

Inside: Ambulance short-staffed... See /3 Snowmobile Hot Spots... See /12 Busy beavers...See /4B

LIMBERIAY VOL. 33, ISSUE 2 January 21, 2022

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SULFIDE MINING

No boos, no cheering at online mine hearings

Pandemic restrictions made for a much different feel to comment period

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER withdraw mineral leasing Managing Editor

REGIONAL— What a difference a pandemic makes. Five years ago, the last time that federal officials took public testimony on a proposal to

on a portion of the Superior National Forest, thousands turned out in sometimes raucous events in northern Minnesota to make their case for or against.

This time, the meetings, held virtually over Zoom, wrapped up without the show of force by both sides of the debate.

Instead, individual speakers had their three minutes to state their piece, without the backdrop of boos or applause that frequently accompanied speakers back in 2017, the last time the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management held public meetings on the withdrawal proposal.

While the format was different, the many dozens of speakers who took part sounded familiar themes. Supporters of the withdrawal mostly spoke from personal experience about the ways that the Boundary Waters had touched their lives and the importance of protecting a unique place in

posed by sulfide mining just upstream of the wilderness.

Opponents of the withdrawal, who mostly represented local government entities or trade unions, spoke of the jobs the mine

America from the threats See...MINING pg. 9

GET OUTSIDE

Little skiers hit the trails

Ely Youth Ski League celebrates opening day

by KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY - After a year with no in-person events due to COVID-19 precautions and a delayed start this year due to cold temperatures, the Ely Youth Ski League finally started

last Sunday at Hidden

The Ely Youth Ski League (EYSL) is a volunteer organization that offers children between the ages of five and 11 the opportunity to learn

See...**SKI** pg. 11







A young skier, top, made her own trail through the deep snow at Hidden Valley last Sunday during opening day of the Ely Youth Ski League. Carl Skustad, above, prepared a new American flag for the opening ceremony. Macy Coombe, 7, left, was all smiles as she made her way down a trail. Todd Hohenstein, right, carried the flame for the torch-lighting ceremony. photos by K. Vandervort



CORONAVIRUS

Past, present, or future for **Omicron peak?**

Projections differ, but most agree that peak will be short

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL-If St. Louis County falls in line with the rest of the state, it might have already passed the peak of the Omicron variant COVID wave. Or, county residents could be right in the midst of it. Or the worst may be yet to come. It all depends on where one looks

for predictions. Models predict-

ing trends in coronavirus cases have been around almost since the beginning of the pandemic. Those early models were



hampered by a lack of data and research about the virus itself, and many were of limited value. No model is designed to predict specific case levels, hospitalizations, and deaths, but after nearly two years of research the trends they project have become more refined and more closely reflect what's happening with the

The Mayo Clinic's COVID modeling projects that Minnesota will hit its record-breaking Omicron peak next week on Jan. 26, which would be welcomed by a healthcare system strained to the max by the influx of new Omicron-related cases. As hospitalization and death rates typically trail initial infection numbers by two to three weeks, hospitals will likely continue to feel the effects of the peak well into February.

See**...COVID** pg. 11

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Teen charged with attempted murder in shooting of her mother

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

MORCOMTWP-AMorcom Township teenager has been charged with attempted murder in the second degree after she allegedly shot her 40-year-old mother on Sunday afternoon at their residence.

The mother, Stephanie Straw, was transported to a Duluth hospital and was believed to be in stable condition when she was admitted, according to authorities. Her medical status

as of press time was unknown.

Straw's 16-year-old daughter, Charlize R. Bjorhus, was formally charged Tuesday in St. Louis County Juvenile District Court in Hibbing. She was being held in the Arrowhead Juvenile Center in Duluth.

Authorities became aware of the shooting when St. Louis County 911 received a call at approximately 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 16, informing them that a woman was enroute to the Cook Hospital with a gunshot wound.

Bjorhus reportedly left the

residence in the 9200 block of Range Line Rd. where the shooting took place, about 13 miles southwest of Cook, in a vehicle that was later found stuck in a ditch approximately

See... CHARGE pg. 11



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2 January 21, 2022 THE TIMBERJAY

Community notices

Veterans Wellness Passport: Free Family Movie

HIBBING- Veterans and service members living or working in United Way of NE MN's service area are invited to bring their families to a free private showing of "Spider-Man: No Way Home" on Sunday, Jan. 23 at Mann Hibbing Cinema 8. Registration is required for this free event, offered through United Way's Veterans Wellness Passport program. Visit www.unitedwaynemn.org/veterans-wellness-passport

NAMI Minnesota offers free online mental health classes

REGIONAL- NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) has set up a wide variety of free online mental health classes for January and February 2022. They include classes such as Hope for Recovery, Family to Family, In Our Own Voice, Creating Caring Communities, Ending the Silence, Understanding Early Episode Psychosis for Families, a suicide prevention class called QPR (Question, Persuade and Refer), a special QPR class for Agricultural Communities, and more.

The classes are designed for family members and caregivers, persons living with a mental illness, service providers, and also the general public. Find a complete listing of these classes and how to join in by going to namimn.org and clicking on "Classes".

Finnish Americans to meet on Feb. 1

REGIONAL- A program about life in the Hill Boarding House in Buhl, which is now preserved and located at the Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm, will be presented by Shirley Hill Johnson. The program will be at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 1 at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th Ave S in Hibbing. Everyone is invited to attend to learn about an interesting and important part of local history. Coffee an' will follow the program.

Tai Ji Quan class to be offered in Ely

ELY- A Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance class will be offered in Ely on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 - 11 a.m. beginning on Tuesday, Feb. 8. The class will meet for 12 weeks at the Ely Recreational Center, 1034 Main St. The classes are free but donations are appreciated.

To register or learn more, contact Candy Schindele at office@northwoodspartners.org or 218-365-8019, or register online at www.yourjuniper.org.

One in three adults aged 60 and older will fall, and falls are the leading cause of fatal injury and the most common cause of nonfatal trauma-related hospital admissions among older adults. Forty percent of all hospitalizations are a result of falls. Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance is an evidence-based program designed to keep you mobile and independent and is proven to reduce the risk of falling by 55 percent. These slow, flowing movements relax the mind and build the body.

Offered in partnership with Northwoods Partners, Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance is a 12-week workshop that consists of warm-up exercises, a mix of core forms, and brief cool-down exercises. These exercises can be done while standing, seated, or a combination of both. Participants in these classes have reported improved cognitive and physical functional abilities and a reduced incidence of falls. Trained peer leaders facilitate the interactive classes while promoting fun and socialization, and reducing chronic pain and the risk of falling. Participants learn balance skills, good body alignment, and coordinated Tai Ji movements.

YOUR HOME-DECOR STORE





NORTHERN LAKES ARTS ASSOCIATION

Audition for "A Grand Night for Singing"

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association and Vermilion Community College have scheduled auditions for the 2022 Ely Community Spring Musical, "A Grand Night for

This year's musical will feature a revue of hits from Rodgers and Hammerstein's favorite shows like "Oklahoma," "Carousel," "South Pacific," "Cinderella," and more, according to Director Sara Skelton. There are opportunities for solos, duets and small ensembles. There will be no chorus or speaking roles.

COVID-19 protocols in place include wearing face masks and distancing; vaccinations are expected.

Auditions will be held on Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 24 and 25, from 6-8 p.m. at the VCC Fine Arts Theater. Performance dates are scheduled for April 1-3 and 7-9.

For more information, contact Skelton at 218-235-2142 or sara.skelton@vcc.edu.



UNITED WAY

Get ready for a "totally rad" Power of the Purse

VIRGINIA- Growing up in the 80s was a blast. My Little Ponies, Rainbow Brite, He-Man and She-Ra, and Cabbage Patch Kids were all the rage. Movies like "The Karate Kid," "Dirty Dancing," "Beaches," and "Adventures in Babysitting" were what everyone was watching.

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota is celebrating this totally rad decade at the upcoming Power of the Purse ladies event. This year's event will be in-person, so motor on over to the brand-new Iron Trail Motors Event Center on Thursday, Jan. 27. As in the past, there will be a costume contest, so get out your leg warmers, bangle bracelets, oversized blazer with shoulder pads, and

CBS News anchor Kristen Vake will emcee the event. The Sawmill will be providing a throwback menu of upgraded 80s classics like chicken Kiev and seven-layer dip. K&J Entertainment will be DJing the event, spinning righteous tunes like "Girls Just Want to Have Fun," "Walk Like an Egyptian," "Livin' On a Prayer," "Material Girl," and many more.



Breanne Katrin, 2021-22 **UWNEMN Board President**

There will be awesome live and silent auction items, fabulous raffles, fun games to win purses, and other prizes, and much more.

If you prefer to veg out at home but still want to be a part of the fun, please purchase a \$15 auction-only ticket. This allows you to bid on silent auction items available at the event from the comfort of your

home. The auction will include designer purses, getaways and activities, packages for the home, children's baskets, and more!

All proceeds from Power of the Purse benefit UWNEMN's Imagination Library program. This initiative is funded locally by UWNEMN donors and provides free books to children from birth to age five, delivered right to their homes. The books include old favorites and classics like "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and "Corduroy" from the 80s, and modern stories with new characters. This early literacy program is extremely important in our region; getting reading resources into children's hands during early childhood is the leading precursor for early literacy and success in school.

To register for Power of the Purse today, visit www.unitedwaynemn.org/pop! With questions, call Elizabeth at 218-215-2422 or elizabeth@unitedwaynemn.

Free family-focused webinars available now through April

REGIONAL- University of Minnesota Extension Center for Family Development educators and partners are facilitating webinars, providing information and resources for families and those who serve families to make informed decisions leading to greater health, resilience and well-being.

All webinars are virtual and free. Follow links for each dynamic series to learn more about dates, times and registration.

Family-friendly earth care

Learn how to take actions for global health and wellness, including ways to eat healthier for the planet and hands-on activities for all ages that promote wellness through being in nature. The series runs Jan. 27 - April 21. To learn more or register, visit z.umn.edu/earthcare

While life is never certain, the last couple of years have stressed our families and communities. Learn about how to find balance and

Finding balance

flourish, even during life transitions. The series is for both consumers and professionals and runs Feb. 22 - April 20. To learn more or register. visit z.umn.edu/findingbalance

Making cents of it all

Learn how to navigate financial choices including homeownership, credit, budgeting and saving, and changing financial needs across the lifespan. We'll also share culturally appropriate resources to support American Indian and Latino communities. These online webinars are for individuals, families, educators and agency staff. The series runs Jan. 25 - April 28. To learn more or register, visit z.umn.edu/cents

No place like home

Whether you rent or own your home, our educators have tips to make your home healthier, affordable, and energy efficient. Offered in English and Spanish, the series runs Jan. 18 - April 14. To learn more or register, visit z.umn.edu/noplacelikehome

Recovery and health

Learn how mental wellbeing, nervous system support, nutrition, and physical activity can support those in recovery. Hear from people in recovery about how they approach their health holistically. Colleagues from the College of Pharmacy will discuss harm reduction and how to save lives from overdoses. The series runs Feb. 16 - April 12. To learn more or register, visit z.umn.edu/recoveryhealth

Operation Round Up® gives more than \$65,000 to community programs

REGIONAL-Through the contributions of Lake Country Power's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Electric Trust Board recently approved \$65,466 in assistance to local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

The cooperative's Trust Board reviewed and considered 49 grant applications and distributed funds to 45 projects and programs this past quarter. Since the program's inception in 2004, more

than \$2.8 million has been distributed to community-based projects and programs.

All funds generated through Operation Round Up® are set aside in a trust fund. The most recent recipients in our area include Virginia Salvation Army, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Hope Lutheran Church, Second Harvest North Central Food Bank, American Association of University Women-Ely Branch, Ely Community Resource

Inc., Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry, ISD 696 Early Education, Story Portage, Mesabi Symphony Orchestra, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Quilters, Trinity Lutheran Quilters, First Lutheran Church Ely Mission Quilts, Township of Breitung, Ely ArtWalk, Ely Winter Festival, and Field Township/North Woods School.

Operation Round Up® is a charitable program unique to electric co-ops, which is designed to provide financial as-

sistance to worthwhile activities and community projects by "rounding up" members' electric bills to the nearest dollar. The average donation of each participating Lake Country Power member is less than six dollars annually.

Applications available online at www. lakecountrypower.coop (My Cooperative > Community > Operation Round Up®). The next application deadline is Tuesday, Feb. 15.

at the Capitol to keep our

recovery moving in the

right direction, address

the challenges they're still

facing, and create new

opportunities for people

to succeed and prosper,'

Rep. Ecklund said. Those

Rep. Rob Ecklund announces Jan. 25 **Listening Session in International Falls** about how we can work

INT'L FALLS- State Representative Rob Ecklund (DFL - Int'l Falls) Koochiching invites County-area community members to a Legislative Listening Session on Tuesday, Jan. 25 to discuss the upcoming Legislative Session. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at The Library Bistro in International Falls.

unable to attend the meeting are invited to share their input and ideas with Rep. Ecklund directly at rep.rob.ecklund@house.

"I'm looking forward to hearing folks' thoughts mn or 651-296-2190.

Art & Soul Gallery & Gift House The Many Facets of Me" by Dafne Caruso Part of Winter Festival, Special Exhibition, 2/1/2022 - 2/28/2022 Well known artist and business owner **Pafne Caruso** Pafne's artistic voice requires many mediums for true expression. This show is a representation of Pafne's many mediums: acrylic, watercolor, fiber, paper and metal and her latest work with wool tops. Hours: January-Thurs, Fri, Sat 10-5:00 February-Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 10-5:00

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Staffing shortages impacting Cook Ambulance service

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- It's a refrain all too common to small-town ambulance services not only across the region but across the country, and it's one that's been uttered by Karen Schultz ever since she stepped into the interim director's role at Cook Ambulance Service last year: They need more personnel. And for Schultz, the plea

"It's been an ongoing thing and we're not the only ambulance by far that's struggling with people," Schultz said. "But we don't have enough even for two people some days. We have a lot of open shifts where we might just have an EMR or an EMT. But if we don't have two people, an ambulance can't leave the hall."

That second person could be a volunteer firefighter who could drive the ambulance, Shultz said, but since they're not scheduled staff there have been times when no one has been available.

Schultz does what she can to be that second person much of the time. Outside of the 24 hours a week she's required to devote to director duties, she pulls between 430 and 490 hours a month of on-call time.

But still, gaps remain, and when a Cook ambulance can't run, that triggers a call for mutual aid from more distant ambulances in Tower or Orr. Schultz spoke in glowing terms of the relationships the Cook service has with their counterparts in Orr and Tower and credited former director Tina Rothleutner for working hard to

"I don't want to speak for Tower or Orr, but I am very, very, very grateful for the help that they give me when I'm short," Schultz said. "We've gone to Orr and Tower, too. I think now with the directors in place we're all working very well together."

But having to call in Orr or Tower when Cook can't run increases the wait time for an ambulance to arrive at the scene of a call. For minor situations, the delay may only cause frustration. For more serious situations, a delay could be life-threatening.



"Let's say a page goes out at midnight. By the time we get to the hall it's ten minutes," Schultz said. "But let's say I don't have anybody there and they send out three pages, that's 15 minutes of them paging us. On that third

page they're going to page mutual aid. So, if they page Tower, they have to get to their hall and get enroute, and if it's on the east side of Cook, we're still talking 15 to 20 minutes response time. And if the roads are bad like they were See COOK...pg. 5

today, that drive from Tower could take a half hour to 45 minutes."

Transferring patients from one medical facility to another is an additional activity that impacts

INFRASTRUCTURE

North Country projects mostly overlooked in Walz bonding proposal

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Gov. Tim Walz released his proposed \$2.7 billion capital improvements bonding bill on Tuesday, but the results were mostly disappointing for North Country entities that applied for funding consideration.

Ely was the only city or township in the region to submit a proposal that received the governor's recommendation for funding. Walz greenlighted \$1.5 million to complete construction of a regional trailhead complex and visitors center at the west end of Ely that will serve the David Dill Taconite Snowmobile Trail, the Mesabi Trail and the Prospector Loop ATV Trail.

