

Mixed decision on PolyMet..See /10 Ely hockey notches a win... See /1B New visitor at the feeder...See /4B

Snowmobile Hot Spots...See /**5B**

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\$1²⁰

SULFIDE MINING

Administration cancels Twin Metals leases

Decision a potentially fatal blow to proposed copper-nickel mine near BWCAW

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The Biden administration announced Wednesday that it had canceled two Twin Metals mineral leases that were illegally reinstated by the Trump administration. The

decision is a potentially fatal blow to the efforts of Antofagasta, the Chilean mining giant which controls Twin Metals, to develop a copper-nickel mine near Birch Lake, southeast of Ely.

The company has spent more than a decade prospecting for deposits along the South

More on mining Court issues mixed decision

on PolyMet mine. Page 10

Kawishiwi River, just upstream of the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The company had submitted a mine plan for environmental review more than a year ago, which proposed an underground mine not far from the Ely airport. But the company had never publicly issued financial projections, which raised doubts about the project's viability.

The cancellation of the mineral leases was not a surprise, in part because previous administrations, of both parties, had determined that holders of the leases had no automatic right to renewal. Originally issued to

See...LEASES pg. 10

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Building a connection to ...

winter adventures

New owners of Ely's Wintergreen Northern Wear expand with toboggan shop

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY - Wintergreen Northern Wear welcomed new owners late last vear, and the downtown shopping district here gained a new and unique winter adventure business right next door with the recent opening of a toboggan store.

Jackson Harren, along with his wife Solveig and children, took over the outdoor apparel production shop and retail store from Sue and Paul Schurke last fall. Harren and his brother, Gabriel, have since acquired the small log cabin building adjacent to the Sheridan Street Wintergreen facility and opened Northern Toboggan Co.

Quality craftsmanship is at the center of the legendary Ely apparel business. The Shurkes founded Wintergreen in the late 1980s.

See...WINTER pg. 12

Jackson Harren, of Wintergreen Northern Wear, displays one of the products of the Northern Tobbogan Co. retail shop his family recently opened in downtown Ely. photo by K. Vandervort



CORONAVIRUS

Huge influx of COVID testing confounds case counts

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL-While the record-breaking Omicron COVID wave continues to tax Minnesota's health care system, it's created another problem entirely for health officials trying to determine if cases are still rising or if they've leveled out or started falling.

That's because for the past several weeks, the "daily" confirmed case counts reported by the Minnesota Department of Health have been confounded by

the massive influx of COVID test results that created an equally massive backlog for the people tasked with cording them



Muddying the picture further still

are all of the people doing at-home testing. They only show up in the data if a person who tests positive gets a confirming test from a heath care provider or an approved testing site, such as the DECC in Duluth.

David H. Montgomery, of MPR News, specializes in reporting on data, and he's been focused in recent weeks on getting behind those big daily MDH report numbers to look at when those cases were actually tested.

The case count for Jan. 3 was the first Montgomery reported on in his COVID e-mail updates. Nearly 78 percent of new cases reported that particular Monday were tested the prior Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 27-28. Another 13.7 percent of the "new" cases were tested before Dec. 22. That data lag showed that a "sharp uptick" in COVID

See...COVID pg. 9

ISD 2142

County School District avoids teacher contract impasse for now

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINA- Poised to end stalled negotiations on a new teacher contract by unilaterally imposing their own last, best and final offer, ISD 2142 board members instead hit the pause button at Tuesday's regular meeting.

Negotiators for the board and EdMn Local 1046, representing the district's teachers have been trying to negotiate a new contract since March

2021. Five face-to-face meetings, three mediation sessions, and three union votes later, negotiations remained deadlocked over economic issues.

Negotiators came close, approving a tentative agreement last fall that was submitted to union membership for a vote at the time. After the first vote on Oct. 27 ended in a tie, the teachers rejected the proposal in a

re-vote on Nov. 3. At a mediated session on Dec. 2, board negotiators

presented their last, best

and final offer to union representatives, and the full board approved the offer at a meeting on Dec. 14. That offer was again rejected by

the teachers in a Jan. 11 vote. A primary sticking point is the district's pro-

posal for a \$2,000 stipend

for full-time teachers in year 1 of the contract, prorated for part-timers, in lieu of incorporating an increase in the salary matrix in year 1. The district proposed an increase of 1.25 percent for

See...ISD 2142 pg. 11



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THE TIMBERJAY

Community notices

Sons of Norway to meet Feb. 3

VIRGINIA- Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge 40 will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 3 in the Virginia City Hall Club Room. Please note the change of time. The King and Queen will be crowned. Officer Swenson will be giving tips for dealing with various forms of fraud. Serving Committee is Pat Sleeman and Art Lee. Anyone interested in Norwegian heritage and culture is welcome to attend.

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.

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".

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.

Free Health Care Fraud, Waste and Abuse Prevention online class offered Wednesday, Feb. 9

REGIONAL- The Senior LinkAge Line® will offer Health Care Fraud, Waste and Abuse Prevention classes on Wednesday, Feb. 9 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. and again from 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Attendees will learn how to detect and report potential errors, fraud and abuse, review potential fraud and scams targeting seniors, how to read your Medicare Summary Notice, tips to help protect your Medicare beneficiary number, and how to protect-detect-report Medicare scams and fraud. This presentation is based on information from the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), a federal education and prevention program.

This class is offered online using the easy-to-use Microsoft Teams meeting platform. To register, go to https://www.facebook.com/pg/arrowheadaaa/events or call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 800-333-2433.

SPRING PLANTING

NSLSWCD tree sale begins; order early for best selection

REGIONALtime to think of your spring planting needs. The North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District is selling a variety of seedling shrubs and trees as well as native plant and seed mixes. Order now for pickup in May. There are deciduous trees, conifers, plus fruiting shrubs sold in bundles of 25 seedlings. Native plant kits are also available tailored for pollinators, shoreline vegetation, woodland shade, or invasive buckthorn replacement. In addition to a septic mound mix, there



are two new seed mixes: a shoreline seed mix and a buckthorn replacement seed mix, if you are battling invasive species on your property. Plantskydd

and Repellex brands of organic animal repellent products are available to help keep the critters

Quantities are limited

and sell out fast, so be sure to order early. Visit the website at www.nslswcd. org for more details and to order. Order forms are also available via email to info@nslswcd.org or by calling to 218-749-2000. Plant and seed orders are due by April 25 and tree orders are due May 9. Pickup will be in Eveleth on May 12 and 13. All proceeds are used for conservation efforts in the northern part of St. Louis County.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

More COVID relief available for 'main street' businesses in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY - A Minnesota Main Street Economic Revitalization program, hot off the presses last week, could likely help some Ely businesses who took a hit in the last 18 months or so from the economic downturn of COVID-19 shutdowns.

The Ely Economic Development Authority (EEDA) received word of the new program Tuesday night from the city of Ely's economic development advisor, John Fedo, who said he expects a quick turnaround on the funding program, with applications due by the end of

The program will be facilitated through the Northland Foundation and will include allocations through the state's Department of Employment and Economic Development

"These (federal) COVID funds are specifically focused on businesses and their needs, and initially the greater share of these monies were put out on the street for the metro areas," Fedo said. "Many of those funds went unspent."

"The legislature and Governor's office are taking a step back, reformating this program, and focusing on the outstate economy," he said. "In this particular case, they are looking for non-profit advocates that would work with businesses in their immediate area and the Northland Foundation fits that criteria."

According to the Ely economic

specialist, the city will take the criteria of the funding program and apply that to local businesses.

'We think we have a couple businesses that could very easily fit into this competitive grant program of \$41 million that they are looking to re-allocate around the state," Fedo said. Up to 30 percent of the funds are

grants of up to \$750,000 per project. There is a loan guarantee program of up to \$2 million per project, accord-

He related that the city of Virginia, working with the Virginia Community Foundation, took advantage of the program last year when they received \$1.7 million to help downtown businesses recover from a fire that destroyed and damaged many buildings.

"At the same time, they had some specific needs in that corridor that is highly commercial and almost perfectly aligned with housing on the second floors of a lot of those commercial businesses," he said.

'We will be looking to do something similar within our business corridor (any Ely properties zoned commercial or industrial are eligible)," Fedo continued. "We are aligned with a local match that we think we will fit."

While Ely has not experienced any widespread fires, floods or natural disasters in the business corridor since March 2020, the program is also patterned for businesses that closed or multiple commercial space vacancies that have a significant impact on the corridor or main street

Eligible uses for the grants and loans in the program include repair or renovation of property, building construction, landscaping and streetscaping, demolition or site preparation, design, and engineering infrastructure. The program does not include purchase of property or business operations such as inventory or payroll. There will be an official Re-

quest for Proposals, administered by DEED, that begins on Feb. 2, he said. All applications are due by Feb. 28.

"We will do our best, but I think we have at least a chance to help out some Ely businesses," he said.

City Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski defined the commercial corridor of Ely to include Chapman Street, Sheridan Street, Pioneer Road, and other commercial areas.

"We have defined the area as zones C-1, C-2 and M, anything zoned commercial or industrial," he

More information on the new business funding programs can be found on the city of Ely website, www.ely.mn.us.

In other business, the EEDA approved an application from Jasper Company for the city of Ely's Business COVID Assistance program for \$11,000 to add one additional employee for at least two years, for at least \$15 per hour.

VIRGIE HEGG

Second Annual VHHP Hearts for Hospice Fundraiser

Fundraisers begin on Feb. 7 and continue through the month

REGIONAL-Second Annual Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners Hearts for Hospice Fundraiser will begin Feb. 7. VHHP has a variety of opportunities for you to contribute to the Hearts for Hospice Fundraiser. They have partnered with local businesses, North Woods School, and the NW girls basketball team. Participating local businesses will have hearts to purchase in memory of a loved one for \$5. Hearts for Hospice donation cans will be out as well to collect your donations.

VHHP will also partner with North Woods School in February. Students will have the opportunity to purchase a heart for a small donation in honor or memory of someone. Hearts will be displayed at the North Woods School throughout the month.

Lastly, VHHP has partnered with the North Woods Grizzlies girls basketball team and ask you to join them on Monday, Feb. 8 as they take on the Cherry Tigers. There will be basket raffles and

a 50/50 drawing. All proceeds will go to Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners Inc. to carry out their mission of supporting hospice and hospice eligible patients and their families with comfort care, last wishes and expenses not covered by insurance. Visit www.vhhp.org for more information.

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Valentine Cards Will Appear In The February 11 Edition

Subjects can be People or Pets

Example Send us your wording and photos by email: editor@timberjay.com or drop off at the Timberjay office at: 414 Main Street, Tower, MN 55790

Photos can be picked up for return at the Timberjay after Feb. 11

Deadline for card info is Friday, February 4

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Council has questions on engineering fees

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER— The Tower City Council, at Monday's meeting, approved engineering fees for a modest project at the Tower Airport, but not without raising questions about the high cost. The airport upgrades include replacing a culvert, installing a new automatic gate to the facility, and repaving the main vehicle parking lot and access road. Engineering fees for the project total \$36,700, a figure that caught city officials

"It just sounds like an awful lot of money for installing a gate and a culvert and repaving a parking lot," said Mayor Dave Setterberg. The fees did not include any of the construction cost of the project, but federal and state dollars will make up 95 percent of the total cost, leaving the city on the hook for \$1,835 for the engineering.

"Someone still has to pay that," noted Setterberg. Other councilors questioned the numerous charges that the city's engineering firm, SEH, included in its service agreement. Those included hourly rates ranging from \$31.06 to \$76.60, along with a 35-percent salary "overhead" charge, and a 137-percent general and administrative overhead charge. On top of that, SEH, also charges a 15-percent "fee."

"We get the overhead costs,

but then the 15 percent is tacked on top?" questioned council member Joe Morin. "Is this the industry standard?"

"That's my understanding, but I can follow up," said Sarah Mattes, who was representing SEH and spoke to the council through Go To Meeting. Mattes also noted that the engineering fees included hiring a subcontractor, Braun Intertec, to conduct soil borings ahead of repaying the parking lot.

The council initially seemed reluctant to approve the SEH proposal, but later relented when Mattes said any delay would make it difficult to meet an April 11 deadline for awarding the project. While the council approved the project proposal, they indicated they still wanted an explanation of the charges.

"We just want to be sure we're doing our due diligence," said Setterberg.

In other business, the council heard a report from wastewater manager Matt Tuchel, who outlined the latest test results for the community's drinking water. The Department of Health notified the city that it remains in violation for trihalomethanes, a byproduct of the disinfection of the wells that serve both Tower and Soudan. The latest test results showed the levels were slightly below the maximum allowable level of 80.4 micrograms per liter, although higher numbers earlier in the year

contributed to an annual average of 91.1 micrograms/l, which slightly exceeded the allowable annual limit.

Tuchel told the council that the wastewater board removed four beaver dams along the East Two River this fall and that he expects the trihalomethane numbers will fall some more when the next tests are run in February. Meanwhile, haloacetic acid levels, another byproduct of disinfection, remained within the allowable limit, with the latest result showing just 3.8 micrograms/l, well below the maximum limit of 60.4 micrograms/l.

The levels of the two chemicals have fluctuated in recent years due to the presence of beavers near the wells that serve the two communities. Beavers have raised water levels near the wells, causing some contamination from surface water, which has forced the wastewater board to disinfect the well water. The disinfectants, in combination with organic compounds found in the surface waters, are known to produce byproducts like trihalomethanes and haloacetic acid.

In other action, the council:

Heard an explanation from
Setterberg about snowplowing
in the city. He said the decision
when and how to plow the city is
left to the public works supervisor
and that he will sometimes delay
plowing after a light snowfall,

particularly if additional snow is in the near-term forecast. Setterberg said plowing generally starts on the city's northwest side and moves to the southeast. Outlying areas, such as Lake Ave. and Eales Rd. are plowed later, with the airport plowed once everyplace else in the city is cleared.

➤ Gave final approval to appointments to city boards and committees, with no changes from what was previously reported. The council also appointed the *Timberjay* as the city's official newspaper for 2022.

➤ Announced that they plan to hold a meeting of the forestry board, which has been inactive for several years.

➤ Approved an additional \$2,500 in funding for sewer cleaning and televising as well as for routine "exercising" of water valves as preventative maintenance.

➤ Authorized the purchase of wetland credits related to the harbor trailhead project, which is being funded by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, or LCCMR. That project is finally back on track after years of delay due to previous city hall mismanagement.

➤ Agreed to request restitution for vandalism at city hall two years ago. The county is now prosecuting the case and the city has estimated the damages at \$2,649, which included damage to the city hall elevator and the smashing of a glass panel in the city hall's front door.

Council member Sheldon

Majerle asked if the individual could do community service in lieu of have to make cash restitution. Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz said he'd check with the county to see if that could be an alternative.

> Heard from Schultz that he is researching the accuracy of

➤ Heard from Schultz that he is researching the accuracy of city water and sewer bills after some questions were raised about some of the line item charges. (The *Timberjay* has also been investigating this issue recently and expects to have a report soon, possibly as early as next week.)

➤ Opted to continue to hold council meetings at the Herbert R. Lamppa Civic Center, at least for the time-being. The council moved to the civic center shortly after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic since it allowed for more social distancing than in the council's traditional chambers at city hall. Schultz said holding meetings at the civic center constitutes a little extra work for him, but said that effort was pretty minor. "And there are advantages to being here," he said.

WATER QUALITY

Comments sought for Voyageurs National Park area wastewater plan

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL-The Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board (VNPCWJPB) is seeking public input for a proposed \$105 million plan for recommended improvements to wastewater collection and treatment systems in four planning areas to sustain the water quality in the watershed surrounding the park.

Ash River unincorporated areas, Crane Lake Water and Sanitary District, Kabetogama

Township, and the Rainy Lake/ Rainy River Watershed are the areas targeted by the plan, which encompasses both existing properties and those likely to be used for future development.

