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# The TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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## CITY OF TOWER

# New hope for Harbor Shores project

### TEDA board OKs plan for 12 townhomes on two parcels

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER— A development project mired in delay for the past several years has new life and a new development agreement, this

time with the Tower Economic Development Authority.

The Tower Harbor Shores condominium plan appears to be back on track after the TEDA board unanimously approved a modified agreement with the company to build

12 townhomes on two parcels along the city's harbor.

That's fewer than the 20 townhomes that the company originally proposed to build on three parcels on

See...TOWER pg. 9



## COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



# A feast of plenty

### Thanksgiving is a family affair at Vermilion Country School

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Thanksgiving is a family affair, and for the students at Vermilion Country School, that meant cooking for their in-school family, which totaled more than 50.

"We asked the students if they wanted to invite their families to the meal," said VCS Director Mary McGrane, "but they told us this was their family."

The idea to cook a full holiday meal came from the school's event planning committee, which is headed by Check

See...FEAST pg. 11



At top, kitchen volunteers Stacy Gallus, Dakota Hanninen, and Al White help prepare a Thanksgiving feast at Vermilion Country School. Above, Mahlia Schuster, Alyssa Costello, and Abbi Zapata gather with Gallus for a selfie. photos by J. Summit

## ISD 696

# School board grapples with streamlining advisory council

### Proposal would eliminate community voices in setting COVID protocols

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - School board members here are in the midst of a discussion to "sunset" the current Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council (ELSPAC) and to replace it with a newly formed, more streamlined committee.

The advisory council at ISD 696 was formed at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic to consult with the Ely school administrators as they responded to ever-changing learning and public health protocols throughout the school year.

As the 2021-22 school year was about to start, with increasing reported cases of COVID-19 after a relatively quiet summer and growing vaccine distribution, administrators made an abrupt decision to require protective face masks on school campus.

Immediate pushback came in the form of a petition to the school board to eliminate the face mask mandate. School board members and school staff endured verbal attacks and disrespectful behavior from some community members at school board meetings and on social media.

The school board rescinded the administration's ability to implement such measures, even as the ELSPAC group navigated through ping-ponging COVID-19 case

See...SCHOOL pg. 10



## THE NORTH COUNTRY

# Greaney man's simple life appeals to thousands

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

### Human interest story tops a million views online

GREANEY – Beryl Novak lives a relatively solitary life in his one-room shack tucked away in the forest northwest of Greaney, and evidently,

it's a lifestyle many find intriguing, as a recent article about him on a Duluth newspaper website has garnered more than a million hits and international

attention.

"I thought it would just appear in the Duluth paper and that would be it, and here I find out it's aired all over the world," Novak said.

See...BERYL pg. 12



Beryl Novak's simple lifestyle includes grafting trees on his property near Greaney. photo by D. Colburn



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## Community notices

### Ruby's Pantry food distribution

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

### 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. The concerts will be held Friday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at Chisholm Baptist Church and Sunday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. at Gethsemane Lutheran in Virginia.

### Pancake breakfast for the Embarrass Fair, Dec. 4

EMBARRASS - Support the Embarrass Region Fair by coming for all-you-can-eat pancakes, choice of ham or sausage links, fruit cup, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee the first Saturday of each month through May at the Timber Hall. Adults \$6, children (6-10 years) \$3, and under 5 years FREE. The next breakfast is Saturday, Dec. 4 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

CORRECTION: Please note, the Holiday Craft Sale is Dec. 11 and 12 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### MDHA Sturgeon River meets Dec. 8

REGIONAL- On Wednesday, Dec. 8, members of the MDHA Sturgeon River Chapter will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Mt. Iron Community Center, located at 8586 Enterprise Dr. S, along Highway 169. The agenda will include plans for attending the MDHA state habitat banquet and planning for members' use of a food plot disc and seeder. Anyone interested in becoming a member is welcome to attend this meeting.

### Lutefisk and meatball dinner, Dec. 7

VIRGINIA- Come to Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church in Virginia on Tuesday, Dec. 7 for a lutefisk and meatball dinner, from 3 - 7 p.m.

Dinner includes lutefisk with drawn butter and cream sauce, handmade Swedish meatballs, gravy and potatoes, lefse and bread, vegetable, beet pickles, coffee, milk, and a cupcake. Cost is \$17 for adults, \$6 for children age 6-12, and free for children age 5 and under.

The church is located at 901 S 4th St. in Virginia. For questions, call 218-741-4961.

### EBCH adjusts annual meeting plans

ELY- The Ely Health and Hospital Foundation, the umbrella organization of Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH), has opted to make changes to its annual meeting due to a recent surge of COVID-19 cases in the area. There will be a virtual meeting in place of the originally scheduled in-person meeting.

"We were initially scheduled to hold this year's meeting in person on Dec. 6," said EBCH CEO Patti Banks. "As healthcare leaders, this difficult decision was made with the health and well-being of our members, board, hospital staff, and our community in mind."

In addition, absentee ballots will be sent to all members who had not yet requested a ballot. The Foundation Board will follow the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Act, Chapter 317A.447, to move forward with the 2021 election of board members. Members can request a link to the annual meeting by emailing [ssaw@ebch.org](mailto:ssaw@ebch.org).

EBCH is in the process of notifying all foundation members of the changes to the meeting via letter.

### Donate at the Ely DFL office for Ely Community Resource toy drive

ELY- In the spirit of the holidays, the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party's Ely office is now collecting books, board games and educational items for middle and high school-aged children.

All contributions will be given to the annual holiday project of Ely Community Resource, which has been providing positive youth development activities for over 40 years for area youth.

Community members may drop off their donations at the Ely office at 1311 E Sheridan St. during its regular hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. from Dec. 2 through Dec. 14.

The holiday gift drive is part of "Democrats Care," a nationwide initiative by the Democratic Party to embrace and act on its ideals and work to improve our country beyond the ballot, beginning in local communities.

For more information, please contact the Ely DFL office at 218-365-3444, by email at [DFLElyoffice@gmail.com](mailto:DFLElyoffice@gmail.com), or on the web at <https://slcou3.com/>.

## NELIMARK HOMESTEAD

# Woodland Christmas at the Nelimark, Dec. 9-11



EMBARRASS- The Nelimark Homestead and Farmstead Artisans will celebrate the holiday season on Dec. 9-11 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. each day.

Stop in to enjoy Woodland Christmas at the Nelimark. There will be handcrafted and ethnic gifts, baked goods, coffee, conversation, and Christmas cheer. Located on Hwy. 21 across from Timber Hall.

Clockwise from top left: A friendly goat greets guests who sample its cheese. Michelle Camp displays her wares. An exclusive and rare gift, Embarrass Magic Beans, are for sale- giant's gold atop the beanstalk not guaranteed. photos by J. Summit

## VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS

# VHHP brings light and honors loved ones

COOK - The communities of Cook, Orr and Tower will bring light to the darkness as a way to honor and remember loved ones. The Lights of Love event brings people together to share in their memories and experience a sense of community with a tree-lighting ceremony in each community. "Lights of Love is a wonderful opportunity to remember and honor loved ones by supporting quality hospice care in our local areas," said Becca Bundy, the Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, LLC (VHHP) Program Director, which puts on the fundraising event.

It is one of two major fundraisers for the nonprofit that serves hospice patients and their families in the Cook, Orr and Tower areas. VHHP relies on support from fundraisers, memorials, and honorariums to

grant the requests for help that come to them.

"VHHP ensures and facilitates access to quality hospice and palliative care services for all hospice and hospice eligible patients in central St. Louis County," explained Bundy. "We also support these patients and their families in their time of need."

VHHP also provides scholarships at graduation for two graduating high school seniors and one college student.

Local clergy and community choirs are a part of the outdoor ceremonies. There is caroling and fellowship following at each site.

Cook's ceremony will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3 at the city's gazebo. Orr will host the ceremony outside the Orr Center at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4. Tower's

tree-lighting ceremony will be at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5 outside the Civic Center. Lights of Love Donation forms will be available at all ceremonies.

Memorials and donations can be made in any amount starting at \$5. Any donation that is received in the amount of \$100 or more will result in a loved one's name being placed on the memorial plaque at the Cook Hospital.

With the theme of "lights," there are three levels of donations starting with \$5 - Bulb; \$10 - Ice Candle; \$25 - String of Lights. These are not items actually purchased, just a way to choose at what level to support hospice. Donations may be given in honor or in memory of a loved one(s).

"VHHP relies on the support of the community to help carry out our mission

to bring comfort care services to enrolled hospice patients or hospice eligible patients and their families in our local communities," said Bundy. "When making a donation or memorial, you are supporting local hospice and hospice eligible patients and their families with comfort care, last wishes and needs not covered by insurance."

VHHP has been able to help many hospice and hospice eligible patients with medical and other essential bills, groceries, comfort care items, gas and grocery cards, as well as a variety of other needed items and financial assistance.

"Together we make a difference," said Bundy.

To donate, visit: <https://vhhp.org/lights-of-love/>.

## FELL YOUR OWN

# 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 wildfire, 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/](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>.



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## CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN ELY

## Ely-area holiday events celebrate the season

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - The Christmas season is here and local organizations are planning festive events to celebrate the holidays.

Todd Crego of Ely Area Television is producing a Celebrate the Season holiday and variety show again this year. He developed a televised show last year as the coronavirus pandemic put a halt to live entertainment events.

This year, local artists and entertainers recorded sessions at the Cykoart Productions Inc. studio for showing on the local public access cable channels, and Crego is also planning to present the show live at

Ely's Historic State Theater on Dec. 15 and Dec. 22.

"We will have COVID-19 public health protocols in place," he added.

The recorded show will be available for viewing on local cable channels 11 and 98 from Dec. 15 through the holiday season.

The hour-plus show features Christmas-related music, singing, dancing, and storytelling from local artists, including Bernie Palcher, Sara Skelton, Barb Cary Hall, Joey Kenig, Lisa Fuglie of Monroe Crossing, Keiko Williams and Kathleen Floberg, the Ely Public Library staff, and a community choir, according to Crego.

Crego is assisted by Curt Laine and Jacob White from the non-profit Cykoart

production company.

The Northwoods Partners Festival of Trees runs through Sunday, Dec. 5. The lobby of the Grand Ely Lodge is transformed into a winter wonderland, complete with decorated Christmas trees, wreaths, and a holiday boutique. Back by popular demand this year 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.

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 enjoy free skating, dinner, hot chocolate, fire with s'mores, and a coloring contest. A festive-wear contest will also be held.

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 they hoped to have that afternoon is canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. Everyone is asked to remain in their vehicles while helper elves deliver goodie bags to youth. Santa and Mrs. Claus are excited the event



Local musician Barb Cary Hall recorded a Christmas song at the Cykoart Productions Inc. studio for the Celebrate the Season television show. A live premiere event is planned at Ely's Historic State Theater. photo by K. Vandervort

is still taking place and understanding. thank everyone for their

## COVID-19

## Delta surge is still top concern in Minnesota

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

Hospitalizations rise again, but some indicators improve

REGIONAL- While international attention on the COVID pandemic has focused in recent days on the possible threat posed by the newly identified omicron variant, the current Delta-driven surge in Minnesota continues to pummel the state's hospital system.

COVID admissions increased once again last week, with 74 percent of adult intensive care units and 42 percent of non-ICU units reporting no beds available. On Tuesday, there were 1,532 patients hospitalized with COVID, up from 1,429 reported the prior week. Of those COVID patients, 343 were in ICUs.

In northeastern Minnesota, no ICU beds were available for several days last week. On Monday, there were three adult and two pediatric ICU slots open, and 27 of the region's 92 ICU patients were being treated for COVID.

Hospital capacity will likely continue to be taxed with an anticipated post-holiday influx of new cases, which could reverse the slight downward trajectory in the number of new cases heading into the Thanksgiving holiday.

The state added 25,002 new COVID-19 cases in the seven days, between last Wednesday, Nov. 24 and Tues. Nov. 30, for an average of 3,572 new cases per day. That's down from a daily average of 4,225 the week prior. The state's case positivity rate also dropped to 10.6 percent as of Tuesday.

St. Louis County case numbers also have started trending downward. From a fourth-wave surge high of 183.6 in the seven-day new case average on Nov. 18, that measure dropped to 141.7 on Nov. 7, a 23-percent decrease.

Those between the ages of 40 and 70 have shouldered an increasing share of new COVID cases

in the county in the most recent two weeks of data available on the county's COVID dashboard. People in their 40s accounted for 32 new cases, those in their 50s, 24, and those in their 60s, 39. The number of cases among those birth to 19 during the same two weeks held relatively steady compared to the prior two weeks at 30.

The North Country has yet to experience the declines seen elsewhere, according to weekly case data from the Minnesota Department of Health. Ely has been the primary driver of recent case increases in the six zip codes monitored by the *Timberjay*. From Oct. 28 to Nov. 29, 100 new cases have been identified in Ely, with 35 of those reported just last week.

Cook, the regional zip code that has the statistically highest rate of COVID infections, added 15 new cases last week, bringing its total since Oct. 28 to 55.

Tower's 16 new cases

last week is the most reported there for a single week since mid-September. Four more cases were reported for Soudan, seven for Embarrass, and eight for Orr.

## Omicron the newest concern

State Health Department Commissioner Jan Malcolm weighed in on Monday with a statement about the newly identified omicron variant of the COVID virus, first identified and reported by South African health officials on Nov. 24.

"Minnesota health officials are closely tracking international reports of a new COVID-19 variant, called omicron (B.1.1.529). The World Health Organization has named omicron a variant of concern, and scientists are working hard to learn more about its transmissibility and virulence, and how well vaccines may protect a person against it," Malcolm

said. "At this point no omicron cases have been reported in Minnesota or the United States. Fortunately, Minnesota has built one of the nation's strongest genomic sequencing and variant surveillance systems. If an omicron variant infection is found in Minnesota, we will share that information as soon as possible."

International response to the new variant, which is potentially more infectious than the Delta variant, was swift, with numerous countries, including the United States, imposing restrictions on travel from numerous African countries.

However, most health officials believe such travel bans will have only minimal effect, and new reports of omicron cases bear that out.

Results of sample testing in Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands reported Tuesday have revealed that the omicron variant was

already circulating in those countries as many as five days before the variant was identified in South Africa. Omicron variant cases have now been identified in 23 countries, with 15 of those in Europe. Cases have also been identified in Canada, Australia, and Japan.

With a baseline of only about 1,500 total cases identified thus far, health officials are scrambling to determine what the potential impact of the omicron variant could be. Standard tests for COVID don't identify what variant caused a specific case. Genetic testing is necessary to identify omicron, Delta, and any other COVID variant, and less than one percent of COVID tests are subjected to additional genetic testing. Since identifying the omicron variant, South African health officials have determined it is now the dominant variant in the country, but at this point it

See COVID...pg. 5

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### Biden's mixed signals

Forget lip service—it's time for a real solution to climate change

The Biden administration is offering decidedly mixed signals on the issue of climate change. Even as the evidence mounts on the increasingly dire effects of the ongoing change in the Earth's climate, President Biden is making matters worse by continuing to feed America's addiction to fossil fuels.

Even before the ink was dry on the agreements coming out of the Glasgow climate conference last month, the Biden administration was taking steps to violate the spirit of Biden's own campaign promise to bring an end to oil and gas leasing on federal lands. Instead, in the wake of the climate conference, the Biden administration approved the largest sale of offshore oil and gas rights in U.S. history. A government analysis predicts the sale could yield as much as 1.1 billion barrels of oil and 4.42 trillion cubic feet of natural gas if those projects are developed over the next two-to-three decades. Apparently, voters should have read the fine print on Biden's campaign promise.

Just a week later, he ordered the release of 50 million barrels of oil from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve, in order to bring down the price of gasoline at the pump. Which, if Biden's effort proves successful, will lead to more consumption of fossil fuels.

One thing is certain. President Biden is talking out of both sides of his mouth when it comes to climate change. On one side, he mouths pretty platitudes about the need to address what climate scientists insist is an existential threat. On the other side, he's telling the oil and gas industry that it's more-or-less business as usual.

That's not the message that the country needs.

We need a solution to the climate crisis, not lip service. During his campaign, President Biden promised to make polluters bear the full cost of the carbon pollution they are emitting, and there's a way to do that with legislation that's already been proposed in Congress. It's called a revenue-neutral carbon tax, and it's designed to use financial incentives to get all of us to kick the fossil fuels habit. It's been called “the immaculate solution,” because it has something that should appeal to sensible people on both sides of the

political aisle.

Under the plan, the tax would apply to companies based on the number of tons of carbon they emit. The tax would start out modestly and escalate over time.

A 2019 study of the plan by Brookings found that it would be one of the most effective policies the U.S. could adopt to reduce carbon emissions. A carbon tax would generate a massive amount of new revenue for the federal government, yet the legislation would be revenue neutral because the money raised would go right back to Americans in the form of a monthly refund check. Those checks would grow over time, more than compensating the vast majority of consumers for higher prices they would likely pay for their own use of fossil fuels, whether at the gas pump or by continuing to heat their homes with fossil fuels.