Phase One of the project was completed in 2020, and the city hopes to move forward with the completion of the project beginning in May. The city noted that a combined trailhead facility reduces the overall costs of accommodating all three trails and will reduce future maintenance needs, all at a savings to taxpayers.

However, Walz turned thumbs down on a \$1.55 million request from St. Louis County that included \$500,000 to upgrade and extend the Prospector Loop Trail to a connection point with the Voyageur Country and Quad Cities ATV trails southwest of Tower at Pfeiffer Lake. The rejected request also included \$1 million for the Voyageur Country ATV project for planning to extend the trail into Koochiching County and to construct a segment of a trail between Lake Kabetogama, Ray, and Ericsburg.

The news wasn't all good for Ely either, as Walz declined to recommend a second request for \$2.55 million for infrastructure improvements to accommodate its West End development plans for expansion of Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital, workforce housing, and site development for a regional ambulance facility.

The city of Tower also failed in its bid on behalf of the Tower Breitung Wastewater Board to get the governor's nod for \$1.75 million to upgrade the water treatment facility. This past fall, drinking water from the facility was determined to be in violation of standards for trihalomethanes, a byproduct of increased use of chlorine to disinfect the water.

Wastewater operator Matt Tuchel told the Tower City Council in October that the TBWWB experienced its first violations of those contaminants in 2014 and 2015. A high beaver population in the area had raised the river level near the wells, increasing concerns about surface water contaminants that the water treatment plant was not designed to treat. A recent influx of new beavers created conditions for another round of violations.

Without \$1.75 million in bonding funds from the state, TBWWB would fall well short of the estimated \$5.8 million to improve the treatment facility, abandon some wells and improve others, and replace the main service line for the city of Tower.

Other regional requests Walz

passed over include:

➤ \$1.9 million requested by Crane Lake Township to construct a DNR public access point to the lake that would complement the planned Voyageurs National Park Visitors Center to be built there. The funds would have provided for land acquisition, launch ramps, docks, asphalt parking, storm water and aquatic invasive species management, a flush toilet, associated road and utility improvements, green spaces and picnic structures.

➤ \$1 million requested by the city of Babbitt for a housing infrastructure project.

➤ \$4 million requested by Biwabik for full reconstruction of three city streets, including replacement of water mains, sewer lines, storm drain sewer system and sidewalk replace-

➤ \$2.6 million requested by Chisholm to replace a 46-year-old ice plant, floors, and dehumidification systems for the Chet Tomassoni Chisholm Hockey Arena and Chisholm Curling

Other recommenda-

Walz's proposal would bring some significant funding to the area through allocations to various state agencies.

Tower and Soudan could

receive an economic boost if the Legislature goes along with Walz's recommendation for \$12 million for Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park. Funding would include construction of the Lake Lodge Visitor Center, design of the South Vermilion Ridge Campground, rehabilitation of the fire tower, parking, trail design, and construction of a renewable energy source.

Vermilion Community College in Ely would receive \$3 million to design and renovate six general purpose classrooms in the Classroom Building and College Center, and provide funds to renovate two sets of restrooms,

Sales are great!

See BONDS...pg. 5

REAL ESTATE









OPINION

"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW... ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;"

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Mineral withdrawal

There's no trick involved, just a long-established federal process

"Follow the process," was a theme that federal officials heard early and often in recent days from opponents of the proposed 20-year mineral withdrawal that would block new sulfide-based, copper-nickel mining within about 225,000 acres of the Superior National Forest within the Rainy River watershed.

For supporters of that mining in general, and the proposed Twin Metals mine, in particular, it's a favored talking point— one that suggests that the proposal to institute a 20-year ban on new mineral leasing on about ten percent of the Superior National Forest, is some kind of parlor trick, rather than a federal process in its own right, dating back to the Ford administration.

The process that mining supporters want to see is the permitting process of the mine plan proposed by Twin Metals. Both state and federal officials are currently in the early stages of that process and any resolution is years away regardless of the decision federal officials make on the proposed mineral withdrawal.

Mining supporters, along with some in the media, seem to misunderstand the reality of the project permitting process, which begins with environmental review. Many believe that it is the environmental study that determines whether a major project, like a mine, can be done in accordance with environmental standards and can move forward. That belief, stubborn though it may be, is entirely incorrect.

We've covered many environmental review processes in our 30-plus years as a regional newspaper, so we have heard the admonitions of regulators time and again. The purpose of an environmental review is not to determine whether a project is "safe" to move forward, or whether it is desirable in any way. It is designed to better understand the risks associated with a project and to develop mitigations that seek to reduce those risks to the extent that is financially feasible. It could be the most dangerous project ever envisioned by humankind, but the final environmental report will simply tick off the required boxes and dutifully point out that a tweak here and there might help reduce the risks - so let the permitting begin.

Once the review and permitting process has begun, it's like a runaway train. Don't take our word for it. State Sen. Tom Bakk acknowledged as much two years ago at a joint powers meeting in Ely. "So, once they start down that road of applying for permits, it's pretty hard to stop," he told those in attendance at the meeting.

We have created a myth

around the environmental and permitting review process, telling ourselves that it makes judgment calls about the merits of a project even though that is, explicitly, not part of its purpose. It is about mechanics and engineering, and offers no input into the broader scope of questions surrounding a risky project like a sulfide-based mine on the edge of the nation's only large, water-based wilderness.

The mineral withdrawal study is designed to answer those broader questions and, in this case, it should have been undertaken years ago. We know, for a fact, that the proposed Twin Metals mine will pose risks to the longterm water quality of downstream waters. We know that because these mines almost always result in environmental degradation. Are those risks justified? That's a question an environmental impact statement would never even explore.

We know that while the mine would bring some economic benefits to the area, we also know, or at least strongly suspect, that there would be economic dislocations as well, which could easily offset whatever economic benefits a mine might bring. That's a particular risk in a place like Ely, with a well-established economic sector based on wilderness recreation. Are the economic losses associated with a mine likely to offset, or even exceed, the benefits? At least one economic analysis out of Harvard, which the withdrawal study is likely to consider, strongly suggests the answer is yes. That's certainly relevant to the broader question about the merits of a mining project, but it's something that would not be part of a project-specific environmental review.

It's apparent that supporters of the Twin Metals mine don't want these broader questions asked, perhaps because they don't want to know the answers. Which is likely one reason the Trump administration abruptly canceled the original withdrawal study just before its completion and fought endlessly to block its release.

In the end, of course, any decision on whether to enact a withdrawal, or not, will be a political one, just as every decision to allow a mine to be built is political. But in this case, it will be a political decision, hopefully, based on well-founded answers to the appropriate questions. That's how our system has worked since the mineral withdrawal process was established back in the mid-1970s. Indeed, what is happening today is part of "the process."

IN THE PANDEMICTHERE'S NO ONE APPLYING



AND INCREASES IN WHAT I AM BUYING



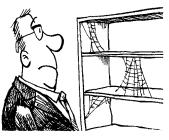
MY EMPLOYEES CALL IN SICK AND/OR DYING



SO, WHEN I THINK THIS MIGHT END CAUSE WE'RE

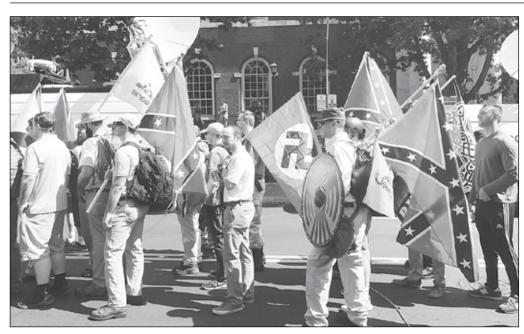


I HAVE SHORTAGES IN WHAT I'M SUPPLYING



THE COURT RULES THE END OF COMPLYING





STARS AND BARS

The weight of symbols: Jan. 6 and the Lost Cause

by Peter M. Leschak

Contributing Writer

As a postage stamp collector in the early 1960s, I was enchanted by the five commemorative issues celebrating the 100th anniversary of key events of the American Civil War. The 1961 stamp portrayed Fort Sumpter, 1962 was Shiloh, 1963 Gettysburg, 1964 The Wilderness, and 1965 was Appomattox. No explanation was required for any of these because like so many Americans at that time (especially young males) I was steeped in the conventional narratives of The War Between the States, The Blue and the Gray, Billy Yank and Johnny Reb. The fraternal squabble had been settled, and since I was a Minnesotan I considered the outcome just, and took pride in the heroic charge of the First Minnesota at Gettysburg - had a picture of it on my bedroom wall. And yes, the Confederates had fought well and valiantly, and you just had to ruefully admire Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. A century on, and through the lens of youthful naivete and national mythology, it all seemed a grand romance, like a homespun American version of the Knights of the Round Table. My illusion was widely shared.

In the early 1970s I worked on a construction crew in East Texas. Mornings we'd gather in a small worksite shelter to receive assignments for the shift, chatting and sipping coffee. The masonry foreman was called Mr. Bob, and though a good sport later in the day, we gave him a wide berth in the morning – "irascible" captures it. But one January day the master electrician pointed out the door and exclaimed, "Y'all look at that!"

Here came Mr. Bob, a grin splitting his face and a bounce to his step.

"Why, Mr. Bob," said the electrician, "what has gotten into you?'

The grin widened. "Today, sir, is Robert E. Lee's birthday!" We all chuckled. I mistook

it for a joke.

A decade later I was married to a Louisiana native and we were living in Minnesota. Her parents paid a visit and my father-in-law presented us with a stars-and-bars license plate. I'd always admired the design of the Confederate battle flag, and I attached it to the front of our car – as a gesture to my father-in-law and a tribute to my wife's home state. I considered the stars-and-bars as simply a regional symbol -- not unlike the Hamm's Beer bear, really - and at most a harmless historical artifact.

I now shudder to think how many people saw that Confederate flag on the front bumper of our Ford, though I suspect many if not most in the predominately white environs of northeastern Minnesota considered it as little more than decorative, if they paid it any attention at all.

Why shudder? Because I was among the innumerable victims of a deception so pervasive that it's skewed American history and governance for generations.

We all know there was a time when human slavery was legal in the American South, supported by evangelical Christianity as an institution sanctified by God. The dogmatic, self-righteous tendency of politicized religion is probably

See SYMBOLS...pg. 5

Defending democracy is our defining challenge

We Americans share a common faith in democracy as the best and most just system of governance. We treasure government "of the people, by the people and for the people." With the founders, we believe that governments derive their authority from the consent of the governed.

For generations, we have seen the United States as the world's cham-

pion of democracy. We challenge and criticize authoritarian regimes and cheer the spread of



democratic movements. We defend human rights and promote international coopera-

There are troubling signs, however, that the light of our democracy no longer shines as brightly as it once did. A recent

report by Freedom House said democracy was "under siege" and worldwide freedom had

declined for 15 straight years. Surveys last year in Europe and Asia found most people thought American democracy was once a good example to follow, but it no longer is.

What can we do to strengthen democracy and restore its appeal? I believe we are most effective and convincing when we demonstrate that our system can govern, that it can solve big problems: in short, when we show that democracy

This happens when we recognize the need for social and political change in our own country and pursue it. When we work to secure a free press and freedom of conscience. When we participate in elections and agree to abide by their results, whether we win or lose. When we oppose efforts to erect barriers to democracy or dismantle it, at home or abroad. When we make clear that democracy is not negotiable but

that it is bedrock to our system. Our example shines forth when we are in the front of the line standing for justice, the rule of law, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of reli-

gion. When we promote democ-

racy, consistently and without reservation, as the best way to peacefully resolve problems.

It may not be surprising that surveys found a lack of faith in American democracy in the months after a mob stormed the U.S. Capitol, trying to overturn the 2020 election. Our deeply polarized politics and the partisan dysfunction in Washington do not inspire confidence in our system.

President Joe Biden is right when he says preserving and strengthening the role of democracy is the defining challenge of

See HAMILTON...pg. 5

America's split personality enshrines political freedom and economic tyranny

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, ... all men are created equal." The Declaration of Independence is the premise for political democracy. In the economic arena, the corporate workplace tolerates democracy only in imagination. Corporate dominion grants workers no voice, no ownership and no power over how to use the wealth they create. To be whole, the economy must benefit all.

"[A]re endowed ...with certain unalienable rights ... among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." One person, one vote must apply to workers and equal protection of the law applies to everyone. The wealthy have no greater claim to rights than those who are not. Democracy, vital to our political

system, must also apply to economic rights.

"To secure these rights governments are instituted...deriving their just power from the consent of the governed." Corporations are creatures of a state to perform a public function. States have power to charter corporations and to revoke them. Common law (judges' rulings) granted free speech rights and personhood to corporations, however, legislation can and must repeal those decisions

"Whenever ... government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to abolish it." Corporations are private governments that disconnect and dominate our economy in a divisive and despotic manner toward destructive ends. They do not own the economy, the economy belongs to all and all must have a voice.

"Unstitute a new govern-

"[I]nstitute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles and organizing its powers ...to effect their safety and happiness." Our political economy functions as a split personality; politically, we struggle for free and fair elections against reactionary forces and economically, tyranny of extreme inequality consigns us to third world status. The power to imagine is the only limit to reorganizing communities for justice, peace and wholeness.

and wholeness.

Harold Honkola

Winter Haven, Fla.

SYMBOL...continued from page 4

why the United States is the only nation where a war was required to abolish slavery. Too many people considered human chattel as God's will. The moral and political degradation and hypocrisy that slavery engendered thrust the nation into battle. Let's be clear: the struggle over black bondage caused the war. That is what people of the time believed. For example, shortly after the conflict, Confederate General James Longstreet, one of Lee's ablest lieutenants, said, "I never heard of any other cause for the quarrel than slavery."

It may seem silly today to urge citizens to understand and remember that, but after the Union victory and Lincoln's magnanimous treatment of the former rebels, the losing side launched a surprisingly effective propaganda campaign to re-imagine history, creating the myth of the so-called Lost Cause. The failed Confederate rebellion was not about slavery, but about "states' rights" - not mentioning that the most important "right" was legal human bondage. The North was an oppressor nation that unjustly conquered the South in "The War of Northern Aggression," (though Confederates seceded and fired the first shots). Swept under the rug were decades of political and moral compromise to avoid sectional conflict, while preserving slavery in the South.

When the occupation of the South by Federal troops ended, the era of slavery was replaced by Jim Crow, a form of institutionalized racism only a few degrees removed from slavery itself, and often enforced by white terrorists of the Ku Klux Klan. Murder was a favored tactic; the Confederate battle flag a favored symbol. By displaying the stars-and-bars on our car, I was unwittingly offering tacit approval to segregation and discrimination, not to mention flaming crosses and thousands of lynchings, including the hanging of four black men by a white mob in Duluth in 1920. Symbols matter; symbols exert influence.

In August 2017, at a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va.,

the featured flags, waved together, were the starsand-bars and the Nazi swastika – emblems of bigotry. When I displayed the Confederate plate on our car, I could just as well have added a swastika. That would've turned some heads, and perhaps shed light on how Confederate iconology resonates among the descendants of slaves. Think of a Nazi flag flying in Tal Aviv.

In the wake of the rally - where a counter demonstrator was killed by a hit-and-run driver -President Trump failed to unequivocally condemn the neo-Confederates and the neo-Nazis. Instead, his Chief of Staff John Kelly questioned the origins of the American Civil War, suggesting that combat ensued due to a lack of compromise - in other words, both sides were in error. Historians rushed in to discredit such simplistic analysis, pointing to The Missouri Compromise, The Compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act all political and religious battles to square the circle of limiting the spread of slavery while ensuring its survival in the South. The moral cognitive dissonance proved to be too much. If slavery was wrong in one state, why was it right in another?

another?

I had to wonder about the general's motive. Was it merely an attempt – however ham-handed – to mitigate the political damage of his boss's tweets? Was he a devotee of Confederate revisionism? I hoped it was innocent ignorance. If there is such an animal.