The VNPCWJPB was established to conduct preliminary planning and provide a feasible strategy for improving and maintaining the water quality in developed areas near the park. The proposed plan builds on and expands an initial one created in 2010.

The 152-page document is a combination of separate plans

for each of the four target areas. While appearing lengthy, much of the text, such as explanations of varied aspects of wastewater collection and treatment options, is common across all four plan areas. Numerous maps for each planning area illustrate the service area, soil permeability, bedrock depth, depth to water table, and proposed modification for individual subsections of a given target area.

The narrative describes existing conditions, projected conditions, wastewater collection, treatment, and discharge

options, and a recommended plan, summary cost estimates, and detailed cost estimates for each of the four areas.

Planners have also made cost allowances of 30 percent for contingency funds and 25 percent for engineering, legal, administrative, and financing costs.

Public review and comments for the VNPCWJPB Comprehensive Wastewater Plan are open until Feb. 23. To review and provide public comments to the comprehensive plan, please visit the project website at https://www.sehinc.com/online/

namakan, where a PDF copy of the plan is available to download.

The VNPCWJPB will meet

at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 23 at the St. Louis County Public Works Facility located at 9558 Ashawa Rd. in Cook. The meeting will also be open to virtual attendees through Microsoft Teams meeting or by call-in at 872-242-7640, conference ID 998 975 921#.

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January 28, 2022 TIMBERJAY Newspapers

OPINION

ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;"

"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Walz's bonding plan

Hopefully the final bill will offer more for North Country projects

The Walz administration issued an eye-popping bonding proposal last week, just ahead of the start of the 2022 legislative session. At a proposed \$2.7 billion dollars, it would dwarf any previous bonding measure, yet communities here in northeastern Minnesota were mostly left wanting as the governor nixed a slew of requests from this region, including funding for the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board to upgrade the communities' drinking water infrastructure, a number of regional ATV trails projects, a Crane Lake public access point to serve Voyageurs National Park, and a second proposal from the city of Ely for west end redevelopment.

These are projects with both merit and regional significance and the governor's failure to include them is a disappointment. At the same time, the governor approved \$1.5 million to build a water slide and lazy river at a new water park in Pelican Rapids. When playing in the water ranks higher than having drinking water that complies with health standards, it makes one wonder about the criteria the governor used in making his decisions.

In fairness, the governor did propose \$49 million to upgrade drinking water quality statewide. That's the largest proposed investment water infrastructure in years and it may well be that the governor opted against funding individual water projects, preferring that state agencies set the priorities for those projects going forward. If so, the Tower-Soudan project should rank highly in the process.

The governor may also have been setting the stage for the inevitable negotiations over the bonding bill. He's well aware that Sen. Tom Bakk, currently chairs the Senate Capital Investment Committee and is likely to wield considerable influence over the final priorities in the bill. By leaving out a number of valid projects in Bakk's district, it gives the governor the ability to use those

projects as bargaining chips to obtain Bakk's support for the final measure.

The governor's bonding proposal is always the opening offer and there is always much political calculation involved. The final version, assuming the Legislature can even agree on a final bill, is frequently much different, so there's reason to expect that any ultimate agreement for state bonding will look considerably different from the governor's proposal.

While the Republicancontrolled Senate is likely to push back hard on the governor's top-line number, Walz may actually have an ally in Bakk. Bakk, who now calls himself an independent and caucuses with the Republicans, has never been reluctant about public investment or the trade union jobs that come with it. That means the GOP caucus is likely to have at least one influential member pushing to bring the Senate's final offer a bit closer to the governor's. But, for that to happen, the governor will likely need to sweeten the deal for the Cook lawmaker. Stay tuned, because this really is a developing story.

And finally, while most local government projects in our region fared poorly in the governor's initial bill, it did include significant local investment in stateowned facilities. The proposal would provide \$12 million for further development of the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park, much of which would be directed toward work on the park's main lodge and visitor's center, as well as design of a second campground.

Vermilion Community College is also slated to receive \$3 million under the governor's plan, while Giants Ridge would see a \$10.2 million investment for upgrades to its snow-making ability.

So, the news wasn't all bad. At the same time, we'll be watching in hopes that the final version is considerably better for the North Country.



Letters from Readers

Mining in Minnesota is a slob industry

The *Timberjay* gave great coverage to the Forest Service withdrawal hearings. My name didn't get drawn for the Zoom hearings, so I'll depend on the *Timberjay* to publish my opinions.

First, let's be realistic about the economic importance of mining to the state of Minnesota. According to the Department of Commerce, Minnesota has a \$370 billion economy. Mining is less than \$2 billion. Mining is far less than one percent of Minnesota's economy.

Several testifiers mentioned Minnesota's stringent environmental regulations. Last summer I took my conductivity meter and checked water quality downstream of each of Minnesota's six operating taconite plants. Every one of them was degrading our public waters. There were no exceptions. Mining in Minnesota is a slob industry.

There was testimony about the importance of school trust land for financing education. Minnesota spends about \$14,000 per year to educate each primary and secondary student. The school trust contributes a little over \$40 per student. I doubt that our high school seniors would respect us for degrading their public waters and destroying their wetlands so we could subsidize their education with a quarter a day.

It's already a challenge to fund the import duties and environmental cleanups of our iron mining industry. Let's not burden future generations with a sulfide mining industry.

Bob Tammen Soudan

What I expect from the U.S. government

It needs to be more caring, more peaceful. Create a Department of Peace! It needs to shed its arrogance in trying to rule/dominate the world for the benefit of U.S. corporate interests. It needs to represent the PEOPLE not corporations. It needs to stop its economic wars that devastate the lives of Cubans, Venezuelans,

Nicaraguans, Iranians. None of these are enemies of the U.S. and they have a right to choose their own forms of government. It needs to stop supporting the Israeli government that treats the Palestinians worse than the South African apartheid government once treated the South African black people. This is what Desmond Tutu said of Israel, that it is worse. Stop giving bombs to Saudi Arabia that are killing the people of Yemen.

The U.S. must reduce military spending that benefits U.S. corporate interests. U.S. Representatives need to stop representing corporations and to start representing the people of the U.S.

I want the U.S. Congress and President to become something that benefits humanity and the Earth. Global warming, our health care/dental care system, the pandemic need our attention. The U.S. uses more than 50 percent of our income tax dollars on the military—that's shameful.

I want the government to become honorable and peaceful and to respect the sovereignty of the peoples of the world. The U.S. is always at war. Economic embargoes are criminal actions. The U.S. is the biggest abuser of human rights in the world and has no moral authority to point a finger at anyone else.

Take Vietnam as an example and there are many more. The U.S. Presidents (Democrat and Republican) didn't think twice about going into villages and killing everyone either by foot soldiers or by B-52 bombing. Vietnam, which was never an enemy of the U.S., lost 3 million dead. (How many more maimed and poisoned by U.S. chemicals dropped on them?) U.S. presidents and U.S. military leaders brainwashed us to the point that we become killers of innocents. And 58,000 U.S. soldiers paid the price.

There are many other wars that the U.S. was and is involved in. Economic embargos must be stopped.

If our elected officials can't work for peace and can't represent the PEOPLE of the U.S. then they should get out of Washington. Americans are deceived enough to think that they have our best interests at heart—not true. We

are not part of the decision-making process. Representatives are lackeys to the corporate interests. Many Senators, Representatives, and Presidents have lied to us and taken us to war. One example is Bush lying to us about Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction which led to the bombing of Baghdad and the killing of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and untold numbers of war crimes against those people who were never an enemy of the U.S.

The U.S. is not interested in an open and honest government as shown by its oppression of those journalists that blow the whistles. Julian Assange has been persecuted for over a decade now for honorably and courageously exposing what the U.S. did in Afghanistan and Iraq. He is a hero and must be supported.

This then is what I want to communicate to the people in Washington.

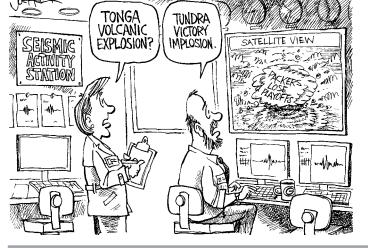
Steve Johnson Ely

A Christmas Day success for humanity

This year, in the midst of so much failure and frustration, we human beings have managed to achieve one spectacular success. The James Webb Space Telescope was launched on Christmas Day from the European Space Center in French Guiana, and it reached its final destination (907,530.5 miles from Earth) on Jan. 24.

Along the way, all of its working parts (its sunshield and its mirrors and so on) were carefully unfolded like a giant piece of origami. In six months the telescope will begin to take infrared pictures of the first galaxies formed in the universe. Then it will start looking for signs of life on other planets in our own Milky Way Galaxy.

Jim Ganahl Cook



What would Abraham Lincoln think?

A b r a h a m
Lincoln is one of
our most revered
presidents, and I'm
wondering what he
would think of the
state of our nation.
If asked what they
think they know
about Lincoln, many
people would say
that his primary
desire was to end
slavery. While it is
true that he was an abolitionist



from early on, he was also a practical man, and he knew how fragile the very young democracy was. He felt that the Union needed to be preserved, and while he wanted to prevent war through peaceful means, if that was not possible, then better to go to war than to have the Union destroyed.

Imagine what it was like for him. He had been elected with a narrow margin; his name wasn't even on the ballot in several Southern states. East-coasters were appalled that he had been elected with many regarding him as a kind of illiterate backwoods bumpkin full of his folksy stories. Those who had heard him speak knew better, but that didn't stop the press from shredding him with their misperceptions. His wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, did not escape the journalistic hatchet,

as bad in those days as today. Although many acknowledged her charm and social skills, one journalist referred to her as "squatty," for which she never forgave him. Mary actually made excellent suggestions for her husband's speeches, for which he relied on her. She was known for her astute assessment of campaign strategies and of the qualifications of potential political appointees. She did not hesitate to speak her mind and was criticized for doing so. Again,

nothing new on the journalistic or political front in that.

Several states had seceded or were threatening to during the period between the election and inauguration in March. I'm sure outgoing President Buchanan heartily wished that Lincoln would take over early. It was hardly an ideal scenario for a new president.

Lincoln had said in his speech during the Republican State

See LINCOLN...pg. 5

Annual homeless count in St. Louis County happening this week

REGIONAL- Homelessness in St. Louis County is a persistent, complex problem that stems from many factors including a lack of affordable housing. But how many people are in this situation? And what effects have the challenges of the last two years had? Counting unsheltered individuals and families is the goal of an annual survey, which St. Louis County's Public Health and Human Service Department is conducting on Thursday, Jan. 27.

The county is working with community service providers, agencies, and volunteers to complete a federally required Point in Time Homeless Count. The purpose is to identify people who are experiencing homelessness and not staying in a shelter on the night of Jan. 26.

The count seeks to survey all "unsheltered" individuals and families, or people whose primary nighttime residence is not fit for habitation. Examples include a car, park, abandoned building or storage unit, bus or train station, campground, icehouse, or in the woods. The count also seeks to identify "doubled up" households, sometimes referred to as "couch-hopping", or those staying with family or friends on a short-term basis. People living in this situation meet the state's definition of homeless. This annual survey is vital because it helps define the scope and scale of the problem, and the data are used to determine federal funding awarded to fight homelessness. There is a coordinated effort to reach specific groups experiencing homelessness, including veterans, youth, communities of color, and those fleeing domestic violence.

St. Louis County will be collecting information to document where people experiencing homelessness spent the night of Jan. 26. For citizens who have information

about people who are experiencing homelessness and willing to complete a brief survey, surveyors will be at the following locations on Thursday, Jan. 27:

Duluth:

- ➤ Community Connect @ Damiano Center, 206 West 4th
- ➤ Duluth Public Library, 520 West Superior Street
- ➤ Union Gospel Mission, 219 East 1st Street
- ➤ Salvation Army, 215 South 27th Avenue West MAC-V, 5209 Ramsey Street

Virginia

➤ AEOA, 702 3rd Avenue South

➤ Salvation Army, 507 South 12th Avenue West

People also can provide information by calling CHUM's Street Outreach at 218-461-8505.

Former officer caught on camera at area hotel in 2018 incidents with young girls

Ely mom pleads guilty to sex trafficking charge

ELY - A 36-year-old Ely woman accused of trafficking her daughter to several men in exchange for money and drugs pled guilty last week in St. Louis County District Court.

Daisy J. Buley pled guilty on Thursday, Feb. 20, to first-degree aggravated sex trafficking, according to court documents. Buley initially pled not guilty. Her trial was set to begin this week.

Prosecutors accused the woman of taking her daughter around to various men's homes and allowing them to sexually assault the young girl. Afterward, the men would pay Buley "wads of cash" or give her narcotics, according to the complaint. She was arrested last August, a few weeks after her daughter contacted law enforcement.

The victim told investigators this happened at least seven times while she was 11-13 years old. She also said Buley "threatened to kill her if she tried to fight back or tell anyone what was happening," according to the charges.

By pleading guilty to the sex trafficking charge, the state agreed to dismiss a count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct.

She will also avoid the maximum sentence of 25 years in prison, and instead will face a sentence of more than seven years, followed by 10 years of conditional release. Buley will also be required to register as a predatory offender during that time.

Sentencing is set for March 21.

Canadian national pleads guilty to sex abuse charges

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

TOWER- A former Ontario Provincial Police officer pled guilty last week in federal district court in Minnesota to sexually abusing two young girls while he was a guest at Fortune Bay Casino Resort in 2018. Brady John Hillis, 32, of

Brady John Hillis, 32, of Kenora, Ontario, pled guilty on Jan. 18 to two counts of abusive sexual contact with two girls in the arcade and pool areas of the resort on June 22,2018. Hillis also stipulated in his plea agreement to inappropriately touching a third girl in the pool area, but he was not charged in that incident.

All three incidents, which occurred over the period of less than an hour, were captured on the resort's security cameras, according to court documents.

In the original indictment, Hillis was also charged with

aggravated sexual abuse of a child under 12, a charge that carries a minimum 30-year to maximum lifetime prison sentence. Prosecutors agreed to drop that charge in exchange for the guilty pleas on the abusive sexual contact charges.

"We are pleased that Brady John Hillis was found guilty and hope he receives the maximum sentence for his deplorable actions," Bois Forte Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers said in a statement issued after the plea was announced. "We are truly appalled by his behavior, especially given the fact that he was a police officer in Kenora at the time of his actions. Our hearts go out to the minors who crossed paths with Hillis that day in June of 2018. As stated previously, Bois Forte will not tolerate any child being mistreated or abused. The most fundamental duty we have is to protect our youth and the vulnerable."

Chavers also said that it was a "grave disservice to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa that Hillis' actions have stained the reputation of Fortune Bay Resort Casino. Rest assured he is banned from ever stepping foot on our reservation again."

Hillis, the children, and their parents were all guests at the resort hotel on June 22, 2018, according to U.S. and Canadian court documents. After one child told her siblings and parents about her encounter with Hillis, they immediately reported the abuse to resort security, who in turn contacted local law enforcement. Canadian sources indicated that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, then permitted

Hillis to return Canada, where he immediately reported the incident to his superiors at the Ontario Provincial Police

Provincial Police. Approximately two months after the incident, U.S. authorities initiated the process to have Hillis extradited to the U.S. to be arraigned and tried on the three-count indictment in Minnesota U.S. District Court. Hillis was subsequently detained by Canadian authorities and fought the extradition order on the grounds that it was unreasonable, legally flawed, and failed to consider relevant precedent. At issue, in part, was the large discrepancy between Canadian and U.S. law regarding penalties for the aggravated sexual abuse charge. Under Canadian law, Hillis would have faced a likely sentence of 90 days to three years if convicted of all

three offenses, whereas 30 years

was the minimum sentence for only the aggravated sexual abuse charge in the U.S.

A ministerial review concluded in June 2021 that Hillis's petition was without merit, and he was subsequently deported to the U.S.

