TIMBERJAY



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COVID-19

Local cases top last year as surge intensifies

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

Minnesota now has highest infection rate in U.S.

REGIONAL- New cases of COVID-19 across the North Country in recent weeks are running far ahead of the same period last year, with no sign the surge will abate any time soon. That's despite the fact that almost seven in ten people have

been vaccinated against the virus.

An analysis of weekly state COVID case reports by ZIP codes by the *Timberjay* paints a bleak picture for the area reminiscent of the lead up to last year's massive November/December surge. For comparable five-week



periods from early October to early November, the total number

of new COVID cases this year is 42 percent higher than in 2020.

Ely accounts for a significant portion of the increase with double the number of cases this year, 56, compared to 28 last year, and Cook, Orr, Tower, Soudan and Embarrass ZIPs all show

year-to-year increases.

Ely also topped the most recent weekly case report on Nov. 11 with 19 new cases, followed by Cook with 14, the only two areas with double-digit increases last week.

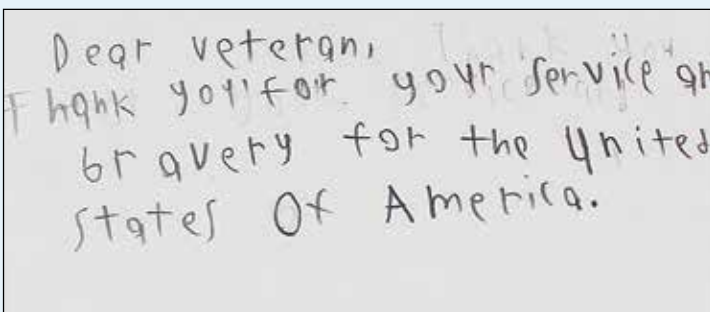
However, Cook continued to hold the dubious dis-

See...COVID pg. 9

VETERANS DAY 2021



HONORING OUR VETERANS



Area schools held tributes last Thursday for Veterans Day. Dale Franks, top, a member of the Ely Honor Guard, saluted the American Flag during a ceremony at Memorial High School. At right and above, Harper Olson, 5, of Soudan, and other elementary students made cards and gift bags that were sent to area military veterans. Timberjay staff photos



GREENWOOD

Water test: 'Horrorific' level of arsenic at town hall

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- Water testing done at the Greenwood Town Hall has highlighted some serious issues with water quality.

"The results were quite horrific," said Supervisor Barb Lofquist, who had initiated getting the testing done. "We were concerned about mercury, but it's the arsenic."

Arsenic levels tested at 200 times acceptable limits, with a reading of 102 ug/L. The acceptable level in drinking water is under 0.5 ug/L. The "action limit" for arsenic is 10 ug/L. One ug/L is the same as one part per billion.

"This is to the point of toxicity," said Lofquist. "There are health risks."

Lofquist had spearheaded the effort to get the water at the town hall tested, mostly, she said, because of the lingering odor of sulfur in the water supply. She was also worried the water might have mercury in it, because of the proximity to Lake Vermilion.

"I thought we should have safe drinking water here, and the town board agreed," she said.

The board is also acting quickly to get the issue resolved.

The township immediately shut off the water supply in the town hall, and

See...WATER pg. 12



ISD 696

School board to consider COVID-19 advisory council 'sunset'

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Despite 17 active coronavirus cases reported in Ely school this week

ELY-School officials here have no incentive for rolling back protective face mask mandates anytime soon as the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage through the school

population. Indeed, of the 34 cases of the COVID-19 to hit the local school since Labor Day, 17 active cases were reported in the school as of Wednesday.

The Ely Safe Learning

Plan Advisory Council (ESLPAC) continues to meet on a weekly basis to hammer out the details of how, when and why a mask-wearing mandate might eventually transition

into a mere recommendation.

But the council's existence appears to be in jeopardy.

Earlier this fall, facing a backlash from a minori-

ty group of anti-masking petition signers, school board members rescinded the school administration's authority, with input from ELSPEC, to make school health protocol decisions,

even as positive COVID-19 cases surged with the start of the school year.

Instead, they took the responsibility themselves to vote by majority rule on recommendations from school administrators as to when face masks will no

See...ELY pg. 9



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Community notices

Range of Voices choral concerts, Dec. 10 and 12

REGIONAL- Range of Voices will present two concerts featuring a mix of winter and Christmas songs. They are Friday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at Chisholm Baptist Church and Sunday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. at Gethsemane Lutheran in Virginia.

Ice Candle and Holiday Gathering

EMBARRASS- A display of candles will take place at the Embarrass Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 18. Christmas goodies and coffee will be served at the town hall at 4 p.m. along with crafts for the kids. Come to enjoy the holiday spirit and beauty of ice candles.

Donations of cookies or bars are welcome and greatly appreciated. Volunteers are also needed to place candles at the cemetery that afternoon. Call the clerk's office at 218-984-2084 for any questions or to volunteer.

Vermilion Dream Quilters are holding a Holiday Party on Dec. 2

TOWER- Vermilion Dream Quilters will hold their traditional holiday party at the Vermilion Club at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 2. Please make your reservations with Kathy Sacchetti (her contact information is in the November meeting minutes e-mail) by Nov. 26. Donations for Operation Santa will be accepted if you would like to participate. Planned activities include a wrapped gift exchange of \$15 and a make-and-take holiday-themed craft led by Michele Sherwood.

Broadband speed test hosted by RAMS

REGIONAL- The Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS) is pleased to announce that it will be the new host of the Minnesota statewide speedtest project. This map and initiative was previously hosted by the MN Rural Broadband Coalition. This crowdsourcing speed test will allow local governments, area partners, communities, and providers to better identify underserved and unserved areas as well as help consumers see for themselves if they are actually getting the service (broadband speed) that they are paying for. RAMS is able to host this test with the help of one of their corporate members, GEO Partners, LLC who will be helping analyze the data and create usable maps and information.

RAMS helped start this testing process in April of 2020 and the information gathered will be used to further the development of high speed internet for the citizens of Minnesota. Residents are encouraged to take the test on the RAMS Broadband website at <https://broadband.ramsmn.org>.

Get Christmas tree permits from USFS

REGIONAL - The Superior National Forest offers Christmas tree permits to purchase online through Recreation.gov until Jan. 6, 2022.

"On the Superior, selective balsam fir removal through the Christmas tree permit program helps reduce pockets of dense balsam fir," said Travis Durkin, Superior National Forest Engine Module Supervisor. "These pockets, when ignited by wild-fire, burn hot and can enable wildfire to quickly spread. Through this permit program, members of the public can come in and cut down a Christmas tree, which is beneficial for families, our local communities, and for the forest."

To purchase a Christmas tree permit, visit [Recreation.gov/tree-permits](https://recreation.gov/tree-permits), and search for Superior National Forest Christmas Tree Permits. Details about designated cutting areas, dates, and types of trees that may be cut are located at <https://go.usa.gov/xeBHz>.

In addition to Christmas trees, bough permits are also available for gathering balsam boughs from National Forest System lands. All bough parties must have a permit for cutting boughs for personal use. For more information on cost and permit specifications for boughs, see <https://go.usa.gov/xeBU>.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Ely area Christmas celebrations

ELY - The Thanksgiving and Christmas season is here and the Ely Chamber of Commerce and other organizations are planning festive events for the 2021 holiday season.

Things will kick off on Thanksgiving evening with Shine Bright Ely. Instead of downtown stores being open, business windows and storefronts up and down Ely's main street will welcome folks with sparkling lights, animation and holiday themes.

"Get out after that big turkey dinner and stroll or drive the streets and enjoy Ely's winter wonderland," said Chamber Events coordinator Ellen Cashman.

There will be no traditional holiday parade this year, marking another transition in the city's end-of-year event calendar. "Instead, consider an evening out at one of Ely's many restaurants," Cashman said.

Friday, Nov. 26 will be the kick-off for some power shopping in Ely's friendly, relaxed, and fully-stocked stores. It is Small Town Christmas and Shop Local weekend, Nov. 26 - 28.

"Ely is well known for locally-made, unique products. Everything from tasty granola, Dorothy's root beer, Gene Hicks or Northern Grounds coffee, to outdoor clothing and winter specific gear: knives, bags, packs, toboggans, snowshoes, sleds, dog harnesses and collars are available," Cashman said.

"The stores are filled with north woods-style gifts, art work, artist-made cards, home improvement items, and a lot more for everyone on your gift-giving list," she added. "Shop Local Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Shopping local means going home with your purchases, not waiting to see if your online purchases arrive on time."

Festival of Trees

The Northwoods Partners Festival of Trees holiday event begins on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25, and runs through Sunday, Dec. 5.



A Holiday Boutique was held last Saturday at The Art Corner in Ely for Christmas shoppers to get an early start on gift purchasing. photo by K. Vandervort

The lobby of the Grand Ely Lodge will once again be transformed into a winter wonderland, complete with decorated Christmas trees, wreaths, and a holiday boutique.

On Thanksgiving morning, the trees will be lit for the first time and they will remain lit until noon on Dec. 5. Bidding on the decorated trees and wreaths begins at 5 p.m. Thanksgiving evening, and will also mark the opening of the Holiday Boutique, full of hand-crafted holiday must-haves and gift items.

Due to COVID-19 public health restrictions and the ongoing positive caseload in the Ely area, there will be no Thanksgiving evening lighting ceremony this year.

Back by popular demand are the Chairs for Care. Each chair has been designed by local artists and crafters. Bidding and the boutique close at noon on Sunday, Dec. 5.

For more information on Northwoods Partners Festival of Trees, contact Lisa Porthan at 218-365-8019.

Skate with Santa

Ice skate with Santa Claus on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 5-7 p.m. at the Ron Castellano Arena

in Babbitt. The event is hosted by the Babbitt Figure Skating Club. Come out and join them for free skating, dinner, hot chocolate, fire with s'mores, and a coloring contest. A festive-wear contest will also be held.

Origami Ornaments

The Ely Folk School is getting in the Christmas spirit with a class on making origami ornaments. The class will be held on Thursday, Dec. 9 from 5-7 p.m.

The class is open to students age 12 and older. The cost is \$24. Go to www.elyfolkschool.org to register.

In this class, participants will learn how to make their own origami ornaments. At least four different designs will be presented to offer a basic understanding of folds and how to read instructions.

After making the designs, students will carefully string them with a needle and thread. They will have the opportunity to experiment with other designs from books during the last 30 minutes of class or to create more of the designs taught in class.

Participants will go home with at least half a dozen ornaments and the knowledge to create many

more. These are perfect to hang on the Christmas tree or to give out as gifts to friends and family.

The instructor, Alexia Springer, has been teaching origami to her friends (and even classmates) since grade school. Part of her Christmas tradition growing up was making origami ornaments as a family. They used old wrapping paper that was well intact and kept pieces year to year for the Christmas tree. Throughout the years, her family created some difficult pieces but also adopted some classic ornaments that were used most.

Mrs. Claus Party

The Chamber's annual Mrs. Claus Party is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 11 at the Grand Ely Lodge. Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be outside welcoming children and families for drive-thru goodie bag pick-up from 1-2 p.m. The traditional indoor event will be held indoors at the GEL from 2-3:30 p.m. and will include craft tables, a visit with the jolly couple and goodie bags.

FORTUNE BAY RESORT CASINO

Fortune Bay hires new general manager

VERMILION RESERVATION- Fortune Bay Resort Casino is pleased to announce the hiring of new General Manager Mayan Beltran.

"He is well versed in all areas of casino operations, plus the hospitality field as well," said Bois Forte Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers of Beltran. "He is very professional, well-spoken, and will be a great asset to the Fortune Bay team and the Bois Forte community. We're fortunate to have found such a talented man to lead us through this next period in our history."



Beltran is an enrolled band member of the Winnebago Tribe in Nebraska. He brings with him over 25 years of casino experience and most recently served as the general manager of WinnaVegas Casino Resort in Sloan, Iowa.

Beltran, who is married and has two adult children,

said he did a lot of research online about the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and Fortune Bay Resort Casino before his interview. After all, moving from Iowa to northeastern Minnesota isn't a decision that can be made without knowing exactly what he would be walking into. In the end, Beltran said he had a great feeling about the Tribal Council and the Casino Executives that he spoke with and thus the decision just felt right for him.

"There was much discussion with my family about the opportunity before accepting," explained Beltran, who credited his family for allowing him to make this career move. "I have such an incredible support system at home,

and I wanted to ensure my family was on board with such a change in environment. After that, we then had that 'This is the new chapter in our life' moment."

And that new chapter has already begun, with much promise and positive feedback from everyone Beltran has crossed paths with thus far.

"I would like to express my gratitude to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and Fortune Bay Resort Casino for the opportunity to work with them," said Beltran. "I'm very excited about being part of the leadership and the future of this great nation and business. I look forward to meeting and working with everyone in our community."

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CITY OF ELY

Ely Wolf Center needs major building work

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

City council agrees to support state bonding request

ELY – The Ely City Council unanimously agreed Tuesday night to fully support a \$1,268,250 Minnesota legislative bonding request from the International Wolf Center to make critical repairs to this community’s interpretive center.

The Wolf Center’s visitor center was opened in 1993 after state bonding funds and donors supported the renovation of the former U.S. Forest Service building. According to IWC Executive Director Grant Spickelmier, the building is now owned by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and lease fees have been paying for repairs and upkeep of

the building for the past three decades.

“Because the building is 30 years old, it is starting to feel like it is 30 years old,” Spickelmier told city council members. “We are seeking money from the state to pay for our infrastructure needs and our asset preservation to allow our educational work to continue.”

Topping the to-do list of projects is the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system, that needs a complete replacement at an estimated cost of \$475,000.

“We’ve been told we have one of the most crowded HVAC rooms that most engineers have seen,” he said.

“You haven’t seen our Community Center,” noted Ely Mayor Roger Skraba.

The HVAC portion of the project includes the replacement of the chiller/air conditioning system and HVAC controls, boilers and air handlers serving the large exhibit and commons area, and the grade-mounted heating units in the auditorium.

A complete roof and insulation replacement will cost more than \$400,000.

“We have a roof that is soft in spots and leaks,” Spickelmier said. “We get all sorts of ice jams every year, and it actually becomes risky for our wolves from the ice that hangs over the exhibit area.”

He noted that in 2019, a snow-melt event caused major flooding in the IWC building as they were developing a new exhibit.

“We caulked it up as best as we could, but we really need some water management of the landscaping,” Spickelmier said.

Drainage improvements, including piping, grading and catch basins, are estimated to cost \$44,000.

A new front entry door and upgraded lobby area with improved ADA access and security will cost about \$250,000. Window replacement, sidewalk repairs and re-staining of the wooden building exterior will cost another \$95,000.

“You may ask, ‘This



submitted photo

is a DNR building and why are they not doing this work?” Spickelmier said. “They just don’t have the capacity to do the work for such a large project. They have been putting a lot of time and energy into keeping our building going and help us in limping

along, but they can’t do all this major work. And they have 900 other buildings on their list of things to do.”

The Wolf Center is doing their own advocacy for the infrastructure work and working with

See **ELY...**pg. 5

HEATING HELP

Apply now for residential energy assistance

More funding available, more Minnesotans should be eligible this heating season

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The cost of heating fuels is on the rise this winter and that means more people will need help paying their heating bills. If so, North Country residents will want to contact the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency to apply for Minnesota’s

energy assistance program.

