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The INTERIOR Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 33, ISSUE 4 February 4, 2022

\$1∞

2022 ELY WINTER FESTIVAL

FRIGID FUN

Annual winter party starts today and runs all week

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Elv Editor

ELY – The countdown has ended and this community's major winter celebration has arrived. The 2022 Ely Winter Festival runs from today, Feb. 3, through Sunday, Feb. 13.

Organizers say a more typical celebration will be held this year after the 2021



celebration was dialed back due to COVID-19 public health concerns.

Longtime local artist



Artist Nancy Scheibe carved a snow sculpture at the Front Porch Coffee and Tea Co. last weekend to promote the 2022 Ely Winter Festival that runs Feb. 3-13. photo by K. Vandervort

and snow carver Nancy Scheibe, with help from Randy Greiner and Heidi Favet, worked last weekend to create the signature Winter Festival pin at Front Porch Coffee and Tea Co. The 2022 Winter

See...ELY pg. 10

PUBLIC SERVICE

Bakk ponders his political future, legacy

Longtime lawmaker yet to decide on re-election

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL -Northeastern Minnesota's most influential state senator says he still hasn't decided whether he'll seek re-election later this year. Sen. Tom Bakk, in a wide-ranging interview with the *Timberjay* late last week, said the outcome of redistricting, his health, and whether his longtime Senate colleague, David Tomassoni, seeks re-election, will all factor into his decision.



Sen. Thomas Bakk

Bakk, a longtime Cook DFLer who left the party two years ago and now caucuses as a Republican (he calls himself an independent) is weighing his political future as what could be his final legislative session got underway on

See...BAKK pg. 9

GET OUTSIDE

Extreme endurance



Records tumble in Arrowhead ultramarathon

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- This was a year for record breakers in the return of the annual Arrowhead 135 Ultramarathon to far northern Minnesota after last year's cancellation due to COVID-19. It's one of the

Records started falling even before competitors toed the starting line just south of the Canadian border on Monday. Race director Ken Kreuger said at Sunday's orientation that a record 165 competitors had signed up for the event. The records continued as racers arrived at the finish line during the 60-hour race window, with two competitors, including one from the Iron Range, smashing records so thoroughly it may be next to impossible to top

world's most extreme tests of human

endurance for running, biking, and

skiing, running 135 miles between

International Falls and Fortune Bay

Resort Casino near Tower.

them.

The Arrowhead 135 (A135), which follows the David Dill/



Ely's Carl Skustad, top, concentrates on his glide during the running of the annual Arrowhead 135 Ultramarathon earlier this week. A record 165 competitors participated in the contest that featured running, biking and skiing from International Falls to Fortune Bay Casino Resort near Tower. Gretchen Metsa, of Buhl, above, got a hug from mom, Katrina Hanson, after the race. photos by D. Colburn

Arrowhead snowmobile trail, combines with the Badwater 135 in Death Valley, Calif., and the mountainous Brazil 135 to make up what ultra-

marathoners refer to as the BAD 135 World Cup, representing the most

See...RACE pg. 10

MEDIA HONORS

Timberjay brings home eight awards in newspaper contest

REGIONAL— The Timberjay won eight awards across a wide range of categories in the annual Better Newspaper Contest held by the Minnesota Newspaper Association, taking first place awards in Breaking News, Advertising Excellence, and Editorial Page as a Whole.

The newspaper also won second-place awards for typography and design, best columnist, arts and entertainment, and business news, along with a third-place award for general reporting. The *Timberjay* was competing among newspapers with a circulation between 1,500-3,000.

"As we have done for years, the *Timberjay* continues to excel across the board," said Publisher Marshall Helmberger. "These awards are particularly meaningful because they are judged by fellow newspaper editors and publishers, who really understand the important role that newspapers play in their communities."

Judges in the contest had high praise for the *Timberjay*. Ely Editor



The Timberjay's breaking news coverage of a severe thunderstorm that brought an end to Ely's Blueberry/Arts Festival last summer won first place in the Minnesota Newspaper Association's Better Newspaper Contest.

Keith Vandervort's coverage of the cancellation of last summer's Blueberry/Arts Festival

See...MEDIA pg. 9



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218-753-2950

2 February 4, 2022 THE TIMBERJAY

Community notices

Embarrass Region Fair pancake breakfast set for Feb. 5

Embarrass Region Fair pancake breakfast, Feb. 5 EMBARRASS - Support the Embarrass Region Fair with all-you-can-eat pancakes, the choice of ham or sausage links, a fruit cup, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee on the first Saturday of each month from 8 -11 a.m. through May at the Timber Hall. Adults \$6, children (6-10 years) \$3, and children under 5 years free.