Well, is there? I just consulted the MS Word thesaurus on this computer. I selected innocent, and sure enough, one listed synonym was unknowing. Since we can't know everything, it's fair and practical to excuse some ignorance. But not all. When it comes to history and government, two concepts that cannot be teased apart, all citizens are players. You may not be conversant with the latest astrophysical theories about galaxy formation, but you can be expected to understand civics - the essential primer of democ-

The Founding Fathers were so concerned about their perceived notion of general public ignorance they did not support universal suffrage even among white males. The qualifications they imposed upon the electorate seem crude and grossly unfair today and did not guarantee wise voters, but we may understand their concern. How much ignorance is too much? How might ignorance generate a despotic government? Adolf Hitler was elected. Gaining and maintaining knowledge and foresight is hard work. Ignorance, tribalism, and violence are easier. For all of us, in the face of our ignorance, I recommend caution, courtesy, and kindness. Apology may also be appropriate. I apologize for displaying the Confederate battle flag. I was ignorant.

I'm still learning.
When the U.S. Capitol
was violently breached last
January by a mob supporting Donald Trump's lies
about the election, it was
an attempted coup, and the
stars-and-bars was again
waving, further staining
that shameful banner. Here

is what it represents - in the 1860s and today: treason, human trafficking, murder, racism, and big lies. Several Republicans in Congress are striving to whitewash the events of Jan. 6, with one Arizona GOP Representative calling the insurrectionists "peaceful patriots." Drivel. Hundreds were injured and five died while the mob shouted, "Hang Mike Pence!" Is another grand deception defending the indefensible – in the works?

At the end of the Civil War it seemed prudent to extend mercy and goodwill to the defeated leaders of the Confederacy, to begin the healing of the nation. Ultimately that olive branch was spurned by the unrepentant mythologists of The Lost Cause and the creators of Jim Crow. In retrospect, perhaps Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, and other rebel leaders should've faced trial and judgment. Instead, Lincoln was murdered by a Confederate who considered him a tyrant. I believe John Wilkes Booth would've celebrated the Jan. 6 insurrection.

HAMILTON...Continued from page 4

our time. The United States must be the global leader in championing democracy, and commit to this fight to determine the direction the world takes in the decades

All of this requires constant effort. Democracy is not a given; it's not static but dynamic, always aborning, in Woodrow Wilson's phrase, and it always needs defending. American democracy remains a work in progress. In Biden's words, defend-

ing it requires an ongoing struggle to live up to our highest ideals.

In foreign affairs, the United States must counter authoritarianism, fight corruption, support human rights and encourage accountability. We shouldn't do this arrogantly, insisting that we always know best, but we should lead by example and encourage those seeking freedom and democracy.

At home, we need to promote civic engagement

and put democratic participation at the center of our public life. We need to protect our elections and make it easier, not harder, to vote. Our commitment to democracy should shine through in all that we say and do.

Obviously, we will not always agree. When we don't, we should rely on democratic means to settle our differences and help define, over time, the course of generations to come. We believe democ-

EMTs wasn't particularly

attractive to folks who

would rather stay at home

than spend those on-call

than 10 minutes away,

they can elect to do those

hours at home, she said,

If someone lives less

hours at the station.

racy is the best system of governing. We should always promote our core values, even as we try to live up to them and constantly strive to do better at fulfilling our ideals.

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

of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

TIMBERJAY

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COOK...Continued from page 3

the service's ability to respond to emergency calls, and Cook Ambulance does a lot of transfers, Schulz said, to Virginia, Hibbing, Duluth, Cloquet, and even as far as North Dakota.

And Schultz noted that when Tower or Orr have to respond to mutual aid calls, that likely leaves their own service area uncovered if an emergency call comes in.

"We're all shorthanded and struggling," she said.

Cook Ambulance currently has 19 EMRs, EMTs, and a couple of paramedics on their roster, and they're volunteers of all ages, married and single, most with full-time or part-time jobs. They're required to do a minimum of 24 hours on-call every month. Some do the bare minimum, some

do more, but still, it's not enough to provide complete 24/7 coverage. And the service is down a couple of members who had to be terminated because they had racked up three months without submitting their available monthly hours to be scheduled on time, Schultz said.

They've tried various ways of recruiting, Schultz said, but volunteers have been hard to come by. An aging population, more area residents commuting elsewhere for jobs, and families with more responsibilities and activities are some of the common things holding people back from stepping up, she noted.

She also suggested that on-call pay of \$3/hour for EMRs and \$4/hour for

but it still requires a strong commitment.

"People have to realize that just because the page goes out at 1 a.m., you can't roll over and say, 'I'll get that at five o'clock,'" she

Schultz hopes that a proposal she's putting together for the city council to raise on-call rates by \$1/ hour might help a little. It's an idea that's been floated before, but Schultz is committed to do whatever she can to get it approved. wants to join the ambulance service but lacks the training, Cook has financial assistance to get it, Schultz said. The city will pay the full amount for the training up front to get started, and ultimately the city pays 75 percent of the cost and the trainee 25 percent. Two people are currently taking advantage of that, Schultz said.

And for someone who

If you'd like to learn more about what working for Cook Ambulance entails or how to obtain training, Schultz would like to hear from you. Call the ambulance service at 218-666-2866.

BONDS...Continued from page 3

adjacent corridors and lobby areas, create a new entryway, and replace the Classroom Building roof.

Ely's efforts to increase childcare availability in the city could potentially get a boost from \$10 million Walz is recommending for construction and renovation of early childhood facilities, although a fully developed facility plan

would need to be readied for submission for the competitive grants. Walz also recommend-

ed \$10.2 million for the Giants Ridge ski facility to upgrade, construct, and support a new infrastructure system for the snow-making process.

There's a long way to go before a final bonding bill is drafted by the

Legislature, and Walz's recommendations are just that. Any of the above proposals could still receive or be denied funding. The Senate Capital Investment Committee, chaired by Sen. Tom Bakk, I-Cook, has been touring the state since late last summer to assess local and regional needs and will develop its own proposals, setting the stage

for negotiations to arrive at a final bonding bill.



Week of Jan. 24

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 Feb. 15.

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.

Breitung Town Board-12 noon on Jan. 27

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

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

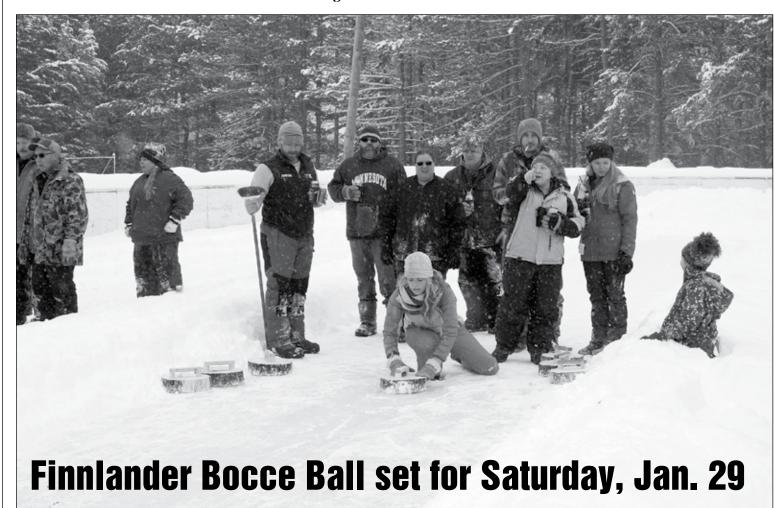
Essentia Health Medical Equipment donates six wheelchairs to loan closet

TOWER- The volunteers at the Vermilion Area Loan Closet would like to thank Essentia Health Medical Equipment & Supplies in Virginia for donating six wheelchairs to the Vermilion Area Medical Loan Closet. The wheelchairs are in good condition and vary in size. If someone you know needs to borrow a wheelchair, please contact Joe Morin at 218-780-7306. The loan closet also has walkers and bathroom accessories to lend.

Northern Red Hat Belles to meet

GREENWOOD TWP-The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet on Friday, Feb. 11 at 12:30 p.m. at the Vermilion Club for lunch. The group will order off the menu. Please RSVP to Kathy at 218-750-4867 by Feb. 7. Old members, new members, and friends are always welcome.

JOIN THE FUN



TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board is hosting Finnlander Bocce Ball on Saturday, Jan. 29 on the harbor in Tower. Team must consist of four players, two men

and two women, and must be 18 or older. Registration is \$40 per team, payable in advance, with 100-percent payout in prizes to the top four teams. Games start at 9 a.m.

The games will be played outdoors, on plowed rinks at the Tower Harbor.

For more information, call Julie Johnson at 218-750-7242. Teams can also sign up at Good

Ol' Days and D'Erick's.

Good Ol' Days will be selling hamburgers and hot dogs at the harbor, but will not be selling beverages (BYOB).

Skating rink open

ing Rink is open daily

from 4 - 8 p.m. Hours on Saturday are 11 a.m. – 8

p.m. On holidays or other

days that school is closed

the rink is open from 11

a.m. to closing. The rink may close for inclement weather, and will be

closed if the temperature

ers, located underneath

available in the warming

shack building. Boot skat-

food are being organized,

but dates have not yet

been set. Donations are

always welcome to help

cover the cost of food.

Call Chimpy Tuominen

at 218-753-6311 for in-

formation.

ing is always allowed.

There is now a new small rink for young skat-

Loaner skates are

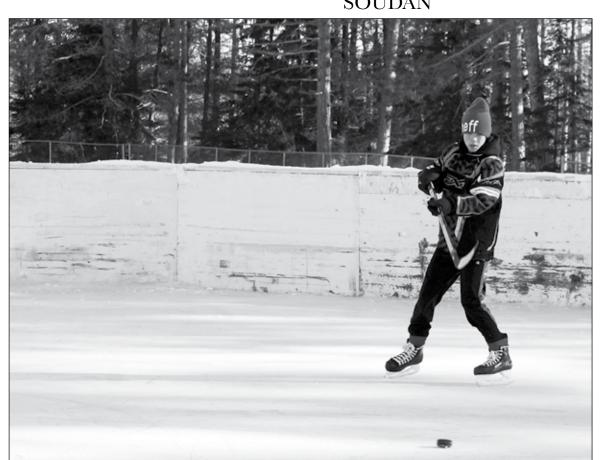
Skating parties with

is below -20F.

the pavilion.

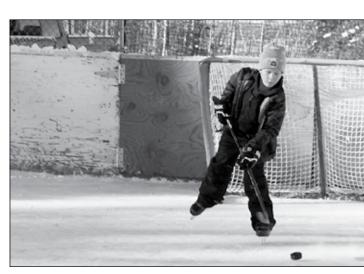
The Soudan Skat-

SOUDAN



Kayden Manick (above) and Nixon Levens (below right) played hockey at the Soudan Rink last weekend. Below: The new children's rink provides a safe spot for beginning skaters. photos by T. Trucano Majerle





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kaxe.org

Filings set for township elections

REGIONAL- Voters in Greenwood Township are the only ones in our area with competition on the ballot in the upcom-

Cook **VFW** Snowmobiler Favorites THURS: NOON-7 PM Burgers & Fried Food Fried: Chicken, Onion Rings,

Cream Cheese Wontons, Hammies, Mozzarella Sticks, with Misc. Sauces

FRI: NOON-7 PM Burgers, Chili, Loaded Baked Potato Soup

SAT/SUN: NOON-6 PM Burgers, Chili, Loaded Baked Potato Soup

Take-Out 666-0500

206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

ing township elections set for Tuesday, March 8. Rick Stoehr ran previously for a supervisor seat back in 2019, but lost by a handful of votes in a three-way race where incumbent Larry Tahija beat John Bassing and Stoehr, by five and six votes, respectively. Stoehr is a frequent audience member at Greenwood Township

RANGE JEWELRY & GIFTS **Diamond Earring** **** SALE ***⁷ 1.14 carat Reg. \$3,585 **SAVE 30%**

NOW \$2,500 🚿 OPEN: Tues-Sat 9-5 218-827-2515

Babbitt Shopping Center

meetings.

Matt Tuchel is the lone filer for the seat currently held by Breitung Service, and a member of the Breitung Fire Department.

Tuchel (seat currently held by Tim Tomsich)

ship

Other townships Kugler, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, and the city of

bent Carmen DeLuca and

Vermilion Lake Town-

Incumbent

Tim

Matt

Robert "Rick" Stoehr

Clerk-

Crystal Alaspa

anna Sunsdahl

Supervisor-

Supervisor-

Hughes (seat currently

Clerk- Incumbent Di-

held by Sarah Schmidt) **Breitung Township**

Tower all hold their elections in November (even number years).

supervisor (and chairman) Tim Tomsich, who has been on the township board for over 30 years. Tomsich is retiring from the town board. Tuchel is the plant manager for the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board and is a member (and former director) of the Tower Ambulance

ident. Incumbent Sarah

Greenwood Township

Supervisor 4- Incum-

Incumbent

Schmidt did not file.

Clerk Debby Spicer

Clerk-

Tim Hughes is a longtime Vermilion Lake res-

OUR COMMUNITY

City of Ely helps prepare Whiteside Park for Winter Festival



by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY - The 2022 edition of the Ely Winter Festival is just weeks away and old man winter seems to be cooperating with organizers. The city of Ely plays a big part in providing a variety of in-kind support for the festival, scheduled for Feb. 3-13, that is held mostly on public property.

City crews, with help from volunteers, built and filled numerous snow sculpture forms in Whiteside Park late last week. City crews will also

Annual celebration runs Feb. 3-13



help to hang and install lighting in the park to light the competed snow sculptures during the festival, remove snow from the sidewalk and curb of the north side of Whiteside

The snow sculpture forms are ready at Whiteside Park for the 2022 Ely Winter Festival, Feb. 3-13. photo by K. Vandervort

Park on Sheridan Street, set up 'no parking" signs on the north side of the park, set up barricades on the east and west sides of the park to prevent vehicles from entering the park, clear a small area by the pavilion for portable toilets, and

clear snow and fill forms at the Front Porch Coffee and Tea Co. and Carefree Living for additional snow sculptures.

Ely Flower and Seed will develop their annual ice skate rink in Whiteside

The Ely Winter Festival kick-off event is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 4, beginning at 6:30 p.m.in Whiteside Park with torch bearers.

Winter festival fans are invited to come to Whiteside Park on Friday, Feb. 4, from 3-4:30 p.m., to check out how to play the classic indigenous game of Snow Snakes.

Ely Folk School board member Rick Anderson will walk through the strategy and technique behind the game. Participants can also learn how to forage, carve, and decorate their own snow snake. Anderson is a life-long Ely resident and member of the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe.

The event is free. For more information, go to www.elyfolkschool. coursestorm.com.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



pigeons gathering in the sky, on wires, huddling

find warmth together

HOOP CAMP

Many Ely-area boys and girls in grades K-6 are spending their Saturday mornings in the Memorial High School gymnasium this winter learning basketball skills, hosted by the Ely Hoop Club. The basketball camp will conclude on Sat., Feb. 26 with the Hot Shot Contest and Hoop Club Hot Dog Feed. photos by K. Vandervort









∟ibraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support aroups

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.

Woodland Presbyterian. **CO-DEPENDENTS'** 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic

BABBITT AL-ANON

Thursdays, 7 p.m., at

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

AROUND TOWN

Ely archery results ➤ Middle School, ELY - Local youth

participated in the Hill City Bullseye Tournament held on Jan. 8. Here are the results.

Bullseye Results ➤ Fourth Grade, Male-

1st Place-(233) Braden

Jonas - Ely Public Schools

Female - 2nd Place-(269) Sabrah Hart - Ely Public School

➤ High School, Female 4th Place-(274) Abigail Johnson - Ely Public School

The next meet is at North Woods School in Cook on Saturday, Jan. 22.

Ely Senior Center Bingo

ELY - Looking for something fun to do in 2022? Members and guests are invited to the Ely Senior Center on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. for bingo.

Boards are 10 cents each per game. They play 20 games with four special games. Winners split the pot up to \$10. The final cover-all game is a jackpot game starting at \$50 and 45 numbers.

If there is no winner within the designated numbers, the game will continue until a coverall is reached and the winner will receive \$10. One number and \$5 will be added each week until the jackpot is won.

Participants must play the whole bingo session to participate in the coverall. Anyone over 55 may become a member for \$10 per year.