Under U.S. sentencing guidelines referenced in the plea agreement, Hillis could be sent to prison for as few as 5-1/4 years to as many as 19-1/2 years. He is also subject to a fine of between \$25,000 and \$400,000. As the guidelines are advisory only, U.S. District Judge John R. Tunheim will have full discretion to determine the final penalties for Hillis at a sentencing hearing scheduled for May 19.

LINCOLN...Continued from page 4

Convention in 1858, where he was named as the senatorial candidate, that "a house divided against itself cannot stand." He said he did not think the Union could survive half slave and half free. His words were considered radical, and he was urged not to include them, and when he did, they were blamed for his loss to Stephen Douglas.

In his first inaugural speech, Lincoln said, "I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so." As president, he took an oath to protect the Constitution, and the right to own slaves was protected by the Constitution.

He argued that states did not have the right to break up the Union. It follows that "no State upon its own mere motion can lawfully get out of the Union; that resolves and ordinances to that effect are legally void; and that acts of violence, within any State or States, against the authority of the United States, are insurrectionary or revolutionary, according to circumstances. The declared purpose of the Union that it will constitutionally defend and maintain itself."

Seven states had seceded before Lincoln's inauguration-Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texasfearing that Lincoln's opposition to slavery would lead to outlawing it. They formed the Confederate Constitution with Jefferson Davis as the provisional president until elections could be held. Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina joined the Confederacy after the inauguration. Citizens of Virginia who did not want to secede formed a new state, West Virginia. Through Union military pressure and political maneuvering, the slave-holding states of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri did not secede.

There was a tangle of laws concerning slavery, with different laws operating within states as well as between them. In order to preserve the Union, Lincoln supported allowing slavery to exist in the states that supported the union but outlawing it in states that had seceded. On

Jan. 1, 1863, Lincoln issued the

Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves in rebellious states. It exempted the loyal border slave states as well as portions of the Confederacy that had come under Northern control. All of the provisions depended on military victory by the Union. The Proclamation also announced acceptance of black men into the Union Army and Navy, and by the end of the war, almost 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had fought for the Union and freedom.

The Emancipation Proclamation, while not conferring freedom to all slaves, did change the nature of the war, winning the hearts of Americans to move forward in expanding freedom.

Lincoln and his family withstood death threats, impassioned anger, and lies of every order while dealing with the loss of their son, Willie. Additionally, both Lincoln and Mary suffered from chronic depression, migraines, and for Mary debilitating grief. Given all that, surprising everyone including Lincoln, he had an overwhelming re-election victory in 1864 having won the hearts and trust of Americans. (He had asked Frederick Douglass to draft a plan to help as many slaves escape as possible before the November election, in case he lost and could no longer enforce emancipation policies.)

What a comparison to the events of Jan. 6, 2021, and throughout the Trump campaign and presidency, with a man who preferred to create and disseminate lies to pursuing truth and protecting the Constitution. What would Lincoln have said to Trump on his unwillingness to admit he had lost the election, and his encouragement of a traitorous insurrection? Would Trump have accused Lincoln of fake news when he said that "acts of violence, within any State or States, against the authority of the United States, are insurrectionary or revolutionary, according to circumstances?"

But Trump appears unable to think with compassion about anyone but himself, so how could he embrace the whole of America and consider the common good? Unlike Trump, Honest Abe was known for his sense of humor and ability to laugh at himself. He said, "If I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one?"

Most of us Americans are not faithful students of history, but it's good to take the time to remember and honor the wisdom and actions of those who helped form this country and guard its integrity. It's good to remember in times of strife that truth and justice may have a chance if we pay attention and choose our actions and our elected officials accordingly.

Your chance is coming, and the first step is next Tuesday with local caucuses, some being held virtually. It is your chance to register, indicate your interest in being a delegate to county and state conventions, and bring resolutions concerning issues you want included in your party's platform.

The St. Louis DFL Organizing Unit 3 (OU3), which includes Ely and surrounding townships, gives you three ways to register your presence at your caucus.

If you do want to show up in person and fill out the non-attendee forms and submit resolutions, representatives for all area caucuses will be available at the Vermilion Community College Theatre Lobby on Tuesday, Feb. 1 from 6:30-9 p.m..

Or go to dfl.org/caucus/to Caucus Finder to find your caucus and sign in. Registration and resolution forms can be downloaded, filled out, and emailed to slcou3dfl@gmail.com.

Fall Lake Township will hold an in-person caucus at VCC with proof of vaccination required.

A third way is to download the forms online and mail forms to Barb Crow, DFL SLC OU3 Board Chair, 200 Mt. Royal Circle, #3187, Duluth, MN, 55803.

You can submit as many platform resolutions as you want and they'll be considered at the SLC OU3 convention in May.

On the GOP side, you can go to mngop.com to find a link to the Secretary of State's caucus finder. Enter your zip code to determine your location. In Ely, for example, the GOP caucus will be held at Vermilion Community College. In Tower, the caucus will be held at the Tower Civic Center.



TIMBERJAY

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Week of Jan. 31

Monday

Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21,

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.

Thursday

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

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

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

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 and 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.



WINTER RECREATION

Tower cross-country ski trails in great condition

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Howard Wagoner Ski Trails are looking better than ever, according to Wagoner Trails Club President Mary

The club was able to purchase a new snowmobile to pull the trail groomer last year and this year, Terry Wagoner, who is in charge of grooming, fashioned a snow packing drag out of an old boat trailer, to flatten the snow before the groomer sets down the double sets of tracks for classical cross-country skiing. This has created better ski trail conditions, said Shedd.

"It's not surprising to see two or three other cars in the main parking lot when you pull in," said Shedd. "We are seeing a steady increase in use. The word is really getting out." But skiers don't need to wor-

ry about crowds on the trails.

With over 11 kilometers of trails

looping through pine woods and lowlands, skiers usually feel like they have the trails all to themselves. The cross-country ski trails have been in place for over 40 years, winding through forested lands owned by the city. The trail

system was developed by the late

Howard Wagoner, an area forest-

er and avid skier. While the north trailhead starts on Highway 135, adjacent to the new Lamppa building (and shares a trailhead with the Prospectors ATV Trail), the main areas of trails are on both the east and west sides of Highway 135, about 1.5 miles south of Tower where there is a parking lot that

Over the last few years, club members have done a lot of trail maintenance and installed de-

can easily fit six to eight vehicles.

Fundraiser underway to fix the ski trail lighting system



tailed maps at all trail intersections. In total, there are about 11.5 km of looping trails, which are both perfect for beginner and intermediate skiers. Steeper hills are all well marked, as are the trails most suitable for beginning

The club is currently raising money to replace the lighting system that provides a short, lighted beginners loop for night skiing. The lights are 30 years old, and many are not functioning. The club has raised about 75 percent of the money needed to upgrade the lights and has set up a GoFundMe page to try to raise the remaining \$2,500. You can visit GoFundMe.com and search for Tower Ski Trails to find the fundraiser. Donations can also be mailed to Wagoner Trails Club, Light the Trails Fund, 1047 Manitou Park Road, Tower, MN 55790. The club still needs to raise a little over \$1,000. They hope to get the new lights installed over the summer.

The trails are groomed regularly, depending on snow conditions. You can find up-to-date trail reports on the group's Facebook page (search for City of Tower Ski Trails), or at www. skinnyski.com.

The trail is groomed with funding provided by the DNR, and skiers are required to have a Minnesota Ski Pass, available at local DNR license vendors or online. Membership in the Wagoner Trails Club is \$5 a year, or \$10 for a family, and helps fund maintenance of the ski trail system. Checks made to "City of Tower Ski Trails" can be mailed to Ski Trail Committee Treasurer, 1047 Manitou Park Road, Tower,

MN 55790. Future plans of the club are to develop some skate-skiing trails. The club is currently working with St. Louis County on possible routes adjacent to the existing classic ski trails. Club members would also like to make the trails more accessible for summer and fall hiking. The public is asked not to hike or snowshoe (or bring dogs) on the groomed trails during the winter, since it ruins the tracks for skiing. But snowshoers and hikers are welcome to hike on the edges of the trails. The trails are open to yearround non-motorized use. Some of the trails (all marked) are now shared routes with the motorized Prospectors Trail, but there are still miles of good hiking trails available when the snow is gone, though some of the ski routes go through wetlands which are not passable except in winter. Club members are exploring options for creating some new summertime routes to bypass the wetland

Finnlander Bocce Ball set for Saturday, Jan. 29

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board is hosting Finnlander Bocce Ball on Saturday, Jan. 29 at the harbor in Tower. Teams 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.

games 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 selling hamburgers and hot dogs at the harbor, but will not be selling beverages (BYOB).



COMMUNITY NEWS

Skating parties set at Soudan Rink

SOUDAN- Skating parties will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, weather permitting, after school at the Soudan Skating Rink. Javne Sundeen is overseeing the skating parties this year. Hot and cold treats will be served. There will also be games out on the ice, and indoor games with Jayne in the warming shack.

Chimpy will be hosting a skating party on Saturday, Jan. 29 from 11:30 - 1:30 p.m. (or until the food runs out). Other weekend skating parties are being planned.

Funding for the food this year so far is being provided by donations from the Tower Firemen's Relief Association, Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board, and community members Joanne Connell, Dan and Deb Wiire, Dick Johnson, Scott and Terry Vagle. If you are interested in donating to help purchase the food for these events, contact Chimpy at Zup's Grocery in Tower (people can make donations directly at Zup's into the dedicated account).

Skating rink open

SOUDAN- The Soudan skating rink will be open weekdays from 4 to 8 p.m., and weekends from 11 a.m. to 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. The board decided to

discontinue COVID-safe skating rules that were imposed in the past. A separate skating

rink for small children is now open. Loaner skates are

available in the warming shack, and boot skaters are always welcome.

Brooklyn Berg named to Dean's **List at Iowa State** University

REGIONAL Brooklyn Mae Berg, from Tower, has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Iowa State University. Brooklyn is a junior, majoring in Kinesiology and Health. Students named to the Dean's List must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course

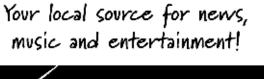
Molly Vagle named to Dean's **List at University of**

Minnesota REGIONAL- Molly Vagle, a junior at the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources, has been named to the Dean's List for the 2021 Fall Semester. Students who earned a grade point average of 3.666 or above are recognized for their dedication to their academics. Molly, from Tower, is majoring in Environmental Sciences, Policy, and Management.

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Burgers, Chili, Cheesy Chicken Tortellini Soup SAT/SUN: NOON-6 PM

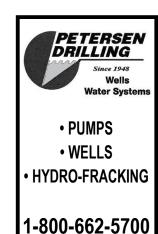
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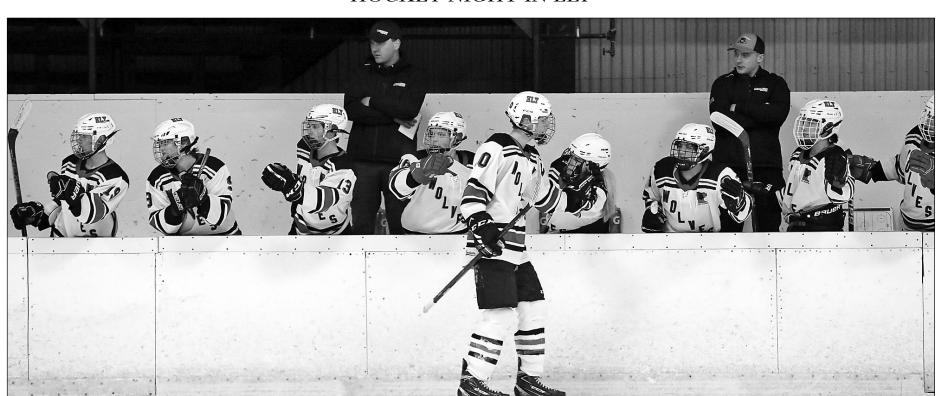


Spring Park Rd.

Mt. Iron, MN 55768



HOCKEY NIGHT IN ELY



The Ely Memorial High School hockey team celebrates the first score of the night with junior forward Kole Macho. Monday night against the Ashland, Wis., Oredockers. The Timberwolves won 5-1. The team will host Bagley/Fosston at the Ely Ice Arena on Saturday, Jan. 29. The puck drops at 2 p.m. photo by K. Vandervort

ELY COMMUNITY RESOURCE

A Valentine is special

Project kits include greetings for senior residents

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY – In celebration of Valentine's Day, Ely Community Resource is again offering kits for area families to make handmade Valentines.

ECR volunteer Evelyn Kuzma gathered fancy and pretty paper, ribbons, sequins, and envelopes for each kit. Each kit contains enough materials to make eight or 10 Valentines cards, according to ECR Executive Director Julie Hignell.

"Make them for friends and family and save out two to bring back to ECR, and we will deliver them to residents at Carefree Living and the Boundary Waters Care Center on Valentine's Day," she said. "This is our fourth year taking part in this project and it is a favorite. The residents

love receiving beautifully crafted cards by both young and old. Who doesn't love getting a homemade card made with love?"

"We're not going to gather as a big group like we did in other years because of COVID-19," Hignell said. Students in the ECR Homework Club at Homework Club did have an opportunity to make Valentines earlier this week. Ely Washington

Elementary fourth-grader Evelyn Moran joined other Homework Club participants in making valentine cards on Monday. "I really like glitter," she said as she designed a special greeting.

The kits are free and available at the ECR office, 111 S. Fourth Ave. Or give ECR a call at 218-365-5254 to arrange delivery at school for your child. Please plan to return your Valentines for our elderly neighbors by Tuesday, Feb 8.

Lee, 3rd grade, Naomi Fedders, 5th grade, Sawyer Anderson, 3rd grade, and Evelyn Moran, 4th grade, make Valentine Cards this week at the ECR Washington School. photo by K. Vandervort





Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



gold sun pouring in the house lit bright from its warmth

outside bitter cold

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

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 speakers:

➤ Feb. 1 - Creating a Carbon Trust Movement with Steve Hollenhorst. As politicians struggle to reach political consensus on how to respond to the climate crisis, what can we do now with the tools we already have within our reach?

This presentation describes a non-regulatory approach to climate action whereby a system of local non-profit carbon trusts works to protect our climate by acquiring legal rights to carbon reserves, and securing them on behalf of the public, including future generations.

Carbon trusts use the tools of private land conservation - markets, existing land use law, and private philanthropy - to protect existing carbon reserves and to capture and sequester additional

Hollenhorst is a professor and former dean of Huxley College of the Environment at WWU. He recently co-founded the Kulshan Carbon Trust, the world's first carbon conservation trust.

➤ Feb. 8 - The Medium and the Muse: Answers to the most common question asked by visitors to the Ely Winter Festival Snow Sculpting Symposium. "Why, just why?" with Cade Thibodeaux. He is a full-time resident of Ely since moving from Fort Collins, Colo., in 2012. He moved to Ely with his wife and daughter when his wife, Leslie Thibodeaux, accepted the position of Director of Program at Northern Tier High Adventure Base. Many around Ely know of him as "Mr. T", the name he is called while substitute teaching in the Ely School District. He was born in Baton Rouge, La., in 1974. Cade attended a magnet arts high school and graduated college with a Bachelor's degree in Arts despite always claiming and desiring to be an electrical engineer. He hopes to explain his love for the outdoor creative arts and how a tiny town at the end of

the road gives him the



Headquarters is now open full time at their new Ely location. The legendary granola-production business has a new name, Brainstorm Bakery, with the same owners, Brian and Andrea Strom. After an extensive renovation project at the former **Plum Bun Bakery** building, the retail shop, 402 E Sheridan St., is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Give them a call at 218-235-6161. submitted photo

The new Crapola World

Ely Chamber of Commerce offers job fair opportunities

ELY-The Chamber of Commerce here is partnering with Vermilion Community College for the Ely Job Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Businesses are invited to participate in one of two ways: businesses can reserve space at the event (no charge), or they can provide job openings for a compiled list the Chamber will distribute on behalf of the business community. The job fair is open to both VCC

students and area residents.