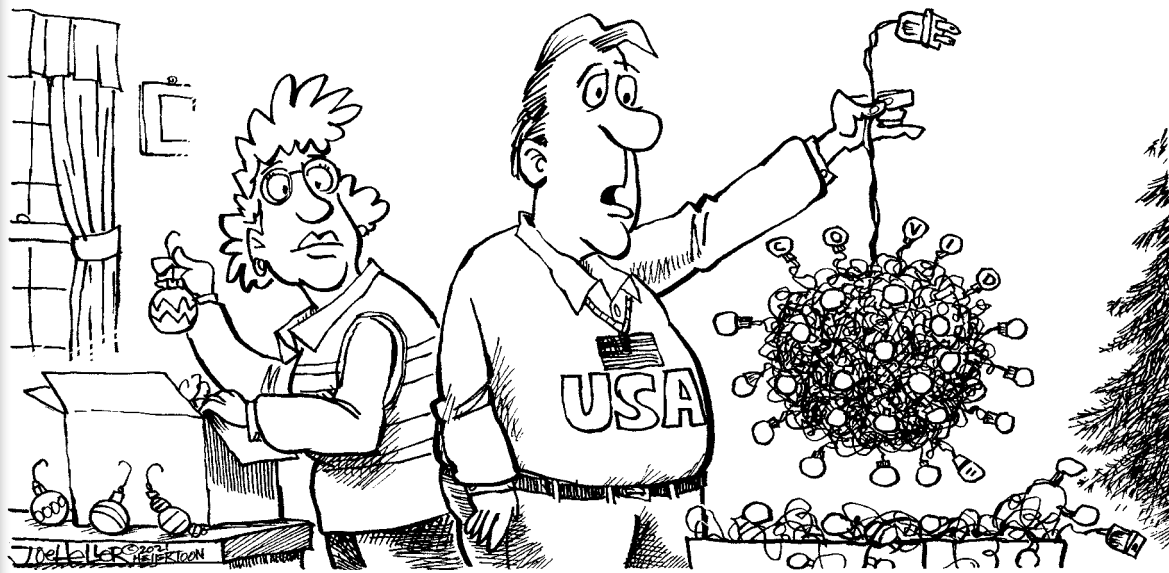
The tax would give Americans a financial incentive, and more financial means, to make greener choices in their own lives. That would cheer Democrats. At the same time, it would provide an effective climate change solution that doesn't grow the size of government, impose new regulations, or add to the federal debt, things at least some traditional Republicans still care about.

We know such carbon pricing regimes work because they're already in place in many other countries, including all of Europe. According to Brookings, a carbon tax of \$50 per ton (which is well below the \$75 per ton already in place in the EU), would reduce carbon emissions in the U.S. by as much as 46 percent by 2030, which would put the country within striking distance of meetings its commitments under the Paris Climate Accord.

In normal countries, that aren't hopelessly hamstrung by wealthy special interests, infantilizing social media, and partisan rancor, a carbon tax is a no-brainer solution to climate change.

President Biden also promised to get Washington functioning again. Advancing a revenue-neutral carbon tax is the best path forward if the administration wants to demonstrate it is willing to walk the walk when it comes to climate change.

“WHEN I PUT THIS AWAY LAST YEAR, I THOUGHT FOR SURE IT WOULD HAVE STRAIGHTENED ITSELF OUT BY NOW!”



## Letters from Readers

### The copper isn't going anywhere

I have lived in Minnesota for 75 years, the last 50 in the Ely area. We now have an opportunity to exploit a vast mineral reserve. A truly world class deposit of low-grade sulfide minerals.

This deposit, formed over a billion years ago, is unlike a basement full of potatoes in that there is NO RUSH.

We need jobs and copper. One hundred years from now we will still need jobs and copper. All mining is a one-shot deal but the waste left behind stays with us long after the last paycheck. We should archive the test drilling data until the technology allows us to be more certain we are not creating a permanent mess.

I support a moratorium on sulfide mining to be reviewed every 50-100 years.

**Brian Dahlin  
Ely**

### Where is the outcry against violent rhetoric?

I have just read about the behavior of one of our political parties sanctioning the violent words of Rep. Paul Gosar and supporting a video showing him killing Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Though sanctioned by the House of Representatives, those violent actions have not been repudiated by the Republican Party. In fact, according to the *New York Times*, party leaders in the House refused to condemn the video and their rank and file nearly unanimously closed ranks around Gosar. This violent rhetoric seems to be growing, in spite of censure.

This worries me. We voters must never think of killing our opponents. However, as a culture, the sanctioning of violent words and actions toward those who oppose us seems to be growing. It ought to be receiving public censure by the voters, rather than whipping up violence in the population. We can't wait to just vote violence out of office.

What can citizens do? We must speak our faith in our land

where liberty and justice is for every citizen and non-citizen. We must not allow anyone to speak violently without being reminded that violence breeds violence. In a land where joy and peace are sought as the solution to injustice and oppression, we citizens can, with our voices, speak words that create joy and make peace, in the face of such rhetoric.

**Henry “Art” Dale  
Soudan**

### It's a party, It's a concert, It's the best of both!

Mesabi Symphony Orchestra is hosting a festive get-together Saturday night, Dec. 11, in Virginia High School's Goodman Auditorium. You should come. The fun begins at 7 p.m. There'll be wooden soldiers marching (and falling asleep), horses dashing through the snow, percussionists hopping around like caffeinated (but musical) fleas, more seasonal carols than you can shake a candy cane at. When the Polar Express train roars through, it will be accompanied by a visual symphony of lights. No need for a night Home Alone, come Hear What I Hear.

“But I don't know anybody there.” Yeah, you do, actually. Three of the four singers are Elyites: Erin Bremner, your eye doctor; Sara Skelton, theatre director and arts professor at VCC; Jim Lah, English teacher and drama director at the High School. If you heard our Mozart Requiem a few years ago, you know what to expect from them. A few of the orchestra members might be your neighbors, too.

“But money is tight right now.” Amen to that! But do you know that we admit students – all students, kindergarten through college – free? Yes. Free. Our accountant asks that they come with a ‘ticket’ supplied by their music teacher(s). But, whatever. And our \$25 family rate? “Family” means all the people living under one roof: roomies, multi-generational, whoever. We love little bitty ones, too, though it's courteous to scoot them out if leaks or meltdowns look imminent.

“But orchestra concerts can be so stuffy.” In New York, undoubtedly. Here, expect all the stuffiness of

a screened-in porch. Before curtain, we're as likely to be wandering around in the auditorium as you are.

All the bells and jingles, all the bright-and-shiny things, and mild orchestral silliness to boot. Even the weather forecast looks encouraging. The invitation couldn't be more clear, or enthusiastic. So join all the cool kids for some happy, spirited fun. See you there!

Oh. [www.mesabisymphonorchestra.org](http://www.mesabisymphonorchestra.org), or find us on Facebook. Or on What's Up Ely.

**Lynn Evenson  
Ely**

### No way to run a township

This is in response to an article in last week's *Tower News*.

Any analysis is not correct unless all information for the item is included. I was not contacted about the upcoming analysis of the payroll issue in Greenwood Township. I invite the writer, Jessica Hannine, to contact me to get the other side of the story. My phone is 218-235-0208. I would like to have a sit down to clear up the misconceptions the writer has.

I would also like to point out a problem I see with the sitting board. When someone on the board sees a problem, such as errors in payroll checks, other board members need proof. But proof is hard to get because of the township's information ordinance. Then the board decided to make a change by motion, to make the previous issue now correct.

The problem I am concerned about with what may appear to be “minor” issues with the township's accounting practices is that the township does have a substantial annual budget, and it is the board's fiduciary responsibility to oversee this spending and make sure township dollars are being spent correctly and mistakes are not being made. Small mistakes can pave the way for larger, more substantive mistakes.

Not the best way to run a township.

**Sue Drobac  
Supervisor  
Greenwood Twp.**

## Seeking help for a deep dive into social media

One of the things I love about small town journalism is the fact that when there's an idea I want to tackle where I need some assistance, there's always one of our faithful readers who seems ready and willing to help.

I've been wanting to do a serious, in-depth



**DAVID  
COLBURN**

review into social media and YouTube for ages, so folks can really get a handle on what the landscape is like today. The latest Facebook scandal or the newest high-profile Twitter user that's been

headlines but leave us lacking for a good feel for just what these environments are all about. What's it like for the average Joes and Janes of the world, day in, day out?

Since it's the start of high school basketball season, I'm not going to have the time to do it up right unless I get a little help, so I'd like to see if I could get a few of you to help with the research I need. Let me say right up front that these are all

volunteer activities – while I've made my case since day one at the *Timberjay* for an unlimited official company expense account, I've not yet been successful. The reward for your volunteerism will simply be the satisfaction of knowing that you've contributed in some small way to the intellectual enrichment of thousands of others like you, as well as a footnote credit of gratitude at the end of the article as a helpful research assistant. You'll also be given a free

8x10 autographed glossy photo of me receiving the *Timberjay's* first Pulitzer Prize ever, as I'm confident this article will be that monumental.

To simplify this task, and to respect your time and thoughtfulness, together we're just going to take a look at what happens on a single day in a select few online venues. I know many of you probably had hoped that we'd look at a full year's worth of data, and if I had that unlimited

expense account we would, but it's never a good idea to overwork volunteers, just in case you'd like to call on them again in the future.

So, here's the help I'm looking for to analyze a day in the life of social media and YouTube.

Volunteer #1: You'll handle the YouTube research. What I need is for you to watch all the YouTube videos uploaded in a single day, categorizing them according

See **MEDIA...pg. 5**



## ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

# ISD 2142 to use own funds to initiate building repairs

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

## Recouping investment from contractors grows more uncertain

REGIONAL-St. Louis County School Board members agreed at their Nov. 23 meeting to move forward with repairs to numerous building deficiencies in the district, resigned to the uncertainty of whether or not they'll be able to recoup any of their investments from former contractors they believe were negligent in their work.

Having reviewed and discussed a list of 23 different building projects at a working meeting earlier in the month, board members were asked at this meeting to review and prioritize a list of nine facility projects compiled by director of facilities and grounds Derek Wudinich. The list included:

► A sinking floor in the band/choir room at South Ridge.

► Fire suppression/day tanks and pumps for water towers at North Woods and South Ridge.

► North Woods and South Ridge wastewater treatment upgrades.

► Broken plumbing and sinking floors at the North Woods concession stand.

► Door lock hardware change-outs/re-keying at Northeast Range.

► North Woods parking lot drainage issues.

► North Woods football field repair and upgrade.

► Northeast Range and Tower-Soudan roofing.

► An electronic sign for North Woods similar

to those at other district schools

As presented, six of the items came with an estimated cost of \$2.9 million, with amounts undetermined for the sinking band/choir room floor, the roofing projects, and the electronic sign, projects that together would boost the total over \$3 million. The largest single estimated expense of \$1.5 million was for the football field at North Woods.

Superintendent Reggie Engebretson was quick to note that the football field estimate at this point is only a high-side rough estimate unsupported by a formal architectural/engineering study, and that preliminary conversations have suggested the actual projected costs could come in well under \$1 million.

Members also referred back to the earlier working meeting in regard to the \$265,396 estimate received from Max Gray Construction for repairing the North Woods concession stand, an amount that in some housing markets would be enough to build a new 2,000-square-foot house. They agreed that they wanted more information on an alternative that would involve repairing only the bathrooms in the building and possibly using a food truck for serving concessions.

They also quickly agreed that the health and safety concerns presented by the water tower and wastewater issues at North

Woods and South Ridge warranted high priority. The watertowers were built too large for stored water to be sufficiently used and stirred by daily school use, creating conditions where the excess water will freeze in the winter. That potentially compromises using that water in case of a fire, so a possible fix would be to install ground tanks and pumps. Both wastewater ponds need to be expanded and shored up.

Board member Chris Koivisto, who represents the Northeast Range area, argued that the situation with the doors and locks at the Babbitt school presents safety concerns that should take priority over repairing the concession stand at North Woods.

"The hardware change-out and re-keying at Northeast Range is just ongoing," Koivisto said. "We're currently unable to fix door locks and lock doors. It's kind of a safety issue. The problem is the doors have been hacked into by subpar fixes, so now you can't put a different doorknob in the door to upgrade the doorknob to a passkey. It's messed up. To me, that's a priority."

While noting that the cost would undoubtedly be more expensive than the current estimate, Koivisto recommended that the district investigate the possibility of replacing the key-based system with a programmable electronic key card system like those

used in other schools and businesses for many years.

Board chair Dan Manick said that wastewater treatment upgrades at South Ridge should probably take priority over those at North Woods.

"I think North Woods is always going to be isolated, and with that enrollment, I don't think we need to worry so much about growth," he said. "But at South Ridge, maybe our enrollment is going to grow by 100 students."

Koivisto also questioned having the roofing projects on the list of projects, arguing that instead the district should include them in an overall long-term scheduled roofing plan for all the district's buildings.

"I've always been a proponent that roofs should all be separate," he said. "We should have a regular roofing cycle, something we always plan for and accommodate. Roofs are cyclical, they only last about 15 years. We've got a pretty good survey recently of all the roofs and what age each of the parts are. I just think we've got to put money on the side (for this) because that's never going to go away."

Before agreeing to the priority list, member Troy Swanson asked the multi-million dollar question.

"Do we have funds for all of the things on the list?" he asked.

"No," Koivisto said.

"That's why we have to prioritize."

Members ultimately decided to keep the list in the order the items were presented.

### Contractor issues

Six of the items on the list presented, as well as numerous others discussed at the working meeting, are directly related to issues with the construction of the North Woods and South Ridge schools.

Johnson Controls Inc. (JCI), Kraus-Anderson and Architectural Resources Inc. were the primary designers and contractors involved in building the two schools — South Ridge in 2011 and North Woods in 2012, totaling \$60 million of an overall \$78.8 million school restructuring plan.

Work was ongoing in the spring of 2011 on Cherry and South Ridge schools when it was discovered that JCI had approved more than \$3.5 million worth of change orders in violation of the school district's contract with JCI. Elimination of skylights, insulation, exterior and interior window caulking, and high-efficiency LED lighting were among the changes JCI approved that likely reduced the operating efficiency of the buildings from what was planned.

Suggestions of legal action against the contractors in 2019 generated some discussion but went nowhere, leaving all the

issues unaddressed. This past March, Engebretson contacted a Twin Cities attorney who specializes in construction-related cases, but as of yet there's been no confirmation that they would take on the district as a client.

Given the long term nature of many of the problems and the need to make repairs before they get any worse, Manick was clear about how the district should proceed.

"All we can do is move forward with our own funding," he said. "We haven't totally slammed the door. We are still talking and reaching out to people to see if there's any help we can get, but we need to proceed as if we're just footing the bill."

Engebretson reinforced the difficulties of getting the contractors to take financial responsibility for the repairs.

"The district continues to explore all options regarding financial sources for building repairs," she said in a follow-up email to the Timberjay. "Given the amount of time that has passed, and companies that no longer exist, plus decisions that were made at the time of construction, we have some roadblocks that we may not be able to overcome. At some point, we need to decide what needs to be corrected now, using funds we have, in order to move forward and be able to use our facilities to the fullest extent possible."

## MEDIA...Continued from page 4

to type – stupid human tricks, fake news, cooking tutorials, reactions to other YouTube videos, wedding flash mobs, inspirational stories, etc. For each, note the number of likes/dislikes and the number of positive vs. rude and spiteful comments.

You'll need to be a multitasker for this one to get it done in a timely fashion. For that one day you'll have the equivalent of 82 years of video to view, not allowing for sleep, meals, or bathroom breaks. It also will be extremely helpful if you're familiar with the variable playback speed option – set it to two times normal to cut your time on task in half.

Volunteer #2: Your job will be to analyze all of the photos uploaded to Facebook in a day. Unfortunately, there's no variable speed setting available with this one, but on the flip side you only have to look at still pictures of that fraternity toga party, while Volunteer #1 will have to slog through 12 minutes

of poorly-lit, out-of-focus video with screams, loud music, and slurred speech audio to go along with it. Again, categorize them and note the various reactions. To simplify the task, animal pictures can be grouped into cats, dogs, and others. You'll also need a keen eye, as I need to know how many of these photos have been faked, stolen, or present inaccurate information. If you take about five seconds for each, then for the 350 million photos uploaded to Facebook on that day, I estimate the task will take about 55 years.

Volunteer #3: You'll need to enjoy reading for this one, as your job will be to read all the posts to Facebook on a single day. This one may seem a bit overwhelming at first, given that 1.91 billion people or so use Facebook every day, but remember, a lot of them are just posting pictures, and Volunteer #2 has them covered. It's hard to give you an idea of how much time this will take, as every source I check seems

to be relying on statistics from 2017, but if you're handy with a calculator you can do estimates yourself from the following figures -- every minute there are about 317,000 status updates and 510,000 comments posted. Ok, I'll go ahead and do the math for you. That's 827,000 status updates and comments per minute, times 1,440 minutes in a day, meaning the most you'll have to scan is about 1.2 billion items for that day. It's really not so bad when you consider how many comments are limited to one-word entries like "prayers" or "cool" and so many more are GIFs of Steve Carell from "The Office" saying something profound. If you've taken the Evelyn Wood speed-reading course, you should be able to rip through this one in no time. If you average five seconds an item, it should only take about 190 years to read a day's worth. That's why a speed-reading course could come in handy.