The state’s Department of Commerce recently received \$106 million in federal funds for the program and that has allowed the department to raise the benefits and the income levels at which individuals can qualify for assistance.

Under the program, income eligible individuals who own or rent their

homes can apply for up to \$3,200 to pay for current and past-due bills for electricity, gas, oil, propane, emergency fuel delivery and repair/replacement of homeowners’ broken heating systems. Assistance could also cover water and sewer bills.

With higher income eligibility, a family of four could have income of almost \$68,000 and still

qualify. The program only considers the past three months of income for a household.

“As the weather turns colder, it’s important for Minnesotans to take actions now to stay warm and safe,” said Commerce Commissioner Grace Arnold. “Energy assistance is here to make your energy bills more affordable. You shouldn’t have

to choose between paying your energy bill and buying groceries or prescription medications.”

Residents of northern St. Louis and Lake counties can apply for heating assistance through the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, in Virginia. The AEOA can be reached toll-free at 1-800-662-5711 or at 218-749-2912. Income eligibility

is based on income over a three-month period.

A one-person household can qualify for the program with an average gross income over the prior three months of \$2,936 a month, or \$8,809 for the three-month period. The cutoff for a two-person household is \$3,840 per month, or \$11,520 for the three-month period.

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Editorial

A win for the Range

Biden's infrastructure bill brings big benefits to the area. So why did our congressman vote no?

The Iron Range is set to be one of the big winners from the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill signed into law by President Biden on Monday. Besides the hundreds of millions of dollars that will be directed to our region over the next several years for expanding broadband and fixing roads and bridges, the region will benefit by having a more stable taconite industry, at least for the foreseeable future.

All that infrastructure spending will require steel, and lots of it. And the bill includes one of the toughest Buy American provisions ever enacted, which will ensure that all those federally-funded projects use domestically-manufactured steel. That means the Iron Range is going to be busy.

So, why did Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber, who never misses an opportunity to, at least rhetorically, fist-pump the taconite industry, vote no? That's an easy one. Stauber, as he has done before, put his fawning devotion to Donald Trump ahead of the interests of his district.

The benefits of the bill that Stauber opposed are obvious to everyone, even to a majority of Republicans according to recent polling. That's why close to half of Republican senators voted in favor of the bill and 13 Republicans even backed it in the more partisan House.

That GOP support came from members of the House who can still think for themselves, and who opted to put the interests of their districts ahead of Trump's ego.

Stauber's excuse, which came in a press statement following his "no" vote, was an insult to residents of the Eighth District. "Regrettably, Nancy Pelosi and other Democrat leaders made it abundantly clear that the \$1.2 trillion Senate infrastructure bill is inextricably linked to their bloated multi-trillion-dollar tax-and-spend package," claimed Stauber. "Make no mistake: a vote for this 'infrastructure' package is a vote for the reckless multi-trillion-dollar tax-and-spend spree. That's why I voted no."

As with much of what Congressman Stauber puts out to the public these days, this statement was utter nonsense.

First, the infrastructure bill that Biden signed into law was for physical infrastructure. Roads, bridges, seaports, airports, sewer and water, and broadband, etc. It was, in other words, the exact investments that candidate Donald Trump

promised to make in 2016.

Yes, House Democrats hope to reach agreement with the U.S. Senate later this year on an entirely different spending bill designed to reduce healthcare premiums and childcare costs for millions of American families as well as extend the childcare tax credit, expand Medicare to provide benefits for hearing services, provide major investments in energy efficiency and renewables, affordable housing, and elder care.

Republicans have made it clear they don't support these provisions and that's why Democrats expect to receive no GOP votes in support of these family-friendly investments.

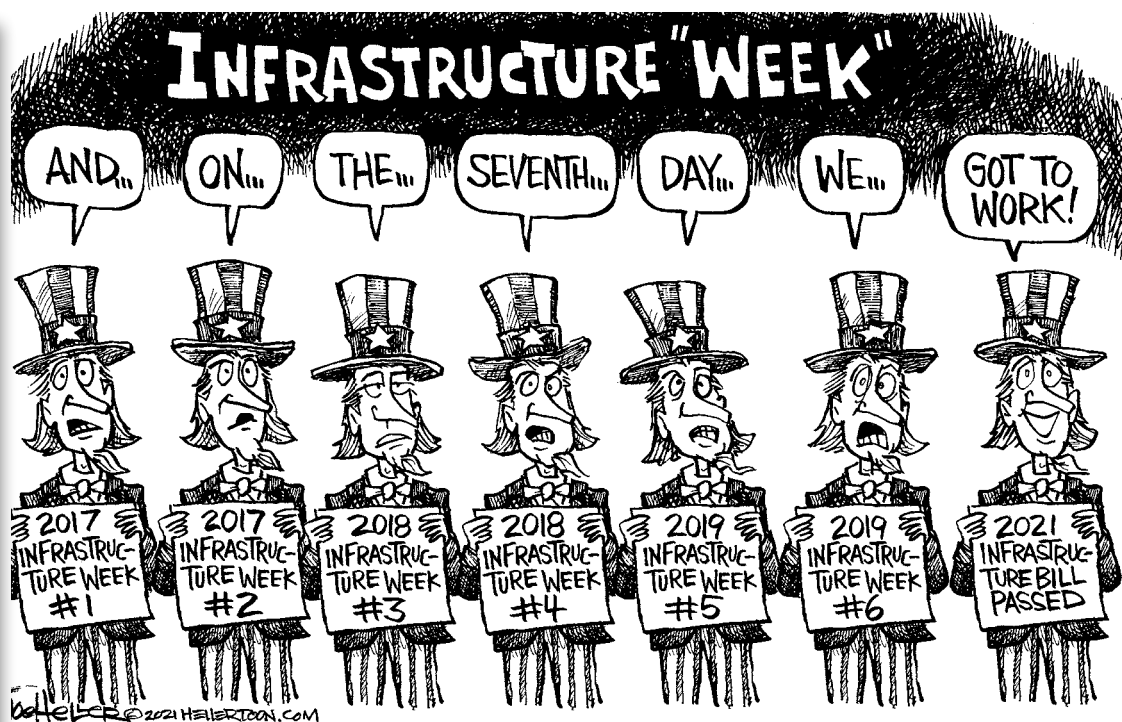
The key there is that a vote for the physical infrastructure bill, i.e. the bill that's expected to bring more than 2,000 new jobs to the Eighth District and keep the Iron Range humming, is not in any way connected to a vote on the other legislation. If Stauber doesn't like the "tax-and-spend" bill as he calls it, he doesn't have to vote for it. That's how things work in Congress. You vote for bills you support and vote against those you don't like.

Rep. Stauber and his press staff who put out this ridiculous statement knew that his statement was illogical and misleading, but they plainly assumed that the voters back home weren't smart enough to realize that.

To understand Stauber's real motivation, just consider the antics of his puppet master, Donald Trump, in the wake of the infrastructure vote. While Trump campaigned in full support of more infrastructure spending when he was a candidate, he's threatened retaliation against Republicans who backed Biden's bill, which accomplishes what Trump couldn't.

Biden's success exposes what virtually every informed presidential observer already knows: Trump was the most inept president this country has suffered under in more than a century. For Stauber, when faced with a choice between representing the interests of his constituents back home in the Eighth or keeping a loud-mouthed bully happy, Stauber sided with the bully.

Let's be clear: A vote for this infrastructure bill was likely the single most beneficial vote that Stauber could have taken for the Eighth District, probably in his entire career. And he threw it all away for craven politics. Says a lot.



Letters from Readers

Sound practices can make the difference with COVID

During the pandemic, Minnesota has had different rates of infection in different counties. Here in St. Louis County, according to the official statistics from the Department of Health, the rate of infection is 13 percent with 26,531 cases in a population of 200,231. In Cook County the rate of infection is 5 percent with 275 cases in a population of 5,600. There have been 377 deaths in St. Louis County. There have been 0 deaths in Cook County.

Vaccination is one reason for the difference. In Cook County, 73 percent of the population has been fully vaccinated. In St. Louis County, 60 percent of the population has been fully vaccinated. Safety protocols are another reason. Although there aren't any statistics for mask wearing and social distancing, the citizens of Grand Marais should be congratulated, I think, for doing a very good job of protecting each other.

**Jim Ganahl
Cook**

A first-hand account of a COVID infection

Can't say that it's been my ambition to write about getting sick, but here's my experience with a "breakthrough infection" of COVID. I'm 74, had had both my shots, and was just two days shy of getting my booster shot when I came down with it.

I know who I got it from - a guy who said he was vaccinated but wasn't. I let my guard down and talked with him without either of us having a mask on.

The people who spend their days working with COVID patients tell me it's a lot like Bingo. You never know whose card is going to get called, nor how much they're going to win.

Twenty-three-year-old studs can die in three days. 95-year-old people in wheelchairs can sail through with nothing but a headache for a couple of days. Me, I spent two or three days in what I thought at the time was real misery, in part because I sprained

or maybe even broke a rib early on, coughing while in a muscle spasm. This left me unable to cough without feeling like I was getting stabbed in the side.

And COVID really went after my lungs with congestion that didn't quit and just got worse and worse. Cough drops and the other stuff you can buy at the drug store didn't do a thing.

Got to where I was trying to find an instant test. Couldn't find one that wasn't at least three or four days out. The slow tests were taking four days to tell you one way or another. I finally got one on a Thursday noon. Four o'clock the very nice nurse called and told me it was positive. So much for my hope that it was "just the flu."

By Saturday it was bad enough I called in to the clinic. Guy said, just listening to me, "You need to go to the Emergency Room." By Sunday morning I was convinced too. Spent all day Sunday in the ER, waiting for a bed to open up. Got some sort of sedative and got the gurney ride upstairs.

They put me on the Trump Special - about a gallon a day of Remdesivir, plugged into my left arm and requiring frequent use of anything available to catch it on the way out. Got kind of comical, trying to handle that issue while having an oximeter taped to one fingertip and an oxygen tube running up my nose.

Can't say enough about the staff at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park. I grew up in Rochester, back when it was just a farm town of 30,000 people with Mayo being a bonus but not overwhelming it into a company town. We locals watched the medical people in training there with a critical eye, given that they were so dedicated to being the very best and richest specialists in their fields but didn't necessarily think your name was important.

At Methodist, I'll bet I saw at least five entirely different people every day that I never saw again - fifty people on the team, all taking care of me in one way or another - and not a single dud in the bunch.

You want to spend your days with a whole floor full of really infectious people, getting close enough to take care of them?

Heroes, every one of 'em.

After ten days, I lost 25 pounds and was keeping my oxy level above 90 without any machinery, which is their threshold for letting you out. Once I realized they were testing me for whether I'd need to carry the little green tank around with me, I started doing jumping jacks and yodeling. That was enough to persuade them they'd better get me out.

Anyway, the one-week follow up after release (more jumping jacks and yodeling in the hospital driveway on my way out, just to improve the general morale of those checking in) and the docs told me I was 30 days ahead of their expected recovery profile.

They credit it to my e-bike, which I've been using hard enough to get to breathing hard about four times a week for the past couple of years. I'm back on it now, figuring out how to get snow tires on it.

The biggest change for me is I no longer have any patience at all with the anti-vaxxers. It's one thing to be respectful of other people's opinions, but when it takes a month off your self-employed income and locks you up in a hospital room for ten days - that's a price that's getting paid by the wrong person. Throw in the cost of all that care - I'm on Medicare, so there's a cap to what I'll have to pay - and that cost is getting paid by taxpayers. Again - paid by the wrong person.

Maybe it's time to make infectious people responsible for the actual cost of their disregard for everyone else.

**Dave Porter
Minneapolis**

We welcome your letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com.

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

An unexpected gift from Old Man Winter

What is it about the first snow? It always conjures a certain feeling, especially when accompanied by moonlight. This year's version arrived rather unexpectedly when it dumped over six inches of snow in the first few hours following a



**KATHLEEN
MCQUILLAN**

temperatures dropped below freezing. The result? A heavy blanket of wet snow on a previously saturated surface.

The English language isn't noted for having a rich lexicon describing such snowy conditions, unlike

the Inuit-Yupic having 40 to 50 words for snow or the winter weather vocabulary of Scotland with its estimated 400 words or more! So, apologies for my simple concoction, "mushy-slushy stuff".

At dawn's early light, last Thursday morn, Little Duff woke me with his signal-scratching at the door. Time to let him out to do his business. Usually, I'm eager to suit up for our early morning trek. We get to see if anything interesting has

gone on overnight, and if timed just right, a chance to catch a colorful sunrise. So, into the semi-darkness we stepped, clueless as to the conditions awaiting us.

Alas, cold wet snow breached my boot tops. Every path with a destination, whether the woodshed, chicken coop, garden, or outhouse, was completely obliterated by balsam branches and willow brush, bent to the ground and frozen there by heavy clumps of icy snow. I

struggled to lead the way while Duffy followed close at my heels. Occasionally, he'd step out from my tracks and experience the sudden shock of freezing cold against his little bare belly. And the more he jumped and swirled, the more falling snow would shower down upon him. I soon figured out that we could go no further without first clearing the trails of these arching icy barricades. We turned around, making our way back to

the house. I grabbed the lopping shears and snow shovel, then returned on assignment.

Progress was slow. This snow, with its high water content, weighed a lot! So, I lopped the path and dug our way along half-shovel full by half-shovel full. During projects like this, memories inevitably surface of people, past and present, who I miss. This morning,

See **WINTER...** pg. 5

Send a message with a smile

I appreciated David Colburn's article (11-12-21) about the brave bunch of activists who gather in the cold each week on a corner in Cook to support the huge changes needed to mitigate climate change disasters. I greatly admire those progressive activists who keep at it no matter the odds. To put it mildly, their cause is daunting. To accomplish the needed changes, quick cooperation and sacrifices must be made by billions of people and their governments across the globe. During the riots after a video showed a gang of police kicking and beating helpless Rodney King in 1992, Mr. King implored, "People, can't we just get along?" Unfortunately, the answer seems to be a clear and emphatic, "No."

Human strife has plagued us since Cain and Abel, and negotiations to prevent war between nations are seldom successful. We are in the midst of the worst pandemic in over 100 years, and 36 percent of individuals in our own nation can't agree to help keep their neighbors and communities safe by getting, for free, one of

the most effective and safe vaccines ever made. The simple request to protect our neighbors, as well as ourselves, by wearing a mask when indoors in close proximity to others, is enough to cause Americans to swear and yell at each other in anger. It's hard for me to imagine that the flaws of human nature can be turned around as quickly as needed for the consequences of climate change to be reversed.

I am an RN who administers COVID vaccines and my pessimism about the future decreases when I'm with people who are willing to help their neighbors and communities, so I have not lost all hope. This brings up a suggestion that I want the members of the Cook curbside climate change action group to consider:

Mr. Colburn's photo shows each member of your group wearing a mask outdoors while holding a sign on the curb. The CDC and MN Dept of Health now recommend that masks be worn indoors by both the vaccinated and non-vaccinated when others are in close proximity (as I do in supermarkets, etc). But the CDC also states that it is safe for vaccinated individuals to go maskless outdoors (unless in a crowded setting with others

who may be unvaccinated). I think your message about climate change might be better received by some community members if you were wearing your smiles while outdoors, rather than your masks. I also believe that people who are undecided about whether to get vaccinated often say to themselves, when they see obviously-vaccinated people wearing masks outdoors (and most people driving by believe that climate change progressives are vaccinated), "Look, those vaccinated liberals are still wearing masks, even outdoors, so what's the use of getting the vaccine?" Maybe the progressives in the photo were wearing masks outdoors to keep their faces warm, or maybe because they think they're setting a good example. But I want the public to see that we, the vaccinated, have gained the freedom to go without masks outdoors because we trust the vaccine and the CDC's recommendations.