The Chamber is also participating in the Iron Range Job Fair 2022. Businesses are invited to attend, or they can provide job openings to the Chamber for distribution. The job fair is scheduled for Thursday,

April 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia. The cost of a table is \$200. Those businesses interested in attending can register at www. ironrangejobfair.com.

A third job fair is also in the works. The Ely High School and Northeast Range High School are planning a joint job fair in March. Additional information on the event is forth coming.

Just before Christmas, the Chamber released a Workforce Resource Guide with information on internships, the J1 VISA program, and regional job service supports.

Contact Eva Sebesta at 218-365-6123 or director@ely.org for more information on the Workforce Resource Guide, to reserve table space for the Vermilion your job openings.

Community College event, or to share www.timberjay.com

218-753-2950

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics **Anonymous OPEN AA - 7:30** p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely. **SUNDAY NIGHT AA** at St. Anthony's Catholic Church is cancelled. **ELY WOMEN'S OPEN** AA - Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely. BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend. **BABBITT AL-ANON** Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian. **CO-DEPENDENTS'** 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely. ADULT BASIC **EDUCATION GED** - Study materials and pre-test available. Call

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at

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Home, then gone, now home again soon

Family, friends, and more gather for Habitat home dedication in Cook

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Erin Danielson is certainly no stranger to Cook. She grew up here, graduating from Cook High School in 2002, and is busy planning her 20th class reunion. Harold Johnston remembers the time she came into the emergency room at Cook Hospital 20 years ago. Erin remembers singing with Elizabeth Storm as a youngster in the Trinity Lutheran Church choir.

Those were among many fond bits of reminiscing to be heard in the living room of the house at 306 3rd Ave. SE in Cook last Sunday. It felt a lot like a homecoming. And it was. Almost, anyway.

Erin and her sons, John, 13, and Clark, 8, have been hearing the word "soon" for months now as they've eagerly been awaiting the final closing paperwork for their new home, and North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Nathan Thompson decided it would be coming soon enough to hold a dedication ceremony there last Sunday.

Recent years have presented some trying times for Erin's little family. Following a divorce, she and the boys moved in with her parents, Clark and Lori Mae Nurmi, of Angora. The arrangements were a little snug, but warm and supportive. Then in November 2020, things got even tougher for her.

With a tiny crack of emotion in her voice, Erin said, "My mom passed away unexpectedly. It's just been dealing with grief and trying to keep my family together. It's been weird, Christmases and what-nots without

But last May, Erin took a step toward creating long-term stability for her family by applying for a home through Habitat for Humanity. Erin was familiar with Habitat homes being built from the ground up, and she was startled when she was told there was a home al-

ready available. "This one was built a few years ago with Harley Pajari, who was an excellent Habitat for Humanity



A house becomes A HOME

Above: Erin Danielson holds a hammer and a Bible, two traditional gifts given to new Habitat for Humaity homeowners at dedication ceremonies. photo by D. Colburn

Above right: Erin Danielson and her sons Clark, left, and John, right, are all smiles about their soon-to-be new home.

Below right: Standing with the Danielson family in front of a brightly painted wall at Sunday's dedication ceremony are, back row, from left, NSLC Habitat Executive Director Nathan Thompson, Commissioner Paul McDonald, Cook Mayor Harold Johnston, and Cook City Council member Elizabeth Storm.

photo by D. Colburn

partner," Thompson said. "Harley called us and said life has been good, things are really going well for me, and part of that is moving to Ohio. Praise the Lord, we had enough funds in our coffers to be able to buy the home

"When I applied, it was super quick when they told me I was accepted." Erin said. "That day we walked over here and I walked through and Harley was showing me the rooms and I just started crying. She was like oh, you hate it, you don't like it, and I said, 'No, it's perfect.' It was just so beau-

require-Habitat's ment to put in 200 hours of "sweat equity" as part of the qualification to buy the house gave Erin extra opportunities for service beyond cleaning and

painting her future home, including working on the Habitat build for Tata Cotten on the northwest side of Cook. Others helped her, too, something Erin addressed in her remarks at the dedication.

"Thank you, everybody who has supported us, even with just an encouraging word, or someone who drove an hour to get here just to help out," she said. "People I didn't expect came out to help when asked. And that means a lot more than I realized."

First Baptist Church Pastor Brian Haynes intertwined a passage from Proverbs with his own observations about the significance of the new home for Erin's family.

"It's a win-win-win," he said. "It's a win for our community, a win for the family, and it's a win for





Habitat. A house is built by wisdom and becomes strong through good sense, through knowledge. Its rooms are filled with - listen to what the rooms are filled with - all sorts of precious riches and valuables. There'll be memories, there'll be celebrations, there will be friends and family, and we just pray that as people come and go here, they'll know that this is a house where the Lord is hon-

St. Louis County Board of Commissioners Chairman Paul McDonald also attended the dedica-

"I know Erin and her family, and this is what it's all about," he said. "I've been involved with some of these openings and groundbreakings and handing over the keys and it is truly amazing. I'm

just so happy for what she has accomplished and what this project has accomplished for the city of Cook." Mayor Johnston ex-

tended a welcome, in reality a welcome back, to Cook. "I want to welcome

Erin and her young family," he said. "We don't see too many of those. We've really got a lot going on (in Cook), otherwise you wouldn't be here. Thank you for coming. I hope you enjoy it."

It was indeed a homecoming celebration, although there's still the matter of "soon." Habitat homes aren't free, Thompson noted. Those chosen for a home buy it using a mortgage financed through Habitat. While the home has been in movein shape since August, it's the additional sup-

port coming through the USDA 502 program that's the reason it's "soon" instead of "now." The program will allow Erin to purchase the home with an affordable, subsidized interest rate mortgage, Thompson said, and as with any number of things related to government, they're still waiting on the final processing of the paperwork. But Thompson assured those present Sunday, including Erin and her sons, that it surely will be coming soon, turning the house back into a home.

Those interested in learning more about Habitat for Humanity and the application process are encouraged to call the Habitat office at 218-750-7443.

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

Writers' gathering at Cook gallery is a 'family affair'

COOK - Ellie Larmouth is getting ready for one of her favorite things, a family gathering this Saturday, not of kin but of kindred spirits, creative writers who have participated in Larmouth's writing workshops at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook for years.

The workshops are as old at NWFA Gallery

"That was right when we were working on the art gallery, and I'd go for meetings and things, and I decided that writing is also an art form," Larmouth said. "That was the trigger and I said during the summer I certainly would enjoy doing a writers group, and sure enough, we got lots of participants."

When Larmouth and her husband, Dick, permanently relocated to the area, she expanded the schedule to include monthly winter gatherings. And while the



Dr. Ellie Larmouth will be leading a writers gathering at the NWFA Gallery this Saturday.

COVID pandemic has certainly been disruptive, Larmouth has rolled with

I stopped doing it," she said. "But then I decided once in a while, instead of a regular group, I would "With the pandemic, have a pop up, I call it. I

give a date and our family gathers together again to share things they've writ-

Invitations to be part of the "family" are open to anyone with an interest in writing. Some of those in Larmouth's writing group have been with her since the beginning, while others are more recent newcomers, and she's always looking for more. Some have become published authors; others write for the mere enjoyment of it. All skill levels are welcome, Larmouth said, and all forms of writing are valued, including poems, essays, articles, short stories, chapters of future books, and personal mem-

Group get-togethers include writing prompts from Larmouth to stimulate ideas, discussion, and

writing. A prompt may be

a physical object, a pic-

ture, or even a question.

The intent is to get the cre-

ative juices flowing.

Some participants start from scratch, others bring works in progress to share, and others bring finished products. Larmouth provides individual encouragement as work progresses, but since it's a family atmosphere, participants help and learn from each other, too.

It's important to Larmouth that the group be a caring and supportive environment, too, as over time comfort levels may lead some participants to share writing that is very personal. Feedback is not so much about technical critique as it is about mu-

tual support. The writers' gathering this Saturday will be from 1-3 p.m. at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook. Send an email to nwfamn.org@gmail.com for more information, or see the website at nwfamn.org.

> **Read It** HERE

Read us online at www.timberjay.com check out our e-edition

January 28, 2022 THE TIMBERJAY

COVID ... Continued from page 1 -

cases was underway prior to the start of the new year, he noted.

In Montgomery's most recent analysis of the number of newly confirmed cases reported on Jan. 20, 17 percent of the total, 2,658 cases, were from tests administered on Jan. 3.

"The worst part is these delays aren't consistent or regular," Montgomery said. "If it were simply the case that Minnesota's testing data had gone from the five-to seven-day lag we were used to most of the pandemic to a nine- or 10-day lag, we could adjust for that. Instead this data is coming in fits and spurts."

A comparison of cases and tests for a given day illustrates the challenge of knowing what to make of the numbers. The Jan. 20 report included

910 cases from Jan. 17. On that day there were 28,479 tests that were administered. Cases from Jan. 18 included in that report numbered just 20. Tests administered the same day totaled 17,707.

It's not the first time in the pandemic that there has been a testing backlog. At the beginning of the Delta surge in August, one lab reported a backlog of nearly 19,000 tests. But officials have estimated the current backlog has been more than double that amount.

However, as of Tuesday, MDH is apparently chopping that backlog down significantly, thanks to added staffing and more efficient processing, Montgomery

Meanwhile, Montgomery has been relying on another measure, the amount of COVID viral material in people's feces, for an additional clue to the pandemic's trend.

"It turns out that wastewater analysis closely matches case counts and other ways to track the virus, except wastewater can flag spikes faster than traditional testing," Montgomery

He hasn't created a Poop-o-meter website for reporting his findings, but according to a report on MPR News, "Levels of COVID-19 in Twin Cities wastewater started spiking right before Christmas 2021, around Dec. 22. Reported case counts for the metro area covered by that wastewater plant didn't start going up until a week later, around Dec. 28."

So what was peering

at the poop data telling Montgomery on Tuesday?

'Wastewater data suggest the outbreak peaked awhile ago in the Twin Cities metro," he said.

Regional data

A look at St. Louis County's COVID dashboard suggests that the Omicron-driven surge has either started its decline or is beginning to level out.

On Jan. 14, the seven-day average of new cases hit 338.6. On Jan. 21, that number had dropped to 255.7. The number of days between the measure is too short to declare a definitive trend, but the numbers reflect data from numerous metropolitan areas of a surge with a sharp rise and steep

The Jan. 9 age-category case reports for northern St. Louis County. the latest available, show that cases among birth to nine-year-olds tripled over the prior week, going from four to 12. Cases in 40-49-year-olds almost doubled from 11 to 20. However, other age categories show slight to moderate increases, and new cases in those older than 70 dropped by twothirds from 18 to 6.

In the six North Country zip codes monitored by the Timberjay, last Thursday's weekly case report had Ely topping the chart with 35 new cases. Considering relative sizes, an increase of 27 new cases in Tower appears more concerning. Other increases include ten in Orr, eight in Embarrass, seven in Cook, and three in Soudan. Based on current trends and in line with the Omicron

surge, January totals in the North Country are on pace to exceed the number of cases reported in December.

Cook Hospital Director of Nursing Nichole Chiabotti said Monday that the hospital continues to be busy with a high census of patients, but only a few are hospitalized with COVID. Many staff members are out with COVID, she said.

"Our biggest challenge right now is finding long-term care placement for patients," Chiabotti said. "We are keeping people longer in the hospital because they aren't safe to go back home and we cannot find a long-term-care bed. We have been able to transfer patients to a higher level of (medical) care a bit easier than a month ago."

2021 Lights of Love Donation List

The VHHP Board of Directors would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to the success of the 2021 Lights of Love Campaign.

A special thank you to the volunteers in the communities of Cook, Orr and Tower for their work in coordinating the ceremonies!

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Fran Scofield Loved Ones VHHP Volunteers Lorraine Bowman Our Grandchildren

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SULFIDE MINING

Appeals court issues mixed decision on PolyMet mine permit

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The Minnesota Court of Appeals delivered another mixed verdict on PolyMet Mining's water discharge permit on Monday, guaranteeing months of additional agency analysis and potential future litigation over the controversial project.

In a complex case involving several environmental and tribal litigants, the three-judge panel sided with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA) on a host of issues, while sending the permit back to the agency to determine if potential discharges to groundwater should have been regulated under the federal Clean Water Act. The net effect of that order, which suspends the permit until further notice, is also the subject of dispute.

Litigants cite language in the court ruling that indicates the permit is "reversed," essentially throwing it out until the PCA can address the issue of groundwater contamination. But PCA officials described the order as merely procedural, and claim the permit remains in place while it addresses the groundwater question. PolyMet officials took a similar position on the ruling. "This will mean a little more process, but it gives us a clear road map to the reactivation of this permit," said Jon Cherry,

president and CEO of PolyMet.

Paula Maccabee, attorney for Duluth-based Water Legacy, called that position "stunning."

"When a permit is reversed, it's reversed. That means the PCA has to reissue a new permit, and that will need to include a public comment period."

PCA spokesperson Darin Broton agreed that a public comment period might be required, but only if the agency decides to issue new permit conditions to address potential groundwater contamination. "But the entire permit is not reopened," Broton said. "The rest of the permit stands."

The PCA had determined at the time it issued the permit, that contamination of groundwater was not subject to the Clean Water Act, believing the law only applied to surface water discharges. That view had been upheld by Minnesota courts in the past.

But the U.S. Supreme Court, in its consequential 2019 decision in County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund, determined that discharges to groundwater are subject to Clean Water Act regulation if they are "the functional equivalent" of a discharge to surface water.

The court is now asking the PCA to decide whether potential discharges to groundwater from the PolyMet operation meet that test.

PolyMet argued that such an analysis isn't necessary. The company contends it won't make discharges to groundwater because its facilities are designed to prevent them. But the court found evidence that some underground seepage, "even if minimal" is expected to occur as a result of the project, hence the need for the analysis.

Attorneys for the PCA had argued that the court had enough information to decide the functional equivalence question itself, but the court indicated it preferred to rely on the agency's expertise for making that determination.

Court sides with PCA on other issues

The court sided with the PCA, even though it, too, faulted the agency's handling of the comment process involving the Environmental Protection Agency. Environmental plaintiffs in the case had wanted the appellate court to reverse a determination from a district court judge, who found that while the PCA had engaged in "procedural irregularities" when top agency officials prevailed on EPA staff to withhold issuing written comments on the PolyMet permit, the agency did not engage in an unlawful process. But the Court of Appeals sided with the district court and thanked the Ramsey County judge who heard the case for a thorough analysis of the issues.

The Court of Appeals also deferred to the PCA on whether the PolyMet permit requires water quality-based effluent limits, or WQBELS, as described in the Clean Water Act. The court found that the plaintiffs in the case had failed to explain why the federal law required WQBELS in the case of PolyMet, rather than another type of regulation, known as technology-based effluent limits, or TBELs, which were incorporated into the PolyMet permit.

"In the absence of clear guidance, the supreme court and this court repeatedly have recognized that the federal regulations at issue are ambiguous in their application and that courts must defer to the PCA's reasonable interpretations of the ambiguous regulations," wrote the court in their decision.

The court also deferred to the PCA's decision not to hold a contested case hearing on PolyMet's water discharge permit, known as an NPDES permit. Plaintiffs argued that the Department of Natural Resources is already in the process of conducting a contested case hearing over PolyMet's proposal to use bentonite clay as a tailings basin liner, and that a similar hearing should be conducted for the NPDES permit. But the court found there was little connection between the two issues, and that the plaintiffs had failed to make the case for such a hearing over the water discharge permit, by itself.

Finally, the court sided with the MPCA's conclusion that discharges from PolyMet would not violate water quality standards set by the Fond du Lac band, whose reservation lies downstream of the proposed mine.

Reaction varies

Both the PCA and PolyMetexpressed considerable satisfaction with the court's decision. "We are pleased that

we have prevailed on the majority of the issues and the court has narrowed the case to just this single issue regarding Maui, where considerable scientific date already exists," Cherry said. "MPCA has already determined there is not a permittable discharge to groundwater and we are optimistic the agency will reach the same conclusion from the Maui test."