Volunteer #4: Scanning

a day's worth of tweets on Twitter is the job of this volunteer. Frankly, I'm getting tired of math. There are about 500 million tweets posted every day. Suffice it to say, it's probably another significant commitment of time to review them all, but remember, you'll get that 8x10 glossy of me winning the Pulitzer.

I'd really like to include WhatsApp, Instagram, WeChat, TikTok, Douyin (China's version of TikTok), Snapchat, Pinterest, Reddit, and a whole lot more, but I do work for the Timberjay, not the New York Times. There's only so much one man and a few volunteers can do.

If you're interested in volunteering for one of these jobs, let me know, though please avoid using social media to contact me – my Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter feeds are already too jammed with stuff, and I might miss it. Once I have all four volunteers, I'll pick the day you'll review, and then I'll be cryogenically frozen

until your research is complete. Once I'm unfrozen and back in writing form, I'll take your research and write the article, and with any luck I'll be able to hand that 8x10 Pulitzer glossy to one of your grandchildren.

And if all that goes as planned, then I'll be looking

for more folks to help me with a "year in the life of social media" review. By then, I do hope to finally have that expense account so that you don't have to volunteer. Hope springs eternal.

## COVID...continued from page 3

can't be determined if that's a result of being more infectious or due to the recent intense focus on testing for the latest mutation.

The extensive array of mutations suggest that omicron could be more infectious than the highly infectious Delta variant and have greater capability of causing breakthrough infections among fully-vaccinated people.

The South African doctor who first recognized symptomatic differences in patients that led to the discovery, Dr. Angelique Coetzee, has been quoted as saying the symptoms of omicron infections have been more mild than those associated with other variants. However, she also has cautioned that her patients were predominantly 40 and under, and that omicron could pose greater risks for older people.

### Vaccinations

Malcolm and others continue to reinforce the message that vaccinations and booster shots remain the single best defense against severe illness, hospitalizations, and death from COVID-19, regardless of variant.

However, the message has been slow to get through to over a million eligible Minnesotans who haven't yet gotten vaccinated. Vaccinations have accelerated week to week recently, due largely to the addition of 5 to 11-year-olds to the eligible pool and the broadening of booster availability to anyone over the age of 18.

On July 1, Minnesota hit a federal benchmark of having 70 percent of citizens 18 and over vaccinated with at least one shot of vaccine. Five months later, that number has only


increased by five percent. For the eligible population five and over, the number stands at 70 percent.

Meanwhile, federal efforts to mandate vaccinations in certain workplaces and health care settings are now stalled in varying degrees by recent federal court rulings on lawsuits filed by coalitions of states opposed to the mandates.

The latest blows to the Biden administration's plans came Monday and Tuesday when judges in different judicial districts issued rulings to halt the mandate for employees in healthcare settings receiving Medicare/Medicaid funds to be fully vaccinated by January or face the threat of fines or loss of funding. A previous federal district court ruling stopped the implementation of a U.S. Department of Labor mandate for mandatory vaccination or weekly

testing for companies with over 100 employees, and another ruling currently limited to Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio put a hold on the mandate for vaccinations for employees of federal contractors.

A common theme among the rulings has been the question of Biden's authority to impose such mandates through executive agency rulemaking, with states that are parties to the various lawsuits arguing no such authority exists. The U.S. Supreme Court overturned the eviction moratorium instituted by the Centers for Disease Control based on a determination that the CDC had exceeded its authority in creating the moratorium, which could have implications for the vaccination mandate cases as they move through the judicial system.



*the*  
**TIMBERJAY**

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Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.**



Week of Dec. 6

**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.

## Soudan recreation area planning session set for Thursday, Dec. 9

SOUDAN- Breitung residents are invited to join in a planning session to make improvements to the Soudan rink and park. The meeting is set for Thursday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Breitung Town Hall. Coffee an' will be served.

For questions or comments, call Stephanie at 218-410-6001.

Plans currently include new hockey boards, updates to the warming shack, additional playground equipment, paving the parking lot, improvements in accessibility, and other features and landscaping like disc golf or bocce ball courts. The project will largely be funded with grant dollars. Detailed cost and funding information will be available at the meeting.

## Region faces serious blood shortage; plan to donate today

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

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

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

- ▶ In good health
- ▶ 17 years or older
- ▶ At least 110 pounds
- ▶ Free of antibiotics for 24 hours, unless taken for preventative reasons

▶ Symptom-free for at least 72 hours following a cold or flu.

## HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

# Tower-Soudan Area Singers ready for caroling



TOWER-SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan Area Singers will spend this holiday season in the caroling mode.

On Sunday, Dec. 5, the singers can be heard at Vermilion Senior Living at 3 p.m. Shortly after, they will be at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center and Tower Civic Center for the Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners tree-lighting ceremony at 4 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 6, the singers will be at the Breitung Community Center building at 6:30 p.m. They will sing outdoors so you can enjoy the presentation from your car, and honk your approval!

On Monday, Dec. 13, the singers will finish their holiday serenading outdoors at Sulu's on Tower's Main Street at 6:30 p.m., coffee and treats will be available inside.

**The Tower-Soudan Area Singers will be singing a large selection of traditional Christmas favorites at outdoor events in both Soudan and Tower.** file photo

## Holiday Craft Show in Tower on Saturday, Dec. 4

TOWER- Friends of Vermilion Country School is hosting a holiday craft show in Tower on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. This annual event showcases many local artisans, along with other home-based businesses. The show features a mix of hand-crafted gift items, holiday baked goods, and other great gift ideas. The event is being held in conjunction with several other holiday open house and sale events at businesses on Tower's Main Street.

Local vendors participating include Paula Barnes with Starbaby Candles, Amy Hinkel with holiday treats and crafts, Angie Gurius, Terry Sundahl/Pike River

Products, Marit Kringstad/Nordic Home North, Lloyd McIntire with handcrafted cutting boards, Greg Northrup with homemade barbecue sauce, and Robin Majerle with Norex. Other vendors include Tastefully Simple, skin care and nail products, Scentsy, holiday baked goods, woodworking, walking sticks, dried floral arrangements, other crafts, and more.

Friends of Vermilion Country School is the booster club for Vermilion Country School, a grades 7-12 charter school located in Tower that serves students from a 30-mile radius.

## Lights of Love ceremony set for Sunday, Dec. 5 in Tower

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

## Ice Candle and Holiday Gathering set for Dec. 18 in Embarrass

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 are 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.

## Open House planned for new businesses at 615 Main Street on Dec. 4

TOWER- Tenants at the newly-renovated 615 Main Street building are hosting an open house on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. So far, there are five businesses that will be located in the building. The large building, formerly Classy Cars, has undergone a major renovation after being vacant for well over a decade, and not operated as a business for at least 30 years.

FlexSpace, which is owned by building owner Miranda Kishel, is a coworking space with an open work area and two private offices. The space offers

fiber optic internet, and can be used by the day or by the month with 24/7 access. Pricing starts at \$10 for a day pass. More information is on the website at [www.theflexiblespace.com](http://www.theflexiblespace.com) and the membership signup page is at [members.theflexiblespace.com](http://members.theflexiblespace.com).

Little Blessings Gift Shop and Beauty Counter owner Toni Monsivais is opening her second location here in Suite 102. She has a storefront on Main Street in Cook as well. Toni has a great variety of gifts, books, affirmation signs, gift baskets, and chemical free makeup products

from the Beauty Counter brand. Harbor View Health and Wellness owner Beth Debeltz will be sharing information about her spa. This business will be opening sometime after the new year in Suite 103.

The Aura Boreal owner Kim Yankowiak is opening in Suite 104. Kim will be doing Reiki sessions by appointment. She is a Reiki Master and teacher who works with both people and animals. Her website is under construction at [TheAuraBoreal.com](http://TheAuraBoreal.com).

Little Green Pantry, owned by Lisa Smith, is opening in

Suite 105. This is a healthy foods market that sells groceries without chemicals, preservatives, added sweeteners, or colorants. It was created around the idea that we should be able to read and understand the ingredients labels on the things we eat. Customers will be able to shop in store or online with pickup. She plans to add delivery options in the future. Her website is [littlegreenpantry.com](http://littlegreenpantry.com).

## COMMUNITY GIVING

## Donations needed by Dec. 16 for toy drive

Gift cards, toys for infants and under three, and teen gifts needed

TOWER- Donations are coming in for this year's Operation Santa toy drive, but we still have a way to go to reach our goal. We are expecting to at least match last year's tally of 195 children.

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 tally 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](mailto:editor@timberjay.com).



SUPPORTING THE ARTS



The cast of "It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play," includes, from left, Irene Hartfield, Karin Schmidt, Alison Poppler, Tracy Thibodeaux, Cade Thibodeaux, Gil Knight, Grayson Scoggin, Brennan Rue, Katie Paige, Julie Maystadt, Gabe Mann, with director Vince O'Connor in the front. The Northern Lakes Arts Association production will be held at the Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theater this weekend and next weekend, both live and streamed online. photo by K. Vandervort

OUR COMMUNITY

Ely library adorned with more stained glass windows

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - Have you been in the library recently to see the stained glass windows? Local artists recently completed the upper panes of windows on the Chapman Street side of the city building to give a look into some scenes from Ely's past and present.

The works of art were funded in part by a Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage grant through the Arrowhead Library System, according to Library Director Rachel Heinrich.

"A grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust was also awarded to purchase a glass-cutting piece of equipment," she said. "The artists also donated their time to ensure that the funds would stretch to cover the costs of all 12 windows."

The windows are



Jim Brandley did framing work on the Ely Public Library's stained glass window project to ensure the windows would be securely fastened into place. submitted photo

paired moving across the wall from the days of Native Americans and Voyageurs all the way to the present day. Other of windows depict the logging era, mining, the resorts, and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

"Each window was designed by one individu-

al and then worked on by the larger group of artists, with suggestions and some changes being incorporated along the way by the group," Heinrich said.

Two window designs are based, with permission, on other artists' work. "Shaun Chosa created the original drawing for one of

the mining windows and the last window in the series is based on the Ely-Winton Historical Society logo," she said.

The other windows were original designs from Sandy Brandley, Scott James King, MaryAnn Pinckney, Jaymie Stocks, Claire Taylor, and John

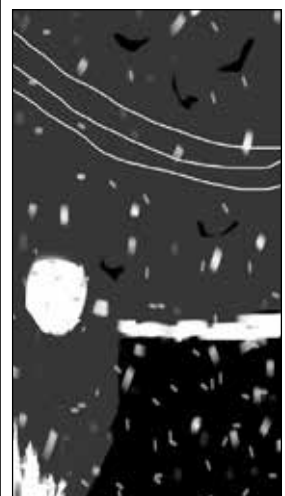
Weidemann.

The first nine window panes were made and installed last spring. "Artists worked in the Miners Dry building and needed to take a break over the summer to allow other groups use of this space," Heinrich explained. The last three windows were added in the last week of October. Jim Brandley did the framing work to ensure the windows would be securely fastened into place.

"The library staff wants to particularly thank the artists for all of their hard work in making our community library such a beautiful place," Heinrich added. "These windows are special to view from inside the library." Current hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. "From the outside, in the early evening, the light shines through from the inside."

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



feeling of waiting for the freeze up for big snow

big jacket warm mitts

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

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

Arrests/Citations

➤ Trespassing - Individual issued a citation for trespassing.

➤ Traffic Stop - Individual issued a citation for careless driving, open bottle, driving without a License, and no insurance.

Complaints

➤ Theft - Officers received a report of a theft from a garage. This case is under investigation.

➤ Security Alarm - Officers were contacted about a security alarm at a local business. Officers determined this to be a false alarm.

➤ Motor Vehicle Crash - Officers responded to a motor vehicle crash with minor damage and no injuries.

➤ Check Welfare - Officers were contacted to check on a person that was not answering their phone. Officers determined the person had left for the day.

➤ Unwanted Person - Officers were contacted about an individual that was not welcome at a local business. The individual left prior to officer arrival.

➤ Assist Other Agency - Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a motor vehicle crash.

➤ Disturbance - Officers were contacted about a person that was acting strange and the owner wanted them removed.

Officers located the person and they were brought to the hospital for an evaluation.

➤ Public Assist - Individual brought back to their residence.

➤ Civil Matter - Officers were contacted about a vehicle that was borrowed and not returned. Officers located the driver and the vehicle was returned a short time later.

➤ Found Property - Officers were contacted about property that was located. This case is under investigation.

➤ Assist Other Agency - Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a burglary in progress.

➤ Security Alarm - Officers were contacted about a security alarm at a local business. Officers determined this to be a false alarm.

➤ Information - Officers received information about a disagreement between an employee and employer.

➤ Damage to Property - Officers were contacted about a tent that was damaged. This case is under investigation.

➤ Unwanted Person - Officers were contacted about an individual that was not welcome at a local business. The individual left prior to officer arrival.

➤ Notification - Officers were requested to give a death notification to a family.

➤ Suspicious Activity - Officers were called about a vehicle that was in a yard. Officers arrived and located the owner buying gas for the car.

➤ Gas Leak - Officers assisted the Ely Fire Department with a gas leak.

➤ Check Welfare - Officers were requested to check on a person in the woods. Officers located the person and they were sent on their way.

➤ Theft - Officers were contacted about a theft. This case is under investigation.

➤ Suspicious Activity - Officers were contacted about two people attempting to get into a vehicle. Officers determined this to be a case of mistaken identity.

➤ Assist Other Agency - Officers assisted a neighboring agency dispatch a deer.

➤ Neighbor Trouble - Officers were contacted about a neighbor working after hours. The neighbor was located and educated on working hours.

➤ Check Welfare - Officers were contacted about an intoxicated individual walking. Officers were unable to locate them.

➤ Motor Vehicle Crash - Officers were called to a two-vehicle crash. This case is pending blood results.

➤ Open Door - Officers were contacted about a door

that was open on a business. Officers determined the wind broke in but did not steal anything.

➤ Parking Complaint - Officers were contacted about a vehicle parked in a gas station for an extended period. Officers contacted the owner and the vehicle was moved.

➤ Vehicle Fire - Officers assisted the Ely Fire Department with a vehicle fire. This case is under investigation.

➤ Public Assist - Individual let back into their residence.

➤ Disturbance - Officers were contacted

about a group of people arguing. Officers mediated the situation.

➤ Public Assist - Individual let back into their residence.

➤ Medical - Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

➤ Check Welfare - Officers were contacted to check on a person that was sleeping in a local business. The person left before officers arrived.

➤ Parking Complaint - Officers received a complaint of a vehicle parked for an extended period. Vehicle was issued a tow warning.



Michael Pope and Tony Rechichi, back row, from the Ely VFW presented cash prizes to the top three contestants in the Ely school Patriot's Pen essay contest. From left, Stella Koivisto won first place, Tracy Thibodeaux won second place, and Selam Houle won third place. All three are students in Mrs. Cavalier's 6th and 7th grade language arts classes. submitted photo





These collectibles are among the many donated items for sale during the "Arts, Antiquities and Other Curiosities" December fundraiser for NWFA. submitted photos



Surrounded by her children, EMT Anna Nelson displays her service award. submitted photo

## EMT recognized for 20 years of service

REGIONAL- Anna Nelson, a volunteer Nationally Registered EMT (NREMT) with Northeast Itasca Rescue/Bearville First Responders, located in Bear River and Togo, was recently recognized by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians for achieving 20 consecutive years of National EMS Certification. This distinction is an honor held by few EMS professionals.

To maintain her status as an NREMT, Nelson

completed, on a biennial basis, the most comprehensive recertification program for EMS professionals in America.

As president of the non-profit Northeast Itasca Rescue/Bearville First Responder EMS organization for the past five years, Nelson has brought the organization to the point of obtaining funding and donations to build an EMS hall and to purchase a non-transport response vehicle.

## Month-long "new to you" sale gets underway at NWFA gallery in Cook

COOK- Beautiful, thought provoking artwork is always on exhibit in Cook at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, but during December the "Arts, Antiquities and Other Curiosities" sale offers gallery visitors even more items from which to choose a special gift or unique collectible.

Fanciful and prac-

tical items on display in The Wolfe Den classroom have been donated by NWFA members and others in the community to support the fundraiser.

Shop local for "new to you" items at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. throughout December on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9

a.m. to 1 p.m. The gallery will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day. Be sure to also allow time to browse the work of about forty artists regularly on display for sale at the gallery.

After the sale, those folks who kindly donated may reclaim the donations that did not sell.

NWFA is a member

non-profit organization inspiring, nurturing and celebrating the arts. For additional information, including membership, contact NWFA by email at [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com). Information is also available online at [nwfamn.org](http://nwfamn.org) and on Facebook.

## Snow City festival is Saturday in Orr

ORR - There's no better way to get into the holiday spirit than attending the annual Snow City Christmas celebration this Saturday, Dec. 4, in Orr.

The Orr Community Center, formerly the American Legion, will be the focal point for the day's activities, which will kick off at 7 a.m. with an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast served by Calvary Lutheran Church. Breakfast will be served from 7 to 10 a.m., and then lunch will be available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Snow City arts and crafts fair officially kicks off at 9 a.m., also in the community center. The show will run until 3 p.m.