**Chuck Neil
Embarrass Twp.**

Change your diet, heal the planet

"Unfortunately, by cooking so many cows, humans are cooking them-

selves, too," according to The Economist. The United Nations Panel on Climate Change estimates that the global food system is responsible for about "21-37 percent" of greenhouse emissions.

Beef cattle are carbon intensive because they emit methane and take up about three-quarters of farm land. There are an estimated 1.5 billion head of cattle worldwide emitting 243 million tons of greenhouse gases annually, as reported by the U.N.

Several companies have laboratories developing plant-based ingredients to replicate beef and other food products as similar tasting substitute foods. The company, Beyond Meat, is a publicly-held company. Laboratories are creating their plant-based alternatives to supplant meat products such as hamburgers, chicken products, sausages, and a variety of other foods. Some of their initial endeavors are being evaluated in McDonald's, Dunkin, Starbucks, KFC, Subway, Hardee's, Del Taco, and its products are in more than 80 countries.

Another relatively new plant-based meat product company is Impossible Foods, a privately-held company, that has concentrated on making their

products for high-end restaurants and stores.

Competition is developing from existing large scale food companies such as Kellogg's, Nestle, Tyson, Conagra Brands, and Hormel Foods.

If, over a period of time, these companies are successful in developing plant-based products that are attractive to the public as an alternative to meat for people throughout the world, this phenomenon will have a beneficial impact on climate change. Furthermore, it will have a public health benefit as a result of changing eating habits.

Paralleling these plant-based developments is the burgeoning vertical farming research. Closed-in container plant food farming can be located anywhere, in any climate, minimum water requirements.

A small company called Plenty operates a two-acre vertical farm and claims it produces as much as a normal farm 300 times its size because it is vertical and its produce grows 365 days a year, 24 hours a day in a highly favorably controlled interior climate. In some instances, fish are raised in conjunction with a plant root hydroponic water system. The plants are

grown without herbicides, fungicides or insecticides. Leafy greens grow in 14 to 20 days compared to 4 to 6 weeks in the field.

As innovation of plant food substitutes and vertical farming becomes more meritorious, these endeavors will attract much needed capital to expand domestically and abroad. In fact, there may be some synergism in locating vertical farming, plant based "meat" production, retail grocery stores, a variety of high-end restaurants, and popular fast food chains all in a single location. A mall-like facility with these components would reduce costs of transportation, drought, floods, wind, insects and spoilage. Approximately 1/3 of food is lost between planting and consumer consumption under normal farming and transportation conditions.

So, next time you are in Zup's, buy a Beyond Meat product in the freezer section. Remember, their products are continuously undergoing modification and the infant industry is galvanized by formidable competition.

**Gerry Snyder
Ely**

WINTER...Continued from page 4

I recalled my dear neighbor, Louie. He had his own interesting way to describe his world, including our northern Minnesota array of winter conditions. Some probably accumulated from previous generations while others were of his own creation over the course of his long life farming the land his parents had homesteaded. Were he still here, I bet he'd have tagged (in his authoritative style) this stuff as, "heart-attack snow".

Once the paths were cleared, Duffy was free to let loose with the exuberance expressed by so many dogs with winter's first snowfall! With unbridled delight, he raced full speed from building to building, only stopping briefly to catch his breath or sate his obsessive need to sniff. Pure pleasure!

I stood motionless,

catching my own breath, cruising on his joy and absorbing the gorgeous wonder around me. The woods looked like something out of the Disney film, Fantasia. Spruce boughs hung low, swaying in the wind with an allure that filled me with a sense of magic. Suddenly, I was carried back to the scene where a room full of mops holding pails, came to life dancing like whirling dervishes. In my forest clearing, nature had created her own magical dance, capturing my imagination and transporting me to another place and time. I was awash in bliss and struck with awe! Then, just as suddenly, I was aware of Duffy at my side, nudging me to come back to earth and resume our journey.

As we trudged on, I kept reflecting on how I'd felt back there.

Understandably, I'd been flush with adrenaline from working so hard shoveling. I knew that endorphins can trigger feelings of euphoria. And witnessing Duffy's sheer delight could surely have enhanced all that. You know the saying, "Feelings are contagious." And then there was the setting! The landscape was a pristine paradise with a sky so blue that I could almost hear my painting instructor softly uttering over my shoulder that "my sky was too blue". But I knew that my experience was real. That state of complete joy, peace, and contentment was irrefutable. It suddenly dawned on me. I'd had a "peak experience".

I first read about peak experiences in the early '70s. Results of research on "mind-body" connections, "altered states of consciousness", and com-

parison studies of eastern and western spiritual practices were in the news. Experiments with pharmacological substances, religious rituals, yoga, meditation, and mindfulness practices were opening new doors to understanding brain function and how our minds work. Neuroscientific studies continue and with the aid of "imaging" technologies are making revolutionary new discoveries. Advances in communication technology, including the ubiquitous use of computers and access to the seemingly limitless information available on the internet, public knowledge and interest has also continued to increase — mine included.

This peak experience was not my first. Although not a frequent occurrence, each has been unforgettable, and left me with valu-

able meaningful insights. I am not a saint, a scientist, or a guru, so I believe that these kinds of experiences must be available to all of us. They've been reported to have occurred in a wide variety of settings and circumstances. And they seem to only require us to be still long enough to notice and open ourselves to our surroundings, able to experience the "extraordinary" amidst the mundane and the ever-present "calm" that exists amidst the chaos.

We can't make them happen. Nor can we predict that they will. But these

exquisite moments of consciousness seem to bring me closer to my true self and connect me with the universe's creative force, of which we are all a part. They can guide me back toward my true course, a place of balance, and a heightened sense of compassion. They've provided a space to mend my spirit and offer safe refuge in a world that so often feels like it's spinning out of control. With all the daily uncertainties that shake my very core, all I can say is, "I love when this happens!"

ELY...Continued from page 3

State Rep. Rob Ecklund for the bonding request. Spickelmier asked Ely city council members to support the request.

"Back in the day, we would be competing for the same state money that the city was seeking and had no idea what the Wolf Center was doing," Skraba said. "I appreciate you coming here and giving us this information."

A motion was unanimously approved to send a letter of support to the bonding committee. "This

is what we want to do for you. Our support will mean a lot to the people who make these decisions," he said.

The IWC's Interpretive Center Director, Krista Harrington, highlighted the events at the facility in 2021.

"After the COVID closures, our number of visitors really picked up this year and we averaged about 40,000 visits each year," she said.

"The IWC's new wolf pup, Rieka, is now six months old and weighs

about 70 pounds. From June to August this summer alone, we had almost 26,000 visits, up from about 11,800 last year in the same time frame," she said.

The International Wolf Center has a significant impact on tourism in the Ely area. According to a recent study by the University of Minnesota, 11,000 people per year say the IWC "had a significant influence on their decision to vacation in Ely, and those 11,000 visitors spend \$1.3 million in Ely per year."

The IWC is looking to expand its internship program next year, making it a full-year opportunity with an increase in the stipend paid to students.

"We also hope to develop and approve three more full-time employee positions at our Ely Center next year," Harrington said.

Spickelmier added that by next year, an existing musk ox and wolf exhibit will be refurbished, and two electric vehicle charging stations will be installed in the parking area.

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Rec committee is planning updates to Soudan rink and park

Input from community is welcome, public meeting in the works

BREITUNG TWP- The Breitung recreation committee presented draft plans for upgrades to the skating rink, warming shack, parking lot, and playground at the special town board meeting on Nov. 10. The committee is planning a \$500,000 project and will pursue funding from the DNR for \$250,000 and the IRRR for \$150,000, and seek funding from additional sources.

The project includes new hockey boards that will be built by township maintenance and volun-

teers, new rink and playground lighting, a garage addition to the warming shack, expansion of the warming shack by knocking down the wall between the warming area and current garage, expansion of the current bathroom to make it ADA accessible, a heating system for the shack, six additional playground swings, additional toddler-safe playground equipment, a paved parking lot, accessible picnic tables, a disc golf course, and additional landscaping.

A public meeting is

being planned for community members to participate in planning. Please contact Stephanie Ukkola at 218-410-6001 or Matt Tichel at 218-780-2560 for questions or comments on the project. Notice will be placed in *The Timberjay* once a date is set.

In other news, the board:

► Unanimously voted to not accept a petition to vacate or alter a property line on Puncher Pt. Rd. due to an incomplete application.


► Heard that the beginner skating rink has been

purchased from EZ Ice and will be arriving shortly.

► Heard that the CDBG pre-application has been approved for a 2022 Main Street sewer project from Poplar to Center Street for \$200,000. A resolution to make a final application was passed.

► Passed a resolution to submit an application to the IRRR Community Infrastructure Program.

► Accepted two new members to the Breitung Fire Department.



the
TIMBERJAY

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

Week of Nov. 22

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 Dec. 21.

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.



Vermilion Country School honor roll

TOWER- The following students were named to the first quarter honor roll at Vermilion Country School in Tower.

A Honor Roll
Bailey Pratt
Caleb Ramponi
Brandon Strange
Anna Chavez

B Honor Roll
Dakota Hanninen
Siri Salmela
Abbi Zapata
Alyssa Costello
Ally Heglin

St. Paul's offer First Communion instruction, Nov. 28

SOUDAN- Pastor Greg Anderson at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Soudan is offering instruction for First Communion to willing participants on Sunday, Nov. 28 during the 8:30 a.m. church service. Questions, call Susan at 218-780-1560.

Red Hat Belles to meet Dec. 3

GREENWOOD TWP- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet Friday, Dec. 3 at 12:30 p.m. at the Vermilion Club for their annual Christmas Luncheon. The group will order off a limited menu. Members are asked to bring an unwrapped gift for Operation Santa and a non-perishable food item for the Tower Food Shelf. Please RSVP by Nov. 29 by calling Kathy at 218-753-2530. New members and guests are always welcomed.

COMMUNITY GIVING
Time to start thinking about Operation Santa

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

TOWER- Donations have started to come in for this year's Operation Santa toy drive, but we still have a long way to go to reach our goal. 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

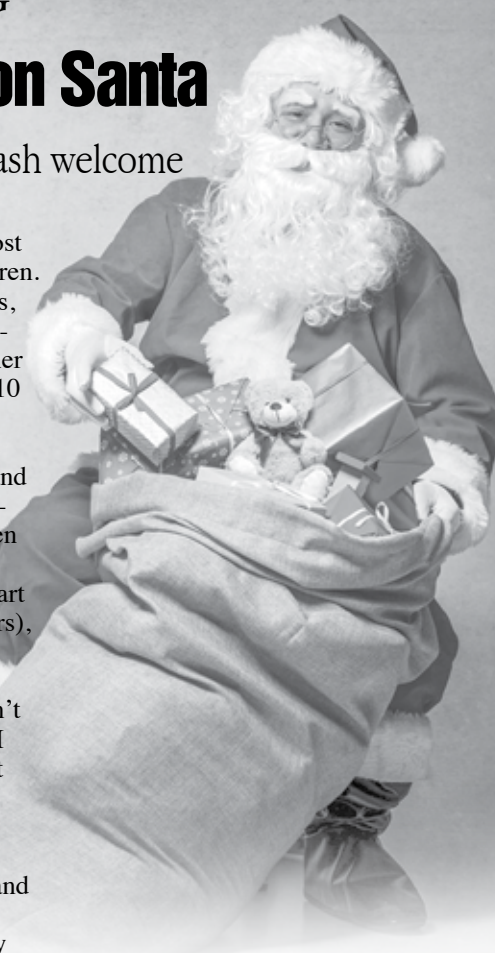
a very generous donation to the Tower Soudan Civic Club to help cover the cost of purchasing warm items for the children.

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 call Jodi at the Timberjay at 218-753-2950, or email editor@timberjay.com.

BREITUNG POLICE

There's a new chief in town...



Above: Reing's family came to watch his swearing-in ceremony. Pictured are his parents Daniel and Nancy, wife Ivette and children Lily and Remy. Top right: Reing's daughter Lily had the honor of holding the Bible during her father's swearing-in ceremony. Right: Retired Chief Jim Hill welcomed Reing. photos by S. Ukkola



by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- At the Breitung Town Board's special meeting on Nov. 10, Daniel Reing was officially sworn in to his new position of Chief Law Enforcement Officer of the township. Reing's

family and several members of the community came to celebrate.

Chairman Tim Tomsich welcomed Reing in his new position. "We are confident he's going to serve our community very well. Dan has the education, experience, and it's evident

his family is pretty proud. We look forward to working with him for a long, long career," said Tomsich.

Reing is now ready to assume police chief duties; he has the police squad and is responding to calls. He said he has an open-door policy and residents

are welcome to stop by the station to say hello.

The police contract with the city of Tower is being reviewed by the city's lawyers. Police service in Tower would begin Jan. 1, 2022, if approved.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Tree trimming gathering at LVCC on Dec. 1

TOWER- Help decorate the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center on Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. The Christmas trees are set up, the lights are on, and we need help hanging bulbs and wrapping packages.

LVCC needs your extra and unused Christmas tree ornaments. There are boxes on the deck on the south side of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center on Main Street. Please put your unused and extra tree ornaments in them so that we may hang them on our trees. Coffee an' will be served in the Halunen Lobby where we will be wrapping boxes in weatherproof wrapping to put under the outdoor trees. Also, if possible, bring small empty boxes, scissors, and tape.

Any questions, email Mary Batinich at malexbat@gmail.com.

Fortune Bay thanks veterans



VERMILION RESERVATION- Fortune Bay Resort Casino's culinary team paid tribute to veterans by serving up a delicious meal of an open-faced roast beef sandwich with mashed potatoes slathered in brown gravy.

The meal was met with many thank you's, including some from Fortune Bay's own veterans who took advantage of the free lunch. "It was so tasty," said Air Force Veteran Jeff Damm, who recently came out of retirement to accept his former job as Safety Manager at Fortune Bay. "The grill did a great job with the meal and honoring all of the veterans who stopped in." Pictured here are Vietnam Veteran Jerry Bergin and Fortune Bay Executive Chef Kirstie Kern.

submitted photo

A few spots still open for Tower Holiday Craft Show set for Saturday, Dec. 4

TOWER- The Tower Holiday Craft Show will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. We already have a nice mix of vendors selling handcrafted items, holiday baked goods, and great gift items. Approximately five spots are still

open, 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

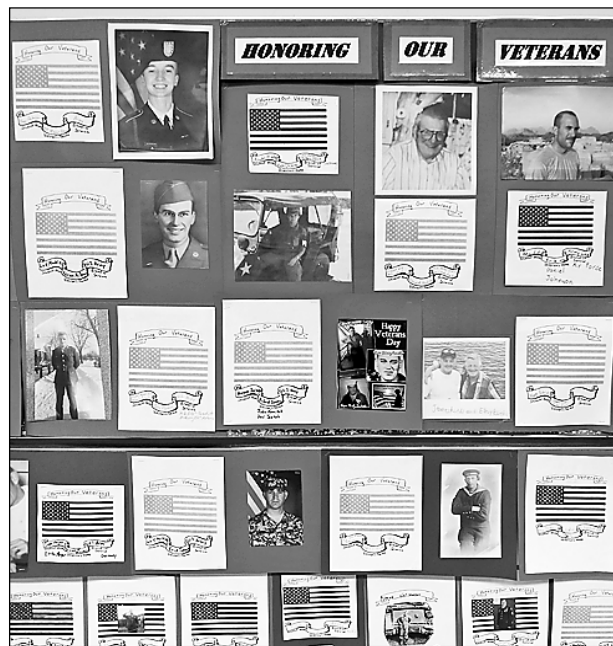
School, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 or can be dropped off at the Timberjay office in Tower. For more information, call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

Read It Here!