Tuesday Group schedule

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

➤ Jan. 25: Civic Coalition to Prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Spread into the BWCAW with Jeff Forester. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW)

Coalition was formed to dis-

cover, design and maintain a

comprehensive plan to prevent additional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) from flowing into the BWCAW through the Rainy River Headwaters access points. The Coalition grew out of discussions between BWCAW recreationalists, sportsmen/ anglers and active members of area lake associations. Outside of the governing members, representatives of the DNR, USFS, Minnesota Sea Grant, 1854 Treaty Authority, Lake County/ NSLSCD and Quetico Provincial Park have actively participated in discussions and are key partners in the implementation of any solutions.

➤ Feb. 1: Meet new Ely-area residents

Grammy or no, teacher's students know he's a winner

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- As far as Cook native Trevor Nicholas is concerned, he's already a big winner by being selected as one of ten finalists for the GRAM-MY Music Educator of the Year award from among over 1,100 nominees, and winning the award outright would just be icing on the cake.

But to a couple of his former students at Nicholas Senn High School in Chicago, Isabella Chamberland and Mia Mendoza, "Mr. Nicholas" is more than just a winner – he's a life changer.

Both young women graduated this past spring after having Nicholas as their teacher for four years. When Nicholas came on board at Senn, he followed someone who left abruptly in a way that left a sour taste in the mouths of many. While locals know Nicholas as a caring and gregarious soul, not everyone at Senn immediately welcomed

him with open arms. "Our guards were up a lot of the time," Mia said. "It definitely takes guts, especially dealing with kids from Chicago. It's really hard for us to feel like we have this teambased dynamic - a lot of us were kind of off-put because we're not used to those kinds of things. But Mr. Nicholas really made it clear to us that we're a team and he carried that through all four years. He never gave up, even if students didn't like him. I've seen him have his moments where he's had some difficulties, but he never ever let it project onto his students.'

From starting out holding choir rehearsals in a history classroom, Nicholas quickly jumped into transforming the music program by focusing on what he wanted for his students. Bettering the physical space wasn't nearly enough. His vision was to connect his students with some of the finest performers and leading music organizations in Chicago, and he did it, raising in the neighborhood of \$250,000 along the way.

"Chicago is a place of huge opportunities, and Mr. Nicholas never failed to find them," Mia said. "I came into the music program and I didn't expect it to be like this. I didn't expect it to have so many prestigious opportunities. He embodied the energy of what it felt like to be on those big stages, to be on the stage at the Lyric Opera, to perform at Wrigley Field. Those things were

But behind the big opportunities was a constant focus on both individual students and building a community.

"With Mr. Nicholas it was never just about grades or assignments or performances, or even just about the music," Isabella said. "It was really about the arts community and making sure that everybody had a voice, in choir, or music theory, or whatever sort of group he was leading. He injected community into every single thing that we did. He's a teacher who cares about the student voice more than anything else.'

That community perspective certainly rubbed off on Isabella, who took the initiative to create the Senn Music Journal, a publication composed by Senn Arts students as a different way to enhance community-building in the Senn Arts disciplines.

And little could be more threatening to a thriving community of choral singers than to be told they can't gather together anymore, but that's exactly what happened when the COVID pandemic forced Chica-



This screen capture from the collaborative music video "Who Will Carry Me?" written and directed by Trevor Nicholas illustrates a core principle of his teaching style, community building. file photo

go schools into distance learning last school year. Separated in physical space, Nicholas brought them together in the virtual world with the "Who Will Carry Me?" project, a collaborative music video of song and dance for a song he composed to reassure his students in a time of immense stress and iso-

Music is the canvas for all Nicholas has done with and for his students, his paintbrush the consistent, caring affirmation of their humanity, and his palette a willingness to share his humanity with

"He's not just a music teacher, he's a human being that just cares," Isabella said. "He's the community leader. He's just like a light in the dark tunnel that is everything bad in the world.'

And for both Isabella and Mia, Nicholas has influenced how each now look at continuing on with their music.

Isabella said she entered the program convinced she did not want to do music after high school.

"After senior year I was like there's no way I'm going to do a career that doesn't have to do with music. It has to involve it in some form,"

That career could take forms as diverse as teaching, music psychology, or exploring cultural intersections with music, sociology and anthropology, she said, but music is the common thread.

For Mia, it was a transformation in her understanding of what being a musician is all about.

"When I came in, everybody in there had this idea of what a musician looked like," she said. "Mr. Nicholas was able to bring us around so many different people that told us otherwise. Personally, the only way I thought I could be successful as a musician was to make a lot of money and become famous. Mr. Nicholas really made me realize that being a musician is nothing about that. It's how much you really care about your music and put yourself in your music. I have ADHD, and I thought I wouldn't be able to become a music

teacher, I wouldn't be able to become a professor, because that's something that would get in my way. He kind of just put me in check and made me take a step back, and I was like I can do this because I'm watching him be insanely successful, but he's still just a person in Chicago. You can still do those things without the grandiose ideas that seem unachievable."

Some of those accolades are things Nicholas has undoubtedly already heard. In the five-stage process of paring the candidate pool, one aspect involved gathering Nicholas and those who were helping to support his nomination virtually, and Nicholas recalled the facilitator saying, "Too often we give people flowers when they can't smell them." What followed was the opportunity for those gathered to tell Nicholas what impact he's had on them.

"Being told some of your impact on others' lives when you're still around to hear it is really rewarding," Nicholas said. "I hope for and I wish for the other humans

in my life to hear those things, because they exist

for all of us." Winning the Music Educator of the Year award would carry a little personal reward of its own, Nicholas admitted, but that's not why he entered the competition. He entered it for his students and for the program, hoping the visibility will bring even more attention and opportunities and funding to the Senn music pro-

"My hope is that this will allow more young people around the city to either have the opportunity to come to our school because they didn't know about us before, or to know that Chicago has performing arts programs that they would be eligible for," Nicholas said. "My hope with this whole award, really, is to bring people more hope, and to bring more life and more excitement. I can already feel some of the winds hitting some sails of people around me and in my community, and it's excit-

Community meal is Jan. 27 at Trinity **Lutheran Church**

COOK- Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook will be hosting its monthly community meal on Thursday, Jan. 27 from 4-6 p.m. This month's menu features tater tot hot dish, with sides of green beans, bread and a dessert. This free meal will be drive through and all are welcome.

Orr student's high marks honored

ORR- Luke Gabrielson, of Orr, is among the cream of the crop among those receiving Fall 2021 academic honors at Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples.

only 183 students named school is back! to the President's List, reserved for full-time students with grade point averages between 3.75 to

CLC is a comprehensive community and technical college serving about 5,500 students annually in liberal arts and career education programs.

Junior Jam talent show is back on at **North Woods**

FIELD TWP- After three days of auditions, the slate of performers is

COMMUNITY NEWS

full and talent show fans should start getting ready for fun because the Ju-Gabrielson is one of nior Jam at North Woods

> After a two-year hiatus, the Junior class is bringing back this popular show for the community on Wednesday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. in the North Woods Commons. It will feature acts from the North Woods student body who are competing for a cash prize.

The event is free and open to the public. A freewill donation to the Junior class of 2023 is encouraged to support their future endeavors.

Archers set to invade North **Woods on Jan. 22**

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Archery team will host a round robin tournament on Saturday, Jan. 22.in the school gymnasium. Teams from across the Range bring students in grades 4-12 to compete through their school's National Archery in the School Program (NASP).

Flights run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The public is welcome to attend and reminded that during competition the gym is quiet enough to hear an arrow fly through the air.



The North Woods Grizzlies 7th Grade team took second place last Saturday at the Bigfork **Huskies Classic Basketball Tournament.** Pictured, back row, from left, Alex Boone, Andrew Hartway, Jermaine Boshey, Caleb Rutchasky, and James Yernatich; front row, Eli Lindgren and Collin Grahn. submitted photo

School principal pays tribute to a man and

North Woods Principal

FIELD TWP- A couple of weeks ago I received some bad news from one of our science teachers, Joel Anderson. His uncle, Bob Anderson had passed away. I'm not going to try to

recap Bob's life or attempt to mirror his obituary, but instead I'd like to point out the importance of one of the most unsung careers in existence that Bob filled so well: The substitute teacher. Anderson had Bob

been a sub teacher at North Woods ever since I could remember, and I have been here now going on six years. He subbed wherever we needed him, and was happy to simply be a part of the school and a part of the kids' lives.

you know that he moved at a very deliberate pace, slow and steady. With his distinctive voice, I always knew when he was at the front desk reporting for duty. At the end of the school day, without fail, Bob would stick around for a little while and visit with Secretaries Carol and Connie (when they weren't on the phone, of course). Mr. Anderson, one of three at North Woods, was such a common face in our school that he might as well have had his own keys and

If you knew Bob, then

badge. The kids all knew Substitute teachers, along with substitute para-

professionals and bus drivers, play critical roles in all schools. The pandemic has shed an important light on the fact that most schools, North Woods included, are short-staffed when it comes to substitutes. It may not be common knowledge that without our dedicated pool of subs and the commitment of our teachers on staff who are willing to cover for each other during times when we are shortstaffed, we would struggle to remain open. We would struggle to have the kids in our community in school. COVID has made it impossible for teachers to stay in school when sick. We do not encourage teachers to work if they are not feeling well, but most of us are guilty

of coming to work when we have a sniffle. It's just easier than being gone. We cannot really do that anymore. Being a sub is a tough

gig, but with the right mindset and expectations, a good gig. Imagine walking into a room full of kids that you do not know. Kids thrive on relationships, and the sub likely does not have those relationships built like the regular teacher. Imagine sitting at the wheel of a school bus with 50 kids on it. Imagine that some of them are the kids you know well enough to know they're the ones that you would worry about your own kids hanging out with them. Imagine that there

are a couple in the bunch

you know will test you.

Of course, the majority of our kids are respectful and appreciative, but there is a certain amount of challenge to this aspect of being a sub. If you sub in the high school, there are certain challenges that you will encounter that will be much different from the challenges in the elementary, and all age levels come with their specific

Throughout the years Bob was also known as the "Voice of North Woods Sports." He covered announcing for football, volleyball, and basketball, attending hundreds of games over the years. He certainly had a voice for it, with a smooth delivery and the ability to keep emotions out of the game. Bob would just announce the game. Sort of like pro football announcer Howard Cosell from decades gone by, those of us who were there will always remember "the voice." It will not be the same without him. Bob was an "even-

keel" guy. Nothing rattled him in class, and he had a reputation of just rolling along with his day and doing the best he could with the kids who were there. In a profession that doesn't get the credit that it deserves, I want to let our community know how much he was appreciated at North Woods School. In tribute to one of our biggest school and sports supporters, farewell Bob, and Go Grizzlies!

Ely school employee vax mandate in limbo

ELY - A new policy approved here last week by the school board mandating that all employees of the Ely school district get vaccinated for COVID-19 or be subject to weekly testing is in limbo in light of the U.S. Supreme Court striking down an executive order issued by President

Last Thursday, after the Timberjay's deadline, the nation's high court blocked the Biden administration from enforcing its vaccine-or-test requirements for large private companies with at least 100 employees, creating a roadblock to another element of his plan to address the coronavirus pandemic.

But the court allowed a vaccine mandate to stand for medical facilities that take Medicare or Medicaid

The Ely school board, prior to the court ruling, adopted a model policy developed by the Minnesota

Policy approved prior to Supreme Court ruling

School Board Association to comply with the emergency measure. ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie told school board members that the district was required by the Minnesota Department of Education to have a policy in place by Jan. 10. Employee vaccination data was beginning to be collected last week but discontinued last Friday, Erie said

The Supreme Court rulings came three days after the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's emergency measure for businesses started to take effect, nullifying the ISD 696 policy and others like it. The vaccine policy states, "if any part of this policy is construed to be IN violation of any law, it shall not be enforced."

The mandate would have required that workers at businesses with 100 or more employees get vaccinated or submit a negative COVID-19 test weekly to enter the workplace. It also required unvaccinated workers to wear masks indoors at work.

Whether the Elyschool board will voluntarily continue with the vaccine mandate policy to protect workers remains to be seen. The district's protective face mask requirement mandated at the beginning of the school year was met with strong and vocal opposition by anti-maskers in the Ely community who would also likely oppose any other public health mandates such as vaccines or testing to keep Ely school children safe.

The need for more protections for staff and students is undisputed. Last Friday, the current COVID-19 active positive test count at the school had risen dramatically from 23 to 45 in just one day. This week, the cumulative positive test count was at 153 for the school year. A total of 48 positive cases were recorded during last school year.

According to data from the St. Louis County Health Department, 84 percent of ISD 696 employees are vaccinated. "We have at least 86 employees who have received at least one (COVID-19) vaccination,"

School board members unanimously adopted the vaccination mandate policy last Monday with little discussion. Board member Rochelle Sjoberg, who is filling in as temporary board chair, said at the time that there is the potential of changes to the policy in light of a high court ruling staying or rescinding the OSHA emergency order.

Erie told the Timberjay this week that the vaccination mandate policy will likely be rescinded at a future school board meeting. Meanwhile school officials and board members held an emergency meeting on Tuesday to consider a revised safe school learning plan amid new student and classroom quarantine guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

"Right now we're being recommended to wait until (Minnesota Department of Health) comes out with new guidance," Erie said. In the ruling to halt the

vaccine mandates for large employers, the Supreme Court wrote in an unsigned opinion, "Although Congress has indisputably given OSHA the power to regulate occupational dangers, it has not given that agency the power to regulate public health more broadly."

Liberal Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan dissented, writing that the majority has usurped the power of Congress, the president and OSHA without legal basis.

"In the face of a still-raging pandemic, this Court tells the agency charged with protecting worker safety that it may not do so in all the workplaces needed," they said in their dissent.

"As disease and death continue to mount, this Court tells the agency that it cannot respond in the most effective way possible. Without legal basis, the Court usurps a decision that rightfully belongs to others. It undercuts the capacity of the responsible federal officials, acting well within the scope of their authority, to protect American workers from grave danger," they wrote.

President Biden said the Supreme Court chose to block requirements that are life-saving for workers. Biden called on states and businesses to step up and voluntarily institute vaccination requirements to protect workers, customers and the broader community.

The employer decision blocks one of the Biden administration's more significant attempts to address the COVID-19 Omicron variant, and left the nation with avariety of state policies, leaving large employers on their own.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

GRASSROOTS POLITICS

Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party caucuses set for Tuesday, Feb. 1

the current peak in COVID numbers, the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party has altered the plan for its Feb. 1 precinct caucuses so that everyone can be safe. St Louis County

Organizing Unit 3 DFL (SLC-OU3) is adopting a Contactless Precinct Caucus system. The unit includes the northern parts of the county including Ely, Babbitt, Tower-Soudan, Cook, Orr, and Nett Lake, plus several precincts in and surrounding Duluth and south through Hermantown and Proctor.

The Contactless Caucus plan means that all those wishing to participate in the caucuses will, instead of attending a meeting in person, submit a non-attendee form. Every person who has submitted the non-attendee form can also submit resolutions. Non-attendee and resolution forms can be submitted in-person, electronically, or mailed. The forms needed to participate can be found online at https://dfl.org/ "Just download, fill out

the forms on your computer, and email them as attachments to St. Louis County DFL at slcou3dfl@gmail. com no later than 9 p.m. on Feb. 1," said Barb Crow, of Duluth Township, chair of SLC-OU3. "If you don't know the name of your

caucus, you can find it at: http://caucus.dfl.org/.Your typed signature on the form constitutes your signature."

For voters who'd like to deliver their forms in person, there will be a number of locations in the unit where people can drop them off. Drop-sites will be open Tuesday, Feb. 1, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. See the SLC-OU3 web page at https://slcou3. com/2022-precinct-caucuses/ for the location of the drop-off sites. Non-attendee and res-

olution forms will also be available at the drop-off sites if you want to complete and submit them that night. The Ely DFL Office will have the forms available during regular office hours at 1311 East Sheridan Street, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 - 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Some DFL organizing units have chosen to meet in-person with strict coronavirus protection. Go to the DFL website at https://dfl. org/caucus/to find your unit and what their plans are for caucusing this year.

Some of the procedures for the DFL caucuses have been streamlined to facilitate the contactless format, Crow said.

'If uncontested in their precinct, all of those who indicate on the non-attendee form that they would like to be delegates will be selected as delegates," Crow explained. "If a precinct has more people wanting to be delegates than there are available slots, a Zoom meeting will be held later in February to draw lots to determine delegates and

all resolutions submitted will be forwarded to the organizing unit resolutions committee for compilation and will then be submitted to the SLC-OU3 convention for consideration. Precinct chairs and vice-chairs will be elected at the unit's central committee meeting at a later date, following

election season will be critical for the future of our democracy.