The much-anticipated parade will be at 1 p.m., starting at the former Wal-

ly's Auto Service lot and winding its way behind downtown businesses to end up at the community center. That jolly old elf Santa Claus will bring up the rear of the parade and then welcome kids and their Christmas wishes in a heated tent outside the community center.

The festivities conclude with the Lights of Love ceremony, which will be held outside the Orr Center at 6:30 p.m.

Additional information is available on the Orr Snow City Christmas event page on Facebook.

## Santa coming this Saturday to Cook Community Center

COOK- The Jolly Old Elf himself will be at the Cook Community Center on Saturday for Santa's Workshop, a family-friendly event to cele-

brate the season.

Sponsored by Cook Friends of the Parks, all food and activities are free during the event, which runs from 3 to 6 p.m.

Santa and his elves will be there from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and local photographer Becky Smith will be taking pictures.

Another highlight will be Hanson's Horse-drawn Wagon Rides from 4 to 6 p.m.

Attendees will also find artwork, crafts, an animal walk, and loads of family fun.

## 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.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

## Cook Library drops overdue fines

COOK- Cook Public Library patrons will no longer be charged overdue fines on items from the library's holdings, except technology devices such as hotspots. Patrons may be charged overdue fines on items that belong to other libraries.

The Cook Public Library Board voted to update and approve the Lending, Fines and Fees

Policy to reflect this change. After a Cook Public Library item has been overdue for 60 days, the item will be considered lost and a replacement fee will be charged. Patrons will also be charged for any item that is returned damaged and no longer suitable for the collection.

Books, DVDs and audio CDs will still have due dates, but patrons will not be charged a late fee as long as the items are returned to the library. Patrons are strongly encouraged to return all items by the due date to allow others the opportunity to enjoy those materials.

## Community ed adult basketball gets underway

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Community Education program is starting up its Wednesday

night Adult Basketball activity sessions.

The first session with instructor Brian Anderson was scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 1, and runs from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays through March 16, 2022. The price for the class is \$6, and online registration is available by going to the North Woods School website and clicking on Community Education in the Athletics/Activities menu.

After the holiday break, new classes begin in earnest in January, covering topics in cooking, defensive driving, financial planning, and more. Check out the full list of winter/spring classes on the Community Ed website at <https://slc2142.revtrak.net/>.

## NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

# New mentor aims to boost graduation rates

by JOHN VUKMANICH  
North Woods Principal

FIELDTWP- According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the high school dropout rate in the United States for 2019 was 5.1 percent, which is actually down from 8.3 percent in 2010. Nationally, 25 percent of ninth graders do not graduate on time. Schools across the country realize that building strong relationships with students is critical to supporting them through their school years to graduation.

A program aimed at curbing the dropout rate was developed by the University of Minnesota. The Check and Connect Program uses positive adult role models, supported by data and evidence-based interventions, to engage with kids who struggle with behavior, academic performance, and most importantly, school attendance. Students who miss more than 10 percent of their school days in a year have lower graduation rates than their peers with attendance rates above 90 percent. In plain language, missing school affects academic performance and graduation.

Our school is fortunate to have a dedicated individual working with

our kids as our Check and Connect Mentor. Funded through a three-year grant partnership with St. Louis County, Austin Oakes is working at North Woods to help connect students and families with school.



**Austin Oakes**

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

I am originally from Hopkins and went to Hopkins. I attended college at Normandale Community College and Winona State University.

**Were there teachers who were an influence on you?**

Yes, Mr. Spritzer in fourth grade and Frau Dirks, my German language teacher.

**What characteristics did these teachers have that were important to you?**

They had a great sense of humor, understanding, patience, and were caring. Mr. Spritzer was my go-to

guy as my dad was in the military at the time. I still see Frau Dirks a couple times a year. I had her for several years of class and we built a great relationship. She was humble and focused.

**Why did you choose a profession working with kids?**

I work well with kids. I connect with them and can meet them at their level. I am sort of a kid at heart. I also think it is important to give back to a community, and my role allows me to do so. I am also easy-going and laid back.

**What are your hobbies?**

I like the outdoors.

Camping, hiking, kayaking, and now that I live up north, I would like to do more hunting. I like music and going to concerts. I enjoy traveling, especially seeing different parts of Minnesota.

**What do you like about North Woods?**

Great community feel, everyone knows each other. It feels like a family, both the staff and kids. Everyone is super polite.

**What is a professional goal for you?**

Eventually, to continue to work in a role that allows me to keep giving back to the community.

**What is something you love about northern Minnesota?**

I love the outdoors. I can be in a National Forest in two minutes. I also feel that it is a little slower pace, at least compared to the metro. I like that.

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

Slow down, it is a marathon not a sprint.

**Do you have a favorite saying or expression?**

"Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try." - John F. Kennedy

**What do you hope your students remember you for?**

I hope they remember that I care about them, and that I am passionate about seeing them succeed.

## School to host music concerts

FIELD TWP- North Woods School will feature its musicians in seasonal concerts at the school next week.

On Thursday, Dec. 9, the Junior/Senior High Band and Choir Winter Concert will be from 6 to 8 p.m.

The Elementary Winter Concert will be on Friday, Dec. 10 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

**SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

### Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

<b>Ash River Trail Canister Site</b> 11391 Ash River Trail Winter Hours Sat: 12:30pm-4:30pm	<b>Kabetogama Lake Canister Site</b> 10150 Gamma Rd Winter Hours Wed: noon-4pm Sat: 8am-noon	<b>Sturgeon Canister Site</b> 8380 Hwy 73 Hours Sun: 10am-4pm
<b>Orr Canister Site</b> 4038 Hwy 53 Winter Hours Tue, Thu: 9am-noon Sat: 8am-noon	<b>Portage Canister Site</b> 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Winter Hours Tue, Sat: 1pm-4:30pm	<b>County 77 Canister Site</b> 2038 County Rd. 77 Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm
<b>Cook Transfer Station</b> 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm	<b>Regional Landfill</b> 5341 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm	<b>St. Louis County Environmental Services Department</b> <b>1-800-450-9278</b> Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday <a href="http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle">www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle</a>
<b>Household Hazardous Waste Facilities</b> 5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm	<b>3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing</b> Sat: 8am-1pm	

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

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CITY OF TOWER

# City officials reconsider water main replacement plan

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER— City officials are rethinking their plan to replace the city's 70-year-old water main in a bid to build redundancy into the system and potentially tap additional sources of funding.

"The city has been contemplating replacing the water main for decades," said outgoing clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua, at the council's Nov. 22 meeting. "The main rationale was that it was old."

The city's engineering firm, SEH, had recommended replacing the main, although Ranua noted that the city had never conducted any testing to determine if the thick-walled steel pipe actually needed replacement. "This is a \$1.4 million project, yet we don't know if there is even an issue," said Ranua, who recommended pipe wall integrity testing to see if there is need for replacement in the near-term.

Mayor Dave Setterberg concurred, saying he wasn't happy with SEH's recom-

mendation, and that he'd heard from a number of people who have questioned why the city was considering abandoning an expensive asset that may still have years of usable life. It's a question that city officials failed to ask before abandoning the septic system that previously served the Hoodoo Point Campground and the city's airport. That decision was made based on another recommendation from an SEH engineer, although that one went unchallenged by city officials at the time.

Ranua said the city would be better off looking into running a new main that connects at a different point in the city's water distribution system. She said funding sources would likely rank any grant requests higher if the city's project includes building redundancy into the system.

Setterberg agreed, arguing that agencies like the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, would be more likely to fund a project that allows for community growth and builds redun-

dancy. Given the influx of new infrastructure funding from the federal level, Setterberg said the time may be right to do a project, but that a revised plan might better serve the city and attract more grant dollars.

Council member Joe Morin motioned to authorize two council members to look into options for installing a new water main. Council member Kevin Norby and Setterberg agreed to team up on the effort and report back to the council.

In other action, the council heard a report from Ranua on the status of Dena Suihkonen's employment with the city. Ranua said it's been apparent for months that Suihkonen is working full-time for the city, between her administrative role as ambulance supervisor and as an EMT. Ranua said under the city's personnel policy, her full-time employment qualifies Suihkonen for city benefits, like health and life insurance as well as sick pay, that she has not been receiving.

Ranua also noted a longstanding pattern of

lower pay for Suihkonen, who had held various supervisory positions with the city's ambulance service for nearly a decade, usually at a lower rate of pay than men with similar job duties.

"The takeaway," said Setterberg, "is that there was no consistency."

"It's all over the place," agreed Morin.

Ranua said she had looked back through job performance reviews and could find nothing that would justify the varying rates of pay, or particular instances where a male supervisor would see an increase in pay, which appeared to be paid with a cut in Suihkonen's compensation.

Ranua agreed that there wasn't much the council could do about the past practice. "Maybe, just acknowledging that something crappy happened to one of your employees could help," Ranua said.

The council wasn't ready to go there, but Setterberg said they can set a better record going forward. "We need to make sure the rates for these jobs

are standardized, and any changes are backed up," he said.

As for Suihkonen's current situation, Morin motioned to have two councilors meet with her to talk about the situation. Setterberg said the city would have the option to shift Suihkonen to full-time or limit her hours to keep her at a part-time position.

In other business, the council:

► On a 4-1 vote, with council member Sheldon Majerle voting no, denied a request from Ranua for payout of her accumulated sick leave, totaling \$5,747.18. Ranua noted that departing employees with the city have routinely been offered a variety of severance packages above and beyond contract obligations. But Morin motioned to deny the request, noting that such payouts were now prohibited by the city's newly adopted personnel policy. Ranua took the denial in stride, and complimented Morin for wanting to adhere to city policy even as she has had to deal with a legacy of

continuing payouts to city officials, some of whom left city employment as much as ten years ago.

Morin agreed that the city has not handled severance consistently in the past. "Yes, there have been deviations," said Morin, "but the city policy says we should not be doing these payouts."

► Welcomed Tom Suihkonen to the council after his appointment at the previous meeting to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Orlyn Kringstad.

► Heard from ambulance supervisor Suihkonen that she received some pushback on a proposed new on-call policy and is looking at a change to address the concern. She told the council that the ambulance service is on pace for the highest number of 911 calls ever.

► Heard that a new city trails master plan is now up for public comment. Information about the planning process and a copy of the draft plan are available from the front page of the city's website at cityoftower.com.

## TOWER...Continued from page 1

the harbor, but the TEDA board wants to explore an alternative plan for the remaining parcel, most likely a mix of commercial and residential development along with public space for small events.

The townhome development wasn't approved without considerable discussion, as some on the board preferred looking at other options for the site. In the end, however, uncertainty around the enforceability of a 2018 development agreement between the city of Tower and Tower Harbor Shores, prompted TEDA to ink the revised deal. The Tower City Council, back in March, assigned its responsibilities under the 2018 agreement to TEDA.

The original development agreement, first signed in 2016, then updated two years later, proved problematic in part because the city of Tower did not own the property it promised to convey to the developers. The city had conveyed the land to TEDA several years before signing the agreement with Tower Harbor Shores. In the end, the two original development agreements were never enforced by either party and deadlines for actions by both parties

went by without either side taking action.

The development remained stalled for years as legacy interests in some of the property around the harbor had to be addressed to complete a new plat, which was required in order to legally sell the townhomes.

Under the newly-modified development agreement, Tower Harbor Shores has until June 1 of next year to provide a notice of intent to proceed with the first six townhomes. Construction will need to begin by August 1.

Project manager Jeremy Schoenfelder has hinted that a potential buyer may be interested in purchasing the entire first block of six townhomes as investment property, which would potentially become short-term rental units.

TEDA president

Steve Peterson said the new agreement rekindles hope that the long-delayed project can finally move forward. That would not only bring significant new development to Tower, but would also make it possible for Tower Harbor Shores to repay some or all of the \$119,000 it still owes TEDA for a loan issued in 2017 to help fill an early funding gap in the project.

Much of the infra-

structure, including sewer and water, for the first six townhomes was installed as part of the Pine Street reconstruction. The first six town homes would

have driveways directly accessing the newly built street, while the second block of six would require further extension of utilities and a road stub

installed as part of the Pine Street project. Funding for that second phase of infrastructure has not yet been identified.

## Giving Money to Your Grandchildren

If you're in a position to provide financial help to your grandchildren, your generosity is likely to be greatly appreciated. Here are some things to consider before acting on your desire to give younger family members a financial boost.

**Ways to provide financial assistance.** There's more than one way to contribute to your grandchildren's financial well-being. Select the method that works best for your circumstances and will make the greatest impact.

- **Open and contribute to a 529 plan.** If college is in your grandchild's future, a 529 college savings plan can be very helpful. If you go this path, your contributions would be tied to the stock market, offering the potential for growth over time. Future distributions will not be taxed, as long as the beneficiary uses the funds for qualified expenses.
- **Co-sign on a loan.** Credit guidelines have tightened in recent years, making it harder for young people to qualify for loans. Consider co-signing a loan for a grandchild to help pay for school, a reliable car or a first home, as long as you would not be harming your own financial security to do so. Be sure to have a clear understanding of who is responsible for loan payments to avoid loan default.
- **Pay an expense directly.** You can pay college tuition as well as medical and dental bills on another person's behalf without incurring federal gift tax. Make payments directly to the school or provider to avoid using other gift tax exclusions.
- **Buy stock.** Stocks and other investments can be purchased by you and gifted to another. You can also transfer ownership from existing stock holdings. Keep in mind if an investment has grown, the recipient will be responsible for paying taxes on any capital gains when the stocks are sold.
- **Create a trust.** A trust is a useful legal entity when you have significant wealth you'd like to share with your grandchildren. By establishing a trust, you decide at what age your beneficiaries can draw from the trust (while you're still living or after you pass) and the rate at which funds are distributed.
- **Give cash.** There's always the option to give the gift of cash.

**Know the tax rules.** Generally, the IRS requires disclosure of gifts of cash or assets (such as stocks or property) in excess of \$15,000 per recipient using IRS Form 709. Giving rules are per person, so both you and your spouse can each give up to \$15,000 per recipient without reporting it. While the giver is responsible for paying gift tax, the lifetime exclusion means you can currently give upwards of \$11 million in gifts without gift tax obligation.

**Ask before you give.** Financial assistance can be a sensitive topic. Consider if your grandchildren's parents may want to know about financial gifts intended for their children. This is especially true if the children have access to money without any requirements for its use or if there's a history of money mismanagement.

**Consult your financial advisor.** To safeguard your own financial position, review your finances before making financial gifts. When giving is a priority, your financial advisor can help you draw down your assets while managing the tax implications.

Adam Maki, CFS, is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Cook, MN. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 22 years.

Contact him at 218-666-5329, 219 S River Street, Cook MN 55723, adam.r.maki@ampf.com, or www.ameripriseadvisors.com/adam.r.maki

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**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

Call the Timberjay - 218-753-2950



ELY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Bids under review for Ely school facility renovation project

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

School board meets Monday to approve next phase of construction

ELY – The next phase of the Ely school building renovation project is under review by school board members and nearly \$3.6 million in construction bids are expected to be awarded at a special meeting Monday night.

Construction managers presented the bids that were received from contractors and opened on Nov. 18 to board members last Monday, after the *Timberjay's* early deadline for the Thanksgiving holiday. The school board's facilities committee was expected to review the totals this week and recommend awarding the bids for the next phase of the \$20 million school renovation project.

Following a brief summary of current work, including installing roof decking between the Washington and Memorial buildings to allow for enclosed work before the onslaught of winter, Todd Erickson, of Kraus Anderson, walked board members through the com-



**A construction crane, positioned just inside the front entrance to the new building on the Ely school campus, set roof decking this week.** photo by K. Vandervort

ponents of the latest round of construction bids that total \$3,586,076.

Some of the large AC/heating units were installed on the roof last week.

"Back in the southwest corner, where the heat is on, we started trenching in some underground mechanicals," Erickson said.

"We are seven months into a 16-month project and 38-percent complete," he said. "We hope to make

some decisions at your Dec. 6 board meeting and hope to issue contracts for Bid Package 3 on Dec. 7 to move forward."

The latest round of bids covers much of the mechanical and heating and ventilation systems and controls, demolition and rough carpentry, steel supply and erection, drywall, painting, installing new security and fire alarms, intercoms and clocks and building access controls, fire suppres-

sion systems, and window replacement in both existing buildings.

Erickson noted that a couple of local/regional contractors who provided low bids included Lencil Enterprises, Inc. for the rough carpentry and demolition work. JRK Steel, Inc. of Duluth was the lowest of three bidders for the steel supply.

"We actually had four bidders for the windows," he said. "Our estimate was

\$743,000 for that portion of the window project and the low bid (from United Glass Inc., Minneapolis) came in at \$594,000, so that was \$145,000 under estimate. That was nice to see."

The Combined Mechanical bid, the largest contract in the package, had just one bidder, which was a "big surprise" to Erickson.