VETERANS DAY 2021



Ely-area military veterans gathered at Ely Memorial High School last Thursday for a Veterans Day tribute. photos by K. Vandervort



At left, American flags were set at military veterans' graves in the Ely Cemetery in honor of Veterans Day. A wall of remembrances of local veterans was on display all week in Washington Elementary School.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



three quarter moon rise
white fish, white snow, pastel clouds
gentle transition

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
OPEN AA - 7:30
p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.
SUNDAY NIGHT AA -
at St. Anthony's Catholic Church is cancelled.
ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA -
Every Monday at noon at 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

OUTDOOR LEARNING

Ely science students analyze weather balloon data

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY-Ely Memorial Junior High School eighth-grade science students launched the Timberwolves4 weather balloon earlier this month when favorable north winds were blowing over Ely.

Surface winds initially directed the balloon to the north, toward the city's cemetery, but once Timberwolves4 gained altitude, the winds aloft quickly pivoted the balloon in a predicted southerly direction during the flight on Nov. 4.

"The balloon rose higher and traveled farther than was predicted using modeling software," said Ely science teacher Nate LaFond. Timberwolves4 reached a maximum altitude of 60,000 feet and traveled about 41 miles south of Ely, landing about eight miles east of Brimson just about five miles south of predictions.

"We were trying to get the balloon up and down quickly because if it traveled too far south, it would have been swimming in Lake Superior. That's not great for the computers on board," LaFond said in comments to the Timberjay.

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.

"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 GoPro, as well as a couple of experiments



Ely Memorial School eighth-grade science students gathered at the baseball field earlier this month, above left, to inflate and launch a weather balloon. Via Debelzt, above right, connected the tank of helium to the fill hose. The Timberjay Newspaper, below, was well represented on the weather balloon experiment payload. The balloon, dubbed Timberwolves4, traveled about 41 miles and reached an altitide of 60,000 feet.



designed by the students to see what happens at the cold low pressure of the lower stratosphere."

"Chemistry students are studying the gas laws, so we included a syringe filled with a specific amount of air to see how much it expands in the low pressure of the atmosphere," LaFond said. "For earth science, the students created a mechanism that would pop a small balloon at high altitude in a water bottle. In addition to that, there was a flight computer on board which gathered information every 60 seconds about GPS locations, heading, speed, temperature, pressure, and altitude."

A few things did not go as planned. "Unfortunately, at launch the camera was

jerked out of position so we were unable to see the volumes on the syringe," LaFond said. "The balloon experiment also did not work the way we expected it to. However, the flight computer successfully gathered data, so we will be able to work with that information in the coming weeks."

LaFond was able to retrieve the payload. "From the closest turn-off on Highway 2, it was about 1.5 hours of biking and trekking through minimal trails or no trails at all," he said.

Every student in the eighth grade was very involved in the project. "They were in charge of designing, organizing and recording the project. The 11th and 12th graders are going to use the data



collected from the balloon to work on vectors, gas properties, and a variety of other science concepts related to the balloon's flight," he said.

LaFond added, "Although a couple of the experiments didn't turn out the way we had hoped, it was a very valuable lesson in real-world data collec-

tion. One of the traps of teaching in a classroom is that you tend to teach in the classroom. One of our goals as a science department is to get students out and wondering about the world they live in. The balloon is an excellent way to celebrate and struggle with the experience of field data collection."

Project learning leads the way in STEM classes

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- At first glance, stepping into the North Woods School classroom of teacher Nathan Anderson feels like stepping into a regular science classroom, with its rows of black-topped tables, counters with sinks, and a professional cut-away model of a human torso and its plastic organs prominently displayed in a corner.

But upon closer inspection, an array of prosthetic hands and legs, each handcrafted from scraps of wood, pieces of pipe, wire, molded plastic, and numerous other repurposed materials, is the first clue that this third-year teacher is not your father's or grandfather's science teacher, and in truth, he's not.

Anderson is the school's STEM teacher. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, and it's Anderson's job to blend these complementary disciplines into unified learning experiences that will build the knowledge and skills for innovation, problem-solving, and critical thinking that are necessary for success in a world where the rote learning of yesteryear can be rendered obsolete almost before students earn their diplomas.

Anderson teaches upper elementary, junior high and high school students, and while his classes align with relevant Minnesota learning standards, there is no packaged state-approved STEM curriculum. So, Anderson creates lessons

largely from scratch, beginning with his own love of the outdoors.

"I grew up in Winstead, five hours south of here," Anderson said. "I went to a really small school in a small town that was super outdoorsy. Growing up, I always really enjoyed hiking, fishing, and all these different things outdoors, because that's what we had. My parents didn't give us video games, we didn't have cell phones until ninth grade or whatever."

The outdoors is a particularly good environment for one element of Anderson's teaching, science, and biology finds its way into a number of different learning activities in his classes.

Bemidji State was a natural draw for Anderson and his love of the outdoors, particularly since he initially had an interest in working for the Department of Natural Resources. But when he realized how few job opportunities were available with DNR, he started considering other options, and that's when he decided teaching would be a good match for his interests. STEM was a strong emphasis in the education program there, providing Anderson with both content and instructional methods that inform his curriculum development.

"A lot of what I was taught was inquiry-based, asking questions and figuring out these different questions. I think that's where STEM really comes into play," Anderson said. "It's more project-based learning, which I really enjoy doing. That's the way I learned, and it's my



North Woods teacher Nathan Anderson holds working hand and leg prosthetics created by students in one of his STEM classes.

photo by D. Colburn

favorite way of teaching."

Steeped in that approach, continuous learning is a third way in which Anderson develops curriculum projects, whether it's through conversations with colleagues or scanning through the vast amount of online information developed to promote STEM education. It's beneficial not only for developing lesson plans, but also for modeling a critical element underlying all of Anderson's STEM projects, research.

What it looks like

So how does a collection of prosthetic arms and legs that look like a variety of craft projects from awkward to elegant represent an integrated STEM learning activity geared to the needs of a 21st century workforce? It's all in the process, Anderson said.

"If you were to take a STEM class with me right now, before you even design or build anything, I'm going to give you

some background knowledge," Anderson said. "We watched a 15-minute video about prosthetics, how they've been developed over the years, and then they had to do their own research about a timeline - this is when they were first being used, this is what they look like now."

Here's where technology comes into play in a big way, as students use iPads or computers to research their topics on the internet.

"And then they actually had to build a prosthetic limb," Anderson said. Science, technology, engineering, and math are now all coming into play, along with more research.

"They had to do a data sheet that said what characteristics they were going to add, why are they doing it, and what's the plan," Anderson said. "They have to have some type of prototype, some drawing of what it's going to look like and how it's

going to function."

Students combine all four STEM disciplines to design and create the prosthetic limbs, all the while knowing that they will have to demonstrate that the limbs they create are actually functional. For prosthetic legs, "They had to walk from one end of the hallway to a specific classroom," Anderson said. "I did one for hands where they had to design a hand that they could wear that could pick up a water jug."

After a successful walk down the hall or grasping and lifting a particular object, students aren't yet finished with the activity. Now it's time to analyze and evaluate. Anderson has students write a report where they have to address analytical questions like why did they choose the materials they used and why didn't they use something else, and what features did they see in the work of other groups that they liked or might suggest alternatives.

"Really getting them to think about what the heck they were doing and why they were doing it is the goal," Anderson said. "I think understanding why and how is the biggest part."

In fact, a project doesn't have to be a resounding success, as long as students can figure out what happened during the process and think about solutions, because that's part of the critical thinking and innovation STEM activities instill.

Also notable is that Anderson's project-based approach incorporates a strong element of analyti-

cal writing, a complementary and necessary skill in most STEM-based careers.

"For every project, 50 percent is making it, but 50 percent is also explaining it to me," Anderson said. "That's the best form of assessment, having you explain, because if you can't explain something, you don't really know it. If you can't prove to me you can do it, you really can't do it."

And that's an indicator of one more way Anderson's STEM classes aren't like science classes of generations past.

"There are no quizzes or tests, not in this class," Anderson said. "Their summative assessment would be turning in the lab report."

But Anderson is also assessing student learning on the fly as he interacts with or observes them at each stage of a particular project. In the spirit of inquiry-based learning, asking questions in the middle of an activity is a form of testing.

If there's one wish Anderson could have granted, it would be that his semester-long STEM classes could last all year. For now, the courses are electives, with students taking art during opposite semesters.

"It would be really, really fun to have it be year-long," Anderson said. "From a science perspective, there's never enough, but I think I try and take as much advantage of the one semester I have."

COMMUNITY EVENTS

St. Mary's to host Holiday Bazaar

COOK- St. Mary's Catholic Church, 124 5th Street SE, in Cook, will host its 24th annual Holiday Bazaar on Friday, Nov. 19 from 3-7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A wide variety of baked and canned goods, potica, wreaths and greenery, arts, crafts, and specialty items will be available. Come and enjoy the Famous Cookie Walk, where you can choose your own assortment of

Christmas cookies.

There will also be drawings for gift baskets.

Soups and Sloppy Joe plates will be available during all hours of the bazaar. Take out is available by calling 218-666-5620.

Chili benefit for park is Saturday

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.

NWFA preps for December sale

COOK- The Wolfe Den at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook will host a special garage sale throughout the month of December, and NWFA is accepting more donations for the event.

Donated art, antiques

and curiosities are sought for others to enjoy and purchase. If folks have some nice, lightly-used non-clothing items to donate to this NWFA fundraiser sale, please bring them to the gallery at 210 S River St. on Nov 29-30 or Dec. 1-2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donations that do not sell may be reclaimed after the sale if the item is listed and labeled with name and phone number.

And don't forget to shop for "new to you" items from Dec. 3 through Dec. 31. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., not including Thanksgiving, Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

class will make as many various sized boxes and bags as time and paper allows. Class size is limited to ten, so text or call Brenna at 218-290-5903 to register. There is minimal fee of \$10 for NWFA members and \$20 for non-members. The fee is due at the beginning of the class.

NWFA recommends that students wear masks for the class.

Christmas Tea planned for Dec. 6 at First Baptist

COOK- The women of First Baptist Church of Cook will host "A Christmas Women's Tea" in the newly renovated fellowship hall on Monday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

This year's theme, Christmas Around the World, will provide a taste of how other cultures celebrate this special season that is so dear to all of us. Come join us for a delightful evening of familiar carols, worship, fellowship and refreshments. Invite a friend, a neighbor or even a "stranger" to attend this special event.

Woodcarvers meet Thursdays at NWFA

COOK- The Northwoods Friends of the Arts Woodcarvers Group meets each week on Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St., next to Dream Weaver Salon. Beginners are welcome. Call Howard at 218 290-1391 for more information.

The group will not meet on Thanksgiving.

Class on Dec. 3 features holiday giving items

COOK- With the holiday season upon us, Northwoods Friends of the Arts is offering "Gift Bags, Tags and Trimmings," a new Curious and Creative Art Class on Friday, Dec. 3 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the gallery at 210 S River St., presented by Brenna Kohlhase.

Participants will make packaging with scrapbooking paper, glue and ribbon. Brenna will supply ribbon, glue, dies and a die-cutting machine.

Bring your favorite paper scissors, and if possible, the following: a bone folder (a tool used to fold/score paper), a score-board and a pad of 12-by-12 inch card stock, or at least 8 sheets of patterned paper or card stock.

Brown paper bags can also be recycled into beautiful gift bags. The

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

North Woods student returns as teacher

by JOHN VUKMANICH
North Woods Principal

FIELD TWP- This week we feature another new teacher and North Woods alumna, Ms. Makenzie Sokoloski.

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

I am from Orr, more specifically the Buyck/Myrtle Lake area. I went to school in Orr until sixth grade and then North Woods. Go Grizzlies! I received my Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Psychology from St. Cloud State University.

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

Mrs. Lamwers in high school for Science and Student Council. Ming-Chi Own in college. She taught early childhood classes.

What characteristics did these teachers

have that were important to you?

Both were very consistent with their expectations, yet empathetic.



Makenzie Sokoloski

They expected growth, and wanted to see everyone succeed. Mrs. Lamwers is simply a truly caring person.

What do you teach at North Woods?

I teach first grade.

Why did you choose teaching as a profession?

I have always loved working with kids. Even when I was in high school

debating my career choice, I was thinking of being a pediatric nurse or an elementary teacher. I wanted to work with children in some capacity for sure. I want to be "that person" for a kid and to make a difference in their lives.

What are your hobbies?

Fishing, especially ice fishing, hunting, anything on the water, spending time with family and friends.

What is something you like about North Woods School?

The culture, the family feel. It is great to have people here I know to look up to and learn from. It is more comforting than being in a building of strangers.

What is a professional goal for you?

To differentiate to a wide range of learners, kids at different levels. I also want to strive to make learning fun.

What is something you love about northern

Minnesota?

The seasons. I love how it seems like a slower pace, especially compared to college in St. Cloud. I also enjoy the rural peacefulness of northern Minnesota.

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

Try your best the first time. That advice comes straight from my dad!

Do you have a favorite saying or expression?

What's meant to be, will be.

What do you hope your students remember you for?

I want them to remember me as a person who truly cared for them. I hope they remember the relationship.

Welcome back to North Woods, Ms. Sokoloski. Truth be told, this principal is feeling pretty old when former students are back in the building as teachers. Go Grizzlies!

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Face masks are now required at Bois Forte businesses

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Requirement includes Fortune Bay Resort Casino

T O W E R — Minnesota’s COVID case count is now the highest in the nation and that has prompted Fortune Bay Resort to implement a mask-wearing requirement for all guests and staff. The requirement is in effect for all people, regardless of their vaccination status. The Bois Forte Development Corporation is also implementing a mask requirement for all of its businesses, which include the Y Store, the

Ledge Liquor Store, WELY and KBFT radio stations, the Wilderness restaurant, and the Nett Lake Convenience Store. “We need to do this to keep our community and our employees safe,” said Fortune Bay General Manager Mayan Beltran during a meeting with the Bois Forte Tribal Council and government employees Tuesday. “Until this trend turns around, we need to make decisions like this.”

Bois Forte Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers concurred. “It’s the decision we have to make,” said Chavers. “I am down at Treasure Island for a conference right now, and they all require wearing masks, too.” Fortune Bay has opted to pause all larger gatherings at the facility until further notice. “I believe until this surge stabilizes, we need

to stop doing events for safety,” said Beltran. The tribal council agreed and will monitor COVID-19 activity before revisiting the decision. The decision comes as recent case counts in Minnesota have reached levels not seen at any previous point in the pandemic. The news comes just days after Fortune Bay announced winter hours of operation, which include closing the resort and black-

jack tables on Mondays and Tuesdays. Effectively next Monday, the Sunset Steakhouse winter hours will be Thursday through Sunday. Additionally, the Gold Mine Grill hours will be expanded from 9 a.m. until close seven days a week. Casino hours will be 7 a.m. until 2 a.m. Monday through Thursday and open 24 hours Friday and Saturday, before closing at 2 a.m. Monday.