PCA spokesperson Darin Broton agreed. "For a second time, a Minnesota court has firmly decided that the MPCA's permitting processes for the PolyMet project were rigorous and prudent. While the agency reviews the court's directive to complete additional analysis that wasn't required prior to the permit's issuance,

the MPCA appreciates the court's strong decision that the extensive 479-page water permit for PolyMet is protective of Minnesota's waters."

Meanwhile, environmental plaintiffs hailed the decision as a key win in their efforts to derail the proposed mining project. "This is a huge victory," said Paula Maccabee, attorney for Duluth-based Water Legacy. "As of today, PolyMet's water pollution permit has been thrown out by the court. PolyMet no longer has a permit to mine, and they no longer have a water pollution permit. It is long past time for Minnesota to pull the plug on PolyMet and its parent mega-corporation Glencore."

"Once again the courts have rejected a PolyMet permit," said Kathryn Hoffman, CEO of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. "It's time for Governor Walz to move on from PolyMet's failed proposal and create a better and safer job creation plan for northeastern Minnesota."

Plaintiffs in the original cases included Water Legacy, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Friends of the Boundary Waters, the Center for Biological Diversity, and the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe.

LEASES...Continued from page 1 -

the International Nickel Company (INCO) in 1966, the leases had gone through a number of changes in ownership, most recently coming under the control of Twin Metals. The leases had been renewed twice before for ten-year terms, in the 1980s and again in 2004. The original lease language allowed for up to three renewals, but only if INCO or its successor had begun

actual mining within the lease's initial 20-year term, a requirement that INCO never met. Several past administrations, including under Presidents Reagan and George W. Bush, had concluded that INCO's successors had no absolute right to renewal in legal opinions issued by attorneys with the Department of Interior.

President Obama can-

celed the Twin Metals leases in the weeks before leaving office, but the Trump administration issued a controversial legal analysis that claimed the company had an absolute right to a third renewal and reissued the leases. Attorneys for the Biden administration determined that the Trump decision was legally flawed and that the leases were renewed unlawfully. The



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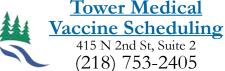
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Trump administration's action also appeared to violate the statutory right of the U.S. Forest Service to consent or withhold consent for mining operations within the Superior National Forest. Forest Service officials had stated in 2016 that the Twin Metals mine proposal posed an unacceptable risk to water quality within the Boundary Waters, a determination that prompted the agency to exercise its veto authority over the proposal.

The Trump administration decision had been faced with legal challenges on several fronts, but those cases are now expected to be withdrawn as moot.

Activists who have opposed the proposed mine hailed the latest decision. "This is a major win for Boundary Waters protection," said Becky Rom, National Chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. "This action by the Biden administration re-establishes the long-standing legal consensus of five presidential

return of the rule of law. It is heartening to have an administration making decisions with integrity. Twin Metals leases should never have been reinstated in the first place, and this announcement should stop the Twin Metals mine threat."

administrations and marks a

But Twin Metals expressed disappointment and indicated it plans to challenge the decision. "We expect to prevail," stated the company in a statement. "This is not about law. This is a political action intended to stop the Twin Metals project without conducting the environmental review prescribed in law," said company spokesperson Kathy Graul. "We are confident that a full environmental review will show that the science behind this modern mine will prove that we can advance this project safely under the highest of standard."

Politicians, both past and present, also weighed in on the decision. Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber blasted the administration's action, claiming it would have "devastating impacts on northern Minnesota and our nation" and said it was a decision by the administration to ban mining.

"He's choosing foreign sourced minerals, including mines that use child slave labor, over our own domestic, union workforce that follows the best labor and environmental standards in the world," Stauber said.

Meanwhile, former Gov. Mark Dayton hailed the decision and called for permanent protection of the Boundary Waters from threats posed by sulfide-based mining. "We inherited this pristine wilderness from previous generations of Minnesotans, who bequeathed it to us to benefit not only ourselves, but also our children, our grandchildren, and their children and grandchildren. Now it is our responsibility to protect this fragile ecosystem from those who would exploit it for their own selfish purposes."

Minnesota's Fourth District Congresswoman Betty McCollum agreed, calling the decision a "monumental victory for the Boundary Waters" and "a rejection of the deeply flawed and politically motivated process under the Trump administration."

Withdrawal process

The cancellation of the leases comes at the same time that the administration is studying a Forest Service request for a 20-year mineral withdrawal that would prohibit new mineral leasing on about 225,000 acres of the Superior National Forest, including the area where the two former Twin Metals leases were located. A decision on that issue is expected once a two-year study on the proposal is completed. That study got underway in October 2021 and concluded its public comment period earlier this month.



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YOUR HOME-DECOR STORE

ISD 2142...Continued from page 1 -

vear 2.

Prior offers by board negotiators to increase the district's contributions to a tax-free tax health care savings plan and a 403(b) retirement plan also were removed in the last, best and final offer.

On Tuesday's board agenda was an item to consider a resolution declaring an impasse in the negotiations and directing Superintendent Reggie Engebritson and administrative staff to unilaterally implement the last offer rejected by the union. The resolution included direction to incorporate various non-economic items already agreed to during negotiations. Such impasse actions by the board are authorized by state law.

However, the board met in a special closed session prior to the regular meeting to discuss the status of the negotiations. When they convened the regular meeting, the board voted unanimously to remove the impasse resolution from the agenda. No discussion was held and school officials offered no rationale for the change.

Also not discussed were possible next steps for resolving the contract dispute. One option would be to return to the bargaining table, most likely in the form of another mediated session.

Outside of a presentation by Q-Comp Director Kim Jirik supporting the renewal of the teacher professional development program, other agenda items were addressed and passed with little discussion.

The board was more engaged when member Chris Koivisto took the opportunity in member remarks at the end of the meeting to highlight the Iron Mosquitos robotics club at Northeast Range, which is currently working on a new robot for competition. Koivisto responded to numerous questions about the club and robotics options at other schools, noting in particular the many diverse technological, math, social and communication skills promoted by robotics that are transferable and beneficial for future employment and education opportunities. Member Bob Larson voiced his support for looking into options for all district schools to offer robotics.

Past board chairman Dan Manick used his time to first thank his fellow board members for their support during his tenure and made note of the manner in which board members have built mutual respect to work together productively, even in times of disagreement, to make decisions in the best interests of the district. As an example, he referenced the board's decision-making regarding the district's response to the COVID pandemic, where members reached consensus on issues such as masking after some members expressed concerns about proposed directions.

Manick then turned his attention to the disrespect of board decisions often generated in the general public, particularly on social media. Manick had on hand what he said was an example of such a post and read it verbatim to the board.

The item was a response to a Jan. 12 MPR article posted to Facebook about school districts in Minnesota going back to distance learning due to excessive student and staff absences related to "skyrocketing" case numbers. The individual who posted the article commented, "The kids' safety and health should be the top priority so District 2142 should do the same."

The response to that post read by Manick was clearly skeptical that ISD would consider such a

"2142 should do the same?" the post began. "Like THAT's going to happen. The 2142 school board met Tuesday, and there wasn't one single mention of anything related to COVID. ZERO. NOTHING. The superintendent stopped providing school COVID data to the media last September. Last year, the benchmark for distance learning was a two-week case rate of 50, and that's when masks were

required. In late fall, that rate was over 110, and did they even discuss the possibility of requiring masks? No. At the start of the school year, the state made a testing program available - ISD 2142 didn't choose to participate in that. St. Louis County case rates today are ones we haven't seen since the huge peak of November 2020, and they're expected to go higher over at least the next couple of weeks. All this information is available to school leaders through a designated health department specialist who works with school districts in the northern part of the county. 2142 leadership is committed to in-person learning. The only way they'll go to distance learning mode, IMHO, is if a large portion of people GET COVID. This isn't a group of folks in leadership who would take a proactive step to do so to AVOID folks getting it."

After reading the comment, Manick contin-

"It's easy to sit around and criticize people at a table like this," he said. "You know, social media is fascinating. I can go in my basement in the dark and I can type out anything I want to and send it out there, and it's an opinion. But step forward, come and sit on a board and try to make some of these tough decisions. And I just wanted to let you know the person that wrote that is sitting in the room this day."

Timberjay Cook/Orr Editor David Colburn immediately acknowledged he'd written the post.

"Absolutely. Right here," he said. "Tell me what's not factual about that statement." "Well, just the lead-

ership ..." Manick began, but Colburn repeated the question. "Tell me what's not

factual about that statement," he said. Rather than answering

the question, Manick continued.
"Criticizing our leader-

ship, from Reggie onto this

board," he said.

Manick again mentioned the differences of opinion expressed by board members and the consensus reached among them before returning to the post.

"I just find it a lack of

professional courtesy, and once again the respect," he said. "I respect everybody's opinion, especially on COVID.It's not easy, it's not, you know. So, I don't mind being criticized as the board chair."

Manick noted that he asked last year to be nominated as chair again to see the district through the pandemic.

"I wanted to see our kids stay in school," he said. "And I hope we will look back in less than ten years and say we did the right thing. It isn't easy. We've had kids get sick. No deaths. Don't take this personal, Dave. It's just if you want to share this room with us treat us with respect, that's all."

Colburn attempted to respond, but Manick cut him off, pointing out that as an audience member it was not his time to speak during member comments, something board chair Pat Christensen affirmed.

In other business, the

- ➤ Approved continuation of the Q Comp for the 2022-23 school year.
- ➤ Approved naming the Cherry School's gymnasi-

um Zupetz Gymnasium in honor of long-time dedicated teachers and counselor Lohn and Lynette Zupetz

John and Lynette Zupetz.

Expelled a student who engaged in violent physical behavior for one

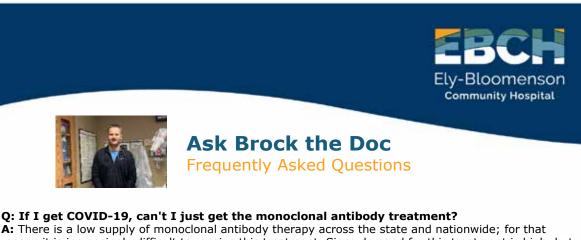
year.

➤ Approved the district's Indian Policies and Procedures.

➤ Approved a memorandum of understanding related to the 2020-23 Contract with paraprofessionals and related positions modifying compensation rates.

Approved an addendum to the contract with St. Louis County for the Check and Connect program adding one full-time mentor position for Chisholm schools, a .4 position at Vermilion Country School, and increasing the part-time mentor position in the Mt. Iron-Buhl district from .5 to .6.

Considered a grievance from an employee whose request for a lateral transfer to a similar position at another school was denied by Supt. Engebritson. The board unanimously expressed support for Engebritson's decision.



A: There is a low supply of monoclonal antibody therapy across the state and nationwide; for that reason it is increasingly difficult to receive this treatment. Since demand for this treatment is high, but supply is low, a Monoclonal Antibody Screening Score system, developed by the Mayo Clinic, is in place to make sure those at the highest risk of severe illness or death qualify to receive the treatment. The score is calculated online through your medical provider. If you qualify, and medication is available, your information is then given to a healthcare facility that can administer the treatment. Therefore, because this treatment is in such low supply, it is important to continue methods known to prevent COVID-19 infection: getting vaccinated, masking, social distancing, and proper handwashing.

Q: How can I get my free COVID-19 tests from the government?

A: Four free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests are available to every residence. These tests give results within 30 minutes. At-home testing kits are for the following situations:

- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- Prior to gathering with a group of people

 The state of the state
- If you have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual within the past 3-5 days

To order your tests, all you need is a name and residential address. Tests can be ordered in one of the following ways:

- Online at COVIDtests.gov
 Call 1 900 222 0222 (TTX)
- Call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489) to get help in English, Spanish, or more than 150 other languages
- The Disability Information and Access Line at 1-888-677-1199 is available to help people with disabilities place their order

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

physician and county medical control physician, and a clinical instructor of Emergency Medicine.

ebch.org

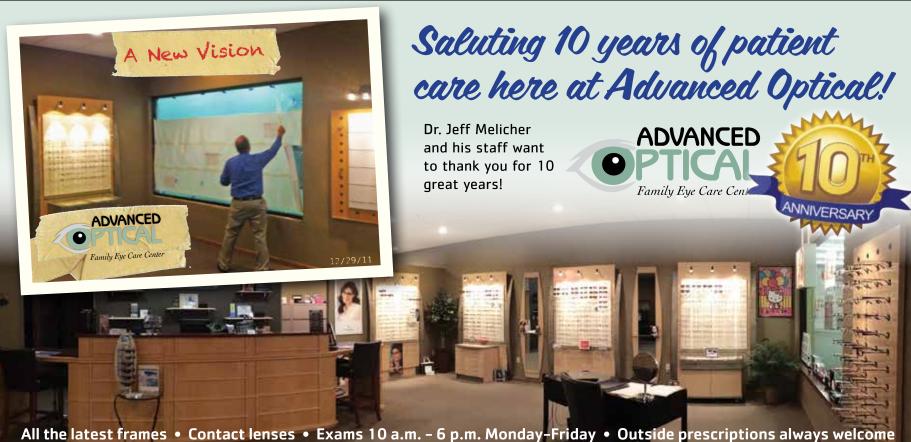
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12 January 28, 2022 THE TIMBERJAY

$f WINTER_{lue{--}}$ Continued from page 1

Wintergreen's roots were in crafting clothing to meet the demands of their adventure pursuits, which took them to both ends of the earth, the Arctic and Antarctic, and many remote places in between.

"But the center of our universe is the Boundary Waters," the Shurkes said about their location in Ely. "This, the world's premier canoe country and America's 'dogsledding capital,' is where we live, work and play. It was the inspiration for our designs and our year-round test lab."

The Schurkes sold Wintergreen in 2009. When those new owners closed it in 2013, the couple purchased some of the original equipment and inventory. In 2014, they bought back the original Sheridan Street building, and in 2015 they were able to retrieve their trademark and patterns. They reinvigorated Wintergreen to outfit the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts.

In 2021, after navigating through the challenges of clothing production and retail selling during the coronavirus pandemic, Sue Schurke decided to take a step back from the business.

Enter the Harren family. Jackson and Gabriel's father, John Harren, started the Northern Toboggan Co. business in 1995 in Warroad, and had a connection with Paul Schurke and Will Steger in outfitting toboggan gear for the Ely adventurers. The elder Herran had heard of the adventure sled niche opportunity for years from his uncle who traveled often to remote Canadian



The Northern Toboggan Co. is located next door to Wintergreen Northern Wear on Sheridan Street in downtown Ely. photo by K. Vandervort

communities doing service work.

The company's website related, "(Uncle) Raymond spoke often of how all of the sleigh makers were retiring and not passing on their skill set, leaving Northern Canada without a supplier of the traditional land vehicle they have relied on for centuries. Over a couple of years John's mentor handed down the traditional process and design that was once passed down to him. A process rich in techniques that were centuries old."

The craftsman's two sons, Jackson and Gabriel, never really moved on from their childhood days of growing up alongside their dad building sleds, cleaning the shop, and varnishing and packaging the final products for shipping. So, while they are both well into their professional

careers of manufacturing engineering and IT sales and marketing, they never stopped "moonlighting" at the family business.

The brothers' wives realized early on that they, too, married into the family business, and the company grew into a lifestyle of playing together as a family.

A couple of years ago, the two brothers took over and began to expand the business. "Our heritage is still a big part of our business," Jackson said. "That is an important value to us and is another connection we have with the Schurkes with their understanding and appreciation of the people."

He said one thing led to another with Sue Schurke a few years back where they realized they have similar businesses and similar customers, and the appreciation of fine craftsmanship and using quality materials.

"My brother and I, as Dad recently retired, found ourselves in a spot where we could take on an endeavor like Wintergreen," he said. "Sue's passion for this business and her entrepreneurial spirit have been such an inspiration for us. We hope to take (Wintergreen) to the next level. We feel a lot of responsibility to carry on their legacy. We look to Sue as a mentor."