Mesabi Symphony Orchestra sets upcoming concerts in Ely and Virginia

REGIONAL - The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra will present two concerts this month, on Saturday, Feb. 19 at Vermilion Community College in Ely, and on Sunday, Feb. 20 at the Goodman Auditorium in Virginia. The concerts will feature the Young Artist Competition winners, Natalie Sandor on violin, and Rufina Robbins, soprano. Both concerts will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Organizers said they expect a high turnout for both performances and strongly recommend that patrons purchase tickets in advance to avoid delays at the venues. Visit www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org/ for more information and to purchase tickets.

Ice candles stolen in Embarrass

EMBARRASS- Township officials are seeking information on the theft of the ice candles that were placed in the Embarrass Cemetery for the Dec. 18 community ice candle celebration. The candles were removed from the cemetery sometime the next day. The candles are the property of those who purchased them and were not to be removed without the written consent of the town board. Anyone with knowledge of this theft is asked to contact the Embarrass Town Clerk at 218-984-2084.

NSLSWCD tree sale begins; order early for best selection

REGIONAL- It's time 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 away.

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 area.

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PANDEMIC

Ely high school trip to D.C. called off again

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY – Memorial High School officials confirmed last week that the annual senior class trip to Washington, D.C. has been canceled again this year.

Parents and students were notified of the move by high school social studies teacher Frank Ivancich. This is the third year in a row that the traditional event, held for nearly a quarter century, has been postponed.

Ivancich cited a number of factors in making what he called "a tough" decision, including the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and fluctuating public health protocols that have contributed to closures and event cancellations in the nation's capital.

"Unfortunately, the number of students to commit to the trip this year declined from as many as 40 students in past years to about 20 students, and that includes a couple from Northeast Range High School," Ivancich said.

He cited new and updated COVID-19 rules, like proof of vaccines at many Washington, D.C., venues, and reduced hours or outright closures at some museums.

"We pulled the plug when we heard last week that all performances at the Kennedy Center, a highlight of our trips, were going to be shut down until at least April," he said. "There were just so many unknowns to continue the planning. I was really disappointed to have to make that call."

Ivancich and 1995 Ely Memorial High School graduate Jeff Anderson have led the planning for the annual trip each year.

"Jeff was a student on our first trip to D.C. back in 1995," he said, and estimated that more than 1,000 Ely-area seniors and chaperones have participated in the adventure.

Besides visiting Washington,

D.C., participants have also visited several Civil War battlefields and museums. Anderson, a former Congressional aide and lobbyist, also helped plan visits for the group with many Minnesota politicians over the years.

"There was just too much uncertainty again this year, especially with the ongoing coronavirus situation including quarantine and vaccine rules and all that," Ivancich said. "Who knows where it will be in March when we would take the trip? Many schools and organizations seem to be in the same situation right now. I know it was the prudent and safe decision."

He noted that no students or chaperones will lose any down payments they have already made.

"We are already planning for 2023 and have the dates selected. I'm hoping we can be back next year."

Job Fair set at Vermilion CC on Wednesday, Feb. 9

ELY - The Chamber of Commerce in Ely is partnering with Vermilion Community College for the Ely Job Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 9 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The fair is open to both VCC students and area residents. Businesses are invited to participate by reserving free space at the event or providing job openings which the Chamber will compile and distribute on behalf of the business community.

The Chamber is also participating in the Iron Range Job Fair 2022 on Thursday, April 21 from 10 a.m. -

3 p.m. at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia. Businesses are invited to attend, or they can provide job openings to the Chamber for distribution. The cost of a table is \$200. Businesses interested in attending can register at www.ironrangejobfair.com.

Ely High School and Northeast

Range High School are planning a third job fair in March. Additional information on the event is forthcoming.

Just before Christmas, the

Chamber released a Workforce Re-

source 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 Community College event, or to share your job openings.

Resource Guide, to reserve table space for the Vermilion Community College event, or to share your job openings.

FDLTCC hosting virtual beekeeping symposium

REGIONAL— Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College is excited to welcome individuals new to beekeeping as well as experienced beekeepers to the 7th annual Beekeeping and More Symposium on Saturday, Feb. 12. The virtual event will feature talks given by regional beekeeping experts from

the NEMNBA, UMN Bee Squad and nationally known beekeeper Mike Palmer. The virtual event costs \$15 per person and runs from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. To register for this event, visit www.tinyurl. com/ykm6wdtp.