Beltran met with staff Tuesday to start getting the message out as quickly as possible. This will include deploying an email blast, putting it on social media, and updating signage property-wide, including the digital sign on Hwy. 169. “It’s disheartening that we have to make this decision because cases had been going down,” said Beltran “but now that Minnesota is leading the nation with the most cases, it was something that we needed to do and act swiftly upon.”

COVID...Continued from page 1

function of having the highest rates of infection throughout the pandemic, when adjusted for population. The cumulative rate per 10,000 population reported on the St. Louis County COVID dashboard includes 1,352 for Cook, which is 14 percent higher than runner-up Tower at 1,190.2. Orr, Soudan, and Embarrass are clustered between 1,131 and 1,099. Ely has had the most cases of any North Country zip code, but with the largest population, its adjusted number of 740 is the area’s lowest. The COVID situation in St. Louis County was looking positively rosy in mid-June through early July when only one or two new cases a day were being reported. Less than four months later, on Nov. 2, the county tallied its largest one-day total of the year with 205, and the seven-day case average has soared to 142. Regional hospitals continue to be inundated with new COVID patients and non-COVID patients whose conditions have worsened as they postponed care earlier in the pandemic. For several days last week, only one ICU bed was available in all

seven northeast Minnesota hospitals with intensive care units, and only 51 non-ICU beds were open across the region. County Public Health and Human Services Director Linnea Mirsch told the *Timberjay* that she remains “extremely concerned” about the increases here, particularly among school-agers in the North Country. “Continued growth in cases in St. Louis County is particularly evident in areas with lower vaccination rates,” Mirsch said. “For the ZIP codes you referenced, from Oct. 1 through Nov. 10 of last year, there were 21 cases among children and young people ages 0-19. For that same time period this year, there have been more than double that amount with 53 new cases.” No age group has experienced more COVID cases than those aged 10-19, and statewide vaccination rates among 16-17 year-olds are far lower than among 12-15 year-olds. More than 44,000 Minnesota children ages 5-11 have received an initial dose of the vaccine, representing only nine percent of those eligible.

National parent surveys have shown about a third of parents want to wait and see what happens with other children before getting their own children vaccinated, while between a quarter and a third of parents have said they won’t get their children vaccinated. But Mirsch echoed the strong urgings of state and national health officials that vaccinations and booster shots remain the best answers for protecting people of all ages. “As we head into the holiday season with families anxious to get together after so many disruptions last year, we are really encouraging people to get vaccinated if they haven’t already done so,” she said. “This includes the newly eligible children in the 5-11 age range. Likewise, anyone who is eligible for a booster, please get one and give yourself that extra level of protection. We are seeing an increasing number of breakthrough cases in people who are fully vaccinated, which we believe to be due to vaccines waning over time as the highly contagious Delta variant continues to spread.”

Statewide When the fourth wave of the pandemic began picking up steam in southern and coastal areas of the country, cases in Minnesota remained relatively low. But the tide began rising rapidly into the upper Midwest in August and September, and Minnesota finally reached the crest on Monday, with the highest case count over the prior seven days of any state in the country. More than 23,000 new cases during that period drove the rate of infections up to 476 per 100,000, nearly three times the national average. “We are in the middle of a COVID blizzard right now in Minnesota, so that’s a challenge,” state infectious disease director Kris Ehresmann said. “If we could get people to consider implementing the layered mitigation, if we could get more people vaccinated, and if people continue to seek out boosters, that will make a difference.” Between 30 and 40 percent of those new cases are breakthrough cases among people who have been fully vaccinated. An increase in breakthrough cases as a percentage of

total cases was anticipated as the percentage of vaccinated Minnesotans grew, and research overall continues to show that vaccinated individuals are much less likely to be hospitalized or die from COVID-19. In a new effort to boost vaccinations and increase the use of other mitigation strategies, such as masking, State Education Commissioner Heather Mueller announced Tuesday that the department will be sending letters to Minnesota families with school-age children with information about best practices, access to vaccinations, testing resources, and more. The Minnesota chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and MDH are sending complementary letters to school district administrators and school boards. **Mandate battles** While numerous health care systems, government agencies, and businesses have instituted mandatory vaccination requirements on their own, the Biden administration’s plans to mandate vaccines for a huge swath of American workers is running into

judicial roadblocks that could impact Minnesota’s efforts to bring the virus under control. A three-member panel of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans put a temporary halt to Biden’s plan to require vaccinations or weekly testing for workers in private companies with 100 employees or more by issuing a rule through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The rule was to take effect in January. With additional cases filed in other U.S. Circuit Courts, the proposed mandate will likely make its way to the Supreme Court for a decision. On Monday, a coalition of 12 states sued the federal government to block a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid requirement that 17 million workers in health care facilities receiving CMS funding be fully vaccinated by Jan. 4. Facilities not complying with the standard risk monetary fines and possible loss of their CMS funding, a particularly critical source of revenue for rural healthcare providers. A total of 22 states have now filed lawsuits to block the mandate.

ELY...Continued from page 1

longer be required on the ISD 696 campus. They asked Superintendent Erik Erie to increase the number of community members on the advisory council to join community and county health officials, school staff, students and parents to develop a strategy to determine when reported COVID cases are reduced enough to consider a “mask recommendation” policy. As the advisory council struggles with trying to hit the moving target of fluctuating positivity rates, changes in case reporting procedures, disparities in nearby school districts’ mask mandate metrics, and other factors, no consensus has been reached by the group. Erie told school board members last week that the school administration recommendation is that a “masks required” mandate

continue for at least two weeks. He noted that for extra-curricular activities, as recently approved by the school board, masks would not be required. For recent activities in school buildings, such as the high school band concert and the Veterans Day tribute program, participants were required to wear masks. “The administration continues to examine all the metrics,” Erie said. “ELSPAC continues to have discussions centered around what thresholds should be used and in what ranges, such as moderate and substantial,” Erie said. “Our local health providers are advocating for three metrics to use, with two of the three present to make a change,” he said “The three metrics are local ZIP Code cases in the moderate transmission range for three consecutive weeks

(three cases or less in the 55731 ZIP Code), Northern St. Louis County cases in the moderate transmission range for two consecutive weeks (eight cases or less), and the St. Louis County positivity rate in the moderate range for two consecutive weeks at eight percent or less (currently in the 10-percent range).” Board chair Ray Marsnik said, “We all know that this is a rather contentious issue. And anytime you have a contentious issue, getting a consensus is rather difficult. What I’m understanding is that you want to stay where we are at (with masks) for now.” In a complete course reversal, a recommendation suggested by member Tony Colarich to consider “sunsetting” the advisory council altogether will be taken up by the board at a study session on Monday, Nov. 22.

Colarich indicated that the existence of the advisory council, rather than those few outspoken petition signers who verbally attacked school district employees and board members, is responsible for the face mask mandate controversy. “We have people on (ELSPAC) that are mask people, and we have people that are anti-mask people,” Colarich said. “I think what they have reached is a perpetual stalemate. What it has done is create a great divide. It has had a real negative impact on the district. What I’m recommending for the study session is that this advisory committee sunsets, and is

replaced by a newly formed committee consisting of the superintendent, both principals and a (school) board member.” The new, streamlined committee would apparently continue to listen to input from outside sources, such as local medical professionals and public health experts. The current ELSPAC already consists of the superintendent, the two school principals and school board member Tom Omerza. Parents, teachers, staff, students, school employee union representatives also weigh in on discussions. It appears that Colarich seeks to eliminate that input.

School board member Darren Visser requested data from other northern Minnesota school districts to compare with what ISD 696 is doing. “We have two groups going here,” he said. “Like any scientific experiment. One is with masks and the other is without. How many cases do those schools have? Let’s see if there is a difference with what’s going on here.” The ELSPAC was scheduled to meet on Thursday, Nov. 18, possibly for the last time, to continue their due diligence of developing face mask-mandate protocols for the school board to consider.

ORR SNOW CITY CHRISTMAS

December 4 • Orr Community Center

Old Legion Building

- 7-10 Breakfast
- 9-3 Vendors
- 11-3 Lunch by Calvary Lutheran Church
- 11 Parade Line-up at Frank’s Marine
- 12 Parade starts at Frank’s Marine and proceeds in front of Norman’s One Stop, turns before the Muni and follows the street to the Community Center. Immediately following the parade, Santa will be in the heated tent next to the Community Center

ARDC SEEKS NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS

WHO IS ARDC: The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) serves people of the Arrowhead Region by providing local units of government and citizen groups a means to work cooperatively in identifying needs, solving problems, and fostering local leadership in the seven NE counties of MN.

SEEKING: Citizens to fill At-Large positions on the Commission for three-year terms. Minorities and individuals with a strong background or interest in areas such as transportation, human services, economic development and community planning encouraged to apply. **Applicants must reside in Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake or St. Louis County.** EEO/AA/M/F/Vet/Disability Employer

COMMITMENT: The Commission meets four times a year, from 10 a.m. to noon, the third Thursday of the month in January, April, July and October at various locations in the Region (typically Duluth).

ABOUT POSITION: Positions are unpaid, volunteer positions; members are reimbursed for their mileage to and from meetings.

DEADLINE: November 30, 2021. Elections take place at the January 20, 2022 Annual Meeting in Duluth.

HOW TO APPLY: Obtain application/nomination form at <https://ardc.org/commission/> or contact Krista Mattila, ARDC Board Coordinator, 221 W. 1st St., Duluth, MN 55802 or call 218-529-7543 or 800-232-0707 X543.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

New highway signs bring visibility to 1854 Treaty lands

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The recent installation of a dozen highway signs across the region marking the borders of the Treaty of 1854 between the U.S. government and three Anishinaabe tribal nations is the culmination of an 11-year quest to raise visibility about tribal sovereignty rights in the ceded territory.

Tribal leaders from the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, and Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa joined Minnesota Department of Transportation officials for the installation of the



first sign on Nov. 1, on southbound Highway 61 just south of the Canadian border near the entrance to Grand Portage State Park.

This highway sign near Cook marks the boundary of the Treaty of 1854. photo by D. Colburn

"It is something that was long overdue," Grand Portage Band Chairman Robert Deschampe said. "When people enter the 1854 Treaty area they will know where they are and, hopefully, educate themselves about treaties."

Deschampe first asked for signs recognizing the treaty boundaries 11 years ago, said Levi Brown, director of tribal affairs for MnDOT. The Bois Forte and Fond du Lac Bands followed with their own formal requests.

Brown, who's a

member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, acknowledged it's been a long journey to get to this point. He said it's important for the state to recognize and honor tribal sovereignty and rights of the Anishinaabe tribal nations in the ceded territory.

"We're acknowledging the fact that as the state of Minnesota, we see the tribal nations, we see the treaties and are honoring those treaties. And that is a huge step," he said.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation has installed the first of 12 signs to permanently mark the boundaries of the 1854 Treaty between

the United States and three Anishinaabe Tribal Nations. The treaty transferred ownership of nearly five-and-a-half million acres across Minnesota's Arrowhead region to the government in exchange for ongoing tribal hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, as well as land for reservations and annual payments of cash, goods, agricultural supplies and school funds of less than \$20,000. Today, the 1854 Treaty Authority manages and protects the area's natural resources and tribal rights on behalf of the Bois Forte and Grand Portage Bands.

MnDOT Public Affairs Coordinator Margie Nelson said

Tuesday that all 12 signs have now been installed. One is near the intersection of Highway 53 and Highway 1 just north of Cook, where the treaty boundary line crosses. Others in the area include one on Highway 169 near Chisholm and one on Highway 37 near the Hibbing airport.

MnDOT worked with the Advocacy Council for Tribal Transportation, which is made up of 11 Tribal officials representing Tribal nations in Minnesota, to acknowledge land ceded by Tribal governments through treaties.

MinnPost contributor to this article.

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Town board to meet with Virginia ambulance director

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Will discuss possibility of building a station in Greenwood

GREENWOODTWP- The Greenwood Town Board is setting up a special meeting with Virginia Fire/Ambulance Chief Al Lewis, sometime the week after Thanksgiving, to discuss building a Virginia Ambulance out-station staffed by Virginia EMS personnel in the township. Tentative dates included Nov. 30 or Dec. 2. Once finalized, the date will be published in the paper. The board will also be inviting officials from Bois Forte to attend. The meeting will be open to the public.

This discussion has arisen from financial management issues seen with the Tower Ambulance Service, and issues surrounding annual subsidy payments for the Tower Area Ambulance Commission, which help fund the purchase of new ambulances. Some township officials and residents have wondered if the township would be better served by the Virginia Ambulance,

which is staffed with paramedics, not EMTs.

The board voted to sign the 2021 TAAC contract and to make their annual subsidy payments.

At their Nov. 10 meeting, the board had questions for fire department members on the response to the tragic house explosion and fire on Everett Bay Road, where one person died and another was seriously injured. Assistant Fire Chief Mike Indihar said they would have more information once the formal report was released.

Indihar and training officer Rick Worringer discussed the department's initial deployment to the scene. They noted that in cases like this, EMRs often report on scene as fast as possible, perhaps not in their turnout gear, to get an initial assessment.

"Each scene is a little different," said Indihar. "I've gone to scenes on my snowmobile to make

sure we aren't sending the department running out to a false alarm."

"Our fire department operated very well at this fire," Indihar said. "Rick [Worringer] was incident command at the start, and when other fire departments arrived, Worringer asked Breitung Chief Steve Burgess to take incident command so that Rick could continue to run the pumps."

Worringer said he had rushed to the scene in a fire truck without taking time to put on his turnout gear, and began to immediately put water onto the fire. Once other responders had arrived, he said, he took time to put on his turnout gear.

Indihar said the department is reviewing the response and repairing some equipment, including their portable pump.

The mutual aid at the scene was vital, Indihar said.

"The Tower Fire Department is a young group, but they were really helpful," he said. "Our fire department was really thankful they were there."

Indihar also singled out the assistance from the Breitung and Vermilion Lake departments.

Indihar talked about their department's positive relationship with the Tower Ambulance Service. "The Tower Ambulance is also a young crew, but they have really stepped up. Our EMRs have nothing but good things to say about the Tower Ambulance Service."

"Tower is helping us," Indihar said. "Don't underestimate that value. We support Tower, Breitung, and Vermilion Lake. Our EMS people are telling me that Tower Ambulance is doing a great job. I just want you guys to know."

The board also asked how many fire department members did not have up-to-date turnout gear that is required to do interior firefighting.

"We want our people to be safe," said Drobac.

Fire department member Jeff Maus said that six members currently have gear which is considered "expired," but said that not all these firefighters are able to do interior firefighting. Firefighters that are able to do interior work have special reflective stickers on their helmets, he said.

Worringer said he thought that 19 of their members have done the required training needed, but that only nine have the gear and health certifications needed. Worringer said in his six years on the department, he had never needed to do interior firefighting.

Worringer also told the board that all the fire department members, except for the two newest, have completed the firefighter one and two training. Chief Dave Fazio was unable to give this information when previously requested by two supervisors. Worringer also said that supervisors were welcome to review all the documentation of the in-house training done on a monthly basis.

The board asked the department to come back with a list of those members who need new gear so they can make a purchasing plan.