Since taking over Wintergreen Northern Wear last August, the Harrens have hired at least five sewers and restarted the company's sewingfrom-home program.

"We look at it as a way of bringing the work to the workforce rather than the opposite," he said. "It is so important now as we get through this COVID situation. We have a pretty good program going to support sewing from home programs. We also have a handful of people who come into work every day."

Harren noted that Wintergreen's sew-from-home program is expanding into his hometown of Warroad and Duluth. "That is where we have a pipeline of logistics, and also are finding some sewers in these locations as well."

Northern Toboggan Co. remains headquartered in Warroad.

"Ely is our first retail store for toboggans," he said. "Having this space here in Ely allows for people to come in and see what we do and ask questions."

Harren added, "We are renting our product out of here. We will be selling our product here. We want to help people make connections to using our products here in Ely

for skiing, sledding and all those winter activities that people love."

He noted that Ely could be a home base store for Northern Tobbogan Co.

"In Warroad we do production and have our administrative staff and office, but there are really no customers there," he said. "We sell mostly through dealerships and shipping our product. Here we have a retail and showroom presence."

In the last few months, Wintergreen expanded their retail staff from two to six.

"There were two material cutters and now we have three," Herren said. "We had six sewing staff and now we have 14, including the home sewers. And still, our backlog is more than 10 weeks. You don't want too much of a backlog because then you start losing customers."

Harren continued, "We need to get caught up before we can start thinking of ways to expand and enhance our business. We plan to be successful in Ely and grow the business. It is hard to know right now what that is, but we know the potential is there to grow and expand the market and improve the customer experience."

Look for Northern Toboggan Co. to introduce themselves and their love of everything outdoors at the upcoming Ely Winter Festival.

For more information, visit Wintergreen Northern Wear at 205 East Sheridan St. and Northern Toboggan Co., right next door, at the top of the hill in downtown Ely.

ELY WINTER FESTIVALL



February 3-13, 2022



artwalk

Thurs, Feb 3 - Sun, Feb 6 Mon, Jan 31 - Sat Feb 5 Thurs, Feb 3 - Sun, Feb 27 Snow Sculpting Symposium Amateur Snow Carving Ely ArtWalk elyartwalk.org

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Thurs, Feb 3 - Sun, Feb 13

The Many Facets of Me, Daphne Caruso Art and Soul Gallery

Fri, Feb 4 and Sat, Feb 5

Hot Cocoa Bar & Apple Cider 9am - 5pm, 16 N First St

Fri, Feb 4

Great Nordic Beardfest 6pm, Boathouse Brew Pub Ely Winter Festival Kickoff 6:30pm, Whiteside Park

Sat, Feb 5

Winter Camping Demos
10am - 6pm, Whiteside Park
Snowshoe to Sigurd Olson's
Listening Point on Burntside Lake
10am and 1pm, Burntside Lake
Sunset Snowshoe

3:30pm - 5:30pm, Burntside Islands SNA Great Nordic Beardfest Live Music 6:30pm, State Theater Dorothy Molter Museum • rootbeerlady.com
Thurs, Feb 3 - Sun, Feb 13

Dorothy Molter Museum Silent Auction & Fundraiser
Visit the museum website for details.

Thurs, Feb 10, 7pm Dorothy Molter Museum Virtual Gathering Via Zoom - Visit museum website for more details.



Info & Registration elyfolkschool.org 218-235-0138

Makers Morning
Natural Dyes & Avocado Pits
Fabric & Photo Collage
Snow Snakes Demonstration
Cornish Pasties
Diamond Willow Carving
Herringbone Bracelet
Mystery Tracks Gamenight
Funky Jewelry
Gemstone Necklace
Date Night Pottery
Nature Writing for Women
Intro to Chip Carving
Canoe Trip Tapestry Weaving

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund; and from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

Sun, Feb 6

Snowshoe to Sigurd Olson's Listening Point on Burntside Lake 10am, Burntside Lake

Mon, Feb 7

Snowshoe to Sigurd Olson's Listening Point on Burntside Lake 10am, Burntside Lake Crossing Greenland 7pm - 8:30pm, State Theater

Thurs, Feb 10

Dorothy Molter Museum Virtual Gathering 7pm, rootbeerlady.com

Fri, Feb 11 - Sun Feb 13

Hot Cocoa Bar & Apple Cider 9am - 5pm all weekend, 16 N First St

Sat, Feb 12

VCC Law Enforcement Ice Fishing Tournament

7:30am -1:30pm, Burntside Lake













SPORTS

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HOCKEY

Wolves sink Oredockers

Pepper Ashland with 32 shots on goal to notch third win of the season

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY – The Timberwolves avenged their close loss to Ashland, Wis., last Friday with a convincing 5-1 win Monday at the friendlier confines of the Ely Ice Arena. The young Ely High School hockey team improved to 3-13.

The Timberwolves were quick on their feet on their home ice and

crashed the boards with 32 shots on goal. Ely senior goalie Chase Sandberg turned away 20 of 21 shots to his net.

"It was good to be able to finally pick up a win in a while and hang on to a third-period lead," Head Coach Jake Myers said. "The boys played really hard. I think it was their best game they played all year."

Both teams played aggressively, with Ely called for seven penalties, while the Oredockers sat in the sin

Right: Ely goalie Chase Sandberg eyes the action out in front of the goal Monday night. Sandberg turned away 20 of 21 shots on goal to help Ely notch its third win of the season.

photo by K. Vandervort

bin for six infractions. "We were winning puck races," he said. "We were winning puck battles. We were shooting pucks from everywhere and

See HOCKEY..pg. 2B





BOYS BASKETBALL

Ely wraps up Wrenshall

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

ELY — Two Timberwolves players tallied career highs here Tuesday night and junior Joey Bianco was one rebound short of a triple-double as Ely wrapped up the Wrens 73-51 to improve their record to 9-6.

"It was a great team effort against a quality opponent," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. Four Ely players hit double digits in scoring, the first time that's happened all season. Junior Jason Kerntz led the team, with a career high 21 points, and senior Mason Davis hit a career-high 14 points. Bianco, who has been Ely's leading scorer this season,

Edges Duluth-Marshall as Wolves improve to 9-6

Above: Ely freshman guard Caid Chittum eyes the bucket under heavy pressure from a Wrenshall defender.

Right: Ely junior Jason Kerntz looks downcourt as he advances the ball. Kerntz scored a career-high 21 points Tuesday night against Wrenshall.

photos by J. Greeney

connected for 19 points, and added ten assists and nine boards, for an impressive overall performance.

See WOLVES...pg. 2B



ARCHERY

Aim is true for North Woods, Ely archers

Schools score individual team honors at Saturday meet



 $\frac{\text{by DAVID COLBURN}}{\text{Cook-Orr Editor}}$

FIELD TWP- About 500 youthful archers from 13 regional schools descended on North Woods School on Saturday for the second archery meet of the year, and the Grizzlies repeated their performance from the first

Left: North Woods sixthgrade archer Nathan McLain steadies his bow as seventh-grade teammate Kiley Kopatz visualizes her next shot. meet, hitting the mark with firstplace team finishes in elementary and middle school divisions and second in high school. Ely also had numerous archers place high in the individual division competitions.

North Woods Head Coach Emily Nelson said that the numbers were down from pre-COVID tournaments that would attract around 700 competitors. Many schools are seeing fewer participants after the long pandemic-inflicted layoff, she said, but participation at North Woods

See ARCHERY...pg. 2B

BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies hit mid-season rough patch

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP – The North Woods boys basketball team took to the home hardwoods on Tuesday looking for redemption after last week's 84-75 loss to Mt. Iron-Buhl on that very same floor.

What they got instead was a loss the likes of which North Woods hasn't seen since the 2019 Class A state championship game, as the Cherry Tigers ran the Grizzlies out of the building, 84-59.

It was an ending few in the packed gymnasium could have foreseen after the first eight minutes of play. With the Grizzlies' Brenden Chiabotti immediately matching Cherry's opening trey with one of his own, both teams looked to be off to the races in a fast-paced slugfest.

See NW BOYS..pg. 2B



photo by C. Ellerbroek

Zoe Devine was Ely's top female finisher, helping to lead the girls team to a first-place finish.

NORDIC SKIING

T-Wolves dominate in freestyle competition

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

GRAND MARAIS — Ely skiers dominated in a six-way freestyle Nordic meet here last Friday, continuing a string of strong performances by the Timberwolves' squads.

In a field of 31 racers, Ely

seniors Gabriel Pointer and Jon Hakala finished first and second respectively. Pointer bested all skiers in the five-kilometer contest

See NORDIC...pg. 2B

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Duluth-Marshall outruns Timberwolves, 70-53

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

ELY - Grace LaTourell had a big day here on Saturday, but it wasn't enough to keep pace with Duluth-Marshall, which outpaced the Timberwolves, 70-53. LaTourell went a spectacular 14-for-14 from the charity stripe as she tallied a team-high 29 points in the game. She also added

eight rebounds to her impressive stat total.

Other Ely players shot well from the field, as the team connected eight times from beyond the arc. "But we just turned the ball over too many times to overcome," said Head Coach Max Gantt. "Marshall is a good team and we shot the ball well, but we just had too many turnovers."

Sarah Visser had a strong outing as well, notching eight rebounds and four assists.

With the season now past the mid-point, Gantt said he's looking for an increase in consistency and intensity. "We lost to three good teams in the past week and played good basketball in each game. Now it's time to play that level of basketball for the full game against a good team, and that will start with valuing the basketball and the possessions we get."

Gantt said his team is still improving and is getting close to where they need to be to compete as the playoffs loom. "Our best basketball is ahead of us," he

Ely's Monday contest with Bigfork was postponed until Feb. 8 due to a COVID-19 outbreak. The team is set to take on Duluth Denfeld on Friday. They'll host Two Harbors on Saturday, with a 2:45 p.m. varsity start. They're scheduled to remain at home to host Nashwauk-Keewatin on Monday.

NW BOYS...Continued from page 1B

Playing without big man Sean Morrison, North Woods held its own on the boards, rattled Cherry ballhandlers and shooters on defense, and built a 14-13 edge on the strength of two treys by Davis Kleppe and buckets by T.J. Chiabotti and Alex Hartway.

Coming out of a Cherry timeout, the Grizzlies turned on the jets with quick seven-point run, forcing the Tigers to take another time out trailing 21-13 with 8:24 left in the half.

'Both teams came out very ready to play," Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe said. "We shot the ball well, we had some good ball movement, and some inside-out action where we hit some open shots."

Once the ball was back in play, Cherry owned the court. Holding North Woods to a solitary T.J. Chiabotti bucket from the floor the rest of the half, the Tigers exploded in a 29-9 blitz that left the stunned Grizzlies staring at a 42-30 deficit going into the break.

"Just careless mistakes, a few turnovers, we didn't capitalize on possessions," Kleppe said. "You can't do that against at team like this. They're a great team, they're always right there, and if you don't make the most of your possessions they're going to make you pay. We just couldn't stop the bleeding.'

Every time the Grizzlies tried to cut into the lead in the second half, the Tigers had an answer and then some. After five minutes of trading points,



Jared Chiabotti gets wrapped up under heavy pressure from Cherry defenders. The Grizzlies went on to lose their Tuesday night contest to the Tigers.

photo by D. Colburn

Cherry still held a 12-point lead at 53-41. The Grizzlies continued to struggle on the offense end as the Tigers steadily pulled away for the 25-point win.

"When they got up by double digits, we forced some things and they took advantage," Kleppe said. "We were really caught in a trap there where we were trying to get in and rebound to try to keep the ball alive but couldn't afford to because they were getting the ball out and getting layups on us."

Cherry's eighth-grade phenom Noah Asuma topped all scorers with 28 points, all from the field. Jared Chiabotti and Jonah Burnett shared scoring honors for the Grizzlies with 12 each, followed by T.J. Chiabotti with 10.

Mt. Iron-Buhl

The Jan. 19 game against MIB was a tilt between evenly matched teams that was decided by a second-half Rangers run.

MIB led from the outset, holding leads from one to seven points, and the Grizzlies were within one at 27-28 when the Rangers closed the half on a 7-0 run to lead 35-27 at the break.

A baseline drive by Alex Hartway and fast break bucket by T.J. Chiabotti to open the second half got the Grizzlies back in the game at 35-31, but the Rangers quickly moved the lead to ten, 43-33.

North Woods trailed by nine, 54-45, when they made their next big push. Jonah Burnett dropped in two shots and a free throw, and Sean Morrison scored twice to tie the score at 54-54. MIB scored coming out of a time out, but a trey by Burnett gave North Woods its first and only lead of the game at 57-56 with just over seven minutes to play.

And then, having finally reached the top of the mountain, the Grizzlies fell off a cliff. Hitting at will from underneath and outside, the Rangers scorched North Woods with a 16-0 run over the next three minutes that effectively sealed the game. The Grizzlies got no closer than eight the rest of the way as the Rangers closed out the 84-75 loss.

The Rangers won with red-hot shooting, hitting an astonishing 65 percent of their shots and shooting 45 percent from three-point range.

T.J. Chiabotti poured in 31 points on 12-of-28 shooting to lead the Grizzlies, but it wasn't enough to overcome the 35 points scored by MIB's Asher Zubich. Jared Chiabotti dropped in 15 for North Woods, followed by Burnett with 12 and Morrison with 10.

Grizzlies take care of business in Nashwauk

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

NASHWAUK-In what's been an up and down schedule in recent games, taking on a powerhouse opponent one night and a struggling one the next, the cycle was in North Woods' favor as the girls basketball team took its 7-7 record on the road Jan. 20 and scored a solid 69-57 victory over winless Nashwauk-Keewatin.

It was a breakout game for the Grizzlies' Hannah Kinsey, who roared out of the box with 17 first-half points and finished with a game-high 32 points, displaying a commanding presence shooting down low, hitting some mid-range jumpers, and dropping in a threeball.

Her Grizzlies teammates were quick to size up the advantage and work the ball in to Kinsey, and they were in the groove as well as North Woods streaked to a 27-6 advantage, getting contributions from Tatum Barto, Addison Burckhardt, Aleesia Geshick, and Nevada Gauthier.

North Woods held a commanding 33-11 lead at the half and continued to pound away in the second half, although starting a bit more slowly, thanks in part to some increased intensity from Nashwauk-Keewatin. But the outcome was never in doubt as the Grizzlies pulled off a 30-point 56-26 win.

In addition to Kinsey's big night, Lauren Burnett knocked down 13 points. Eight Grizzlies scored in the game.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

Senior Harry Simons added 16 points to round out the double-digit scoring for Ely. Junior Erron Anderson led in rebounds, with ten.

Tuesday's win was the second in a row against strong competition. The Wolves, on

Saturday, edged visiting Duluth-Marshall 58-56 in a hard-fought contest that came down to the final seconds. "We played well defensively and hit some big shots down the stretch against one of the better teams in our section," said McDonald.

Ely had the opportunity to pull away at times, but they struggled at the charity stripe, hitting just two of ten tries. "We'll need to get better at that," said McDonald.

Bianco had a big game, pouring in 30 of Ely's 58

points. Simons added 16 points and Davis added ten, while Anderson again tallied ten boards.

The Wolves were set to host Littlefork-Big Falls on Friday. They'll face Carlton on the road on Tuesday.

NORDIC...Continued from page 1B

with a time of 15:05.7. Hakala finished second with a time of 15:44.0, just a half-second ahead of Connor Matschiner, of Mesabi East. Ely senior Micah Larson finished in seventh place, with a time of 16:13.1, putting all three of Ely's varsity skiers in the top ten. But with only three

varsity skiers competing, the Ely squad finished last in the team competition, since the team rankings, calculated in points, are based on each team's top four skiers.