"The day before the bids were let we were still fielding questions from as many as four companies. We're not sure why the other three companies (RJ Mechanical, JK Mechanical and Peterson Sheet Metal) didn't bid on this. The good news is that for the competitiveness, as long as the other three stayed with it, we believe that we got competitive

pricing," he said.

Shannon's Inc. of International Falls, was the lone bidder at \$1,384,000.

Johnson Controls was the low bidder for building controls at \$228,200.

In response to questioning from board member Darren Visser on how the latest round of bids compared to the rejected package from last spring that came in nearly \$4 million over budget, Erickson said he was working on bid tabulations and reviewing the project and expected to have a clearer picture on the bid package for the facilities committee this week. "On the surface, we're not really comparing apples to apples on that," said Karl Larsen, of Architectural Resources Inc. "Every single work scope that we submitted for Bid Package 3 was reduced from Bid Package 2, originally, so it's hard to determine what the differences are in those numbers." Construction managers said they will provide an updated picture on the bid comparisons for school board members later this month.

## SCHOOL...Continued from page 1

rate reports and scientific and public health advice to recommend "safe" protocol metrics to guide decisions for easing public health measures. The board now wants a concrete plan to vote on for when face mask requirements will be dropped at school.

A recent recommendation from board member Tony Colarich came in the form of a brief statement at last month's study session.

"The ELSPAC is polarized and stalemated. We need a committee that is streamlined and makes decisions in a timely manner," he said.

He proposed at the Dec. 13 school board meeting that the ELSPAC "sunset," along with its 18 members, and a new committee be formed consisting of the ISD 696 superintendent, both school principals and a school board member.

Board member Darren Visser said his biggest concern with Colarich's proposal was the fact that different voices from the community would be silenced.

He added that the original recommendation to form the advisory council was to include community members, school staff,

teachers, students, parents, and local health professionals to advise and consult, who would be a part of the conversation as school administrators navigated through public health protocols and learning safety procedures.

As COVID-19 rages through the Ely community and especially the Ely school population, the idea of implementing a protective face mask "recommendation" instead of a protective face mask "requirement" seems remote. The newly detected COVID-19 omicron variant adds a whole new

dimension to the conversation the petition signers engaged in last September.

"By going to this (smaller council), we are excluding (the community), and that's my biggest concern," Visser said. "It is a tough subject. It is polarizing. But eliminating those voices doesn't help. In my opinion it makes it worse. I don't like seeing the community voices eliminated from this process with this proposal."

School board member Rochelle Sjoberg said she "mirrors" some of the same concerns as Visser. "I feel that is what the council is

for. I don't think the intent was to have 100 percent agreement."

School board chair Ray Marsnik added, "I want decisions coming from the administrative team in consultation with the advisory council and medical professionals. I look for public input. That doesn't mean that we necessarily have to agree with them, but we have to show them the courtesy that we are listening."

Colarich responded, "My intent with this is not to eliminate the public input or the medical input. I want something that is

more streamlined and in a timely manner. Right now, we have a large committee and finding consensus is very difficult. And with COVID we need to find consensus. We need to get suggested policies brought before the board."

No more details were provided on how Colarich's new four-person council would get input from the community and medical professionals if they are eliminated from the advisory council.

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## Ask Brock the Doc

### Quarantine and Isolation Explained

**Q: What is the difference between quarantine and isolation?**  
**A:** Both terms mean that you should stay home and away from others. The difference is whether you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have already tested positive for the virus.

**Quarantine:** Staying home and away from others when you might have been exposed to the virus.

**Isolation:** Staying home and away from others when you test positive, feel sick, or have symptoms of the virus.

**Q: What does it mean to quarantine or isolate?**  
**A:** The simplest answer is – stay home. Staying home means not going to work, school, the grocery store, or any other place outside the house except for testing or medical appointments.

Whenever possible, separate yourself from other people in your home; stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. If possible, use a separate bathroom from the rest of the household.

If you are not fully vaccinated and had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, you need to quarantine for a minimum of 14 days. If you develop symptoms during that time, get tested immediately and begin isolation.

If you are fully vaccinated and had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, you do NOT need to quarantine unless you develop symptoms. You should get tested within 5-7 days after exposure with or without symptoms. If you test positive at this point, you need to begin isolation.

**Q: What is "close contact"?**  
**A:** Close contact means someone with COVID-19 potentially exposed you to the virus. In general, close contact means being less than 6 feet from someone for 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period. However, these are guidelines; the longer you are close to someone who has COVID-19, the more likely you will get the virus.

---

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.

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HEALTH CARE

# Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital adjusts for COVID surge

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY- As COVID-19 continues to surge through this community, Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital is halting elective surgical procedures, and the medical facility's umbrella organization shifted to a virtual format for its annual meeting next week.

In a press release issued last week, EBCH announced that it is temporarily changing its model for surgical procedures:

"Scheduling for elective procedures is currently on hold through early December. Medically necessary surgeries will continue to be scheduled and move forward as needed."

According to EBCH officials, they are following the lead of many other critical access hospitals (CAHs) that are also moving to a similar model because of the increase in COVID-19 cases in the area and across the state.

"We are monitoring

the pandemic closely," said EBCH Chief Nursing Officer Colin Yahnke. "We want to make responsible decisions and ensure that we have enough staff available to care for our patients. We expect these changes to be short-term."

Changes to EBCH visitor protocols are also in effect due to the spike in local COVID-19 cases. For more information on visitor access at EBCH, call 218-365-3271.

The Ely Health and

Hospital Foundation, the umbrella organization of Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital opted last week to make changes to its annual meeting due to the COVID-19 surge, moving to a virtual meeting in place of the originally scheduled in-person meeting planned for Monday Dec. 6 at the Grand Ely Lodge.

"As healthcare leaders, this difficult decision was made with the health and well-being of our members,

board, hospital staff, and our community in mind," said EBCH CEO Patti Banks.

EBCH is notifying all foundation members of the change via letter. In addition, absentee ballots will be sent to all members who had not yet requested a ballot.

The Foundation Board will follow the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Act, Chapter 317A.447 to move forward with the 2021 election of board

members. Members can request a link to the annual meeting by emailing [ssaw@ebch.org](mailto:ssaw@ebch.org).

The slate of candidates for the board includes Mary Ann Smith, Todd Heiman, Michael Pechek, and Barb Soderberg. The top two vote getters will be named to the board of directors.

To find the latest information on COVID-19, visit the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) or the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) websites.

## FEAST...Continued from page 1

and Connect staffer Stacy Gallus. Check and Connect is a new program, funded by St. Louis County, which provides additional supports for students in schools throughout the county. In addition to mentoring students, Stacy also decided to create a student event-planning committee, open to all students.

McGrane started the meal with words of thanks to all the students and staff who had helped with the meal. She had tears in her eyes as she spoke about her short time at the school so far.

"I wake up every day and am thankful to be here," she said. "You are all amazing human beings."

She reminded the students how much the staff, school board, and volunteers care about the students at VCS.

Gallus said she had asked the students to come up with a simple idea for their planning committee this month, and while this was obviously not a simple event, she was clearly impressed with the work the students put in to make the meal a success.

"You wanted to do Thanksgiving with your family here," she said, noting that included her.

"It's not easy being the new kid," she told the students. "You have invited me in."

"Today this is our home," Stacy said. "I am so grateful that I ended up here."

### Meal prep

"I serve 30 at my house every year for Thanksgiving," Gallus said. So, cooking for this



The Vermilion Country School's planning committee for the 2021 Thanksgiving celebration gathered for a family photo last Tuesday.  
photo by J. Summit

and helped as Al carved the meat onto serving platters.

The meal was served family style, with plates passed around tables set up in a large square.

Afterwards, staff packed to-go meals that were delivered to two students and families who were quarantining in their households due to COVID.

Friends of VCS helped with the costs of the food and decorations.

Gallus said she wasn't sure what the event committee was planning for December, but was sure it would be another special day at Vermilion Country School.

crowd wasn't too far from her usual experience.

Gallus had plenty of helping hands in the kitchen. Students volunteered for all the prep work and cooking involved, learning the recipes and techniques, how to use some of the kitchen appliances needed, and even how to carve the turkey.

Other students made decorations, set the tables, and made nametags for students, school staff and a few invited guests. VCS staff all kept busy helping to get everything ready for the meal.

One student showed off the homemade cranberry sauce, which they had cooked. Students made pies

using premade pie crusts with their own choices of fillings, zesting citrus over the whipped cream topping. Teacher Al White brought in his Grandmother Berndt's homemade stuffing recipe. The potato peeling committee had a lot of work to do, and then started mashing them by hand because the large

stand mixer was acting up. (It got fixed once all the hand mashing was done.) Students learned to make gravy from scratch, make marshmallow-topped sweet potatoes, and a classic green bean casserole. Olives and pickles were arranged on serving trays. Students got the two large turkeys out of the broaster and watched

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In the past few months, we have seen our busiest times of the pandemic. We are experiencing record-breaking numbers at our facility. Everyone is tired and exhausted but continues to stay strong during these trying times.

What you are reading and hearing in the news is happening here also. The struggles of finding a bed available at a higher level of care facility to send patients to is real. The physicians are experiencing these struggles almost daily in our emergency room.

I want to personally thank all the staff and physicians for their continued dedication and hard work. I value all the sacrifices everyone has had to make during these challenging times.

When you see a healthcare worker (in any role), take the time to thank them for their commitment and for all the amazing things they do to make the hospital and care center continue to succeed.

**Teresa Debevec, CEO/Administrator**  
**Cook Hospital and Care Center**



SUPPORTING THE ARTS

# 'It's a Wonderful Life: Radio Play' presented by NLAA

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - Northern Lakes Arts Association's first radio play, "It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play," is now playing at Vermilion Community College and streaming online.

Three of the performances are exclusively streamed live through On The Stage.

"This is an all-in-one online platform designed by theatre professionals with real tech industry experience, leveraging expertise in both the creative and tech sectors," Director Vince O'Connor said.

Dates for performances streaming online only are Thursday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m., and Friday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. Tickets for the streamed shows are \$5 per ticket plus a small ticket fee.

Dates for live performances at the Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theater are Friday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 11 at 7 pm. Tickets for the live shows are \$10 per ticket plus ticket fee. Tickets are available online at [bit.ly/nlaatkts](http://bit.ly/nlaatkts).

This beloved American holiday classic comes to captivating life as a live 1940s radio broadcast. O'Connor, with musical direction by Irene Hartfield and the help of an ensemble that brings a few dozen

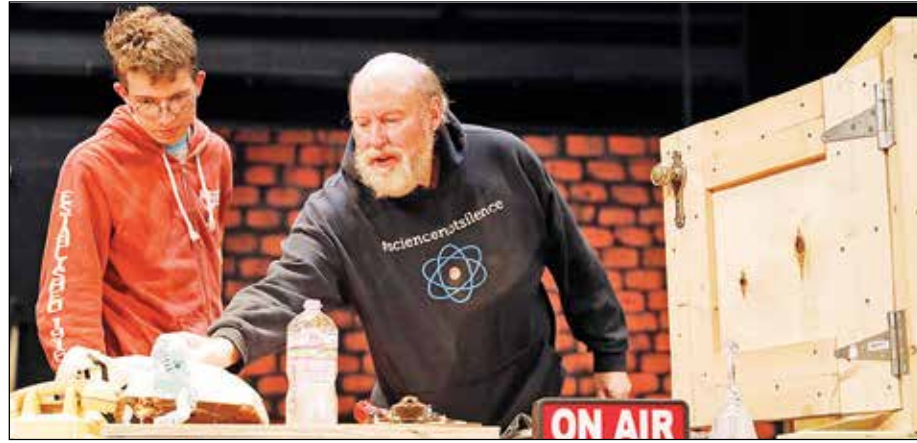


characters to the stage, presents the retelling of the story of George Bailey, the unsung, big-hearted hero of small-town Bedford Falls who considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve, and the lovable, bumbling guardian angel who opens his eyes.

This authorized adaptation by Philip Grecian is taken from the original

1946 film by Frank Capra. Grecian, an alumnus of the Colorado Creede Repertory Theatre, has worked as a writer/director for film, video and audio productions.

"Grecian's televised live radio version of Dracula earned him an Emmy in 2010, as well as a Videographer Award of Excellence and a Platinum



Director Vince O'Connor, above center, and Gabe Mann rehearse some of the sound effects for the radio play. Cast members of "It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play," top, rehearse at the VCC theater. photos by K. Vandervort

Hermes Creative Award," O'Connor said.

The Ely radio play involves more than a dozen local cast members and more than 60 speaking roles. Cast members include Grayson Scoggin, Katie Paige, Gil

Knight, Karin Schmidt, Cade Thibodeaux, Vince O'Connor, Julie Maystadt, Irene Hartfield, Crystal Poppler, Gabe Mann, Tracy Thibodeaux, Alison Poppler, and Brennan Rue. Additionally, almost all

sound effects are created live by Greg Mann.

"It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play" is produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Co. of Woodstock, Ill.

## BERYL...Continued from page 1

John Myers covers the outdoors, environment and natural resources for the *Duluth News Tribune*, and he and Novak have known each other since the late 1980s. The pair met when Myers was researching a story about someone Novak worked for who allegedly was cooking the books of the company's payroll. Myers came back in 1991 to do a follow-up, and they got together again, this time to enjoy the outdoors together.

"He came up a couple of times that winter, I think it was, and we went ice fishing on Pelican Lake," Novak said. "Over the years it kind of just fell off, we didn't get in contact, and we just missed each other for years."

But Myers' work often brings him back to the area, and he recently got back in touch with Novak.

"He said he'd drive by Gheen Corner and he'd often think of me," Novak said. "He sent me a card

with his phone number and I called him. He said he wanted to come up and do some grouse hunting and write an article. We lined up the first of November and he said he was bringing the staff photographer with him. They arrived here in the morning and I took them out hunting and we talked a lot."

What Myers came away with was well more than a hunting story. With hunting as the hook, Myers produced a full-length personality feature, from anecdotes about Novak's youth to his eight-month tour of duty in an Air Force hospital during the Vietnam War and his eventual transition to the 16x20 house and 40 wooded acres in the North Country that Novak has called home for 44 years. Myers painted a compelling portrait of a self-reliant, generally solitary soul who lives life in "a rhythm that revolves around nature's seasons - things like putting up

firewood, tending his big garden, planting and grafting dozens of apple trees and walking hundreds of miles each autumn in search of grouse," he wrote.

Novak's simple lifestyle doesn't include an internet connection, so he didn't see the article go up online on Nov. 5. He got to read it the next day when a cousin of his bought a copy of the paper in Cook and delivered it to him.

"It was pretty accurate," Novak said. "Usually, they screw up a little bit here or there, but overall, the whole thing was very accurate. That's the way I am, and I don't make excuses for it."

Since the *Duluth News-Tribune* is part of Forum Communications, a regional media company with newspapers and specialty publications in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, it was a foregone conclusion that the story would be seen in the upper Midwest, but

the response has been well beyond what anyone might have imagined.

"This story broke (Forum Communications') internet," Myers said in a Nov. 12 email exchange with the *Timberjay*. "It's had nearly one million page views, the most ever for the company."

It's now well over a million, as Novak found out in a phone call with Myers last week.

"I had absolutely no idea that something like this was going to take off like this," Novak said. "He said he received correspondence from South Africa and talked with somebody who said her daughter in Hawaii read about it, and another guy who said his sister saw it in Bend, Ore. So, I guess it's going to be all over the world. Just today, the UPS guy stopped and dropped off a package and he said, 'You're famous!'"

And some of the contacts Myers has received

have been about more than just expressing praise for the article, Novak said.

"John was saying that people wanted to meet me and talk to me and all this," Novak said. "I don't know what the hell I could tell them."

Novak hasn't speculated too much about why his story has garnered all this attention, he said.

"Maybe it's people who are stuck in a job somewhere in the cities who have no way to get the hell out to see that life is other than just city living or whatever," Novak said. "They probably would like to try something like this or just get away from the stress of living like that. In town, you're just another face, and it can be very lonesome in town when you're packed in with people. I don't get lonesome around here."

Late night talk shows often track down quirky stories like Novak's and book them for appearance-

es, but if any would come calling, they'll have no luck luring Novak away from Greaney. He's more than content with the attention he's already gotten.

"I wouldn't go to New York or any place like that for love nor money," he said. "I'll just stay out here. I got one piece of fan mail from a lady in Hermantown, but she and I went to school together. It was a very complimentary card. I sent a card back to her, just thanking her for acknowledging it."

Novak did offer one bit of reflection for people who find what he has appealing.

"Take a little bit of time and simplify your life, slow down," he said. "You don't have to own everything. You get so much stuff it owns you after a while. Some of the best days I had this fall were out hunting on a nice sunny day. I may not see a darned grouse or anything, but it's still a good day."

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## HOCKEY

# Ely opens season under new leadership

Coach Jake Myers will lead another young team into 2021-22 season

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

KITSON – The Ely hockey team opened the 2021-22 season last weekend under new leadership. Jake Myers took over the team this season after five years as assistant coach under Ben Johnson, who left to coach the new team at Rock Ridge High School.

The Timberwolves look to be one of the youngest teams in Section

7A and are in the midst of rebuilding following an 0-12 record during last year's COVID-interrupted season. The eighth- and ninth-graders from last year are a year older and bigger, but will still be going up against older, bigger, and more experienced competition.