In other business, the board:

► Still had issues with missing financial data in the board packet, which was missing the claims sheet. Ralston read each claim out loud, and the board approved the claims, minus one that they had a question on, by a 3-2 vote, with Drobac and Lofquist voting against. It was noted that the claims list should have been part of the public packet. Ralston said he could get a copy to any interested resident when the clerk, who was absent from the meeting, was back at the office.

► Tabled the October treasurer's report, which was not approved at last month's meeting due to some inconsistencies. Treasurer Belinda Fazio was also absent from the meeting. The board did approve the November treasurer's report.

► Made a formal motion, passed 3-2, to accept the monthly pay rate of \$384.16 for the chairman and \$357.63 for supervisors. The monthly pay rates when the township did their own payroll in the CTAS program was slightly different, at \$383.14 and \$358.14. Drobac had repeatedly brought up this issue, wondering why the pay had been changed. Supervisor and chairman's annual pay is set in the budget but has been subject

to small annual increases. The last document that was found showed the chairman's annual wage at \$4,609.89, and supervisors' at \$4,291.53.

► Will look into returning to the township's previous payroll system using CTAS through the Minnesota Association of Townships, instead of continuing with the current ADP payroll system, due to customer service problems working with ADP. The board decided to wait to act on the issue until the treasurer and clerk are present. The township pays a monthly fee to ADP. The change was made because it was supposed to be easier to work with and to reduce hours spent by the treasurer.

"I can't agree more [with making this change]," said Ralston. "It has been a total cluster."

► Heard a question from Drobac who asked why the supervisors' pay slips showed hours worked at 16 hours per month. Deputy Treasurer Tammy Mortaloni said this was done because the state wanted a specific number of hours for a monthly salary, so it could be used in the future for any potential unemployment claims.

► Heard from Drobac and Lofquist that the clerk is asking them to go through the formal public data request process when they ask her for township information they need to perform their official duties as supervisors.

"Is she going to decide that isn't her job?" asked Drobac.

"You have to ask her that," said Ralston. "She's an elected clerk."

LIFELONG LEARNING

Making pierogies from scratch with Ely Community Education

Students made more than 300 of the Polish dumplings

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - With deep respect and love for her Polish heritage, Doris Kolodji taught Ely Community Education students in making pierogies during a hands-on class last month at the Ely Senior Center.

Kolodji said her recipe for the pillowy, chewy, crispy Polish dumplings has been in the family for generations, "with a few alterations." The class learned about pierogi history, some Polish culture and the secrets of successful pierogi creation.

"While perfecting the perogies' technique takes time, these students seemed to catch on quickly," she said.

Students had their choice of three fillings for their pierogies, homemade mashed potato, sauerkraut, and prunes.

"This enthusiastic class made more than 300 pierogies and enjoyed eating many of them," Kolodji added.

For more information on ISD 696's Ely Community Education, contact Chris Hartman at 218-235-7850, or cjhartman@ely.k12.



Above, Ely Community Education pierogi makers, back row, from left, Instructor Dory Kolodji, Joellyn Mortenson, Kathleen Graber, Roxane Tea, Connie Ojala, Jeanette Palcher. Front row, from left, Anne Jackson, Nancy Berg Dickson, Sandy Berg Dickson, Bonnie Mairs, assistant instructor Clare Garano. The students recently made more than 300 pierogies, or Polish dumplings, at a class held at the Ely Senior Center. submitted photos



WATER...Continued from page 1

gave the go-ahead at their Nov. 10 meeting to look into what treatment options are available. Lofquist is contacting several water treatment companies, such as Culligan, to get quotes on options for treating the water so it is safe to drink. The board said they would hold a special meeting once the quotes are received to get a filtration system in place as soon as possible.

In the meantime, the board gave Mark Drobac, a retired steamfitter, permission to turn the town hall water back on, while turning off the outside spigot, which is used by many cabin residents to get potable drinking water. Signs will also be posted, warning that the water is not safe to drink.

Many township residents who have lake water systems have used the town hall as a source for drinking water. While the water has been tested for common contaminants, as required by the state, the township had never tested the water for other minerals.

The town hall spigot is also used by RV'ers to fill their water tanks, and by local bait dealers, who are required to transport their minnows in clean water, not lake water, to curb the introduction of aquatic invasive species.

"All summer long there are people there [at the spigot]," said Lofquist, "sometimes there is a line."

Health risks from arsenic

The Minnesota Department of Health warns that consuming water even with low levels of arsenic over a long period of time is associated with diabetes and the increased risk of several types of cancer, including bladder, lung, liver, and other organs. Ingesting arsenic can also contribute to cardiovascular and respiratory disease, reduced intelligence in children, and skin problems such as lesions, discoloration, and the development of corns. The health impacts of arsenic may take many

years to develop.

Arsenic

Arsenic is found naturally in soils and rocks across our area and can dissolve into the groundwater. Arsenic levels can vary between wells even in a small area, according to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). You cannot taste, see, or smell arsenic in the water.

The water testing showed some good news and some other bad news, too. There was no trace of mercury or nitrates in the water. Copper tested at 10.7 ug/L, over the acceptable level of 1.0, but lower than the action limit of 1300 ug/L, and there are no known health risks from higher copper levels; lead was 0.39 ug/L, over the acceptable level of 0.10, but lower than the action limit of 15 ug/L; and manganese was 266 ug/L, much higher than the acceptable level of 0.50.

High manganese levels are an issue in the public water supply in Tower and Soudan, and a special filtration system is in place

to remove the excess manganese. The water out of the wells tests at 255 ug/L, but after treatment it is lowered to 10 ug/L, said wastewater treatment operator Matt Tichel. The last testing for arsenic showed a level of 2.26 ug/L, below the action limit of 10.

Since 2008, the state has required all newly-drilled wells to be tested for arsenic, and this data can be found on the Minnesota Well Index on the MDH website.

Manganese

Manganese is the cause of the water's sulfur-like smell. There are also health impacts from long-term use of water that is high in manganese. The safe level of manganese is under 100 ug/L, and manganese levels should be tested if there is an infant in the household drinking formula mixed with tap water. Otherwise, the state considers the safe level at less than 300 ug/L.

Any of the treatment options to remove arsenic from the water would also

remove the manganese, Lofquist said.

Get your well water tested

There are two state-accredited laboratories in our area that can test well water for arsenic.

RMB Environmental Laboratories in Hibbing, 218-440-2043, offers a \$25 test kit for arsenic. Test kits can be picked up in Virginia or Hibbing or mailed to a household. Test results take

about 5-7 business days. Pace Analytical Services in Virginia, 218-735-6700, also has testing available, but said the cost for arsenic testing is \$250.

More information on arsenic in well water is available at www.health.state.mn.us. Click on Healthy Communities, Environmental, and Workplaces, and then click on Environment and Your Health.

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HONORS

North Woods' Chiabotti a Mr. Football finalist

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

State coaching association to name winner Dec. 5

FIELD TWP- North Woods Grizzlies standout running back T.J. Chiabotti has been named one of the Elite Ten finalists for the Minnesota Football Coaches Association Mr. Football award, given to the state's top football player as determined by a vote of MFCA members.

"It is much deserved and pretty special for T.J. with the body of work he's put in over the course of his career," said Grizzlies Head Coach Joel Anderson.

Chiabotti was the state's 2021 regular season rushing leader for all classes, accord-

ing to MN Football Hub. Chiabotti's season total of 2,130 yards in nine games was second to Academy of Holy Angels running back Emmett Thompson, who played in 11 games, but Chiabotti had the state's best per game average with 236.7 yards per contest. Chiabotti had four games in which he rushed for more than 300 yards, and his season total of 24 touchdowns tied for fourth best in the state. Chiabotti also became only the 19th player in Minnesota high school football history to eclipse the 5,000-yard career rushing mark.

"We've known T.J. was a special football player for a very long time," Anderson said. "All the teams we've faced have known he's special, too, and they've done everything in their power to stop him. Other coaches can see that his body of work is really exceptional."

Anderson also noted that Chiabotti's nomination reflects well on the Grizzlies' teams past and present.

"I think T.J. would be the first to tell you that this nomination and recognition of him as an individual is all a result of the teams he's played on,

Right: North Woods senior running back T.J. Chiabotti runs the ball for a touchdown during a regular season game against Barnum, played last month. Chiabotti scored 24 touchdowns on the season, in just nine games.

photo by D. Colburn

the line that blocked for him, the backs and ends that picked up defenders," Anderson said. "He'd be the first to tell you he didn't do it alone."

Chiabotti is the nominee from the MFCA Northeast Sub-District and the only Class

See **CHIABOTTI...**pg. 2B



SWIMMING

NER competes at sectionals

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

REGIONAL – The Northeast Range High School girls swim team finished the 2021 season last weekend with a top-10 finish at the Section 7A sectional meet held at Duluth East High School.

"While no Nighthawks advanced to state, we swam another great meet," said Head Coach Cheri DeBeltz. "Overall as a team we placed ninth, and we broke four team/school records."

In the 200 medley relay, Morgan McClelland, Lily Tedrick, Anna Larson, and Kelly Thompson, posted a time of 2:04.48 for seventh place at the preliminaries on Saturday. That same team placed sixth in the 200 freestyle relay on Saturday with a time of 1:48.50.

Tedrick swam the 200 individual medley to a fourth-place finish in 2:25.88. She also placed seventh in the 100 butterfly with a time of 1:05.49.

Other Nighthawks' results from the sectional meet included:

► McClelland placed 15th in the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:16.87. She placed 14th in the 500 freestyle, with a time of 6:15.47.

► In the 400 freestyle relay, Esther Anderson, Lauren Olson, Tuuli Koivisto, and Cylvia DeBeltz placed 11th with a time of 4:35.52.

Grand Rapids took first place in the sectional meet with 510.5 points, followed by Mesabi East, 330.5, Hibbing, 289, Duluth Denfeld, 184, Proctor/Hermantown, 183, Rock Ridge, 174, Cloquet/Esko/Carlton, 167, International Falls, 124, Northeast Range, 94, Two Harbors, 76, and Chisholm, 70.

ADVISORY

Officers issue cougar warning

VERMILION RESERVATION— Bois Forte conservation officers are alerting residents here that a cougar has been repeatedly spotted near the Red Pine Center, with the latest sighting coming in the early morning hours of Sunday, Nov. 14.

In a press release, officers indicated they are hoping to trap the animal for relocation.

Meanwhile, officers are advising residents in the area to keep a close eye on children playing outside and urged parents to consider walking with their children if they're headed to a friend's house or anywhere else. Cougars have

See **COUGAR...**pg. 2B



COMMITMENTS

Hannah signs, mom excited

Reichensperger inks letter of intent to play volleyball at Illinois State

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

BABBITT-Committed verbally since last year, Northeast Range standout senior volleyball player Hannah Reichensperger made her future college plans official on Monday by signing a national letter of intent to play for NCCA Division I Illinois State University next fall.

Reichensperger will be switching allegiance from one bird, the Nighthawks, to another, the Redbirds, as she joins new recruits from Kansas, Iowa, and Canada at the Missouri Valley Conference school, winners of the past two MVC conference tournament championships with three consecutive appearances in the NCAA tournament.

"We are so proud of Hannah and the entire class," said Jake Barreau, Redbirds associate head coach and recruiting coordinator. "They are joining our program at a fantastic time. Above all else, Hannah and her fellow classmates are top-notch human beings, and we can't wait to make some memories in the Red and White!"

Hannah was equally



enthusiastic about joining the Redbirds.

"I've felt the excitement for it for the past year now, so I'm just super excited to finally put it on paper," she said. "Their core values and everything that they work towards as a program is everything I've worked toward just growing up here. Their core values, growth, tradition, and service, it's what I'm about, being your best self, growing for the people around you, serving the people around you so they can grow into their best selves, and then keeping up with the tradition of winning and being successful."

Hannah also spoke highly about the ISU coaching staff.

Top: Hannah Reichensperger smiles as she signs her letter of intent to play for Illinois State. Meanwhile, her mom and coach, Jodi, can barely contain her excitement.

Above: The whole family, including (l-r) Bob Reichensperger, Hannah, Jodi and brother Greyson, turned out for the big event.

photos by D. Colburn

"They're the greatest coaching staff I've ever met," she said, "the best coaching staff in understanding that they're not coaching just athletes, but we're students and people as well. I'm super excited to be a part of the Redbird family."

Hannah's path to Illinois State was far from traditional, as the COVID-19 pandemic caused severe disruptions to the normal collegiate recruiting process.

"Hannah actually came on our staff's radar through a mass email/recruiting service," Barreau said. "Recruiting was different and much tougher throughout the pandemic with far fewer tournaments and coaches not being able to go

out and evaluate in person. Her process was probably a bit different than most. We trusted her pedigree and what we saw on video."

That pedigree continued to grow this year with additional honors Hannah received. The American Volleyball Coaches Association tapped her for three awards, the All-Region 7 team, All-American Honorable Mention, and first team "Best and Brightest" designation for academic excellence, with Hannah's 4.0 grade point average easily exceeding the 3.7 GPA minimum. Hannah also was named to the Minnesota Class 1A state first team, a

See **SIGNING...**pg. 2B

THE ARTS

Ely area artists sought for Ely's 2022 ArtWalk

ELY – The Ely ArtWalk will once again be held during the Ely Winter Festival and will extend the entire month of February.

The non-competitive, non-profit display of creative talent will continue the annual tradition of Ely's hardy mid-winter "window shopping." Traditionally, more than 45 businesses participate by offering their store windows as a city-wide gallery.

Artists who have a direct connection to Ely can register online at www.elyartwalk.org through Saturday, Dec. 11.

Individual entries are \$10 for a maximum of five pieces and group entries are \$30 for a maximum of 15 pieces. Student group entries are free. Those with PayPal accounts and credit cards can pay online. Other payment options, as well as donation options, are detailed on the website.

The Ely ArtWalk draws many visitors from all around the Arrowhead and beyond. Most of the work can be purchased and 100 percent of sales go to the artist.

The Ely ArtWalk is dedicated to the creation, pro-

motion, and appreciation of the arts. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, by a grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, and by individual and business sponsors.

Right: Artwork in an Ely shop window from last year's Ely ArtWalk.

submitted photo



SIGNING...Continued from page 1B

well-deserved honor after leading the Nighthawks to their first-ever sectional championship match this season.

Hannah has also developed her skills and built her resumé through years of competing on the national circuit with Duluth-based Minnesota North Volleyball Club. Her fellow ISU recruits have similar experience, something Barreau said has become the norm for collegiate programs.

"It certainly gives her continued experience year-round and a higher level of

competition," he said.

Northeast Range Head Coach Jodi Reichensperger has been Hannah's coach almost as long as she's been her mother, and Monday's signing ceremony was somewhat of a conflicted, bittersweet moment for her.

"It's sweet because this has been her dream and I've watched it unfold for her," Jodi said. "This is what she wanted, and she fought and fought until she got it. It's bitter because I know what it means come June, because she's going far, far away from home."

Hannah also expressed

a little bit of anxiety about moving more than 500 miles away from home but felt confident it would all go well.

"It's a little intimidating," she said. "I have grandparents right outside of Chicago, so it's nice to have someone there. And it's really only a 90-minute flight away. I know a lot of good people there at the college from throughout the recruiting process. I know that they've got me and I'm not too worried about it."

Barreau is also confident about Hanna making the transition to the Normal,

Ill., campus.