The Ely girls, meanwhile, finished in the top spot in the team rankings, helped by top ten finishes from juniors Zoe Devine, Phoebe Helms, and sophomore Ava Skustad. Devine took third place with a time of 17:11.2, while Helms finished in fifth in 18:37.2. Skustad finished in eighth place in a time of 19:54.5. Junior Sydney Durkin finished in 14th place, with a time of 21:03.9 to help the girls to a 372-point finish, seven points ahead of second-place Proctor/ Hermantown.

While the all-senior Ely boys varsity ski team is a bit light on participation this year, the team has a promising crop of younger skiers currently competing at the jr. varsity level. At

last Friday's meet, Ely jr. varsity skiers took the top five spots and finished seven team members in the top ten in a field of 33 racers. It was a similar story on the girls side, where Ely's jr. varsity squad finished five racers in the top ten and took three of the four top positions.

Ely skiers will be back in action on Friday, when they compete in the Duluth East Invitational. They're set to host the Ely Invitational next Thursday, Feb. 3, at Hidden Valley. Both competitions get underway at 9:30 a.m.

ARCHERY...Continued from page 1B

remains strong with over 50 fourth through 12th grade students participating.

With such a large group, Nelson needs plenty of help, and she has it. Four new assistants signed up this year, giving Nelson a total of 12.

"Each coach can help five or six kids at a time, so that helps a lot," Nelson said. "You can really get more one-on-one time with those kids instead of having them all spread out. I think that's why our numbers are so good, because we're able to help the kids so much."

With only two practices a week and meets every other Saturday, Nelson said they can also accommodate kids on the team who also want to play basketball.

Archery competition takes place under the auspices of the National Archery in the Schools Program, which specifies equipment requirements, establishes rules, provides for tournament results reporting, and makes instructional opportunities available. Nelson said that regional schools banded together a few years ago to establish a northeast regional group.

"I feel like we're one of the better regions in the state because we've really worked together to keep it

running," Nelson said. Pooling their financial resources, the group acquired the targets, bow stands, quivers, and additional safety equipment necessary to stage a large interscholastic meet, and a large trailer to transport it all. Nelson said that when everything is packed up at the end of a meet, the next host school takes the trailer along with them.

Unpacking and setting up a competition layout featuring 40 targets for the North Woods meet took about two-and-a-half hours on Friday night, Nelson said.

"I think that's the fastest we've ever done it," she said.

Archery tournaments are day-long come-and-go affairs where schools and students can schedule the times they're going to shoot throughout the day, but it still takes a lot of volunteers to accommodate 500 archers plus coaches and fans throughout the day. Nelson said that Grizzlies parents were assigned three-hour working shifts, and student archers also helped when they weren't competing.

North Woods and Ely

archers with top-five finishes

included:

Fourth Grade Female 1st-(204) Beck Sponholz

2nd- (191) Kaidence

Scofield - North Woods Male (253) Clark

Danielson - North Woods 3rd- (230) Hayden Weidemann - Ely 4th- (229) Braden Jonas

Fifth Grade Female 4th- (222) Michaela Brunner - North Woods Male

1st - (261) Buckley LeForte - North Woods 2nd- (260) Brady Swanson - North Woods

Middle School

3rd- (273) Sabrah Hart 4th- (272) Merilee

Scofield - North Woods Male 1st- (271) Lincoln

Antikainen - North Woods 3rd- (269) Blaze Markwardt - North Woods 5th- (260) Talan Hart

Female 1st- (286) Lillian Voges - North Woods

High School

HOCKEY...Continued from page 1B

crashing the boards."

The Timberwolves scored twice in the first period. Junior forward Kole Macho was assisted by Logan Loe to draw first blood at 11:14. Deegan Richards scored unassisted in a power play at 14:31 to

Richards scored again

give Ely a 2-0 advantage.

on a power play at $\bar{3}:52$ in the second period, with assists by Loe and Jackson Hegman, to give Ely a 3-0 lead. Macho scored his second goal of the night at 8:25, on an even strength, unassisted scoring effort to give the Timberwolves a commanding 4-0 lead. Ashland scored at

15:57 in the second period to make the score 4-1 at the second break.

Neither team could find the net during most of

the last frame until Richards hit a hat trick score at the 16:08 mark to give Ely a 5-1 victory.

The Timberwolves' road trip to Ashland's Bay Area Civic Center last Friday netted the team host Duluth Marshall on five goals, the most in one

game since all their games combined dating back to Dec. 28, but the Oredockers scored their game-winning sixth goal of the night with just 10 seconds left in regulation to get the win. Ely was scheduled to

Thursday, Jan. 27. Bagley Fosston visits the Ely Ice Arena on Saturday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m., and the Timberwolves will host Park Rapids on Thursday, Feb. 3.

January 28, 2022 **3B** THE TIMBERJAY

Obituaries and Death Notices



James Cottrell

Today Butch is reading his obituary in the paper and that must mean he's with "the man upstairs." He read every part of the paper and had a system of doing so. He had a system for most everything!

James "Butch" Cottrell, 81, of Cook, passed away on Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, at Diamond Willow Assisted Living Facility in Mt. Iron. He actually read the majority of the paper that day and even commented on the Dear Abby column. Butch lived life by his own rules. Even though doctors told him he had only days, maybe hours, to live back in December, he chose to be stubborn and stay with us for another month. It may have been because he had a "captive audience" for the jokes and stories he wanted to share. He loved making people laugh and his delivery made the joke even better. There's no doubt that most who knew him will recall a joke or story that Butch told them.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 29 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook, with visitation for one hour before the service. A lunch will follow the service at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Cook. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

Butch was born in Mora on Oct. 4, 1940, to James and Arlene Cottrell. He grew up in McGrath and graduated in 1958. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Colorado, Germany and Chicago from 1958 until 1961. After the military, he returned to Minnesota where he found work as a lineman doing powerline construction, moving to and from several states in the Midwest

Butch married Cleo

Rude on June 11, 1966. Needing to go where the next powerline construction project happened to be, Butch moved his family to several different towns throughout Minnesota, North Dakota and Illinois. In November 1968, the family settled in Cook, while he was working for Spalj Construction of Crosby. The company was contracted to build a powerline from Cook to Crane Lake. In April 1969, Jack Whiteside asked him to come to work for Northern Electric Cooperative. They moved to their current home in September 1969. Butch retired from Lake Country Power in August 2002. He was proud of the many people he helped by turning on their electricity. He often received thank-you cards from people who saw him working through the night, many times during terrible storms, to get their lights back on. When a trouble call came in, Butch would always go, no matter the time of day.

Butch enjoyed working in the garden, riding one of his numerous horses, and taking saunas. He built his sauna from an old horse barn and was very proud of it. Butch attended the Effie Rodeo for many years. Watching old Westerns, especially Gunsmoke and Bonanza, was a favorite pastime and he could recite most of the dialogue on cue.

Butch learned to whitefish from his good friend, Rico Roivanen. Their smoked whitefish was always a big hit for those who ate it. Deer hunting season was a special time of year, as well. He spent many years on Hinsdale Island hunting with family and friends. He also hunted near Ash Lake with relatives, and around home with his sons, daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. After he retired, Butch would frequently attend games and events his grandchildren were involved in. Getting rides behind a four-wheeler or on a horse are fond memories for all his grandkids.

While feeding the critters that wandered into the yard, he found sport in "weeding out" the ones that were offensive or just looking for a free meal. Despite keeping occupied with all of these daily routines, Butch never turned down an opportunity to help. He would give rides to appointments, a tug out of the ditch, or visit a friend or relative. He enjoyed helping anyone he could. He instilled a strong work ethic in his kids and grandkids and always led by example, often outworking his kids in any activity, whether it was throwing bales or cutting wood.

When asked what he thought should be in his obituary, Dad was quiet for a bit. He then asked, "Do you know what's written under my yearbook picture?" We responded, "No, we do not." His reply, "It says, 'Anyone want to hear a joke?' You should use that." So that's what we did.

Rest easy and sleep quick, Grandpa Butch. You'll be missed by many but your words will live on and give people a reason to laugh and remember the good times.

Butch is survived by his wife, Cleo Cottrell; son, Del (Lisa) Cottrell and their children, Doug and Becca; son, Jerry (Natalie) Cottrell; daughter, Shelly (Mike) Flaten and their children, James "Jake" (Abby), Joe, Jen and Julia: son. Dan (Stacy) Cottrell and their children, Kayleigh and Clay; brothers, Bob Cottrell of Wheatland, Iowa, Jack Cottrell of Lost Nation, Iowa, and Dave (Nancy) Cottrell of Sauk Rapids; sister, Jan Cottrell of Mc-Grath; several brothers-inlaw, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and cousins; and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Betty (Roy) Cottrell; parents, James and Arlene Cottrell; brother, Darel Cottrell; in-laws and other relatives.

Thomas E. Skubic

Thomas Edward Skubic, 71, of Grand Junction, Colo., formerly of Virginia, died on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022, at his home. A celebration of Tom's life will take place at a later date in Minnesota. Arrangements are with Callahan-Edfast Mortuary and Crematory in Grand

Junction. He is survived by his wife, Carol; son, Nick (Ashley) Skubic of Denver, Colo.; daughter, Jenny Skubic of Phoenix, Ariz.; stepsons, Paul Ranta of Mt. Iron and Tyler (Katie) Ranta of Virginia; grandchildren, Annabel Skubic, Michael, Margo and Miller Ranta; sister, Ann (Bruce) Peterson of Duluth; brothers, Michael Skubic (Dianne French) of Virginia, Jim (Cyndy) Skubic and Paul Skubic. both of Tower; mother-inlaw, Doris Lappi of Cook; sisters-in-law, Brenda (Jim) Koskovich of Aurora and Elayne Lappi of Playas de Rosarito, Mexico; and many nieces and nephews.



Melissa Brockman

Melissa "Missy" Brockman, 66, of Orr, passed away on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022, at her home. Per Missy's wishes, there will be no funeral service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Missy was born in La Crosse, Wis., on March 21, 1955, to William and Ruth (Hoffman) McCaffrey. Missy grew up in La Crescent, Minn., graduating from La Crescent High School in 1973. Missy was united in marriage to Mike Brockman on April 27, 1981, in Duluth. They moved to Dryden, Ontario, Canada, and lived off the land for six years. The couple then moved to Orr in 1985 to start a family. Missy was employed as a housekeeper with North Country Inn for 20 years and Norman's Hotel for two years, before she re-

tired in 2018. Missy enjoyed living a quiet life tucked away at her home in the woods. She loved being a grandma and looked forward to every photo, phone call and visit that came her way from them.

Missy fought a hard battle of Stage 4 lung cancer for almost four years. She lived a life full of love, adventure, and good memories. She loved her family and especially her grandchildren. Anyone who knew Missy knew she was a one-of-akind, down-to-earth, and kind-hearted person. She will be deeply missed and

always remembered.

Missy is survived by her loving husband, Mike Brockman; son, Matt (Lindsey) Brockman; daughter, Megan (Nate) Pierce; grandchildren, Quinn and Owen Brockman, Lena, Boone and Hogan Pierce; three step-grandchildren, Annie, Sven and Lauryn Pierce; brother, Terry Mc-Caffrey; and sister, Karen Reichert.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William "Bill" and Ruth Mc-Caffrey; and brother, Tom McCaffrey.

Gabriele Pihlaja

Gabriele "Gaby" Espenschied Pihlaja, 74, of Cook, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022. A funeral service will be held at noon on Tuesday, Feb. 1 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. A luncheon will be held immediately following the service at the VFW in Cook. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

She is survived by her husband, Dennis Pihlaja; daughter, Sheilah Pajunen; grandchildren, Anthony Jenkins and Jessica Steventon (Kirkpatrick); great-grandchildren, Rowan Kirkpatrick, Emory and Avery Steventon, and Janis Jenkins; sister, Annie Klein; niece, Petra (Robert) Weller; and many cousins.

John A. Debeltz

John Andrew Debeltz, 83, a lifelong resi-

dent of Ely, passed away on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022, at the Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital surrounded by his wife, children, grandchildren, brother and pastor. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 29 at The Ely Gospel Church. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

John is survived by his wife, Cheryl Debeltz; children, John L. (Linda) Debeltz, Dawn (Marty) Chinander and Sherry Larson; grandchildren, Zach (Angie) Debeltz, Jesse Debeltz, Caitlin (Luke) Daniels and Sarah Larson; sister, Jeanie Hasseblad of Nevada; and brothers, Jonathan (Cheryl) Debeltz of Wyoming, Jerome (Mary) Debeltz of Ely and Jerry Debeltz of

David M. Mayen

David Michael Mayen, 76, of Babbitt, passed away from natural causes. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Not one to wish people to be sad or serious, Dave's wish was for people to celebrate his life with joy.

He is survived by his children, Russell Mayen, Debra (Craig) Pulley and Amber Mayen; mother of his children, Carol Saatela; grandchildren, Megan Pulley, Anna Mills and Morgan Entner; brothers, Jeff Mayen, Michael (Joan) Mayen and Gary (Rayette) Mayen; and many nieces and nephews.





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4B January 28, 2022 TIMBERJAY Newspapers



BWCAW PERMITS

Act soon to reserve your overnight wilderness permit

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

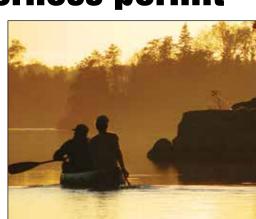
REGIONAL - Open water is still months away here in the North Country, but reservations for permits in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness are now open. And anyone hoping to snag a permit for an overnight trip in the wilderness had better act quickly. The available permits, particularly for the most popular entry points, are often claimed quickly and can leave those who wait limited to only a handful of options.

The U.S. Forest Service decision to reduce the number of permits this year is expected to make the competition even more fierce, so confirm your plans as soon as possible and make your reservations at recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

opened on Wednesday, Jan. 26, so many permits may already be reserved.

Due to the high demand for overnight permits, the Forest Service recommends that visitors hoping to obtain a permit have at least three travel options, with different dates or entry points in mind, in case your first choice is unavailable.

Prior to making a res-Permit reservations ervation, carefully consider whether a primitive wilderness trip is the best option for your group. You can visit the Superior National Forest website to discover 254 backcountry campsites, as well as dispersed camping areas, that provide a near wilderness experience with no fees or reservations required.





BIRD BEHAVIOR

Regulars react to new kid on the block

At our feeders, this lone magpie is like the Rodney Dangerfield of birds

new bird that has become a regular at our feeders recently reminds me a bit of Rodney Dangerfield... he just gets no respect. It's a black-billed magpie, and it's the first time we've ever had one show up in our yard, at least that we've seen.

It showed up first with a group of ravens that zeroed in on the remains of a deer carcass I had put out in back of the house.

Magpies are a medium-sized member of the corvid family, which includes jays, crows, and ravens, but their spectacularly long tails and striking color patterns, including irridescent greens and blues, make them stand out in a crowd.

I suspect this particular magpie would have preferred to blend in, since his

sudden appearance seemed to have set some of our other backyard visitors on edge. When he first started feeding on the cracked corn I spread on the ground, the red squirrels took offense, repeatedly chasing him off. He seemed to get the message, and after a few incidents, he started showing up when the squirrels weren't around. But then he showed up when a ruffed grouse was eating. Normally shrinking violets when other birds are about (red squirrels

Top: The magpie sits just outside the writer's picture window.