The Timberwolves started the new season with a pair of losses last weekend at Kittson Central's Hallock Ice Arena. On Friday, the Timberwolves lost 6-4, before falling

**Right: Ely hockey players go through the paces during a recent practice.**

photo by K. Vandervort

8-4 in Saturday's matinee contest. But Myers saw many good things from the six-hour road trip to the northwestern corner of the state.

"We only scored nine goals all of last season," Myers said. "In these first two games, our floor check was

See **HOCKEY...**pg. 2B



## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Grizzlies wallop NER

Chisholm proves too hot to handle in Tuesday road contest

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELDTWP – The North Woods Grizzlies girls basketball team came roaring out of the gate in its season opener Monday night with a dominating 62-29 home win against Northeast Range.

Last year's Grizzlies team depended heavily on stingy defense to create turnovers and fast break buckets, but Head Coach Liz Cheney's squad is apparently primed to complement those with some improved shooting in their offensive sets, particularly from three-ball range.

"It was about 18-4 and we had three or four girls put in three-pointers," Cheney said. "Last year we were lacking on the shooting side of things. This year they've really found some confidence and it was great to see that."

Junior forward Kiana LaRoque had the hottest hand for first-half treys, canning three, while sophomore guard Helen Koch, sophomore forward Hannah Cheney, and junior center Hannah Kinsey also contributed to the long-distance barrage. Kinsey stepped outside the lane after the team's only trey of the second half.

The Nighthawks played hard but couldn't solve the puzzle of a Grizzlies defense that contested virtually every shot, rebounded solidly, and forced numerous turnovers. Senior guard Thia Lossing dropped in

three first-half buckets for NER, but the visitors trailed 36-15 at the half.

The early lead gave Cheney the chance to get most of her reserves in the game before halftime, and by the end of the game all 18 Grizzlies who suited up got playing time.

"We have a lot of eighth and ninth graders," Cheney said. "We're kind of light on the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth-graders, so tonight provided

the opportunity to see what mix we're going to be able to have."

Eleven Grizzlies players made it into the scoring column on Monday, topped by Koch and Kinsey with 14 each. Cheney was the only other player in double figures with 10.

A strong second-half performance from freshman guard Maizy Sunblad vaulted her to the top of the NER scoring chart with 10 points, followed by Lossing with eight.

The game served as a preview for the style of play Cheney said will characterize the Grizzlies' play this season.

"We're going to expect continued good defense, pushing the ball when we can, and then we've got some versatility with our posts and wings," she said. "We've got a couple players who have really taken to the wing position, which is what we need, so hopefully our shooting will come not only on the inside but also on the outside."

### Chisholm

The Grizzlies dished it out



on Monday, but on Tuesday they were on the receiving end as their first road game of the season was a 59-20 thumping at the hands of the Chisholm Bluestreaks.

After Hannah Cheney picked up a tipped pass and scored the Grizzlies' first bucket, the team came up empty in its next 14 trips down the floor against an aggressive Chisholm

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

**Top: The Grizzlies' Helen Koch initiates a break as teammate Shyla Adams and NER's Alli Bee keep pace.**

**Above: NER's Maizy Sunblad goes up for a shot.**

photos by D. Colburn

## DEVELOPMENT

# Lake County okays expansion of Silver Rapids RV campground

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

FALL LAKE TWP - A conditional use permit for 49 additional RV campsites and support buildings to be added to Silver Rapids Lodge outside of Ely was approved last month by the Lake County Planning and Zoning Commission.

The resort, located at 459 Kawishiwi Trail, is in negotiations for a sale to a new owner who is looking to expand on the 12 cabins, 11 motel units and 36 existing campsites and associated buildings, including a lodge and restaurant.

Following a Nov. 15 public hearing in Two Harbors, the commission granted the conditional use permit. According to Lake County Environmental Services Specialist Tanya Feldkamp, the following conditions must be met:

- Wetland delineation is required.
- Demarcation of property line on the northern border.
- Quiet hours of 10 p.m.- 7 a.m. must be enforced.
- No discharge of fireworks.
- All outdoor fires must be limited to use at a designated fire ring.

Some local residents and Fall Lake Town Board members expressed safety concerns over increased traffic in the area if the campground was expanded, and may look at lowering speed limits in the area. Increased tourism opportunity was seen as beneficial for the area.

In a follow-up memo to the hearing provided to the *Timberjay*, Feldkamp said the State Department of Transportation sets the speed limit on all county roads, including Kawishiwi Trail.

"The (Lake County) Highway Engineer made no comments on this issue," she said. "Ernie's Road (a nearby access road for the expanded campground) is a township road, and Fall Lake Township has jurisdiction to make any changes."

The size of this project and construction will require storm water plans through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, according to Feldkamp.

"The ordinance has impervious surface requirements which will be reviewed when land use permits are issued," she said. "A condition has been set to require a wetland delineation. The earthwork involved will require storm water plans through the MPCA for long-term as well as during construction," she said.

The Planning Commission recommended that the permit applicant follow the recommen-

See **RV PARK...**pg. 2B



## RV PARK...Continued from page 1B

dations that SWCD outlined regarding vegetation buffers along the shoreline. "All structures will comply with setback requirements unless they have grandfather rights," she said. "Wetland delineation is conditioned to identify sensitive areas which will dictate the placement of roads and development on the site."

All but one of the septic systems failed a compliance inspection. The applicant has plans for installing a small wastewater plant as recommended by several certified septic professionals.

"The size of the system will require permitting through MPCA," Feldkamp said in the memo. "The two existing non-compliant privies must be removed. The existing resort has a well and there are plans to put in an additional one."

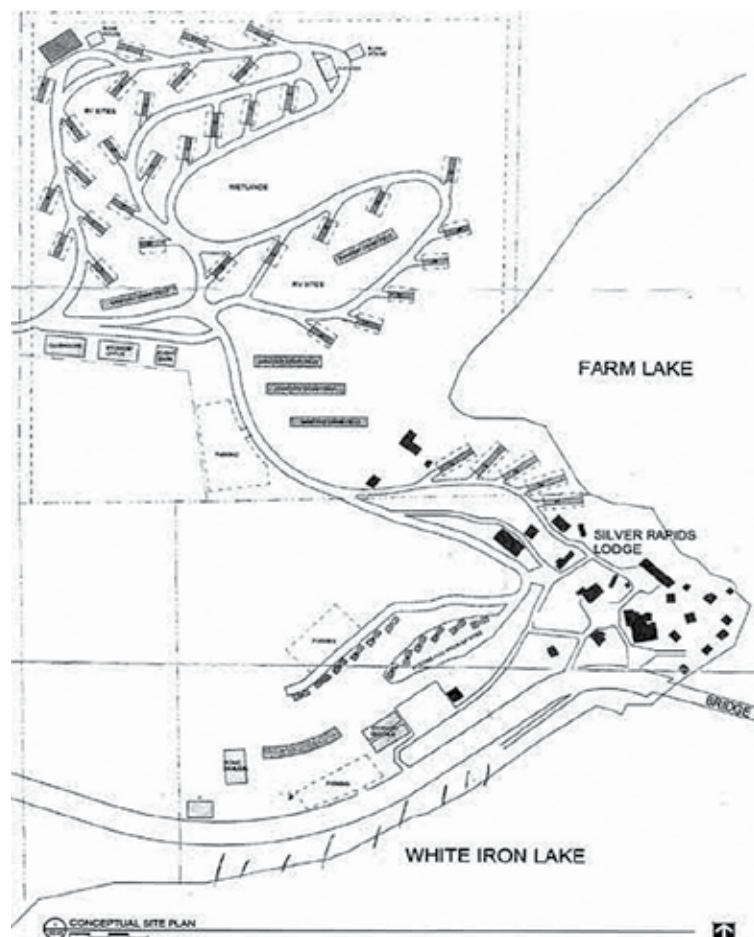
The resort's expanded campsites must meet safety requirements set by the Minnesota Department of Health for campgrounds.

"The ordinance has requirements for lighting, signage, and visual problems. These campsites will have leases that have requirements regarding typical nuisance issues. Quiet hours have been conditioned," she added.

A condition has been set to demarcate boundaries to prevent trespassing into or out of the resort property, and the proposed expansion of the campground meets density and setback requirements set by MDH and the ordinance.

"There was discussion that RV sites could be clustered in the north loop to maximize the buffer between the campground and adjacent properties," Feldkamp said. "Most of the RV sites would be seasonal rentals, which are less disruptive than daily sites. Seasonal RV campers are at the resort occasionally and they don't always bring boats. White Iron and Farm lakes are not congested, and increased boat traffic cannot be solely attributed to the resort. There has been no evidence that property values near resorts have

**Right:** A map showing the planned RV park expansion at Silver Rapids Lodge, located between Farm and White Iron lakes, near Ely. The development would be undertaken by prospective new owners of the resort should a sale of the facility be finalized.



diminished in Lake County."

According to the memo, Silver Rapids Lodge has been operating as a resort since before zoning requirements.

"Resorts are appropriate for the RR/Residential Recreational district with a Conditional Use Permit," she said. "All existing unpermitted/non-compliant structures must be removed or permitted."

## GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

defense that forced turnovers, blocked shots, and shut down the perimeter. By the time Hannah Kinsey finally broke the drought with a score on an inbounds play, Chisholm was up 18-4.

The Bluestreaks dominated the glass on both ends of the court. North Woods

had only five first-half possessions where they got a second shot at the basket, while Chisholm repeatedly outdueled Grizzlies defenders on rebounds to get three and four shots on possessions. Chisholm sophomore Tesa Baumgard collected 15 of her game-high 26 points in the first

half as the Bluestreaks went into the break with a 32-8 lead.

"I don't know what happened," Cheney said. "We were a completely different team than we were last night. Last night we were shooting shots and making shots. Tonight, we couldn't get

anything to go in. We knew Chisholm plays really, really tight defense, but we still couldn't seem to execute anything."

Cheney told her players at the half to clean up their passing and be more deliberate, and while it helped the overall style of their play, the Grizzlies couldn't

dig out of such a deep hole.

"We adjusted and did some of that, and it was a better game in the second half," Cheney said. "For a little while, anyway."

Two other Bluestreaks, Hannah Kne and Jordan Temple, also reached double figures with 10 points each. Cheney accounted for over

half of the Grizzlies' points, finishing with 11.

North Woods was scheduled to be on the road again Friday at Cook County before returning home for a Monday matchup against Bigfork.

## HOCKEY...Continued from page 1B

really good. We moved our feet the entire game, which is very important in all levels of hockey."

Myers mentioned that one Kittson Central player scored 12 of the 14 goals for their team. "In my opinion, we were the better team depth-wise, but we just couldn't figure out how to shut down that one player," he said.

The first games of the season did expose a few weaknesses in Ely's defense.

"We have to be better in front of the net this year. We have to be tougher and protect our goalie," Myers said.

Neither team could score in the first period on Friday, but the Timberwolves were the first team to put the puck in the net at 8:35 in the second period on a power play by Deegan Richards. He was assisted by Jakson Hegman and Alex Merriman.

The Bearcats answered with two scores, a power play at 10:31, and an even strength score at 15:05. Ely's Drew Marolt scored at 15:40 in the period with assists by Jace Huntbatch and Richards to tie the score 2-2.

Ely opened the final period with another Huntbatch score at 0:36 on assists by Wes Sandy and Richards. Kittson Central hit the net at 4:13 to again tie the score at 3-3.



**Left: Ely's new hockey head coach Jake Myers demonstrated techniques for players recently.**

photo by K. Vandervort

Kittson scored at 4:04 in the second period to tie the score at 2-2, then Macho scored at 5:51, on an assist by Alex Merriman, to give Ely a 3-2 lead.

But the Bearcats answered with four goals to take a 6-3 lead.

Ely's Deegan Richards lit the lamp on a power play at 6:24 in the third period, and Kittson scored two more goals late in the period for the 8-4 win.

Each team had five penalties for 10 minutes in the game. The Timberwolves took 29 shots on goal and Kittson had 36 scoring chances against Sandberg.

"Overall, our effort was there. Our scoring was there," Myers said. "Defensively, we couldn't make key stops. And we have to stay out of the (penalty) box, big time."

Myers is coaching a young team this year.

"Some of these kids have had a couple years at the high school level and I can see that as a big help for them," he said. "We were really a bantam team playing at the high school level for the last couple of years. As the kids are growing, it is a real positive for the program. We have really strong junior, sophomore and freshman classes and those kids are improving every day."

Myers is looking to senior goalie Sandberg to provide team leadership both on and off the ice.

"He is the only goalie in Ely history to beat International Falls," he said. "We are really going to rely on him a lot this year as a captain."

Hegman, a junior defenseman, returns as a team captain this year.

"He is turning into quite the veteran player for us as well. His defensive abilities are stellar. He is really tough in front of the net," Myers said. "He has a really good stick and can stop a lot of two-on-ones and two-on-threes. He

blocks shots like crazy, and is a great leader in the locker room and a good example for the younger kids."

Myers said he is also looking to Loe and Marolt to provide team leadership.

"They will be playing a huge role for this team as the season goes on," he said.

Ely was scheduled to play at North Shore

on Tuesday, Dec. 7. The Timberwolves are set to play their first home game against Moose Lake on Saturday, Dec. 11. The puck drops at 1 p.m. that day, and will be the featured game of a day full of several hockey events at the Ely Ice Arena.

Richards scored again for the Timberwolves at 5:31 to give Ely a tenuous 4-3 lead, but Kittson Central put the game away with three more goals at 9:22, 12:27, and 16:36, for the 6-4 victory.

Ely took 25 shots on goal and went one-for-three on power plays. The Bearcats took 46 shots on Timberwolves goalie Chase Sandberg and were one for two on power plays. Ely was called on two penalties for four minutes and Kittson Central had six minutes in the penalty box on three penalties.

On Saturday, Ely opened the scoring at 10:07 in the first period with a goal by Kole Macho, assisted by Sam Leeson and Logan Loe. The Bearcats scored at 13:49, and Ely came right back with a one-timer by Loe at 14:24 to give the Timberwolves a 2-1 lead.

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<p><b>County 77 Canister Site</b> 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm</p>	<p><b>Soudan Canister Site</b> 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun 8am-5pm</p>
<p><b>Embarrass Canister Site</b> 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thur: 10am-5pm</p>	<p><b>Aurora Transfer Station</b> 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon</p>
<p><b>Household Hazardous Waste Facility</b> 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm</p>	<p><b>Regional Landfill</b> 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm</p>

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Obituaries and Death Notices



**Melba L. Toivonen**

Melba L. Toivonen, of Gheen, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021, at the Cook Care Center in Cook, at the age of 100 years and eight months. There will be no services in accordance with Melba's prearranged funeral trust agreement.

Melba was born in 1921 in the Township of Whiteford in Marshall County, to Jacob and Elaine Anderson. She was one of twin girls. Melba said they were so small that they were kept in shoe boxes for a long time.

Her father ran logging operations, so they traveled extensively from one logging town to another in northern Minnesota, finally ending up in Cusson. There Melba met and married Andy Laine of Myrtle Lake. Unfortunately, a few years later, Andy was killed in a car accident.

Melba then married Karl Toivonen of Orr. They lived in the Cook-Orr area for several years. Then they moved to Oregon where they managed a hotel for a number of years. They returned to this area and worked for Dr. Grahek at his resort in Ely. Melba often talked Norwegian to Fritz (Walter) Mondale (presidential hopeful) when he was a guest of Dr. Grahek.

When they finally decided to retire, Karl and Melba moved a trailer house to Gheen, next to Melba's older sister Alvinna, who also had a trailer there, situated on the property of Shirley and Ernie Lund. Once settled, Melba began cooking and baking and she baked and cooked until she moved into the Cook Care Center, where they did the cooking and baking and took wonderful care of her for the rest of her life.

Melba is survived by her son, Andy Laine of Oregon; daughters, Kar-

en Halliday and Theresa Lemke, both of Bloomington, and Glenda Brekke of Mora; nieces, Joanne Stewart of Homosassa, Fla., and Beverley Johnson of Minneapolis; many, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Andy Laine; second husband, Karl Toivonen; sisters, Alvinna Rooney and Edna Anderson; brothers, Gilmer and Allbert Anderson; sons, Thomas and Charles Toivonen; nephews, Ernie Lund and Gerald Anderson; and nieces, Elaine McGunnigle and Margaret Narum.

**Richard A. Bush**

Richard Albert "R.B." Bush, of Cook, passed away on Monday, Nov. 22, 2021. A celebration of life gathering will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

**James R. Herberg**

James Richard Herberg, 64, of Virginia, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021, at Waterview Pines in Virginia. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4 at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Babbitt. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in

Virginia.

He is survived by his father, Lloyd G. Herberg of Babbitt; daughter, Tara Herberg of Virginia; and six siblings, Linda Warnke of Emerado, N.D., Gary Herberg of Babbitt, Janet Rasmussen of Ely, Barb Palmer of Babbitt, Lloyd B. Herberg of Ely and Debora Bingham of Emerado, N.D.