"Because of redistricting, which happens to U.S. Census, all state House and Senate seats are up for election, as are every statewide office and every Congressional District seat," she said. "The caucus is where grassroots democracy begins, so we hope we have wide participation in the process this

For questions, contact slcou3dfl@gmail.com or call Barb Crow at 218-349-

St. Louis County-06 caucuses will be held in person. Information on caucus locations can be

$\mathbf{MINING}_{\bullet\bullet\bullet}$ Continued from page 1 -

the country's need for the strategic metals the mine the transition to cleaner sources of energy.

"Human caused climate change poses a real threat," said Lucas Franco, with a Twin Cities-based construction union. "We need to increase investments in clean energy, and that takes minerals." Franco urged the federal officials who listened to the nearly three hours of comment on Saturday, to conduct an environmental impact statement on the Twin Metals proposal before deciding on the wisdom of a mineral withdrawal. "We need to let the process play out," he said.

Ely Mayor Roger Skraba echoed that sentiment, arguing for a review of the Twin Metals project.

What happened to the process?" Skraba asked. "If they can't meet the standards, it won't go. We trust the science, not the political science," he added.

Ida Rukavina, director of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools, and daughter of the late and longtime legislator Tom Rukavina, cited all of the modern conveniences, including renewable energy sources, that rely on the minerals that could be mined along the Duluth Complex, which includes deposits identified by Twin Metals. "Withdrawal gets us no closer to addressing

climate change," she said. Yet, the mine would do little to address climate

would create and about change or provide strategic metals for domestic consumption, according would produce, which they to Becky Rom, of Ely, argued were necessary for who spoke as well on Saturday. Rom noted that Antofagasta, parent company to Twin Metals, ships all of its copper concentrates to China, where the product ends up on the world market, rather than reserved for domestic use in the U.S. "We get the majority of our nickel from Canada, which has 28 times the U.S. reserves," she said. "And Australia has enough cobalt in one mine to supply the U.S. for 270 years."

> Samantha Chadwick, a frequent Boundary Waters visitor, noted that thousands of jobs already depend on the Boundary Waters. "That's part of the current economy and the area's future as long as the Boundary Waters is protected." It was a theme echoed

At the same time,

by speaker Lincoln Fetcher. who noted that mining is becoming increasingly automated, which will limit the jobs that any mine creates. "The current economy supports many more jobs than mining will," he said.

'Mining jobs come and go, mostly go, leaving broken communities in their wake," said Daniel Iverson, an Ely area property owner, picking up on that same theme.

But some questioned whether an economy built on outdoor recreation can really provide for families. "Tourism jobs don't pay the bills," said Joel Smith,

a trades union member. "The economy of northern Minnesota depends on mining."

Still others thought the decision on the management of lands in the Superior National Forest should be left to local residents. "My family gets the privilege to go to the state fair once a year," said Dan Snidarich, with the union of Operating Engineers. "It doesn't mean I have the right to tell them how to live. This is a local issue,"

he said. Skraba agreed that local residents should get a bigger voice, but that idea didn't sit well with state Rep. Jim Davnie, a metro area legislator, who said everyone, regardless of where they live, should have an equal voice in the management of federal lands.

"As a legislator I can attest that the state's mining regulations are not up to the task of assessing and managing the threat that copper sulfide mining poses to this unique ecosystem," he said.

Lawson Gerdes, a retired ecologist, who lives near the proposed mine site, said the withdrawal issue goes well beyond the study of a single mine proposal. "An EIS does not cut it," she said. "This is not about one mine." Gerdes described the region under consideration as a critical part of a two million-acre landscape of near-boreal forest that grows more structurally diverse as it ages, helping to retain soils

and sequestering carbon.

"This is a fully functioning

landscape ecosystem of exceptional high quality and is the foundation of all that is at risk from sulfide ore mining" she said

Of the dozens of speakers at the hearing on Saturday, about twothirds spoke in favor of the withdrawal, with the rest opposed. Speakers were selected randomly from the larger number of registrants who had sought to speak.

The last of three hearings on the issue was held Tuesday night, and the public comment phase of the withdrawal process closed on Wednesday, Jan. 19. If the withdrawal is eventually approved, a decision that would most likely come in 2023, it would prohibit mineral leasing on approximately 225,000 acres of the Superior National Forest located upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, within the Rainy River watershed.

A withdrawal, by law, could last no longer than 20 years. It would only affect federal mineral rights within the designated area and would not prevent mineral leasing on lands owned by the state of Minnesota or private parties. If approved, the withdrawal would not cancel legitimate existing federal mineral leases, which means it may or may not impact the validity of the two federal mineral leases currently held by Twin Metals. Those leases

are the subject of ongoing

review by the Biden admin-

istration.

alternates." According to Crow,

redistricting. Crow said the 2022

found at dfl.org/caucus. Forms can be mailed or emailed to cathydaniels. cd@gmail.com or mailed to SLC-06, PO Box 494, Hibbing, MN 55746 by Jan. 29, or can be brought to the caucus on Feb. 1.



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CITY OF ELY

Ely Fire Department calls increase dramatically in 2021

by KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY - The Ely Fire Department experienced a surging volume of fire and medical calls over the last three years, according to a report delivered by Chief David Marshall at Tuesday's city council

In 2021, the all-volunteer crew was called out to 329 fire and medical calls, up from 240 in 2020 and 183 in 2019.

meeting.

Marshall attributed the increasing number of responses to medical emergencies, as many as 244 last year.

"We're on a trend, and not necessarily a good trend," Marshall told the city council members ."The number of calls is increasing dramatically, and certainly COVID-19 is factoring into that as the Chief cites COVID-19 medical calls as contributing factor

coronavirus pandemic has increased our responses." Marshall noted a slight

discrepancy in last year's

response numbers. "The Blueberry Fest windstorm was counted as one call for our members. but there were actually 13

separate calls to 911 dis-

patch that night," he said. The Greenwood Lake forest fire also kept the department busy last summer. The initial call was followed up by other non-emergency dispatches, including water truck calls. There were 376 total events tallied last year for

The total payroll was \$86,510 in 2021, with \$48,311 paid out for fire

fire department members,

including as many as 60

training, meeting and other

call responses. The officers were paid \$19,070, and the chief was paid \$14,350.

The average response ratefordepartmentmembers was at 38.4 percent last year, according to Marshall, who shoots for at least a 30-percent response rate from all members. 'Of the 72 fire calls, we

had three members who had 50 calls or above, and seven members who answered at least 40 calls," he said. Marshall also pointed

out that a majority of the

department's calls were

for incidents inside the city "Calls outside of the city for help in Morse Township or Babbitt accounted for about 15

percent of our total calls

last year," he said.

Since the beginning

of the new year, the fire department fought sub-zero and equipment freezing conditions to battle a house blaze on Jan. 5. The department was dispatched to a three-car head-on collision on Sheridan Street on Jan. 12. Earlier this week, firefighters responded to a house flooding incident because of a frozen water

Bucking decades of tradition, Marshall related that the fire department membership approved changing training nights from the third Wednesday of the month to the third Thursday of each month.

"This night just works better with our training resources," he said.

The department continues to research options for purchase of a replacement ladder truck for 2022.

"We are working with two different vendors and looking at some different offerings," he said.

Other business

In other business, the council:

> Approved the council and staff to attend the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Legislative Action Day in St. Paul on March 2. ➤ Approved a rec-

ommendation from the Projects Committee to proceed with listing of Sibley Court lots with Jim Burke and Keller William for a seven-percent commission rate.

➤ Approved the sale of a lot at 40 N Klondike Rd. for \$27,500.

➤ Approved the completion of the one-year pro-

bation periods for Elypolice officers David Wimmer and Joseph Olufson.

➤ Authorized Police Chief Chad Houde to attend the Executive Training Institute Chief conference

➤ Changed the Feb. 1 council meeting to a 5 p.m. start time and a 6 p.m. end time due to state caucuses that night.

in Duluth, April 4-7.

➤ Approved a resolution authorizing the Knights of Columbus Council 3238 to conduct Bingo on Feb. 13 and April 3. ➤ Heard from

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski who related an increasing number of water main breaks around the city and asked residential customers to monitor their water lines during the extended cold temperatures.

News in brief

Two hurt in one-car crash

REGIONAL - Snow and icy conditions were listed as contributing

factors in a one-vehicle crash on Highway 169 near Wolf Lake Road on Monday, Jan. 17 at about 12:30 p.m.

According to the

Minnesota State Patrol, a 1999 Honda CRV driven by Hannah Elise Jonas, 21, of Ely, was traveling southbound on Highway 169 near Wolf Lake Road

when it lost control in a curve and drove off the road into a tree.

Jonas and a passen-

ger, Lucia Marguerite Chavarria, 22, of Ely, both ing injuries and were transported to Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. Both occupants were wearing seatbelts and alcohol was not involved, according to the incident report.

sustained non-life threaten-

The Ely Area Ambulance Service, Ely Police Department and the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department responded to the incident.



COVID-19 Vaccinations - Part 2

Q: What are the current recommendations for when to get a COVID-19 booster? **A:** Below are recommendations for each of the three available vaccines: <u>Pfizer</u>

- Anyone age 12 and older is eligible
- Get the booster five months after completing the initial series

Adults age 18 and older are eligible

- Get the booster six months after completing the initial series Johnson & Johnson Adults 18 and older who initially received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine
 - Get the booster two months after the initial dose

You can get either the Pfizer or Moderna booster regardless of which vaccine you received.

Q: Does it mean that the vaccine isn't working since I need to get a booster? A: COVID-19 vaccines are still working well to prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death.

However, public health officials are seeing a reduction in antibodies over time against mild or moderate cases of COVID-19. With the booster, you have a better chance of not getting COVID-19 or at least not experiencing severe symptoms. The recent surge in the Omicron variant reaffirms the need for

Q: Do I still need to get a flu shot if I got vaccinated for COVID-19?

A: Yes - The flu and COVID-19 are different diseases, so you need both vaccines to be protected. Getting the flu shot will not counteract the effects of the COVID-19 vaccine, and it is safe for you to get them at the same time. Ely Community Pharmacy offers Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccinations and flu shots every Friday from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. with no appointment necessary.

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

ebch.org

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

Three cars involved in Ely crash

ELY-Police responded to a head-on collision the afternoon of Jan. 12 involving three vehicles on West Sheridan Street.

According to an accident report from the Minnesota State Patrol, a 2008 Honda CRV driven by Paul Fredrick Smith, 86, was traveling east on Sheridan Street near Voyageur Lumber at about 4 p.m. when it crossed the centerline and struck

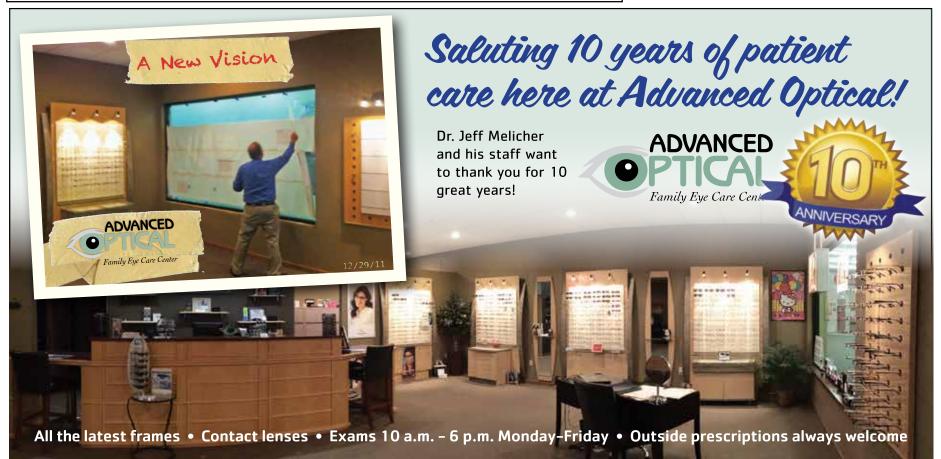
a westbound 2008 Ford Ranger driven by Eric Stephen Mase, 63. Both drivers were taken to Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

A third vehicle, a 2009 Subaru Forester driven by Elizabeth Marie Townsend, 37, was also damaged in the crash, according to police.

No road condition information or addresses of the drivers were provided by police. All drivers were wearing seatbelts. No alcohol was involved in the accident.



Read the news online at www.timberjay.com



January 21, 2022 TIMBERJAY Newspapers



The Ely High School Nordic ski team, above, participated in a flag parade at the youth ski league opening day celebration last Sunday at Hidden Valley Recreation Area. photos by K. Vandervort

SKI Continued from page 1

and enjoy cross country skiing. The program emphasizes fun and fitness as the primary elements of this family activity

Members gathered for the traditional opening ceremony, including a torch lighting and flag parade featuring members of the Ely High School Nordic ski team. Todd Hohenstein, dressed in his Sunday best, took his traditional position as the opening-day emcee. He gathered dozens of young skiers and families in the bowl, located next to the chalet, and led them through a few warm-up drills before the students gathered with coaches in their respective age groups and started on an afternoon of safe

instruction and fun.

Organizers reminded participants' families that snack time this year will be held outside and not in the chalet, due to COVID-19 public health protocols, and encouraged parents to stick close and possibly keep their vehicles warm for their skier. Kindergartners need to have their

parents with them at all times, in skis or boots.

Ski sessions will be held on the following Sundays: Jan. 23, 30, and Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, from 2-3 p.m.

To join the Ely Ski and Bike Club and to participate in the youth ski league, (\$75 for a family membership), go to https://www. elynordic.org/ to fill out a membership application. Equipment rental for those who need skis is \$25 per skier with a \$50 deposit. The \$50 deposit will be refunded at the end of the season when equipment is returned.

COVID ... Continued from page 1

Mayo modelers have adjusted their predictions based on experience in other areas of the country and abroad where Omicron peaks have been high but have also tapered off rapidly compared to peaks driven by other coronavirus variants such as Delta.

"That's the silver lining,"saidMattBinnicker, Mayo's director of clinical virology. "It's a crazy roller coaster ride of a fast rise to the peak, then a quick drop-off from there."

However, given that current infection rates are higher than they've ever been, a decline from skyhigh numbers will still mean case numbers will be higher for a period of time than during fall's Deltadriven wave. The impact on healthcare systems will be tempered somewhat because Omicron is resulting in less serious illness and hospitalizations overall.

Meanwhile, the widely cited model from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington suggests that Minnesota already reached its peak on Monday. Case data reports from the Minnesota Department of Health

Open Tuesday-Saturday

are still days away from lending credence to that assessment, but the most recent report reflecting 10,651 new cases from Jan. 13 remained consistent with high case loads in the preceding seven days.

However, if the most recent and short-lived trend in St. Louis County continues, the peak could possibly have passed here.

County case numbers are reported by the date specimens were collected, a process that causes county reporting to lag slightly behind state reports. But the trend has been significantly downward since hitting a seven-day average high of 276.3 on Jan. 9, a county record for the pandemic. By Jan. 13, that average had decreased to 153.6, a potentially encouraging development, although still well above case averages in mid-December.

The numbers for the however, are mixed.

On the positive side, the biweekly case rate used for schools has dropped below 50 for the first time in several months, coming in at 46.44, the lowest of any region in the county. However, since the most recent measure covers

the last two weeks of December, that number will likely go up again when the reporting period includes the first week of January.

Data for the week ending Jan. 2 were less encouraging, as cases reported in those between the ages of 10 and 39 more than tripled in the northern part of the county from the prior week, jumping from 12 to 37, and smaller increases were posted for all other ages.

The most recent North Country zip code case data monitored by the Timberjay also revealed cases continue to climb. The Jan. 13 report showed a weekly increase of 37 cases in Ely, and a two-week total of 57 cases, about the same number reported in the prior four weeks. Although less dramatic, six new cases were reported last week for Cook, four in Embarrass, $northern\,part\,of\,the\,county,\quad seven\,in\,Orr, five\,in\,Tower,$

and two in Soudan. Bois Forte Health Services most recently reported four new cases on Jan. 14 and a total of 39 active cases, 27 at Nett Lake and 12 at Vermilion. Eleven of those cases involved individuals under the age of 18.