Right: In flight, the striking black and white patterns of the magpie are visible.

photos by M. Helmberger

MARSHALL

HELMBERGER

like harassing the grouse, as well), the appearance of the magpie sent the grouse into an angry display with tail spread, neck ruff extend-

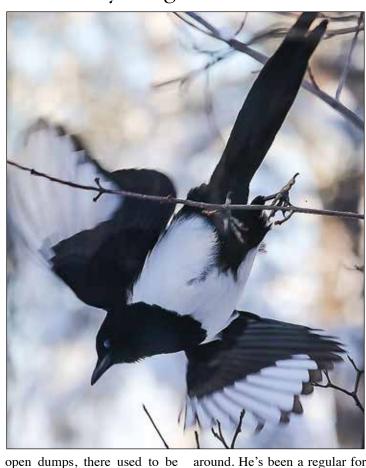
ed, and wings flapping. He then charged the magpie, something I'd never seen any grouse do except when protecting

Not surprisingly, the magpie has learned to avoid the grouse as

I suspect the magpie is a juvenile, and probably fledged over on the west side of the Lost Lake Swamp, where the unbroken forest

gradually transitions to more open country. Magpies generally prefer a mix of forest and fields, so they've long been regulars in the Little Fork Valley. Magpies are generally western birds, but their range extends to the east across northern Minnesota right about to the Cook area, which has generally been the cutoff for this bird, although they're occasionally seen to the east of there.

Back when we still had



open dumps, there used to be a small population of magpies around Soudan, but they disappeared about the time the dump was closed. Like other corvids, magpies are opportunistic scavengers, and can be found on roadkills, garbage dumps, or similar food sources.

I'll be curious to see how long our lone magpie hangs



It was minus-38 degrees Tuesday morning in the Lost Lake Swamp, cold enough to frost up eyelashes and eyebrows during an early morning snowshoe.

photo by M. Helmberger

COMMENT

DNR seeks input on several deer permit areas

REGIONAL— If you're interested in deer management in parts of the North Country, the DNR is seeking your input. The DNR is in the process of setting deer population goals for several deer permit areas in northeastern Minnesota and they're taking public comment on those

goals through Feb. 13. Permit areas currently under consideration in the region include DPAs 117, 118, 126, 130, 131, and 133.

"We're continuing with an online questionnaire this year and adding webinars for those who wish to connect directly with area wildlife managers on this topic," said Barbara Keller, DNR big game program leader.

Population goals established in this process will provide direction for management in each goal-setting block for a 10-year period, with a midpoint review at the five-year mark. Goal blocks and the DPAs that comprise them are established based on similar habitat, land uses, deer populations and deer hunter distribution.

Online feedback opened on Monday, Jan. 24. Participants are asked to complete an online questionnaire and indicate whether the deer population in a particular area should increase, decrease, or stay the same—and provide their rationale.

Details about each goal block, how to participate in the process, the webinar schedule, and how to access the questionnaire are listed on the DNR's website (mndnr. gov/mammals/deer/management/population.html).

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

about a month now. Once spring

arrives, I suspect he'll move on

to greener pastures, most likely

to be found about a dozen miles

west of here. Perhaps there he'll

finally get some respect.

Monday Saturday Sunday **Tuesday Friday** Ely Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Emb. Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Cook Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Tower Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Orr 01/17 21 12 0.01 0.3" 01/17 21 12 0.01 0.2" 01/18 22 14 0.08 1.4" 21 12 0.01 22 13 0.06 01/19 28 -5 0.20 01/20 1 -33 0.00 01/21 1 -33 0.00 01/19 28 -3 0.18 01/20 1 -32 0.00 01/21 1 -10 0.00 0.18 2.5" 0.00 01/19 28 -3 0.21 01/20 -1 -24 0.00 01/21 -2 -27 0.00 0.20 1.0" 28 -1 2.7" 4.0" 01/20 2 -29 0.00 01/21 2 -31 0.00 01/20 1 -27 0.00 01/21 16 -11 0.00 01/22 16 -20 0.00 01/23 3 -27 0.00 0.02 0.8" 01/22 15 0.04 0.6" 2.0" 0.02 0.00 0.71 29.4"

REGIONAL- Recent snows and continued cold temperatures have left area snowmobile trails listed as "very good" around the area, the best rating of the

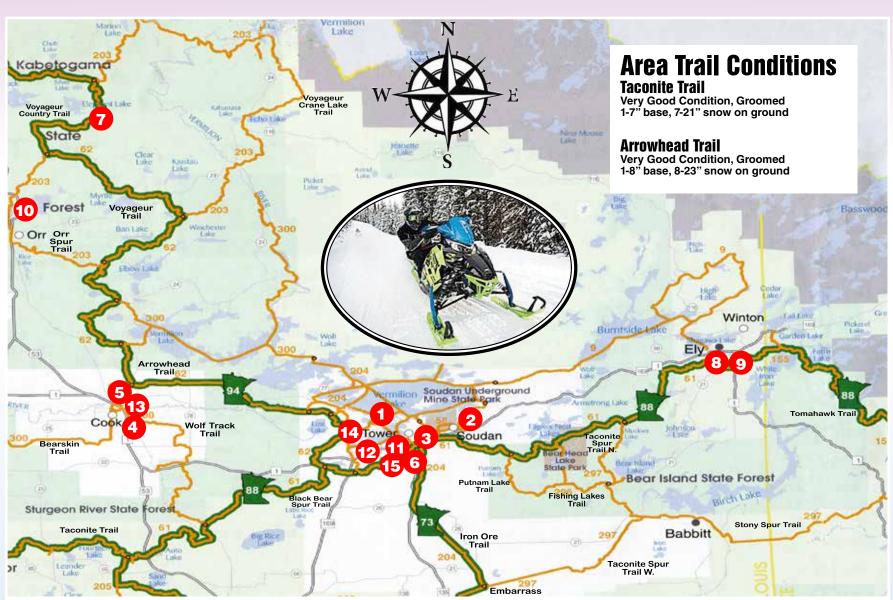
season so far. According to the Department of Natural Resources, both the Arrowhead and Taconite trails are in very good shape, with a base of 1-8 inches and anywhere from seven

to 23 inches of snow on the

ground.

January 28, 2022 **5B** TIMBERJAY Newspapers

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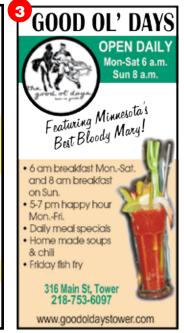
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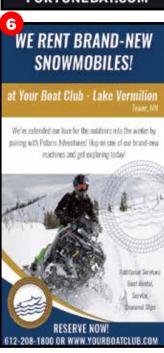






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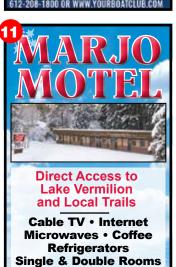


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PUBLIC NOTICES

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 **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 Forte 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 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

BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT MEETING

The Bearville Township Board of Audit is scheduled for Wednesday, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bearville Town Hall. This meeting will consist of auditing the books for the year ending December 31, 2021 and preparing proposed levies to submit to the Annual Town Meeting.

The Bearville Township Board of Supervisors 2022 March meeting is re-scheduled to Tuesday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bearville Town Hall.

All meetings are open to the public.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 28 & Feb. 4, 2022

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include general office work, local reporting, editing of community notices, page layout,

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deadline. Job would be about 12 hours a week

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For more information, call Jodi at 218-753-2950 (office), 218-750-3513 (cell), or email

PUBLIC NOTICES

CALL FOR BIDS

The Stuntz Bay Association is calling for bids for the removal and replacement of the permanent dock and cribs at the

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King Crossword

13

16

ACROSS 1 Shade

- Frontiersman Crockett
- 8 Pocket bread
- 12 100 percent 13 Dutch cheese
- 14 Pedestal
- occupant
- 15 Cowboy's
- sweetie
- 16 Do math 18 Slowpoke 20 Hydrocarbon
- suffix 21 Cushions
- 24 Persian Gulf emirate
 - Nutritional label info
- 32 Flamingo's color
- 34 Lauder of
- cosmetics
- 36 Summer on the Seine
- 37 Guns the engine
- boot Fashion
- gun
- 'Iron Man"
- 56 Now, in a

59 Quick swims

51 52

- 39 Toe of Italy's DOWN
 - Bator
- 44 Ms. Thurman
- 46 Gossip
- 55 Deluge refuge
- memo

- 50 Baseball's

neckwear 9 Hollywood's 58 Luau bowlful Lupino 10 Nanny's

- 60 Winter blanket charge 61 Novelist Rand 11 Hearty quaff
 - 17 German conjunction
- 1 Crones 22 Platter
- 43 Hit with a stun 3 First lady of 23 Attack
 - 25 Coffin stand scat
 - 4 Proclaim 26 Con 5 Nabokov 27 Furniture
 - novel 6 Batman por-
 - trayer Kilmer
 - 7 Village People 29 Help a hood
 - 30 Tax © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

brand

film

28 2006 Pixar

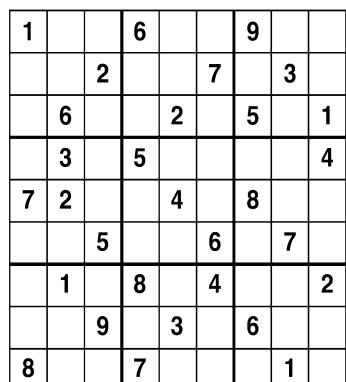
58 31 Actress Ward

55

- 8 Accumulate 35 "Calm down!" 38 Drinks noisily
 - 40 Spell-off
 - 42 Brit. record label
 - 45 LAPD alerts
- 47 Wine valley 19 Wall St. debut 48 Helen's home
 - 49 Related
 - 50 Scoundrel
 - "- was say-51 ing ..."
 - 52 Napkin's
 - place "— -Tiki"
 - 54 "Evil Woman"
 - band

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

♦ Moderate
♦ Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

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Answers B L A D E S R O B E R T FD IC RIEIBIA E L I S RARA ΕX MAGICEYES AMELIE SEGA ATMFEES KINETICENERGY $N \mid I \mid A \mid E \mid S \mid A \mid I \mid M \mid D \mid I$ DOMESTICECONOMY BASED L I N O D O U R
S C O M E D I C E F F E C T C L E N C H E S L A P S K Y D I V E R HUNDUDUPCENT ADE A G R A P U B L I C E N E M Y E N I D L O A T H P O S H E N V O Y E N E

L I N E U P E R I S C A R A A O L Y M P I C E V E N T S A N G E L

PO Box 102, Soudan, MN 55782 Bids are due by Feb. 9, 2022 Any questions, call Dan at 218-969-6374 Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 28 & Feb. 4, 2022 **FUNERAL SERVICES**

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Super Crossword

"Friends Helping Friends"

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P H R A S E C E N T E R I C E P I A N O S A T T A M A I D PIANOS



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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.

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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 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.

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

— King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.





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SUPPORT GROUPS

AA OPEN MEETING- Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church, Acacia Blvd. and Central Drive 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 vourself a break. There is a 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.)

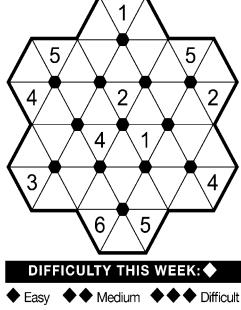
HIV/AIDS? For confidential compassionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

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

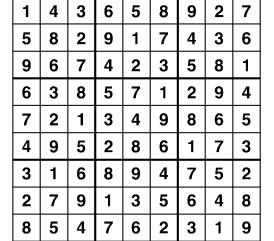
There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer



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Brit

45 Sullen

47 Gore and

Pacino

50 Humorous

impact

58 Tightens, as

one's fist

63 Track circuit

deploying

fashionably

Rogers St.

jumper

68 Dollar part

70 Author -

Johns

71 Taj Mahal

locale

list

77 Ge

73 Person on a

patient wife

78 Averse (to)

80 Swanky

81 Diplomat

65 Goth foe

66 Fixed

64 Chute-

flooring, to a

MARINE

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48 PC screen

type

Super Crossword 95 Discontinued DOWN

2 Euphoria

3 Female

5 Most

honcho

4 "You wish!"

liberated

6 Go on a brief

yacht outing

7 Furious state

8 Wine vessel

9 Marlon of film

noodle dish

wrongdoing

13 Actor Bana of

"Munich"

course of

Spanish

17 Move like a

hula dancer

14 Control the

15 Pre-euro

16 Puts forth

12 Sandwich

shop

10 Chinese

11 Aid in

ACROSS 1 Musical

- McEntire
- 5 Bank acct. underwriter
- 9 Skate parts 15 Church seats
- 19 Students at Yale
- **20** avis (one of a
- kind) 21 Actor Shaw
- 22 Take one's leave 23 Photoelectric
- cells used for **IDing**
- 25 Title heroine of a 2001 French film
- 26 Onetime rival of
- Nintendo 27 Charges to get some
- 28 Property of a body in
- motion 31 Vardalos of the screen
- 32 Morales of "Bad Boys"

- household
- 42 Rooted (in)

23

27

- 34 Roman 1,501 35 Noisy tot toy 36 Principles of
- management
- 43 Hidden obstacle
- 83 Suffix with ethyl 84 Strong coffee 87 Suffix with fact 89 One frosting
- a cake, e.g. 91 All-out
 - attempt 94 Potentially

20

24

- 134 Sharply
- 133 Elk relative
- 135 Low in pitch shocking fish 136 Poker cost

28

- iPod 1 Sends back into custody
- 96 Rock concert equipment
- 99 Speak like
- Daffy Duck 103 Hits, as a fly
- 108 Imaginary band on the earth's
- surface 113 Form a single
- file 115 "--- tu"
- (Verdi aria) 116 Healing sign
- 117 Drink in a schooner 118 Luge, diving
- and biathlon 123 Saintly
- 125 Sit heavily
- 126 Clause's cousin most-wanted 127 Face-off area in hockey
 - found in eight answers in
 - 129 Article in Germany
 - 130 Yamaha products
 - girl!' 132 The Bradys'
 - Alice, e.g.
 - focused
- grades
 - dude"

 - handed
- 18 Didn't leave 24 Ho-hum
- 29 "No worries,

 - 30 Catch red-

 - 33 Here, to Yves 37 Pulitzerwinning

novelist

Jennifer

singer Dion 57 Brokerage employee 58 Alpine abode

60 Absorbed

67 Arafat's gp.

69 Dayton-to-

72 Trac II

Toledo dir.

successor

essence"

75 Team VIP

82 "- -haw!"

30

approver

54 Bona

(out)

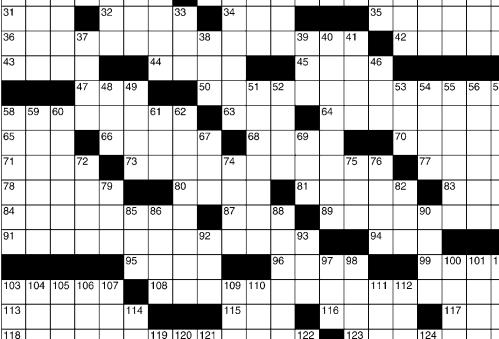
56 "My Heart

- 59 "The Raven" co-star Bela

 - 107 Have dinner 100 Liam **URL** ending 110 Author
- 62 Writ for court appearance 111 Australia's
 - main airline 112 Force along 114 Kid-lit's
 - 119 Uppercut landing area
- 74 "Time the 76 Olden times **79** Clucking bird

(rodeo shout) 128 Socrates' "H"

15 22 26





To apply go to www.cnhindustrial.com/careers



SLICK MIDDLE

- 38 Ltr. extra 85 Bad deed 39 Uncanny 86 Swindle
- 40 Wets a bit 88 "Doggone!" 90 Penne 41 "Ew. gross!" 46 Marina del vodka California
 - 92 Mental haze 93 "You're oversharing,

in texts

- 49 Frigate, e.g. 51 Ralph of "The 97 They may run Karate Kid" Windows 52 Duel weapon 98 Some trig 53 Govt. med functions
- 100 Like "penne" and "graffiti" **101** Seek 55 Smoothed
 - pleadingly 102 Go ahead of Will Go On" 103 Went uphill or
 - downhill 104 Baseballer Mays 105 "Who's
 - interested?" 106 Tone down
 - Heminaway

 - Longstocking
 - 120 Part of QED 121 Windmill part 122 Healing sign 124 Columnist

Bombeck

99 | 100 | 101 | 102 124

132

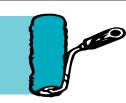
136

118 119 120 121 125 127 129 130 131 133 134 135

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