"College and collegiate athletics is always a shock to the system, regardless of where you come from, but we try to do a great job of naming those challenges and transition phases and addressing them from the onset so the student-athletes know to grant themselves grace and allow themselves time to find their new normal," he said.

Meanwhile, Hannah will be back on the volleyball court again well before she takes the floor for her first practice at

Illinois State. Minnesota North tryouts were this past Sunday, and no one gets a pass just because they've played there before. Hannah came through with shining colors, landing a spot on the 18-1 national team, with a season-culminating trip to either the USA Volleyball or Amateur Athletic Union national tournament.

Jodi will likely be an assistant coach for that team, and she's looking forward to one more tour to watch her daughter develop.

"I've watched her rise to that level where she

was recruited by this list of Division I schools, and she hasn't peaked yet," Jodi said. "She just keeps getting better. She floored me at club tryouts. She never ceases to amaze me. And she's such a good kid. She makes it her job in life to lift people up around her. She's a teacher's assistant with the elementary gym class, and that's where I just pulled her from (for the signing). If she has the time, she gives it. That's who she is. And she's going to a new nest, the Redbirds nest. I'm very comfortable with that nest."

CHIABOTTI...Continued from page 1B

1A finalist for the award. He's likely a longshot for an award dominated by Class 5A and 6A players since its inception in 2004. Only two Class 3A players have been named Mr. Football, and the first of those, Nick Mertens of East Grand

Forks in 2004, is the only awardee from north of the Twin Cities.

The other finalists include Jack Boyle, 5A Chaska, Connor Develice, 5A Andover, Eli Gillman, 3A Dassel-Cokato, Ryan Haley, 5A Mankato West,

Lucas Heyer, 4A Hill-Murray, Kristen Hoskins, 5A Alexandria Area, Derrick Jameson Jr., 6A Maple Grove, Emmett Johnson, 4A Academy of Holy Angels, and Drew Kittelson, 2A Blooming Prairie. The list includes

six running backs, two quarterbacks, one wide receiver and one offensive lineman. Six of the ten finalists, including Chiabotti, are noted as having played both offense and defense for their teams.

"I'm happy to see

his name there with the people who are finalists for Mr. Football," Anderson said. "I certainly think he deserves to be on that list. He would have been successful in whatever class he was playing in."

The 2021 Mr. Football

award will be presented at a banquet in Minneapolis on Dec. 5. The award is sponsored by MFCA and the Minnesota Vikings.

COUGAR...Continued from page 1B

been known to attack, and occasionally kill, people.

Officers are also recommending that residents keep a close eye on pets, which can also be vulnerable to cougar attacks. Pets

should also be kept inside or leashed so they aren't caught in traps set for the cougar. Any pets trapped will be transported to the nearest animal shelter and residents will need to pay

a fee to recover their pet.

Conservation officers are offering the following tips to stay safe should you encounter a cougar.

► Stay calm and stand your ground, but leave the

animal a way to escape.

► Maintain direct eye contact.

► Pick up children, but do so without bending down or turning your back on the cougar.

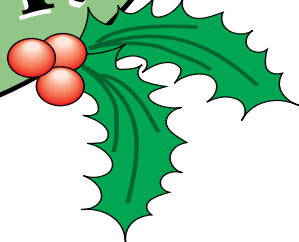
► Back away slowly.

► Do not run. Running triggers a chase response in cougars, which could lead to an attack.

► Raise your voice and speak firmly.

► In the unlikely event of an attack, fight back with rocks, sticks, bear or pepper spray or anything else that might be effective.

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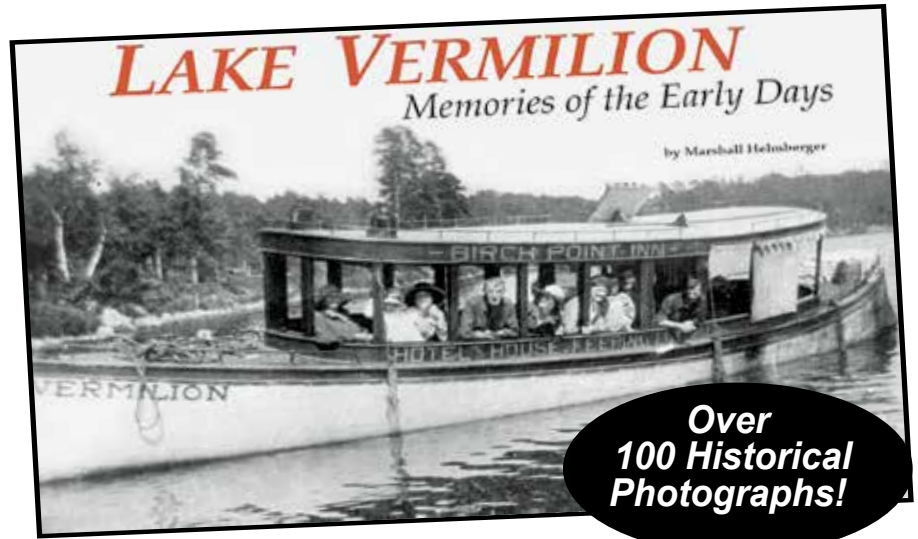
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Obituaries and Death Notices



Sharon J. Phillips

Sharon Joan Phillips, 67, surrounded by her family, passed away from cancer at her home in Hibbing on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. She was the light of her family's life. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, Nov. 16 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Hibbing. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Sharon was born in Hibbing on March 12, 1954, to Lester and Lois Plante. She was the third youngest of seven brothers and sisters. Her father was killed in a mining accident when she was seven years old. Her mother Lois later remarried Thomas Paull, joining two families and adding three step-siblings. Upon graduation from Hibbing High School in 1972, Sharon moved to the Twin Cities for a short time. She worked for 3M and the DNR before deciding to return to Hibbing, which undoubtedly broke many hearts in Minneapolis. After marrying Tim Rasch in 1975, Sharon stayed home and raised her boys. Wade and Troy could not imagine a more loving and caring role model to guide them

through life. It was during her boys' early years that she developed a love for fishing, which lasted her entire life. Oftentimes, she would go fishing on the Little Fork River during the day and race back to be home when the kids got off the bus.

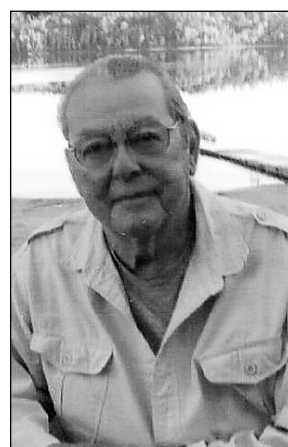
Sharon was a part-time aerobics instructor while the boys were young and returned to the workforce full-time for Fena Advertising in 1986. "Full-time" is a term used generously here...because Sharon was not a morning person. Still, she poured so much of herself into her work. Sales calls with Sharon would oftentimes turn into visits where many customers became dear friends. She remained selling for Fena Advertising until she retired in July of 2018. This meant virtually an entire lifetime supply of pens, pencils, and other advertising specialties with the Fena Advertising logo. In 1992, Sharon married Jay Phillips. They would have celebrated their 30th anniversary next year. Never far from her side, Jay skillfully navigated the waters of a blended family and provided Sharon, the boys, and grandkids a lifetime of love and affection.

Retirement from the workforce provided more free time, which led to new hobbies. Sharon approached each of her passions with the same zeal and dedication she had for her family and friends. From fishing, dollhouses, sewing, knitting, and creating - she never slowed down. After discovering her love for miniatures, she created elaborate dollhouses for all her grandchildren and even a miniature cabin for Jay. Each one of these labors of love required hundreds of hours, and contained countless one-of-a-kind creations. Of all her many creations, Sharon was definitely the proudest of her family. Sharon was a cherished light that her family depended on so heavily and she viewed

that dependency as a blessing, not a burden. She lived a selfless life of generosity and kindness and will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her.

Sharon is survived by her devoted husband of 29 years, Jay Phillips; sons, Wade (Lori) Rasch and Troy (Mary) Rasch; grandchildren, Laura, Connor, Michael and Natalie Rasch; step-grandchildren, Ella and Erin Greenwalt; sisters, Linda (Tom) Taylor, Marilyn Cerar, Elaine Sweeney, Bobbie and Jo Ann Paull; brother, Ron Plante; and brother-in-law, Lee (Lynne) Phillips.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Lois Paull; father, Lester Plante; stepfather, Thomas Paull; brothers, Wayne and Gary Plante; stepbrother, Tom Paull; and mother and father-in-law, Eleanor and Raymond Phillips.



Philip M. Christensen

Philip "Phil" Martin Christensen, 91, of Orr, passed away peacefully at his home on Friday, Nov. 12, 2021. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 19 at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Orr. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Lunch will be served after Mass. Interment will be at the Orr Cemetery. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Phil was born on

Aug. 22, 1930, in Virginia, to Colburn and Josephine (Lorbecki) Christensen. He attended Orr High School and graduated in 1948. After high school, Phil held several jobs over the years, working at the paper mill in International Falls, the mines in Virginia, and for the Canadian National Railroad. Phil served in the National Guard, was an EMT, and also worked for the Border Patrol at the Mexican border. For 27 years he served as a lineman for the Rural Electric Association, as well as a policeman for the cities of Orr and Cook for many years. Phil and Barbara were married on Nov. 19, 1977, in Orr. In 1980, Phil and Barbara purchased the Orr Café and ran the business for two years. Phil was a member of the Leiding Township Board for 20 years, retiring in 2016.

Throughout the years, Phil enjoyed working as a gunsmith, was an avid hunter and fisherman, loved reading, watching shows about Bigfoot, and traveling - especially to bluegrass festivals and gold mining in South America near the Amazon River. He cherished taking rides out to his shack on the four-wheeler, loved playing music, and was well known for his do-bro skills. Phil treasured time spent with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, especially his birthday buddy, Maverick Wright.

Phil is survived by his wife of 44 years, Barbara Ann Christensen; siblings, Danny (Debbie) Christensen and Elaine (Christensen) Granholm; children, Michael (Sandra) Christensen, Kathie (Michael) Hanson, Mary Lohn, Patrick (Anne) Christensen and Annie (Dane) Frances; stepchildren, Scott (Angela) Wright and Sean Wright; and numerous special grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded

in death by his parents, Colburn and Josephine Christensen; three sisters, Bernice Christensen, Dorothy Jackson and Agnes "Aggie" Benko; son, Joseph "Joe" Christensen; stepson, Wesley Wright; granddaughter, Kristen Gustafson; and grandson, Alex Cook.



Scott E. Carlon

Scott E. Carlon, 68, of Ramsey, went to be with The Lord on Friday, Nov. 5, 2021. Funeral services were held on Friday, Nov. 12 at Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapel in Crystal.

Scott was born in Soudan and raised in Tower. He proudly worked in Materials Management at Allina Hospitals for 44 years. He was a devout Christian and served as a Song Leader and Head Trustee at Good Shepherd Fellowship in Brooklyn Center for more than 20 years. He was known by family, friends, co-workers, and strangers as a man of hospitality, friendship and generosity. Scott's only mission in life was singular: "Others." He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Scott is survived by mother, Carolyn; wife, Naomi; five children, Grace (George), Esther (Adam), Stephen (Bethany), Loyal, and Faith (Jordan); and seven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bill.

George G. Marmas

George G. Marmas, of Cook, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

Donald J. Larson

Donald "Donnie" J. Larson, 85, of Cook, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021. Per his wishes, there will be no service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Lisbeth J. Yapel

Lisbeth "Beth" J. Yapel, 83, of Virginia, and Glendale, Ariz., formerly of Tower-Soudan, died on Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021, in her home in Virginia. A private graveside service at Lakeview Cemetery in Tower will be held early next summer. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her sisters, Suzie (Dick Maddern), Dorothy (Don Ferdig) and Michele (Paul Maertens); brother, John Yapel; numerous nieces, nephews, great- and great-nieces and nephews.

Dennis L. Minier

Dennis L. Minier, 62, of Ely, a longtime umpire, passed on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. He went to the home plate in the sky. Per his wishes, there will be no service or celebration of life. Cremation was entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Survivors include Sue Schroeder of Ely; sister, Debra Minier of Floodwood; brothers, Daniel (Linda), Michael (Deb) and Edward, all of Ely; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ely justice project continues

Linda LaGarde Grover novel featured

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – As part of the Native American justice project "Awareness... Then Change," local groups working on the collaboration are encouraging the community to participate in the upcoming One Community, One Read project.

Community members are welcome to participate in upcoming events related to the book, "In the Night of Memory," by Linda LeGarde Grover.

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

On Monday, Nov. 22, a community writing workshop with Grover will be held at the Ely Folk School. The workshop runs from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and will include a light meal. The workshop, "Writing from a Sense of Time and Place," is an interactive writing workshop. Participants will begin a creative writing project in the form of essay, poetry, fiction or memoir (or a combination of any of these). The


concepts of time and place will be examined from diverse individual and community worldviews. At the end of the workshop, some participants may have a completed piece, while others may have the foundation for work that may be developed further. Registration for the event is through the Ely Folk School website.

One Community, One Read will wrap up with a reading and presentation at Tuesday Group at noon, Nov. 23, followed by a discussion of "In the Night of Memory" for those in the audience who wish to stay after Grover's presentation.


While in the region, Grover will also conduct workshops in several area schools, sponsored by Story Portage, the Ely Indian Education Program and the Brunfelt-Sainio Fund.

Linda LeGarde Grover, professor emerita of American Indian Studies at UMD, is a member of the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe and author of fiction, poetry, research articles, newspaper columns and essays.

Additional local activities will be scheduled in 2022. "Awareness...Then Change," is sponsored by The American Association of University Women-Ely Branch in collaboration with Ely EMPOWER.



EBCH
Ely-Bloomenson
Community Hospital



Ask Brock the Doc

COVID-19 Hand Hygiene

Q: Does washing your hands really stop COVID-19?
A: Yes – hand washing is an important way to help prevent infections of any kind – not just COVID-19. Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is important, especially before eating, after using the bathroom, and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.

Follow these five steps:
Wet your hands with clean water and apply soap
Lather your hands by rubbing them together
Scrub for at least 20 seconds
Rinse under clean water
Dry using a clean towel

Q: Does hand sanitizer protect against COVID-19?
A: Yes – if soap and water are not available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer should contain at least 60% alcohol to kill the germs that cause COVID-19.

Q: Can I use wipes for hand hygiene?
A: No – most hand wipes sold are meant to kill bacteria and not viruses such as COVID-19. Baby wipes are not designed to remove germs from your hands either. These types of wipes do not have at least 60% alcohol needed to remove germs from your hands. In addition, household cleaning wipes are used to kill germs on hard surfaces. It is not recommended to use them to clean your hands because they may irritate your skin.

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 University's 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.

ebch.org
 328 W. Conan St.
 Ely, MN 55731
 218-365-3271

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is committed to caring for and enhancing the health and well being of the community it serves.



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

Outdoors briefly

COs report a busy firearms deer season

REGIONAL— Area DNR conservation officers have been busy with the firearms deer season, with widely varying reports depending on the area.

CO Sean Williams, in the Ely area, reported plenty of hunters out ahead of last week's storm, which combined rain and snow across the area. Williams is currently investigating the shooting of a gray wolf, which was found dead Friday morning on the Echo Trail. Williams is asking anyone with information on the shooting to contact the state TIP (Turn In Poachers) line at 800-652-9093.