CHARGES...Continued from page 1

two miles from the residence. Officers observed a vehicle nearby and identified Bjorhus as one of the three occupants. The other two individuals were

determined by officers to have been contacted by the suspect for assistance and were released after it was determined they had no knowledge of the shooting

incident.

Authorities did not divulge the type of firearm used in the attack. The investigation remains





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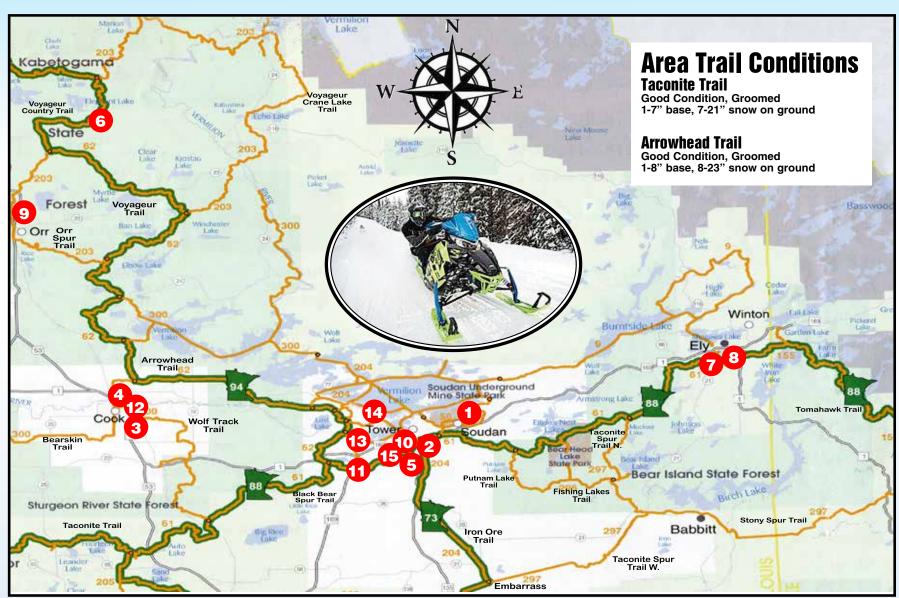
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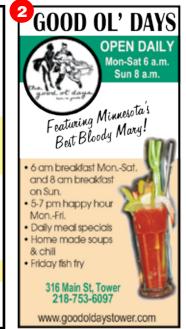
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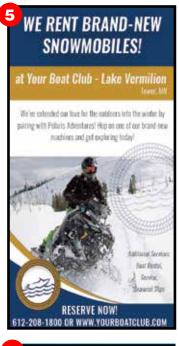
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SPORTS

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1B

NORDIC SKIING

String of Ely seconds at Duluth sprint relays

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

DULUTH— Ely's top Nordic skiers placed highly in weekend sprint relay competition held here on Saturday, finishing just behind the teams from Duluth East.

The two-man team of Gabriel Pointer and Jon Hakala finished second in the Class A competition among the six teams participating, with a combined time of 10:52.5. For the girls, Zoe Devine and Phoebe Helms combined for a time

of 12:26.3, finishing just ten seconds behind Duluth East.

In Class B competition, Otto Devine and Micah Larson combined for a second-place finish, as well, at 12:04.8. Duluth East's team blazed through the course, besting the Ely racers by a minute and a half. For the girls, Gracie Pointer and Ava Skustad finished at 14:04.6, good for fourth place.

In Class D boys competition, Ely's Leo Stalmer and Liam Lacey finished third in a field of a dozen teams, with a time of 12:58.3, which was less than eight seconds behind the first-place finishers.

Ely is set to visit Grand Marais on Friday to take part in the Cook County Invitational. They'll be hosting another Ely Invitational at Hidden Valley on Thursday, Feb. 3, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Right: Jon Hakala and Gabriel Pointer were all smiles after finishing second in the Class A sprint relay competition held in Duluth on Saturday.

submitted photo





GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies swat 'Hawks

Cook-Orr Editor

BABBITT- The North Woods and Northeast Range girls basketball teams squared off on Monday in a rematch of their season opener, and once again the Grizzlies prevailed, defeating the Nighthawks,

Coming off a stinging 102-46 loss last week to state contender Mt. Iron-Buhl, the Grizzlies rolled into Babbitt determined to get off to a fast start against the 2-7 Nighthawks, and that they did. Seven minutes into the game and fueled by eight points from Hannah Kinsey and five from Hannah Cheney, North Woods led 15-2. They extended the lead to 23-2 before Maizy Sundblad hit a 13-foot jumper to break NER's scoring drought.

——— Slow start proves fatal for Northeast Range

Above: NER's Maizy Sunblad goes up for a shot under pressure from the Grizzlies' Rory Bundy.

Right: Thia Lossing blocks Addison Burckhardt, of North Woods, allowing teammate Natalie Nelmark to cut inside.

photos by D. Colburn

"I thought we just kind of came out a little flat, a little slow," Nighthawks Head Coach Paxton Goodsky said. "They didn't."

Grizzlies Head Coach Liz Cheney was hoping to get a big lead early so that she could give her starters some extra rest ahead of a Tuesday night game against

See GIRLS...pg. 2B



Ely offers no port for Two Harbors



by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

ELY- Turnovers and missed free throws proved the Timberwolves' undoing in a tight contest with Two Harbors here on Tuesday. Ely wasn't at full strength, as starters Madison Rohr and Sarah Visser were out of commission, and that gave the Agates the advantage they needed to edge the Wolves, The Wolves saw plenty of pro-

duction from two of their remaining

Left: Ely's Grace LaTourell works the ball around a Two Harbors defender.

photo by J. Greeney

starters, as Grace LaTourell and Madeline Perry poured in 19 points apiece. "Grace stepped up and handled the ball for us most of the game," said Head Coach Max Gantt. "In addition to her 19 points, she also had a bunch of rebounds and some blocks." Perry notched two three-pointers on the night.

Madeline Kallberg also contributed, with eight points, including

But the Wolves missed six shots from the charity stripe in the second half, adding to five missed shots in

the first half. "We had a few too many turn-

See ELY GIRLS..pg. 2B

BOYS BASKETBALL

Ely dumps Huskies

Wolves now at 7-5 on the season

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

BIGFORK—The long bus ride to Bigfork didn't slow the Timberwolves here on Tuesday night as they pummeled the Huskies 72-43 to improve their season record to 7-5. While Ely had built an 11-point lead by the break, they broke the game open in the second half. "We played really well on both ends of the floor," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald.

Senior guard Joey Bianco had a big night for Ely, racking up 27 points, eight rebounds and eight assists. Senior guard Harry Simons, who broke his hand in the first game of the season, was finally back in action for Ely and he made a difference, with 13 points and strong defensive play. Senior Mason Davis added 12 points for the Wolves, while eighth-grade guard Jack Davies added nine

Turnovers proved critical for the Wolves on home hardwood last Friday, as they slipped 65-58 to Nashwauk-Keewatin in a hardfought contest where both teams

See WOLVES...pg. 2B

In battle of the bruins, Grizzlies rout Polar Bears

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP-At the outset of their Jan. 11 contest with North Woods, it looked like Floodwood might just have enough height and speed to give the Grizzlies a good challenge.

But looks, as they often are, were deceiving, as the Grizzlies opened with one of their best halves of the season en route to a dominating 97-35 win.

It was raining threes in the North Woods gym as the Grizzlies put on a clinic in running sets and finding open shooters against Floodwood's zone. Out of 34 attempts, the Grizzlies drained 14, a respectable 41 percent. Eight different Grizzlies popped in treys.

And while the offense was cranked up, the defense was dialed in. In an eight-minute stretch, the Grizzlies allowed only three Floodwood points, all from

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

CITY OF TOWER

Council leaves city levy unchanged for 2022

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

TOWER— The city of Tower's tax levy will remain the same in 2022 following council action on Dec. 27. The city will levy \$394,761, the same as in 2021. That includes \$389,761 for the general city levy, and

\$5,000 for the Tower Economic Development Authority.

The city's financial circumstances have improved somewhat over the past year, in part due to savings from the discontinuance of the city's police contract with Breitung Township back in March.

The council did give final

approval on Dec. 27 to a new contract with the township for police coverage, but at a new price tag that will save the city more than \$50,000 over the previous agreement.

In other action, the council:

Approved a new point
Fisale sewer inspection form

of-sale sewer inspection form.

➤ Hired OIivia Suihkonen

to serve as a part-time seasonal worker for the city.

➤ Agreed to sell the city's Ambulance #3 for \$5,000 to an undisclosed buyer.

➤ Agreed to set water and sewer rates for 2022. Water was set at \$75.50 per quarter, with sewer at \$100.50 per quarter for both residential and commercial

properties. The quarterly bill will also include \$16.50 for capital reserve, \$37.40 for operation and maintenance, and \$28.60 for filtration debt from the construction of a new water filtration plant back in 2000.

HOCKEY

Wolves hit the skids with two more losses

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY – Greenway mustered a dominating performance here on Tuesday as they dumped Ely 9-1 while limiting the Wolves to just five shots on goal. The loss left Ely's season record at 2-12.

The Raiders kept Ely goalie Chase Sandberg busy all night with 57 shots on goal, most of which he was able to turn aside. Greenway scored their first point just three minutes into the game and added two more goals in the first period to take a 3-0 lead. They added three more goals in the second period before Ely's Kole Macho scored at the 5:21 mark, with assists by Deegan Richards and Jace Huntbatch, to make the score 6-1.

The Raiders scored again in the second period to take a 7-1 lead, and scored twice more in the first two minutes of the final frame for the 9-1 victory.

Neither team had any penalties for the night.

A trip to Baudette last Friday did little to improve the Wolves' success on the ice, as they suffered a 6-0 shutout by Lake of the Woods. The Bears posted 61 shots on goal, to just 11 for Ely.

Ely was called for five penalties and spent 21 minutes in the sin bin, while Lake of the Woods had one penalty for two minutes. Kaden Zupancich and Chase Anderson were each called for two penalties in the game.

The Bears lit the scoring lamp just 45 seconds into the game and added another score just a minute later to take a 2-0 lead. Another score at 5:51 gave Lake of the Woods a 3-0 lead after the first period. They scored a power play goal in the second period to take a 4-0 lead, and

two more goals for the night in the last frame.

The Timberwolves were set to play at Ashland, Wis., on Friday, Jan. 21, and were scheduled to host the Oredockers on Tuesday, Jan. 24 at the Ely Ice Arena. Ely will host Bagley/Fosston on Saturday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m.

GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

undefeated South Ridge. Because the first string delivered, the Grizzlies' reserves saw a lot of game action on Monday, and there wasn't a lot of drop off.

In fact, one of those reserves, eighth-grader Lauren Burnett, edged out Kinsey for team high scoring honors, 13-10. In all, ten Grizzlies recorded scores on the night. Cheney

had good things to say about Burnett and another reserve, eighth-grader Tatum Barto.

"Lauren started tonight as an eighth grader," Cheney said, noting the Grizzlies were without two of their regular starters. "Tatum came off the bench first, and I was really excited for both of them. Tatum and Lauren are two girls that I think

are really going to be contributing as we move into the playoffs this year."

And while they couldn't cut into the lead, the Nighthawks picked up their own pace a bit in the second half, riding the shooting hands of Sundblad and Natalie Nelmark, who both tallied five points.

Sundblad paced NER for the game with

time and 12 of them scored.

10 points, and Nelmark dropped in nine.

"I've gotta tip my hat (to North Woods)," Goodsky said. "They outworked us today. I think we calmed down a little bit, putting a little bit of effort in at the end of that first half, but I was a little upset with our effort today."

Cheney said the outing was a good opportunity to work on some aspects of

play they don't typically get to address in game situations.

"Tonight we worked on our zone defense, which I'm not a big fan of, but there are times when you need to play that," Cheney said. "And we worked on some different offenses that when you're playing a team like Mt. Iron or South Ridge you can't make quick adjustments against."

South Ridge

The extra rest and fine tuning didn't do much for the Grizzlies when they came back home to face the Panthers on Tuesday. South Ridge ran its perfect record to 12-0 with a 77-23 win.

No Grizzlies scored in double figures. Barto led the team with seven points, including two treys.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

the free throw line. With Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe giving his bench a good first-half workout, North Woods still held a monstrous 51-14 lead at the half.

Floodwood was slightly more effective in the second half at driving to the basket for scores, and the Grizzlies weren't quite as sharp, but all 15 Grizzlies logged playing

A late flurry of baskets left the Grizzlies just shy of the century mark as time ran out.

Kleppe couldn't have

Kleppe couldn't have asked for more balanced

scoring from his starting five. Jared Chiabotti took scoring honors with 15, followed by T.J. Chiabotti with 14, Brenden Chiabotti with 11, and Alex Hartway and Sean Morrison with 10 each. Coming off the bench, Jonah Burnett dropped in 12 points.

The Grizzlies were scheduled to put their 10-1 record on the line at home Friday against Mt.

Iron-Buhl. After a Tuesday road trip to take on Fond du Lac, North Woods will get a little extra practice time before returning to the court on Jan. 25 for a home game against Cherry.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B-

held the lead at times.

"We opened up a ninepoint lead in the second half but it soon disappeared as we couldn't handle their half-court trap, which led to many turnovers from us and fast break layups for them," said McDonald. "I thought we competed well throughout the night, but just couldn't get it done when we needed it," said McDonald. Bianco led the way for Ely, pouring in 22 points and grabbing 13 rebounds for a double-double. Davis added 19, while Davies had a big night, with 15 points. Junior Erron Anderson added nine points and grabbed eight boards to round out the stats for the Wolves.

The Wolves are currently scheduled to face Mt. Iron-Buhl on Friday

and will host Duluth-Marshall on Saturday and Wrenshall on Tuesday. Be aware that COVID-19 outbreaks have led to the cancellation of many sporting events in recent days, so

readers are advised to check with the school to confirm that games will be played.

ELY GIRLS

Continued from page 1B overs, and we missed some

big free throws, but we

fought about as hard as I

could have asked for," said

Gantt. "We came up short in this one, but I'm super proud of our effort."

Range was canceled.

Monday.

Last Thursday's contest against Northeast

Looking ahead, the

Wolves are scheduled to host Duluth-Marshall on Saturday and Bigfork on



Memories of the Early Days

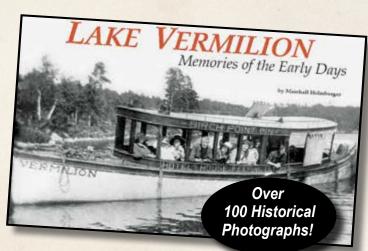
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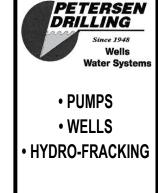
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THE TIMBERJAY

January 21, 2022 3B

PASTIES 101

Ely Folk School teaches the art of comfort food

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - Pretty much every culture around the globe has a food tradition featuring savory pastry parcels. The Ely Folk School is offering classes to area foodies this winter to learn how to make the popular comfort food known as pasties.

The instructor, Lacey Squier, who also happens to be the chair of the board of the folk school, loves cooking food of all kinds. She is an amateur chef who spends much of her free time learning how to recreate dishes from her favorite restaurant and travel experiences.

"It is liberating to realize you can have anything you want for dinner, as long as you're willing to make it yourself," she said.

When not experimenting with food at home, "and making a huge mess of my kitchen," Squier said she likes to take walks or go on a hike with her spouse, Eric, and their dog Wendell.

Last weekend, two in-person students and a number of online students learned to make Jamaican Beef Pasties inspired by Pimento Jamaican Kitchen and Rum Bar in Minneapolis.

Participants learned how to make signature golden, turmer-

ic-infused pastry crust using butter and sour cream, which were filled with beef and a typical blend of Jamaican aromatics (scallions, garlic, curry powder, allspice, and habanero chile).

"This recipe can easily be made vegetarian using the cook's preference for a beef substitute," Squier said.

For those foodies who are looking to make the more traditional Cornish pasties, Squier will teach another EFS class on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 9 a.m. to noon. This recipe features pork, beef, potatoes, onions, and rutabaga.