**John E. Huntbatch**

John Edward Huntbatch, 48, of Ely, passed away at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital on Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, from complications related to COVID-19. His family plans to hold a celebration of life in 2022. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Janelle Baier Huntbatch; daughter, Jordan; and son, Jace, all of Ely; mother, Kay Huntbatch; and sister, Andrea (Heath Rossin) Gierok, both of Winona; father-in-law, Bob Baier Jr. of Ely; brothers-in-law, Bob (Sandy) Baier of Ely, Dan Baier of Moose Lake and David (Lissa Roberts) Baier of Hibbing; and nine nieces and nephews.

**Margaret B. Campbell**

Margaret B. Lindberg Campbell, 69, of Embarrass, passed away on Tues-

day, Nov. 23, 2021, at her residence. Per her request, no services are planned at this time. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband, Bob; four children; seven grandchildren; and three brothers.

**Scott E. Stangland**

Scott E. Stangland, 58, of Marble, originally of Ely and Babbitt, passed away on Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, at United Hospital in St. Paul. Funeral services were held on Sunday, Nov. 28 at Dougherty Funeral Home of Hibbing with Pastor Jim VonWald officiating.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Lori Pelkey Stangland; son, Richard; daughter, JoDee (Sandro) Lopez; mother, Janet; brother, Doug; sister, Terri (Allen) Stevens; grandchildren, Alexis, Dakota, Cash, Alondra, Anthony and Achilles; nephews and nieces.

**Mike Picek**

Mike Picek, 88, of Cook, passed away surrounded by family on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Nov. 23 at First Baptist Church in Cook with Rev. Brian Haynes and Rev. Jared Bangs officiating. Pallbearers were Ben Picek, Hayden Picek, Gary Picek, Ron Picek,

Mark Pascuzzi, Warren Mlaker, Gary Baumgartner and Brent Bystrom. Military Honors were accorded by the combined Honor Guards of Cook VFW Post 1757 and Orr American Legion Post 480. Spring interment will be at the Cook Community Cemetery. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years and the love of his life, Donna Helstrom Picek; son, Tim (Jackie) Picek of Cook, and their children Ben (Jessica Berglund) and Hayden (Maija Maki) Picek; daughter Terri (Bruce) Larsen of Britt, and their children, Laura (Karl) Stauty and Lance (Lynda) Larsen; great-granddaughter, Ava Stauty; sisters, Helen Arola of Virginia and Katie Aune of Cook; sister-in-law, Margaret Picek of Virginia; many nieces, nephews, extended family and a host of wonderful friends.

**Robert S. Aronen Sr.**

Robert "Bob" Stanley Aronen Sr., 93, of Cottonwood, Ariz., originally of northeastern Minnesota, passed away peacefully on Monday, Oct. 25, 2021. The lives of Bob and his late wife, Doris Marcella Erickson Aronen, will be honored sometime next summer in Minnesota.

He is survived by his

sons, Mitchell (Christina), Daniel (Kazumi) and Robert Jr. (Christine); daughter, Carol Hagberg; grandchildren, Nathan, Tommy, Jacob, Isaac, Emiko and Arthur; five sisters-in-law; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Edith A. Tawyea**

Edith Angeline McDougall Tawyea, 80, of Hibbing, a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa in Nett Lake, passed away on Friday, Nov. 26, 2021, at Vermilion Senior Living Center in Tower. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 6 at Dougherty Funeral Home of Hibbing. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Private interment will take place at a later date at the Maple Hill Cemetery in Hibbing.

She is survived by her children, Raymond (Tracey Hall) Tawyea of Hibbing, Renee Johnson of Chisholm, Jamie (Cindy) Tawyea of Peoria, Ariz., and Joseph Tawyea of Britt; siblings, Fred (Mary) McDougall of Hibbing, Dale Werman of Minneapolis and Vivian Werman of Hibbing; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

	Division of School Finance 1500 Highway 36 West Roseville, MN 55113-4266	<b>District Revenues and Expenditures</b> <b>Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 and FY 2022</b>	ED-00110-44				
<b>General Information:</b> Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.10, requires that every school board shall publish the subject data of this report.							
District Name:	Nett Lake		District Number:	707			
Fund	FY 2021 Beginning Fund Balances	FY 2021 Actual Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2021 Actual Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2021 Actual Fund Balances	FY 2022 Budget Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2022 Budget Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2022 Projected Fund Balances
General Fund/Restricted	\$ 382,431	\$ 712,185	\$ 680,410	\$ 414,206	\$ 749,337	\$ 736,093	\$ 427,450
General Fund/Other	\$ 1,039,934	\$ 1,632,762	\$ 1,576,490	\$ 1,096,206	\$ 1,389,881	\$ 1,352,708	\$ 1,133,379
Food Service Fund	\$ 6,211	\$ 88,811	\$ 90,054	\$ 4,967	\$ 63,100	\$ 102,956	\$ (34,889)
Community Service Fund	\$ 116,036	\$ 35,418	\$ 143,934	\$ 7,520	\$ 37,373	\$ 35,455	\$ 9,438
Building Construction Fund				\$ -			\$ -
Debt Service Fund	\$ 217,643	\$ 70,933	\$ 59,523	\$ 229,053	\$ 70,933	\$ 59,049	\$ 240,937
Trust Fund				\$ -			\$ -
Internal Service Fund				\$ -			\$ -
* OPEB Revocable Trust Fund				\$ -			\$ -
OPEB Irrevocable Trust Fund				\$ -			\$ -
OPEB Debt Service Fund				\$ -			\$ -
<b>Total - All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 1,762,255</b>	<b>\$ 2,540,109</b>	<b>\$ 2,550,413</b>	<b>\$ 1,751,952</b>	<b>\$ 2,310,624</b>	<b>\$ 2,286,261</b>	<b>\$ 1,776,315</b>
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>				<b>Current Statutory Operating Debt per Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.81</b>			
Outstanding July 1, 2020	\$ 45,589,653			Amount of General Fund Deficit, if any, in excess of 2.5% of expenditures 06/30/2021		\$ -	
Plus: New Issues	\$ -			<b>Cost per student - Average Daily Membership (ADM) 06/30/2021</b>			
Less: Redemmed Issues	\$ 79,305			Total Operating Expenditures		\$ 2,477,842.78	
Outstanding June 30, 2021	\$ 45,510,348			FY 2021 Total ADM Served + Tuitioned Out ADM + Adjusted Extended ADM		89.34	
<b>Short-Term Debt</b>				FY 2021 Operating Cost per ADM		\$ 27,734.98	
The complete budget may be inspected upon request to the superintendent.							
Comments:							





# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## FIREARMS DEER SEASON WRAP-UP

# Area buck harvest finishes up slightly

Fewer antlerless tags limited total harvest in region, statewide harvest also down over 2020

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Hunters registered fewer deer in the North Country for the fourth year in a row, even as the buck harvest edged up slightly across the nine permit areas tracked by the *Timberjay*. As of Monday, Nov. 29, hunters had registered 5,436 deer in those nine permit areas, down from 5,573 deer at

the same period last year. This year's area registrations are down a whopping 39.8 percent from the region's most recent peak harvest, of 9,013 deer, set back in 2017.

The regular firearms deer season ended on Sunday, Nov. 21.

Surprisingly, border country permit areas saw the biggest gains in buck registrations, a development that offers a ray of hope for the future, according to area wildlife manager Penny Backman. According to DNR data, hunters

registered 203 more bucks this year in permit areas 107, 109, 117, 118, and 119, than last year— an 11.6 percent increase.

Backman said an increasing buck harvest is generally a sign of higher deer numbers overall. That's an encouraging development for the border region permit areas, which had been showing little growth in deer numbers in recent years.

See **DEER**, pg. 5B



## Area Deer Harvest

Results through Monday, Nov. 29

Year	Bucks	Antlerless	Total
2018	5,332	3,394	8,726
2019	4,793	1,506	6,299
2020	4,260	1,313	5,573
2021	4,335	1,101	5,436

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



## WINTER RECREATION

# The hunt for perfect ice

With little snow so far this winter, the potential for great skating is here

In another largely snowless first few weeks of winter, the search for good ice is underway. It's always a race against time, as we know that the lake skating season will be over with our first real snowfall.

My usual skating haunts have been decent, in some cases better than decent, although the conditions change by the day as the ice expands, creating cracks that seep water that freezes unevenly. Lost Lake has been pretty good, despite some rough patches. Vermilion's Pike Bay has actually been the best skating so far, with a largely smooth surface of black ice that's a pretty consistent 6-8 inches thick. When the wind blows the occasional dusting of snow off the surface, it's a pretty compelling sheet of ice. With Nordic skates, which clip to my ski boots, it can seem like flying.

Yet, for me, when it comes to ice, the quest for the perfect sheet is part of the adventure, and it's that quest that had a friend and me holding our breath more than once as we slowly skated our way up the Moose River this past weekend.

For those not familiar, the Moose River North access is located well up the Echo Trail, about halfway between Ely and Buyck. Our original plan was a skate up the Moose River to Nina Moose Lake, followed by a circle tour up the Nina Moose River and over to Ramshead and Lamb lakes. I'd canoed the route in day trips

**Above: Testing fresh ice on the Moose River, north of the Echo Trail.**

**Right: At the end of a portage along the river.**

**Lower right: Nordic skating across Nina Moose Lake with a pine-covered bluff in the background.**

before, so I figured it would be a few hours' jaunt on skates.

We knew there would be opportunities to find thin ice along the way, so we carried dry clothes in sealed packs, wore life vests, and had our spikes looped around our necks just in case we needed to claw our way out of a hole. After falling through on Burntside Lake last year, I had a better sense of what was involved and what kind of gear could ease the process of drying out and warming up after a fall through the ice.

I also knew I preferred to avoid a repeat of the experience, just not enough to stay home. The wild ice was calling, after all, and no one else was going to check out the skating up in our part of the Boundary Waters. In fact, we were the first people to stop at the access point in some time, as there were no vehicle tracks in the couple inches of snow that had been on the ground since that mid-November storm that brought rain and snow to the area. We walked the 160-rod portage down to the river, which

See **ICE**, pg. 5B



MARSHALL HELMBERGER



## FOREST PESTS



# Spruce budworm outbreak focused in Lake County

REGIONAL— The tiny spruce budworm caterpillar may appear insignificant, but its recent impact on northeastern Minnesota's forests is anything but, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

Since 2018, the native caterpillar has defoliated or destroyed about 282,000 acres of spruce and fir forests in the region. Data on spruce budworm damage is collected each year by aerial surveys that map large-scale disturbances across Minnesota.

The majority of the present outbreak is in Lake County and the western part of Cook County. In this year alone, spruce budworm defoliated and killed 384,000 acres of fir and spruce. Most (roughly 303,000) of those acres were defoliated, and about 81,000 acres had a mix of mortality and defoliation. This is the highest number of acres the caterpillar has impacted since 1995, when it damaged 506,000 acres in one year.

The past few years of dry weather, particularly in the spring and early summer, may have magnified the spruce budworm situation. Scientists hypothesize that warm, dry weather increases the survival of budworm larvae. Insect diseases such as fungal pathogens need cool and moist conditions to thrive, so fewer budworm larvae are attacked when the weather is warm and dry. These natural enemies normally help keep the budworm population at lower levels.

Not only were large numbers of trees damaged or killed, the drought, coupled with spruce budworm damage, possibly played a role in Minnesota's fire season.

The largest fire in 2021 was the Greenwood Fire, burning about 27,000 acres. The fire was near Isabella, in the heart of the budworm outbreak. Dying trees and standing, recently dead, trees with needles are fuel through which fire can more easily burn than if trees are healthy or on the ground and decaying. It seems probable that these conditions caused by spruce budworm altered the behavior of the Greenwood Fire.

Managing spruce budworm can be tricky once defoliation has started. Landowners can work with a DNR forester on a stewardship plan or work with their local Soil and Water Conservation District if their forests have a significant number of trees killed by spruce budworm.

Homeowners interested in saving their trees can also promote tree vigor with watering and mulching or using an insecticide such as Btk, if practical.



WINTER IN THE WILDERNESS



Looking to the northwest across the frozen expanse of Nina Moose Lake, located in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

photo by M. Helmberger

**ICE...**Continued from page 4B

arrived just below a rapids with plenty of flowing water. I had expected that, and fortunately, there was skateable ice just below. A few nights of temperatures near zero earlier that week had left anywhere from 2-4 inches of black ice behind. It's such conditions that create uncertainty. Four inches is plenty safe for skating, and two inches is supposed to be sort-of safe. I think of it as marginal, "hold-your-breath-and-don't-slow-down" kind of ice. We had a fair amount of that kind of ice as we made our way down the Moose River, which made it all a bit exhilarating. It was the abundance of beaver along the river that slowed us down. Every dam created open water and had to be negotiated carefully, and we both ended up with a wet foot, but nothing worse, as we made our way around several dams.

I had figured the skate up the Moose River would take less than an hour, but by the time we reached Nina Moose Lake, it had taken us just over an hour and a half. We had gotten a late start as it was, so it was already shortly after noon when we arrived. Recalculating the math on the rest of the planned trip, it was apparent the loop route would have had us back well after dark, which would have further complicated our return trip on the Moose River.

So, we rolled with the punches and explored a bit on Nina Moose Lake. We considered taking the portage to Lamb Lake, but at 228 rods, it was a long walk in ski boots. And we had no idea if the ice would be any better there than on Nina Moose.

There was plenty of ice on Nina Moose, but the skating wasn't worth the effort to get there. A fair amount of snow, combined with lots of rough ice around expansion cracks, made it passable, but hardly the flat sheet of black ice I had hoped for. Not that I minded taking time to explore Nina Moose a bit. It's usually a thru-route for canoeists, myself included, so it's typically been a straight shot to the north end to continue up the Nina Moose River, or a quick jaunt to the west to pick up the portage to Lamb.

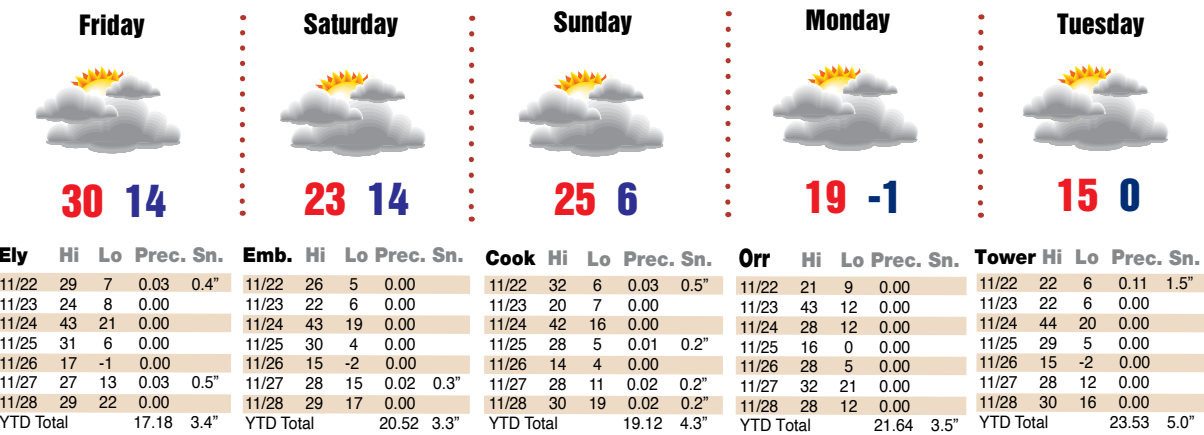
With some time to explore, we skated over to the big rock bluff on the lake's western shore. I've always taken note of the progress of the returning forest along that east-facing slope, which burned in the 1970s and has come back heavily to pine. It's

interesting country and I once followed a young bull moose through those woods for a while after I spotted it from the Lamb Lake portage. It didn't seem to notice me, or care, and it was fascinating to watch it amble through the relatively open forest there.

After an hour poking around on the lake, we set our sights on the return. As I had hoped, skating back on the river took about half the time as we mostly followed our tracks, figuring if the ice held us the first time, we'd be okay on the second. We still had to pick our way around the beaver dams, but we skated the rest of way with a lot more confidence and without having to stop routinely to check the ice.

In the end, it wasn't the trip I had hoped, but you don't know until you get out and explore. If the snow continues to hold off, I'll likely to back out this weekend, in search of the perfect ice.

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST** from NOAA weather



**DEER...**Continued from page 4B

By contrast, the drop in deer registrations this year came from lower reported harvests in permit areas 176, 177, and 178, where the buck harvest dipped by five percent over last year. The overall harvest in those three permit areas was down almost ten percent, although that was most likely due to fewer antlerless permits.

Backman said weather conditions opening weekend, which were exceptionally warm, likely limited deer movement during the two days

when hunters take the bulk of the year's harvest.

Backman urged patience from hunters hoping for a rebound in the region's deer population. She said it will take a series of milder-than-average winters to get back to the deer numbers the region saw after a string of mild winters in the early 2000s. "It's going to be a long, slow process," said Backman. "And a severe winter can be a big setback."

It wasn't just hunters in the northeast that struggled more than

usual this year. According to the latest data from the DNR, hunters have registered 169,375 deer statewide. That's well below the total of 197,315 deer registered last year. While more deer will be registered in the coming days during muzzleloader, archery, and other special hunts, those are unlikely to add enough to catch up to last year's registration totals. The muzzleloader season ends Dec. 12, while the archery season ends Dec. 31.