CO Anthony Bermel, in Babbitt, reported a few large bucks taken by hunters there. He took enforcement action against hunters for shooting at big game from the road right-of-way and unlawful party hunting. He also took enforcement action against an individual who cut a large spruce top but without any apparent permission.

In the Orr area, CO Troy Fondie reported little hunting activity and very few deer harvested. He reported complaints from hunters about the lack of deer and the apparent abundance of wolves. Fondie also reported that many forest roads in the area were currently impassable due to the large numbers of downed trees from the recent snowstorm that hit the area.

In the Tower area, CO Aaron Larson reported several deer hunting violations, including taking deer with the aid of bait, expired ATV registration, no deer license in possession, operating an ATV during closed hours, and transporting a loaded firearm. Larson also worked a stolen boat and trespass complaint.



Send us your hunting stories

REGIONAL— Deer season is a time of tradition, family and fun. It's also a time for great outdoors stories and we'd like to hear yours— so we can share the best with our readers.

We're looking for stories and photos from this year's hunt. Whether it's an interesting encounter in the woods, a monster buck, a funny story about life at deer camp, or a young person's first deer, we want to hear about it. Just email us with a few details and we'll take it from there. And don't forget— nothing highlights the story better than some photos, so send them along as well.

Contact Marshall Helmberger at 218-753-2950 with your stories or email them to marshall@timberjay.com.

Thanks a lot!



SEASON OF TRANSITION

Storm brings snow and rain to the area

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The first major snowstorm of the season led to hair-raising driving conditions across portions of the North Country, while other areas were left with nothing but rain.

It was an unusual weather phenomenon that kept precipitation largely limited to the liquid form from Tower, east to Ely, and south to Embarrass, where most areas saw little more than a dusting of snow. To the west and the south, the rain quickly changed to snow, leaving anywhere from two to six inches across the area.

As a precipitation producer, the storm was one of the most prolific of the entire year, dropping 1.8 inches of rain on Tower, with somewhat lesser amounts elsewhere. Embarrass reported 1.49 inches of rain, while Ely reported 1.38 inches.

Other parts of the region saw much more rain, with Tofte, on the North Shore, reporting a whopping 5.75 inches of rain. Two Harbors saw 3.16 inches of rain, while Isabella picked up 1.98 inches.

To the west and north, Kabetogama reported 1.69 inches of total liquid precipitation, although some of it fell as snow. It was the same story at Celina, west of Cook, which picked up 1.57 inches of total precipitation, while Orr picked up 1.38 inches. Both locations reported about two inches of snow.

According to the National Weather Service, Togo, west of Cook, had the highest reported snow total in the area, with ten inches. Chisholm reported 6.8 inches while Britt reported six inches. NWS meteorologist Greg Frosig



Above: Scenes from along Brown Road, in Angora Township, in the aftermath of the Nov. 11 snow event that dropped several inches in western parts of the Timberjay coverage area.

photos by M. Helmberger

said the track of the low pressure system and differences in elevation, accounted for the widely variable snow amounts. Frosig said elevation changes of as little as 100 feet can make a significant difference, particularly when the temperatures are hovering around the freezing mark.

The track of the low-pressure system, which was centered over Tower for a time during the storm, created what meteorologists refer to as a "warm nose" centered over southeastern Lake Vermilion, east to Ely. It only amounted to a couple degrees, but it was enough to make the difference between

rain and snow and it created a remarkably sharp east-to-west gradient in the snow line. While the storm left the Y Store, for example, with a slight dusting of snow, the storm dropped 3-4 inches of the white stuff on the ground as of the Pfeiffer Lake cutoff on Hwy. 1, less than five miles west of the Y Store.

The mild temperatures meant the snow fell heavy and wet and it created some of the most treacherous driving conditions in years. Plows were reportedly few and far between and as snow accumulated on still unfrozen road surfaces, it created a layer of greasy slush underneath that made it difficult to keep cars on the road. Dozens of vehicles ended up in ditches across the area and the storm led to at least one fatal crash on Hwy. 135, near Gilbert. A 32-year-old mother, Betty Jean Smith, and her 11-year-old son Dakota, both of Aurora, died as a result of

ROAD TRIP

Ted the Bear makes trip to the dentist



Ted the Bear lounges last summer at the North American Bear Center in Ely.

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Ted, the beloved 24-year-old resident of the North American Bear Center here took a trip to the dentist last week. Getting a 700-pound black bear to agree to taking such a trip was no easy task for the NABC staff.

"Ted's local veterinarian has been treating him for an abscessed tooth and he felt he needed further treatment and a thorough dental exam," said Scott Edgett, senior director at the NABC. "The University of Minnesota's Large Animal Hospital, where specialists in large mammal dentistry could evaluate and treat his decaying teeth in a controlled medical environment, was the best place."

Ted was scheduled for an exam and treatment last Friday and took the road trip to Minneapolis last Thursday afternoon. "Ted's local vet went with him to Minneapolis and was part of the treatment team," Edgett said.

"As you can imagine, transporting an almost 700-pound bear four hours away is no easy task," he said. "Many people from around the state stepped up to help and arrange for transportation. The Minnesota Zoo loaned their large animal transport cage to us so we could safely transport Ted. Many volunteers made the eight-hour round-trip to pick up the cage and helped with his transportation and returning the cage back to Minneapolis."

Ted was moved into the transportation cage last Thursday afternoon. "It took a few attempts to get him in the cage since this was all new and unfamiliar to him. After allowing Ted to relax for a little while, we called upon the 'Bear Man' for help," Edgett said. Senior Bear Keeper Sharon Herrrell and Dr. Lynn Rogers worked their magic. As usual Ted greeted Dr. Rogers with his friendly grunts, took food from his hand and walked right into the cage.

Ted spent the evening supervised in the crate inside a box truck. "The plan was for the team to leave Ely in the wee hours of last Friday morning and head to Minneapolis to make his 8:30 a.m. appointment," he said. "The team did an outstanding job, from coaxing Ted into the cage to operating the folk lift to move him into the truck and providing support for Ted."

In an update late last Friday, Edgett said Ted was on the road again and headed back to Ely. "All went well. However, they did have to extract six teeth." Ted was back at the Ely Bear Center by 11 p.m. The team had a very busy day, and they were glad to get Ted settled back in his enclosure.

After a veterinarian check on Saturday afternoon, Ted was given a reversal drug to help him come out of the anesthesia. "Not soon after administration of the drug, Ted got up and made his way to his Chalet where he was raking and making himself comfortable," Edgett said.

On Sunday, Herrrell gave Ted some juice, applesauce and peaches along with his medication. "He continued to adjust his bedding to his liking and has been napping on and off," Edgett said. "We are so thankful for Ted's vet team and all of his caregivers. We are also so thankful for all of the support from Ted's fans."

See **STORM**, pg. 5B

WINTER ARRIVES IN THE NORTH COUNTRY



Clouds and snow-covered black spruce provide a backdrop for an open fen located along the Brown Road, in Angora.

photo by M. Helmberger

Area Deer Harvest

Results through Monday, Nov. 15

Year	Bucks	Antlerless	Total
2019	3,545	959	4,604
2020	3,048	764	3,812
2021	3,075	451	3,526

Preliminary harvest totals for permit areas in northern St. Louis and Lake counties, including 117, 118, 119, 130, 131, 132, 176, 177, and 178.



FIREARMS DEER SEASON

Area buck harvest remains flat, while total harvest is down

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Colder weather and snow has both helped and hampered deer hunters during the second weekend of the firearms deer season. That's left the buck harvest to date on par with last year, while hunters have registered 40 percent fewer antlerless deer.

The drop in the antlerless harvest isn't a surprise. "We didn't give out as many antlerless permits this year," said Penny Backman, who is serving as interim area wildlife manager in Tower. Backman is normally based out of the DNR's Orr area office.

Among the nine permit areas tracked by the *Timberjay*, hunters registered a total of 3,526 deer as of Monday morning, Nov. 15. Adult males comprised 87 percent of that harvest, for a total of 3,075 bucks. That's just slightly above last year's total of 3,048 bucks at the same point in the season, while it's down 14 percent over the same period in 2019.

But antlerless registrations are down significantly, with just 451 antlerless deer registered to date. That's compared to 764 during the same period last year and 959 in 2019.

Backman noted that the DNR opted to cut the number of antlerless tags in order to grow the deer herd. That was the consensus of a recent goal-setting process conducted by the DNR. While hunters overwhelmingly said they wanted to see more deer, achieving that objective means hunters need to take fewer deer, particularly females, at least until populations can rebuild.

This year's hunt got off to a slow start opening weekend, as exceptionally warm weather appeared to limit deer movement. But as colder weather and snow moved in ahead of last weekend, deer activity and the buck harvest both picked up.

While some areas saw only light snow accumulation from the Nov. 11-12 storm, other parts of the region saw enough snow to hamper access for hunters, with many downed trees on forest roads.

"Deer hunting has been tough this year," said Backman.

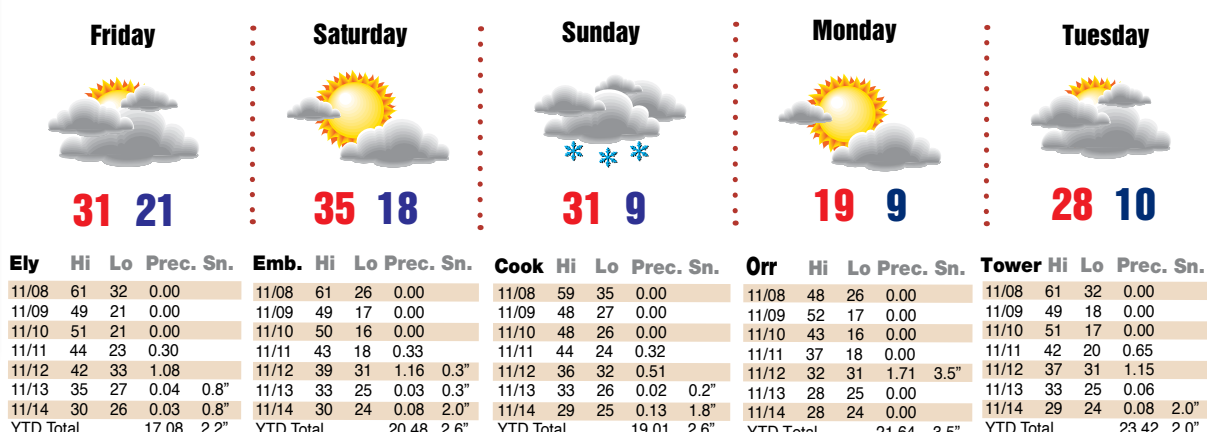
"First it was too warm, then we had a blizzard," she said. "None of that is conducive to deer hunting."

Statewide, total regis-

trations as of Monday, Nov. 15, sat at 145,724. Adult bucks comprised 58 percent of that reported harvest, with antlerless deer, which include females and male fawns, made up the rest.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



STORM...Continued from page 4B

a four-car pile-up just before 4 p.m. on Thursday. Smith's 10-year-old daughter was also badly injured in the accident and was transported to St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth.

While some areas missed out on the white stuff during last week's storm, a follow-up snowfall late Saturday was more widespread, dropping anywhere from 1-3 inches

across much of the area. While much more limited than the earlier storm, the weekend event did create its share of travel challenges. That includes a St. Louis County plow truck, which overturned in the ditch late Saturday, on Hwy. 23, between Orr and Nett Lake. Brian Boder, deputy director of St. Louis County Public Works, said the driver was

uninjured in the incident and the truck sustained relatively minor damage.

"Unfortunately, this does happen more frequently than we would like," said Boder, noting that still-soft shoulders this time of year, particularly after rain or wet snow, can "suck" trucks into the ditch before a driver can correct.

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or call 218-726-2422

Social Studies Teacher .5 FTE

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

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

Nett Lake School District Job Posting

Nett Lake School District is seeking a highly motivated parttime American Indian Education Coordinator with strong leadership abilities to be responsible for the overall administration, supervision and coordination of the American Indian Education programs for the district. **This position will have an Afternoon/Evening Schedule.**

Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in American Indian studies or related field preferred. Knowledge of American Indian culture, history, and sovereignty, previous counseling and/or teaching experience with American Indian students preferred

Pay Grade: Negotiated
Hours: To be determined
Application Deadline: 11/24/21 or until filled

Application Process: Candidates should submit:
1. Letter of Interest
2. Resume
3. District Application, three (3) signed letters of reference, which can be included with the District Application

District Applications can be picked up at the Nett Lake School.

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Activities
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Environmental Services
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Casual Laundry Aide
Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

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

Ely PUBLIC WORKS 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

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

**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, alleging that legal and physical custody of the child(ren) named in the petition should be permanently transferred to the proposed custodian(s).
2. Notice is hereby given that the matter of said

Transfer of Permanent Legal and Physical Custody Petition will be called for hearing before the Juvenile Court located at St. Louis County District Court, Courtroom #3, Fourth Floor, 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 Honorabe Sally Tarnowski
Judge of District Court
BY: Jenna Palumbo, Deputy

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

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Up to
4 Platter
8 Scoop holder
12 Olympics chant
13 Sicilian resort
14 Dryer fuzz
15 Sandal type
17 Pub potables
18 Computer whiz
19 Dog tags, e.g.
21 PC key
22 Excellent
26 Expire
29 Present location?
30 Med. plan option
31 Perry's creator
32 — Aviv
33 Hotel worker
34 From — Z
35 "Science Guy" Bill
36 Segments
37 Kanye West's music
39 Moonshine vessel
40 Japanese sash
41 Narcotic
45 Volition
48 Sound of hoofbeats
50 Tom Joad, for one
51 First-rate

DOWN

1 Clump of grass
2 Capri, e.g.
3 Secular
4 Sully
5 Cove
6 — -Cat
7 Domed building in Washington D.C.
8 Purse fastener

9 Tin Man's need
10 SSW opposite
11 UFO crew
16 Stage
20 Ten, in Dijon
23 "— she blows!"
24 Skip
25 Spacecraft compartment
26 Wife of Jacob
27 Intro studio class
28 Fall into a soft chair
29 Spelldown

32 Not out of the ordinary
33 Wizardry
35 San Francisco's — Hill
36 String on a string
38 Bagel features
39 Unites
42 Regrettably
43 San
44 Grand tale
45 Dazzle
46 White House nickname
47 Cover
49 Baseball's Gehrig

SCRABLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Deal
RATED

Bonus
DRAWER

Keep
NEARIT

Ignite
LINKED

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"Isn't it about time you _____ in this heap?"

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ELO FETA ITO OFHIS
DMAJ PAUSE FOREFFECT
ELBA ITALY STELLA
FORWARDSLASH METERMEN
APERATURE HICKMAN
NOSY NASTY ATAT ALTO
DST POWER OF SUGGESTION
OSAGE YULES AMOLE
MUTETHYCORONATION NUS
SMEE OMEN SLEEP ICE T
MACLEOD AVIFAUNA
MASCARAS VOLUMENUMBER
IDTAGS AARON REMS
CHANNEL ISLANDS OPEC
REINA IDS LUTZ RAH
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

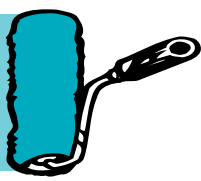
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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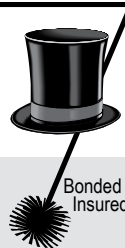
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