"We will also discuss factors to consider when developing your own signature pasty recipe according to your tastes and preferences," she said.

Getting a little more ethnic, Squier will teach a two-session live/online class, "Happy Hour in Rio: Coxinhas an Caipirinhas," on Thursday, March 10, from 6-8:30 p.m. and Friday, March 11, from 5-7:30 p.m.

"Coxinhas are Brazilian chicken croquettes that I first fell in love with while traveling in Brazil for our honeymoon," Squier said. "Join us to make these tasty croquettes."

For more information on all the classes offered by the Ely Folk School, go to www. elyfolkschool.org.





Above: Instructor Lacey Squier shows class participants, both in-person and online, how to prepare the filling for the pasties. Left: Linda Sutton gets ready to chop her onions. photos by K. Vandervort



Obituaries and Death Notices



John B. Barich Sr.

John B. "Johnny" Barich Sr., 86, of Ely, passed away on Friday, Jan. 14, 2022, at the Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital. A Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with Rev. Fr. Dennis Hoffman as celebrant. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Spring burial will be in the Ely Cemetery. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Johnny was born in Ely on April 23, 1935, and was a lifelong Ely resident. On Jan. 15, 1955, he married Bonnie Maddern. John was a proud lifelong miner who retired in 1997. He had many other employment experiences over the years including

delivering fuel oil, working for the Ely schools, and driving school bus.

When he was not working or caring for his family, Johnny very much enjoyed performing with his brothers Bernie and George in the Barich Brothers Polka Band. John was a proud member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. He was known by many around town and will be remembered for his caring nature, kindness, and his sense of humor

sense of humor.

Johnny is survived by his two children, Patty (Bryan) Rusco and John (Geri) Barich Jr.; four grandchildren whom he cherished dearly, April, BJ and Casey Rusco and Lauren Barich; and brother, Bernie (Kathy). He was also recently blessed with the addition of two great-grandchildren, Tucker and Tripp Rusco (BJ and Jordan).

He was preceded in death and is now reunited with many family members and friends including his beloved wife, Bonnie; their daughter, Debbie; his parents, George and Frances; sisters, Mary, Sophie and Annie; brothers, George and Albert; and many other friends, neighbors and co-workers.

Patricia J. Marsnik

Patricia Jo "Pat" Baier Marsnik, 72, of Ely, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021, as the result of a tragic car accident near Ely. A funeral service will be held at a later date. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral

Home of Elv. She is survived by her husband of 39 years, Raymond Marsnik; children, Trish (Barry) Weisinger of Ely and John (Heather) Scufsa of Inver Grove Heights; grandchildren, Emily (Dan) Forsman of Ely, Stephen Weisinger of Ely, Addison Scufsa, Bekkah Scufsa and Rachael Scufsa, all of Inver Grove Heights; great-grandchild, Baby Forsman (due in March); sisters, Beth (Don) Petersen of Austin and Barb (Steve) Fultz of Babbitt; brother, Robert Baier Jr. of Ely; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; sisters-in-law, Ruth Mahin of Oregon, Lori (Charlie) McNulty of Ely, Jeanette McManus of Arkansas and Luanne Kuzma of Indiana.

Ina G. Haapala

Ina Gene Hartfield Haapala, 88, of Babbitt, passed away at home on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, surrounded by her family. A Service of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, Jan. 18 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Babbitt with Rev. Zachariah Burgdorf officiating. Interment was in the Ely Cemetery. Family services were provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in

Virginia. She is survived by her brother, Michael Hartfield; sister, Irene Hartfield; children, Clayton (Sandy) Haapala, Jennifer (Tom) Merhar, Lizbeth (Galen) Holewa, Alec (Deanna) Haapala and Eric Haapala; grandchildren, Corwin and Kathryn Haapala, Joseph and Andrew Merhar, Jedediah and Nathan Holewa, Charlene (Colwell), Michelle and Nicholas Haapala; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Matthew J. Svedberg

Matthew Jon Svedberg, 49, of St. Paul, originally of Cook, went to be with his loving Savior on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022, at Regions Hospital. Please join Matt's family in celebrating his earthly life. A visitation will be held on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 6-8 p.m. at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 21 at First Baptist Church in Cook. Visitation will be held again one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

Matt was a caring son, brother, uncle, nephew and friend. He is survived by his parents, Doyle and Ilona Svedberg; brother, Josh Svedberg; sisters, Sarah Svedberg and Rachel (Jason) Alt; nieces, Emily and Kara; aunts, uncles and cousins.

Audrey E. Joki

Audrey Estelle Marttila Joki, 78, of Iron, originally of Soudan, passed away at Carefree Living in Virginia on Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Private family services were held this week at Faith United Lutheran Church in Iron. Donations are preferred to the Alzheimer's Association.

She is survived by her loving husband of 56 years, Bob; daughter, Brenda (Scott) Cooke of Makinen; sons, Brian (Jodi) Joki of Duluth and Brad (Pam) Joki of Iron; grandchildren, Jeremy Sertich, Zachary, Camryn, Jacob and Matthew Joki; great-grandson, Conner; sisters, Diane Hakala of Virginia, Sally Duesler of Iron and Rosemary (Gary) Baty of Embarrass; brother, Arlan (Jeanne) of Inver Grove Heights; and several nieces and nephews. Survivors also include Brenda's stepdaughters, Jolene (Robby) Allison, Becky (Mark) LaTour and Sarah (Charlie) Mudge; stepson, Scotty Cooke; and grandchildren, Payton, Chase, Jadyn, Calleigh, Izzie, Matti and Charlee, all of Duluth.

Linda Fryer

Linda Fryer, 72, of Ely, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, at Essentia Health St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Frana Cherico

Frana Cherico, 77, of Ely, passed away on Friday, Jan. 14, 2022, at the Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

John A. Debeltz

John A. Debeltz, 83, of Ely, passed away on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022, at the Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Read us online at www.timberjay.com

4B January 21, 2022 TIMBERJAY Newspapers



THE CHANGING CLIMATE

Wolf predation may reduce brainworm frequency in moose

Predators appear to encourage segregation of moose and deer

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL — It turns out that gray wolves may not be all bad when it comes to northeastern Minnesota's moose population. A new study published last month by University of Minnesota and Grand Portage Band researchers suggests that

wolf pressure can actually help to reduce the incidence of the parasitic brain worm, known as P. tenuis, among adult moose.

The brain worm, which is carried by white-tailed deer, is a significant contributor to adult moose mortality. Indeed, 23 percent of collared moose that died in northeastern Minnesota over the past 15 years were infected with the brain worm. That's a significant impact to the region's moose population, but it's an impact that pressure from gray wolves may actually help to reduce.

While moose and white-tailed deer generally spend their time in different habitats, both species **Right: A DNR biologist** examines a collared moose that likely died of brain worm infection. file photo

demonstrate some seasonal migration, especially ahead of winter. During spring migration and during

See MOOSE...pg. 5B





WILDLIFE RESEARCH

Study: Beavers play critical role

Researchers find that beavers are important for freshwater retention and ecological stability

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

REGIONAL - It's no secret that northeastern Minnesota is rich in freshwater. Indeed, water is a near constant across the North Country landscape and a new study suggests one important reason why that is so:

The study, just published in the journal Ecography, was led by Sean Johnson-Bice out of the UMD affiliated Natural Resources Research Institute in Duluth, with help from several other Minnesota biologists.

Beavers have long been known as a keystone species because their presence in an ecosystem is critical to the survival of many other species. While other animals, in addition to humans, are known to modify their environment, few species have the ability to re-engineer a landscape as dramatically as is the case with the beaver.

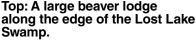
The latest study, which examined the impact of beaver along a series of watersheds along the North Shore of Lake Superior, found that beavers play a critical role in conserving freshwater and stabilizing ecosystems through the natural infrastructure they create through their dams.

Major findings of the study include:

➤ Beavers are major drivers of water retention in ecosystems, suggesting that restoring beaver populations to ecosystems they no longer inhabit may be a valuable method that managers and conservationists could use for freshwater conservation objectives.

➤ The longer beavers are present





Above: A beaver glides through the water.

Top right: Evidence of beaver activity.

Right and lower right: A male hooded merganser and a redwing blackbird on an area beaver pond. photos by M. Helmberger

in an ecosystem, the more old and abandoned ponds help contribute towards storing water; although these abandoned ponds may no longer have beavers living in them, their dams can still hold back water. ➤ At large spatial scales, beaver

populations are resilient to moderate environmental and human distur-

➤ Even though beaver populations within each of the five watersheds studied showed considerable variation in population size, water storage remained stable across the entire region. Essentially, changes in beaver population size in one

See BEAVERS...pg. 5B







ADVENTURE



Bird count in the burn was cold, stark and amazing

by Steve Wilson Contributing Writer

How cold was it? Very. The Jan. 2 Isabella Christmas Bird Count, our 40th annual, ranked fourth on our list of coldest count days. This jolly fellow, above, who stopped by on his way back to the North Pole, could barely utter his trademark "ho-hoho" for all the ice encasing his mouth. Just kidding, it's actually Steve Schon, of Ely.

Starting temperatures on count morning ranged from - 32° F in the lowlands on the west side of the circle where Steve was searching, to a relatively balmy - 20° at the count's highest elevation on the east side. High temps there reached 6°, but elsewhere in the circle struggled to reach 0°.

Fortunately, it wasn't windy and the sun shone all day. Still, keeping warm in the early hours of the count was challenging. If one could survive until midday, though (most did), conditions actually approached "comfortable," as long as you kept moving.

As a testament to the

hardiness of Isabella CBC participants, they turned out in above-average numbers. Thirty-five ventured out into the woods, some for as long as eight hours. Despite the cold, we managed to equal our count's average number of party hours, although a higher proportion of those were spent in cars than is typical.

Would the birds made a similar effort to participate. The 20 species we tallied was down only a tad from our average of 22. But both our total numbers of birds and birds seen/party hour were down a third from our averages. Early indications suggested this would be the case when parties sent in results accompanied by remarks

See COUNT... pg. 5B

from NOAA weather

TRAIL CONDITIONS

More snow and cold helps trail conditions

REGIONAL— This week's six inches of fresh powder has left area recreational trails in the best shape of the season so far. According to the Department of Natural Resources, both the Arrowhead and Taconite Trails are listed in good condition, with a trail base ranging from one-to-eight inches and as much as 23 inches of snow on the ground.

Some of the earlier trouble spots are now improved, thanks to the latest snowfall and sub-zero temperatures. The small segment of swamp trail between Ban Lake and Crane Lake Rd. had been groomed as of midweek and was scheduled for a second pass before the weekend.

Snowmobile traffic has been heavy in the area, part of the same trend of increased outdoor activity by Minnesotans that began with the outbreak of the pandemic- and now the trails are in top shape to host all the riders.

Fishing reports

Elv area

Opening weekend was a excellent one for many lake trout anglers. Almost all anglers reported graphing multiple trout, over the course of the day and many reported limiting out the first day. Anglers found active lakers in the usual 30-50 feet of water, around sunken islands, large main lake points and neck down areas. Blue and pink bucktails, large spoons and tube jigs, all actively jigged, caught good numbers of trout. Some anglers reported only catching trout on live bait, fished on the bottom, under a tip up, so be sure to always fish two lines when lake trout fishing.

As usual, stream trout anglers had little issue catching their limit of trout on opening day. Small tungsten jigs tipped with a wax worm accounted for many of the best catching reported. After opening day trout were very shy of baits, but non the less anglers adjusted and continued to catch fish. Small tungsten jigs tipped with either wax worms or single salmon egg, ever so lightly jigged, got bites. Jig to aggressively and trout would turn their noses up at it and swim away. Shallow areas with timber, produce the most trout for anglers.

Courtesy Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely

BEAVERS...Continued from page 4B

watershed would be counterbalanced by changes in the other watershed(s), which helped stabilize water storage amounts across the North Shore of Lake Superior.

The study assessed the impact of beaver by observing aerial photos from the studied watersheds from the 1940s through 2017. Beaver population density increased significantly during that period, as a prohibition on beaver trapping in Minnesota, instituted in 1909, was allowing the species to recover from its near extirpation as a result of the fur trade era. Higher population density brought increased impacts from beaver activity, including a higher density of the freshwater ponds that they create. The study found that this beaver activity stored a tremendous amount of freshwater on the landscape, creating critical habitat for a wide range of species. It also found that those effects were long-lasting on the environment.

The study also confirmed that the size of beaver ponds tends to diminish over time after beavers recolonize areas, even as the number of ponds is likely to increase. That's most likely because beavers initially select the best locations for impounding water, and have to rely on less-than-optimal locations once the best sites become occupied.

"Although there are many studies on how beavers change ecosystems, the scale of this study—spanning 70 years across five different watersheds—is really unprecedented and, as a result, gave us the unique opportunity to understand how beavers transform and engineer ecosystems over long time periods and large spatial scales," said Tom Gable, coauthor of the study. "We think this work

will be of value to many

conservationists, scientists and citizens who want to understand how reintroduced or recovering beaver populations can positively affect their ecosystems.'

Understanding how ecosystems become more resilient is a key goal for ecologists because it can provide insights into how ecosystems may respond to human impacts and climate change. "This study suggests beavers, as ecosystem engineers, can be a biological tool that helps buffer ecosystems against disturbances and alterations," noted the

researchers. But beavers need to return to ecosystems before they can play their critical role. Restoring beaver populations may seem like an unusual objective from the perspective of the experience in the North Country, where beavers are abundant. Yet their absence from many ecosystems, particularly in the American West, continues to be keenly felt by a whole host of fellow organisms that used rely on the aquatic ecosystems they created. Beaver reintroduction efforts are underway in several states, including Nevada, Washington, Utah, and Wyoming. An effort in Idaho, just after World War II, included dropping beavers in the mountainous backcountry by parachute, an effort that apparently helped return beavers to remote parts of that state.

Beaver populations tend to be more localized in the West than in Minnesota, given the more limited presence of water on the landscape. But that makes the presence of beaver and their water retention prowess all the more important in the West, which is why there's a newfound appreciation among biologists and even the public about the many ecological services that

beaver provide.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST









Tuesday

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MOOSE...Continued from page 4B

summer, the two species are more likely to intermingle the study found — and that's when moose are most likely to fall victim to brain worm infection.

Increased predation pressure from gray wolves, it turns out, had the effect of increasing the segregation of deer and moose across their various habitats. More segregation leads to less opportunity for moose to contract the brain worm.

The brain worm is harmless to white-tailed deer, since the parasite spends its life in a host white-tail residing in the tissue immediately surrounding the animal's brain. White-tails expel brain worm larvae through their feces. The deer droppings are subsequently fed on by land snails, which ingest the larvae. Moose accidently ingest the snails as they browse on forest plants, and once ingested, the developing larvae migrate toward the moose's brain. Unlike with white-tailed deer, where the worm is content to reside just outside the brain, with moose, the worm burrows into the brain, gradually consuming portions of it. Eventually, most moose succumb to the effects of the parasite.

The study was conducted in and around the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indian Reservation in Cook County, where U of M and Grand Portage researcers have been studying moose in an effort to understand and reverse a long-term moose population decline. Researchers captured and tracked 94 adult moose, 89 deer (65 adults) and 47 adult wolves during the 2007–2019 study period.

"We often think of wolves as bad news for moose because they kill a lot of calves," said principal investigator Tiffany Wolf, DVM, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Population Medicine. "But this suggests that wolves may provide a protective benefit to adult moose from a parasite-transmission perspective. Because brainworm is such an important cause of adult moose mortality in Minnesota, we can now see that the impact of wolves on moose is a bit more

The findings give state and tribal managers new information to consider in drafting and implementing herd and wolf management plans in Minnesota and beyond.

COUNT...Continued from page 4B

expressing variations on the theme "Where the hell where the birds?" (I'm paraphrasing.)

Despite the low numbers of birds, there were some highlights, most notably the discovery of 10 spruce grouse along the traditional stretch of Hwy. 2 that I like to call Spruce Grouse Alley. This is the third consecutive year we've recorded double-digit numbers for this elusive species. This year's find stands apart from the previous years, as it comes in the wake of last summer's massive Greenwood Fire. Almost all of the two-mile stretch of highway where the birds have been most reliably seen had burned, a fair amount of it intensely, killing all the trees. It's a relief to know this population of birds survived the fire. Yet to be determined is whether enough suitable overwintering and breeding habitat remains to sustain them in the future.