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UCare Minnesota is an HMO-POS plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in UCare Minnesota depends on contract renewal. Y0120\_11303\_092021\_M

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## EMPLOYMENT

### PT POSITION AVAILABLE at the TOWER SOUDAN INSURANCE AGENCY

We are looking for a part-time employee with good customer service skills to answer phones, file, take payments, as well as other general office duties. This employee would also fill-in when the full-time employee is out on vacation.

This job would be for 8 hours a week; days worked and schedule are flexible.

If interested, please call 218-753-2101 or e-mail [tsagency@frontiernet.net](mailto:tsagency@frontiernet.net). 12/10

## PUBLIC NOTICES

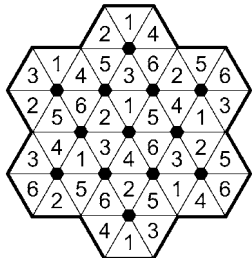
### NOTICE OF BOARD APPOINTMENT TOWN OF CRANE LAKE

The Crane Lake Town Board of Supervisors will be making two appointments to the Crane Lake Water and Sanitary District Board of Managers for a three-year term that will commence on January 1, 2022 and expire on December 31, 2024. Application forms are available at the Clerk's office. A completed application, current resume and cover letter stating qualifications and experience to serve must be filed with the Clerk of the Town of Crane Lake by December 13 prior to the Board of Supervisors' Meeting on December 14, 2021.

Jo Ann Pohlman  
Clerk, Town of Crane Lake  
218/993-1303  
[info@cranelaketwp.com](mailto:info@cranelaketwp.com)

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 3 & 10, 2021

### SNOWFLAKES solution



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### International Wolf Center

#### The International Wolf Center is hiring! Facility Coordinator

The Facility Coordinator oversees the cleanliness and safe operations of the interpretive center facility.

- 32 hours/week
- \$18-\$20/hr. Benefits eligible.
- Deadline to apply is Dec. 15, 2021

Visit <https://wolf.org/about-us/employment/> to apply 12/10



### 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](mailto:jsummit@vermilioncountry.org) or call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

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

Assumed Name: The Aura Boreal  
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 2339 Vermilion Lake Rd., Cook, MN 55723  
NAMEHOLDER(S): Kimberly K. Yankowiak, 2339 Vermilion Lake Rd., Cook, MN 55723.

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

Dated: 10/22/21  
SIGNED BY: Kimberly K. Yankowiak, owner

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 26 & Dec. 3, 2021

## EMPLOYMENT



### OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

#### Nursing

PT RN House Supervisor

#### Lab

FT Medical Laboratory Tech (MLT)

#### Radiology

FT Radiologic Technologist

#### Care Center

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

#### Dietary

Casual Dietary Aide/Cook

#### Activities

PT & Casual Activities Assistant

#### Environmental Services

FT Housekeeper  
Casual Laundry Aide  
Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

#### TO APPLY:

[www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/](http://www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/)

More Info? Contact Human Resources

**218-666-6220**

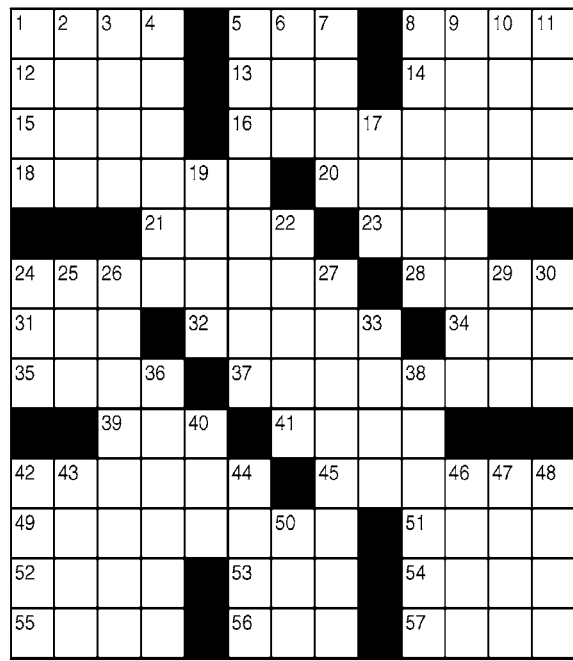
[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

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

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Creche trio
- 5 The whole enchilada
- 8 Outlet letters
- 12 Teensy bit
- 13 Irish actor Stephen
- 14 Vivacity, in music
- 15 At the summit of
- 16 Her bed was too soft
- 18 Jungle trek
- 20 Make happy
- 21 Swindles
- 23 Workout site
- 24 Spaghetti topper
- 28 Whirled
- 31 Hosp. area
- 32 Small stream
- 34 "As I see it," to a texter
- 35 Lavish affection (on)
- 37 Lunar light
- 39 Family card game
- 41 Greek letters
- 42 Regard highly
- 45 Morals
- 49 Legume used in Asian cuisine
- 51 Acknowledge
- 52 Wax-coated cheese
- 53 Baton Rouge



- 9 Slapstick mis-sile
- 10 "Buenos —!"
- 11 Apple center
- 17 H.S. math
- 19 Eldest Stark child on "Game of Thrones"
- 22 Sailing vessel
- 24 Central
- 25 Green prefix
- 26 Fall-related
- 27 Relax
- 29 Actress Thurman
- 30 — de plume
- 33 Make a scarf
- 36 Puzzle
- 38 It's equivalent to C, in some scores
- 40 Sphere
- 42 Iowa city
- 43 Ranch visitor
- 44 Slithery
- 46 Currier's partner
- 47 Corn castoffs
- 48 Smack a baseball
- 50 "— was saying ..."

### DOWN

- 1 "Serpico" author Peter
- 2 "— girl!"
- 3 Blunder
- 4 Influence
- 5 How lovers may stroll
- 6 Meadow
- 7 Genie's home
- 8 Monasteries

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## Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- |                      |               |                 |               |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. J. Edgar _____    | _____ V _____ | Tap dancer      | _____ F _____ |
| 2. Subject matter    | _____ P _____ | Liquid medicine | _____ N _____ |
| 3. Counterfeiter     | _____ G _____ | Previous        | _____ M _____ |
| 4. Fencer's weapon   | _____ D _____ | Took an oath    | _____ E _____ |
| 5. Pleat             | C _____       | Lard            | G _____       |
| 6. \$1000            | _____ R _____ | Pituitary, e.g. | _____ L _____ |
| 7. Advertiser's tune | _____ N _____ | Wobble          | _____ G _____ |
| 8. Dog lead          | _____ H _____ | Smallest amount | _____ T _____ |
| 9. Red gem           | _____ T _____ | Gather together | _____ R _____ |
| 10. H2O              | _____ T _____ | Las Vegas bet   | _____ G _____ |

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## SCRAMBLERS

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!

- Dainty  
RENTED \_\_\_\_\_
- Dream  
RANEY \_\_\_\_\_
- Unkind  
DINES \_\_\_\_\_
- Sniff  
HEALIN \_\_\_\_\_

### TODAY'S WORD



"Hey, Al, do we have something back there called \_\_\_\_\_?"

## CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: O equals M

ZRJB JOCUCGM QVBBQD MCGYHM

OVWRB LCG RDJU EUCO KDCKQD

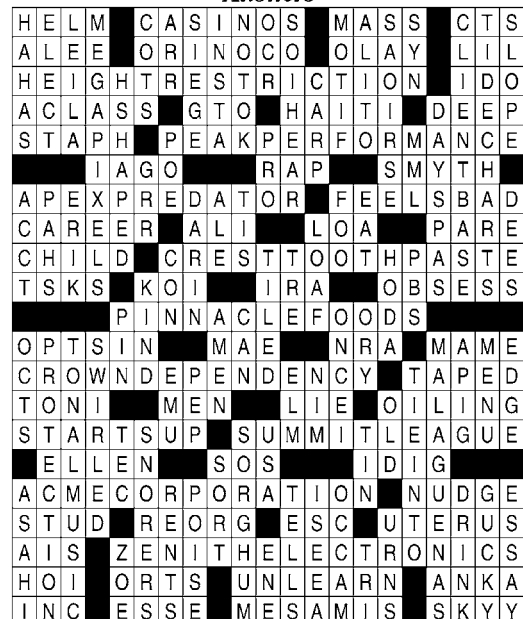
ZRC JUD YDMBQVYW TCOEVQL?

TGHHQD TJQQM.

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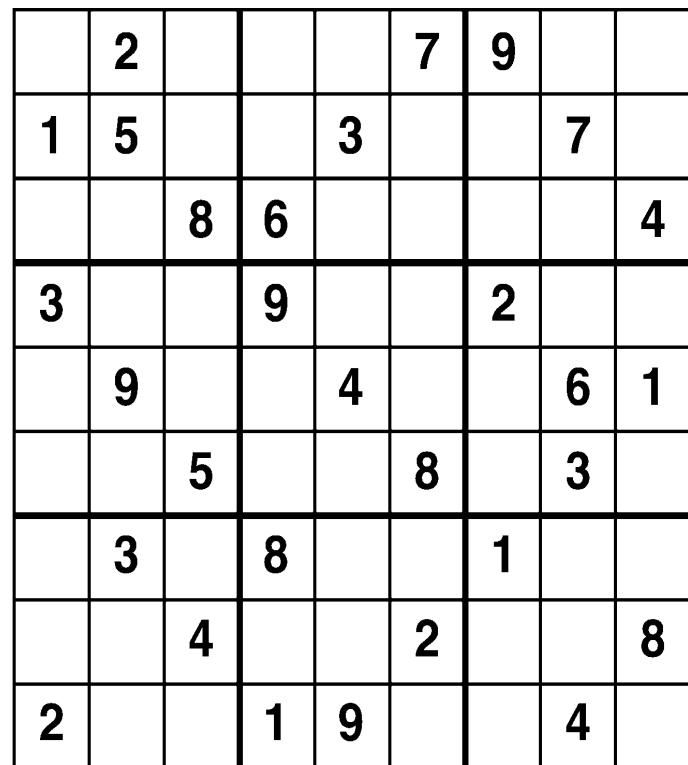
## Super Crossword

### Answers



## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

## AUTOMOTIVE

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## HAIR CARE

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## HOSPICE

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

## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SCRAMBLERS

solution  
1. Field 2. Flange;  
3. Invest; 4. Detain  
Today's Word  
**VANILLA**

## King Crossword

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

## WANTED

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

## HELP WANTED

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

## Even Exchange answers

- Hoover, Hoofier
- Topic, Tonic
- Forger, Former
- Sword, Swore
- Crease, Grease
- Grand, Gland
- Jingle, Jiggle
- Leash, Least
- Garnet, Carner
- Water, Wafer

## Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

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Subject to Credit Approval  
\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

## CryptoQuip

answer

What amorous little sounds might you hear from people who are nestling comfily?  
Cuddle calls.

## Super Crossword

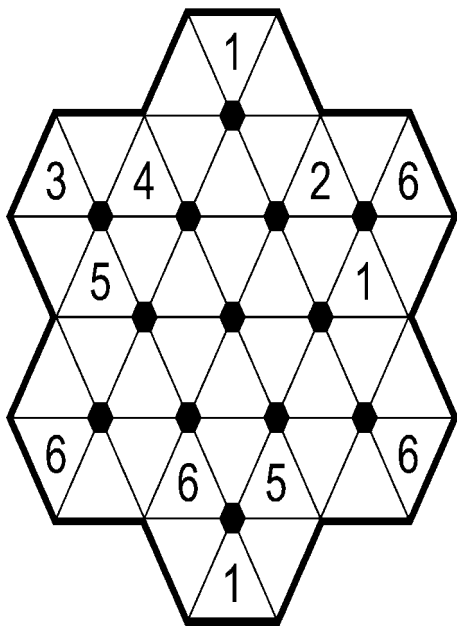
## BEGINNING AT THE TOP

- ACROSS**  
1 Skipper's site  
5 Las Vegas attractions  
12 Part of WMD  
16 Dol. fractions  
19 Safe, at sea  
20 Venezuela's main river  
21 Brand of skin cream  
22 "— Abner"  
23 Limit for riding a roller coaster, often  
26 Oath reply  
27 In — by itself (unique)  
28 '60s muscle car  
29 Port-au-Prince locale  
30 Profound  
31 Spherical bacterium, for short  
32 Payoff of athletic training  
35 "Othello" foe  
37 Grammy category  
38 Rocker Patty of Scandal  
39 Animal that hunts, but isn't hunted  
45 Is remorseful  
48 Life's work  
49 Frazier foe  
50 Mauna —  
51 Peel, as fruit  
52 Preteen  
53 It has a "3D White" product line  
58 Reproachful clicks  
59 Fish in a garden pond  
60 Writer Levin  
61 Be fixated  
62 Company that owns Log Cabin, Vlasic and Mrs. Paul's  
67 Decides to participate  
71 Sallie —  
72 Gp. backing arms  
73 Auntie played by Lucille Ball  
77 The Isle of Man, to Britain  
82 Sealed up, as a package  
83 Singer Basil  
84 About half of all adults  
85 Prevaricate  
86 Lubing  
87 Begins  
90 NCAA conference of the Midwest  
93 Barkin of film  
94 Sinking ship's call  
95 Hippie's "Got it"  
96 Source of wacky products in Road Runner cartoons  
102 Jab gently  
106 Dress shirt ornament  
107 Company shuffle, for short  
108 PC undo key  
109 Fetus' place  
110 Grafton's "— for Alibi"  
111 Onetime competitor of Magnavox  
114 — polloi  
115 Kitchen scraps  
116 Discard from the memory  
117 "Puppy Love" singer Paul  
118 Kin of Ltd.  
119 "To be," to Brutus  
120 "My friends," in France  
121 Vodka brand  
**DOWN**  
1 Good laughs  
2 Choose (to)  
3 1983 J.P. Donleavy novel  
4 Digital camera resolution units  
5 Foldup beds  
6 ETA part: Abbr.  
7 Long attack  
8 Photo-sharing app, for short  
9 Totally unacceptable  
10 Bar code-scanning gizmo: Abbr.  
11 "That's how it was told to me"  
12 Artistic theme  
13 Supreme Court's Samuel  
14 2015 and 2017 Best Actress nominee  
15 Similar-meaning wd.  
16 Set of regular customers  
17 Tables with data on daily ebbs and flows  
18 Steepness  
24 Like the Greek letter eta  
25 Type of fish that a 59-Across is  
30 Places to get body wraps  
32 "The Raven" writer  
33 Positive aspect  
34 Roman 2,050  
36 Cur's threat  
39 Bank stmt. ID  
40 Oom- (tuba sounds)  
41 TV's Estrada  
42 Singer Bobby  
43 Bar order  
44 "— a pity"  
45 Egg — yung  
46 Scarf down  
47 Poor grades  
50 Bread buy  
53 33-Down's opposite  
54 Like mosaics  
55 Uno + due  
56 "Today" co-host Koib  
57 "Nova" ailer  
59 Variety  
62 ATM code  
63 "That's right!"  
64 Spam holder  
65 "— had a secret love ..."  
66 Suffix with contradict  
67 They precede Novs.  
68 Shelter  
69 Key-centered compositions  
70 Eddied  
73 Spanish dances like fandangos  
74 Happy as — in mud  
75 List of dishes  
76 Verge  
78 Aussie bird  
79 Verve  
80 Stately tree  
81 Takeaway game of strategy  
82 Link with  
86 Ancient  
88 Sleuth, slangily  
89 Noisy nappers  
90 Tropical cereal grass  
91 D.C.'s home  
92 Spam holder  
94 Variety  
96 Tokyo beer  
97 Sublets, e.g.  
98 Social grace  
99 Narrates  
100 "— bad moon rising"  
101 Philosopher with a "razor"  
103 Bar order  
104 Slimy  
105 Think piece  
109 Footed vases  
111 Actress Saldana  
112 Detroit-to-Montreal dir.  
113 Hexa- halved

## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

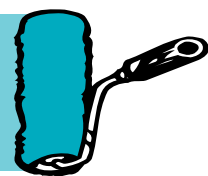
4	2	3	5	8	7	9	1	6
1	5	6	4	3	9	8	7	2
9	7	8	6	2	1	3	5	4
3	4	1	9	5	6	2	8	7
8	9	2	7	4	3	5	6	1
7	6	5	2	1	8	4	3	9
6	3	9	8	7	4	1	2	5
5	1	4	3	6	2	7	9	8
2	8	7	1	9	5	6	4	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
19				20							21					22					
23			24							25						26					
27						28				29						30					
31						32			33					34							
35				36					37					38							
39	40	41				42	43	44				45	46				47				
48						49					50					51					
52						53			54	55				56	57						
58						59				60				61							
						62			63	64			65	66							
67	68	69	70						71				72			73	74	75	76		
77							78	79				80	81			82					
83						84						85			86						
87					88	89				90	91			92							
					93					94				95							
96						97	98					99	100	101			102		103	104	105
106						107						108			109						
110						111						112			113						
114						115						116									117
118						119															121





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