The fire did have a profound effect on the birds found in the burn area, particularly where the fire burned with high intensity the day the fire scorched over 10,000 acres. Three parties, including ours, ventured into areas that experienced 100 percent tree kill. Not a single bird was seen or heard by any of these parties. That should change dramatically next winter, at least for woodpeckers - including the uncommon and rare black-backed and three-toed woodpeckers - as bark beetle populations establish themselves in the dead and dying trees next summer.

Surprisingly, at least for Steve Schon and me, our time spent in the burn was the highlight of our day. It was magical. We've both been in large burns before, but never in winter. The patterns of black-onwhite were spectacular. Steve and I have, collectively, nearly 100 years of roaming the woods up here, and neither of us had experienced anything like this. Steve commented that he felt like we were in a painting about the same time I was thinking we'd entered an Ansel Adams photograph.

What made the experience particularly unique and memorable, though, was the combination of the visual landscape and soundscape. We've all heard trees popping on cold winter days. This was another level, beyond anything we'd experienced in frequency and volume. We stood transfixed listening to volleys of sound from all around us, occasionally bursting into wonderous laughter at some that could be mistaken for rifle shots they were so loud. My guess is that the extreme temperature and rapidly-warming tree surfaces, enhanced by the full sunlight hitting the blackened bark, with no foliage to block sunlight or absorb sound, created a freeze/thaw dynamic that is seldom replicated.

A big shout-out to all who showed up and braved the frigid temps or patiently watched their feeders, despite the pandemic and the absence of our traditional lasagna get-together. Next year!

Steve Wilson, of Tower, has been the compiler of the Isabella Christmas Bird Count since its founding.



Q: What are the new guidelines for quarantining?

- Even if you do not develop any symptoms, get tested five days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19
- Watch for symptoms for at least 10 days after your close contact if you develop symptoms isolate and get tested right away

If you were exposed to COVID-19 and are up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations OR if you were exposed to COVID-19 and were confirmed COVID-19 positive (with a viral test) within the past 90-days:

- You do not need to stay home unless you develop symptoms
- Get tested five days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19, even if you do not develop symptoms
- Watch for symptoms for at least 10 days after your close contact if you develop symptoms, isolate and get tested right away

In all cases, you should avoid travel and people who are considered high-risk.

Q: If I test positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms, what should I do?

A: Regardless of your vaccination status, if you test positive for COVID-19 or develop symptoms you need to stay home for five days - and also isolate yourself from others in your home during that time. If you can't avoid being around others in your home, wear a well-fitting mask. You can end your isolation after five full days if you are without a fever for at least 24-hours (without medication) and your other symptoms improve. The exception is loss of taste or smell; this can last for weeks or months following COVID-19 and should not delay ending isolation.

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.

Dr. Brock Urie is an Emergency Room Physician and the Chief Medical Officer at Ely-Bloomenson Community

ebch.org

328 W Conan St. Ely. MN 55731

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

BREITUNG WATER AND SEWER CUSTOMERS

Please be advised that at the Breitung Water & Sewer Commission meeting on December 27, 2021 the Board approved an increase of \$5.00 per month for the water and sewer rates The Water Commission has not increased its rates since January 2018 and at this time needed to adjust the rates to cover increases in infrastructure improvements and the Tower/Breitung Waste Water Board rate increases.

Breitung Water and Sewer Commission

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 21 & 28, 2022

NOTICE OF VACANCY ST. LOUIS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners will be appointing a member to a three-year term on the St. Louis County Civil Service Commission. The Civil Service Commission oversees the administration of the County's merit system of employment by approving and enforcing rules, hearing appeals and complaints. Applicants cannot hold or be a candidate for public office, may not hold any public employment, or hold a position in a political party within two years immediately preceding appointment, and must be a resident of St. Louis County. There are usually two (2) meetings scheduled per month (1:30 pm - 2:00 pm on Mondays). At least four meetings per year are scheduled in Range cities. Periodic hearings may be significantly longer. For additional information, please contact James R. Gottschald, Director of Human Resources and Administration for St. Louis County at 218-725-5066 or gottschaldj@stlouiscountymn.gov.

Persons interested in serving on this commission should submit an application to: Phil Chapman, Deputy County Auditor, St. Louis County Courthouse, Room 214, 100 North 5th Avenue West, Duluth, MN 55802 no later than January 31, 2022. To apply online, go to www.stlouiscountymn.gov/clerk and click "Application for Citizen Advisory Committee".

Applications are also available in the County Auditor's Office in the Duluth Courthouse and the Government Services Center in Virginia, and in the Ely Government Services Building, or by emailing chapmanp@stlouiscountymn. gov or calling 218-726-2385.

NANCY J. NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER By: Phil Chapman, Deputy Auditor

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 14 & 21, 2022

NOTICE OF VACANCY **Public Health and Human Services Advisory Committee**

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners will be making eight (8) appointments to the St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) Advisory Committee. The primary function of the PHHS Advisory Committee is to make recommendations to the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners and the St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Department relative to the public health and human service needs of St. Louis County communities and residents. In addition to at-large members and those representing each district, two tribal members serve representing the Fond du Lac Band and Bois orte Band and two County Commissioners. The Committee is supported by the Public Health and Human Services and the Public Health Director. Two (2) vacancies exist in District 1; one (1) vacancy exists in District 2; one (1) vacancy exists in District 3; one (1) vacancy exists in District 5; one (1) vacancy exists in District 6; two (2) vacancies are At-Large appointments. All appointments are for two-year terms that will expire on 12/31/23.

The Committee meets virtually, quarterly - currently the second Wednesday of the second month of each quarter from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Members receive a fifty dollar per diem and mileage reimbursement (if/when meetings return to hybrid status) for each meeting they attend. Applicants must be a St. Louis County resident. Particularly welcome are representatives from diverse communities and representing the full range of health and human service programs areas.

Persons interested in serving on this committee should submit an application by February 25, 2022 to: Phil Chapman, Clerk of County Board, St. Louis County Courthouse, 100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214, Duluth, MN 55802 or by email at chapmanp@stlouiscountymn.gov

To apply online, go to www.stlouiscountymn. gov/clerk and click "Application for Citizen Advisory Committee". Paper applications are also available in the County Auditor's Office in the Duluth Courthouse and the Government Services Center in Virginia, and in the Ely Government Services Building, or by emailing chapmanp@stlouiscountymn.gov or calling 218-726-2385.

NANCY NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR-

TREASURER

BY: Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 21 & 28, 2022

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EMPLOYMENT

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Wintergreen Northern Wear creates quality

outdoor apparel on the main street of Ely MN. We are looking for a detail oriented individual to operate our CNC cutting table. Requirements include: High School Diploma, ability to lift 40 lb rolls of fabric; CNC operation or manufacturing experience a plus. Cheery clean work environment and benefits included Competitive wages based on experience. Call 218-365-6602 or email kassie@wintergreennorthernwear.com for more information. Apply by email or at our store located at 205 East Sheridan Street, Ely, MN. 1/21

Information Receptionist

The Ely Chamber of Commerce has an opening for a full-time, year-round Information Receptionist. We are seeking a customer service-oriented individual to assist residents and visitors with business and area information. The position requires knowledge of Microsoft Office programs, internet and email programs, and use of office equipment. A full job description and application are available at Ely.org/chamber/workforcedevelopment. Please submit job applications to director@ely.org or stop by the Chamber office at 1600 E. Sheridan Street, Ely





Engineering Aid Trainee

(Temporary) (Open) -Apply by 02/11/2022

Highway Laborer (Temporary) (Open) - Apply by 02/11/2022

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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 1/21

Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary Seeking Full-Time Director

The Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary in Orr is seeking a full-time Director. Work with WILD bears and make lasting friendships with people from all over the world. Responsible for day-to-day operations of the sanctuary and the visitors center.

Visit www.americanbear.org for more information and to apply for this position. 1/21

FULL-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE at the

TOWER SOUDAN INSURANCE AGENCY

We are looking for a full-time employee with good customer service skills, computer skills and willing to be trained as an agent in the insurance industry. This employee would be taking care of customer's insurance needs along with other general office duties.

This job would be for 40 hours a week, and would include holiday, vacation and sick pay.

If interested, please call 218-753-2101 or e-mail tsagency@frontiernet.net.

HELP WANTED RECEPTIONIST

Computer skills and people skills a must! Drop off your resume at Peshel Accounting, 1704 E. Camp St., Ely or call 218-365-2424. tm

PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No. 69VI-PR-

21-120

Estate of Nancy Jean Wall, aka Nancy J. Wall and as Nancy Wall

AMENDED NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTION AND FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL, EXEMPT ESTATE, NOTICE TO CREDITORS-NON-EXEMPT ESTATE

Notice is given that a petition has been filed requesting that the Estate Assets be summar-

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and if no objections or claims are filed or raised,

It is Ordered and Notice is now given that the Petition will be heard on February 9, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. by this Court at 300 South Fifth Avenue. Virginia, Minnesota 55792. If you have an objection to this case, please contact Court Administrator at 218-221-7560 option #8 for further instructions as these hearings are currently held remotely due to

Dated: December 15, 2021

BY THE COURT Andrew R. Peterson, Judge of District Court Amy Turnquist, Court Administrator Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner Angela Sipila Sipila Law Office, LLC 412 S 1st St., Virginia, MN 55792 Attorney License No: 024501X Telephone & Fax: 218-741-Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 14 & 21, 2022



Central Supply
FT Central Supply Assistant

Nursing FT RN House Supervisor

FT Radiologic Technologist

<u>Dietary</u> FT Dietary Aide/Cook

Radiology



Activities

PT & Casual Activities Assistant Environmental Services

Casual Laundry Aide

Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

218-666-6220 humanresources@cookhospital.org

The Cook Hospital is an equal opportunity provider and employer

13

25

42

48

Care Center
FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$16.36/hr - \$1,500 Sign-On Bonus)
PT RN/LPN (\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)

King Crossword

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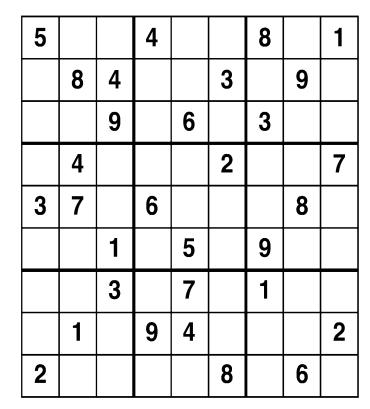
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- 29 Faction 11 Feed-bag filler 31 Fear-stricken
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 - address 38 Hoosegow
 - 39 Celestial bear
- 23 Peter Parker's 40 Jittery
 - 41 Altar vows
- 24 Coin aperture 44 Roth svgs. plan
 - 45 Extinct bird
 - much,in med. 46 Picnic crasher 47 Born

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

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♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

the Court may issue a decree distributing or assigning the Estate's assets.

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WANTED-

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CLEANERS also needed. Call 218-374-3621. tfn

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Call

753-2950

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• Trim



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

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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

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

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

— King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.





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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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.)

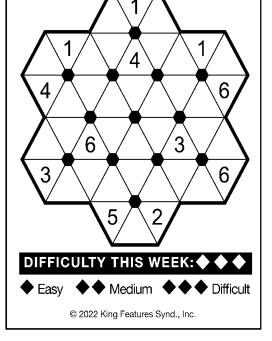
HIV/AIDS? For confidential compassionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

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

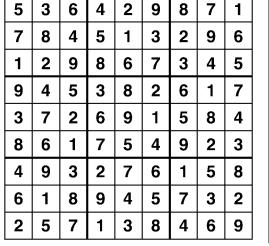
by Japheth Light

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.



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer



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"Le — de

49 Suffix with

polyethyl-

50 "Explorer" of

kids' TV

51 Daytime nap

52 "— and the

(Menotti

segment

recesses

58 Cinematic

Streep

59 Give fresh

60 Final: Abbr.

61 Final Greek

62 Moose's kin

Redding

63 Singer

65 See

consonant

life

55 "Well well

well!"

57 Church

opera)

53 Sonata

Night Visitors'

Monte-Cristo"

MARINE

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115 Cure- —

(elixirs)

financially

Honda SUV

126 Even one

128 Put under

water

129 TV's Jean-

Picard

130 Serpent stuff

131 Super Bowl

stats

132 Ceases

127 Former

76 Title for 47 Dumas' 12 "Wham!"

ACROSS 1 Tax doc.

whiz

4 Vietnam Veterans Memorial

architect 11 Facility with a

Jacuzzi 14 "Deathtrap" star Michael

19 Skirt edge 20 Worship

21 "Can do!" 23 "Deathtrap"

dramatist Levin 24 Gotten out of

dreamland

25 Tons 26 Inca

conqueror

Francisco 28 Natural skill

30 Radio shock

Jock Don 31 Hog food

32 Ltr. insert 34 Nobelist

Wiesel

35 Obama's party: Abbr.

36 Deg. for a Wall Streeter

TBS

130

43 Some small 45 Conan of

39 Con's vote

41 Light blows

batteries

20

69-Across 67 Mai -69 With

65-Across,

72 Casual top

attended as a spectator

air-watch org.

73 Adroit humor

75 Bit of an oval 110 Touch gently

103 Whirled

116 Lawn growth great Mel 118 Ties tightly 120 Casual affair for 124 Rescue

78 "Selena" star, familiarly

Ringo Starr

79 "What's me?" 80 Loretta of

77 Baseball

"M*A*S*H" 81 Deep anger

82 Virtuoso 84 Minister's

study: Abbr. 86 Big name

in motor scooters 88 Detach, as a

badge 90 Pacific Ocean 133 Volcanic stuff

nation 93 Actor Rob

94 Snared with a

95 Like a clear night sky 97 Angry mutt's

99 Poetic tribute

100 Arab chiefs 101 Mysterious

102 Great Lakes'

104 Actor Neill **105** — kwon do 74 U.S.-Canada 106 Foe of Liston

108 Have the gall

DOWN

1 Casino disks 2 Hazard 3 Alternative to

eBay or Etsy 4 Bryn —

College 5 Worship

6 Canadian expanse on

the border with Alaska

7 Brighton beer

8 Tall and thin 9 Apple media player

country

11 Coil about

10 Kathmandu's

21

29 "So long!" 33 Kayaks' kin **36** 1991 film

about a

37 - noire

38 Santa –

family exiled

(hot winds)

reportage

42 Actor Sean

44 Comic Mort

46 Gym units

47 Attended

48 Brunch

order

50 With the

current ... or

at the starts

of eight long

answers in

this puzzle?

54 Dual-sport

Sanders

22

56 2007 Stanley Cup losers

what appears

22 Ladies' men 83 — avis 27 Unconcern

85 Brain

wave tests.

Chic

in brief

GO WITH

THE FLOW

64 Up to, in

66 Hall & --

68 Jackie's #2

70 Less stuffy

71 Fads, e.g.

74 Co-founder

80 Accelerated

of the band

ads

87 Cease

90 Jrs.' exam from Uganda

89 Roving types

91 Razor name

96 Scold loudly

98 Act like a lion

40 Much tabloid 103 Bagel seed

107 Ain't right?

109 Overzealous

111 Have faith

113 Dish lists

114 Pump (up)

115 As well

117 Family of PC

games

119 Plains

natives

120 Nero's 605

121 "How - ya?"

122 Chaney of chillers

123 A cow

chews it

125 Oahu wreath

16 17

133

25 23 24 26 27 28 30 35 31 32 33 34 36 37 38 39 49 51 53 55 56 59 60 61 62 63 65 67 69 72 73 75 78 80 82 83 84 86 87 88 93 92 94 95 100 96 101 102 104 103 105 106 107 108 110 111 112 113 114 116 120 121 122 124 126 127 129 128

132

131

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13 Garden pest

14 Major film

studio

slangily

17 Prefix with

orthodox

18 First-aid ace

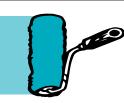
16 Not well

15 \$5 bills,

8B January 21, 2022 THE TIMBERJAY



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