During this year's symposium, participants will learn about native

pollinators and tips and tricks for beginning beekeeping. Inspired by Dr. Marla Spivak at the University of Minnesota Bee Lab, the Bee Squad helps beekeepers and the community learn how to foster healthy bee populations and pollinator landscapes through education and hands-on mentorship. The

Bee Squad will be doing presentations on keeping honey bees healthy and overwintering honey bees in Minnesota.

Michael Palmer, a widely recognized world-wide authority on sustainable beekeeping, who raises about 1,200 queen bees a year and manages over 1,000 colonies, will be presenting, a sustainable apiary using brood factories.

"I am so excited for the 7th Annual Beekeeping and More Symposium," shared Courtney Kowalczak, Director of the Environmental Institute at FDLTCC. "We have topics that can help beekeepers from beginning to experienced. Our presenters are regionally and nationally recognized experts who share the latest research with our participants."

The symposium is presented by the Environmental Institute at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, NE Minnesota Beekeepers, and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

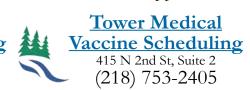
For more information, please contact Courtney Kowalczak at courtneyk@ fdltcc.edu or check out the Environmental Institute at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College on Facebook.



COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Available

Scenic Rivers is now scheduling appointments for individuals to receive COVID-19 vaccinations at our medical locations following state eligibility guidelines. Supply is limited and call volumes are high, so we appreciate your patience. If you believe you meet the MN state vaccine eligiblity requirements, please call the number below to schedule an appointment.

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CITY OF ELY

Mayor for a day

Ely student Kylee Zobitz receives "Key to the City"

by KEITH VANDERVORT

ly Editor

ELY – Ely Middle School sixth-grader Kylee Zobitz is one of three winners out of nearly 300 entries in the 2022 Mayor for a Day Essay Contest sponsored by the League of Minnesota Cities. She received a Key to the City at the Ely city council meeting Tuesday and was proclaimed honorary Mayor for a Day for Wednesday, Feb. 2, by Ely Mayor Roger Skraba.

Minnesota students from fourth, fifth, and sixth grades recently submitted their ideas for improving city services as part of the League's ninth annual Mayor for a Day Essay Contest.

The League hosts the annual

essay competition to raise awareness of city services that are part of Minnesota residents' daily lives, and to inspire the next generation of city leaders.

Winning essays will be published in the March-April issue of Minnesota Cities magazine. In addition to publication, winners receive a plaque and a check for \$100.

The Mayor for a Day Essay contest posed the question: "Cities provide a variety of services and programs that make our lives better, including parks and recreation, street maintenance, water and sewer, libraries, police, fire, and more. If you were mayor for a day, what would you do to make one of the services that your city provides even better?"

Right: Ely sixth-grader Kylee Zobitz received a Key to the City and a proclamation from Mayor Roger Skraba naming her honorary Mayor for a Day for her winning entry in a League of Minnesota Cities essay contest.

photo by K. Vandervort

Zobitz, with her family and classmates in attendance, read her essay at the council meeting. Mayor Skraba read a proclamation honoring her and noted her idea of incorporating youth with seniors was "not only thoughtful, but very appropriate," and expressed the appreciation of the entire Ely city council for being "an engaged member of the Ely community."



Other business

The council dispatched with a short agenda in a brief meeting that was concluded well before the 6 p.m. deadline imposed Tuesday night for the political caucuses that were scheduled across the state. Council members took the following actions:

➤ City taxpayers will again be asked to pay more for legal notices published in the local newspaper

See COUNCIL...pg. 5

MINING

Finding: Trump Interior erred repeatedly over Twin Metals leases

 $\frac{\text{by } Marshall \ Helmberger}{\text{Managing Editor}}$

REGIONAL – The Trump administration violated standard process, federal regulations, and the law when it renewed two mineral leases critical to the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine.

That was the determination of attorney Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes, the chief deputy solicitor at the U.S. Department of the Interior in a legal opinion issued Jan. 25. Her opinion, known as a Memorandum-decision, or an "M-opinion," was released by the Department of the Interior along with the department's decision to cancel the Twin Metals leases.

The 16-page legal analysis cites numerous errors by Trump administration officials and officially reverses a legal opinion issued in 2017 by Daniel Jorjani, who had been appointed principal solicitor at the Interior Department by then-President Trump.

The Twin Metals leases, originally issued

federal law.

When the Forest Service announced its opposition to renewal of the Twin Metals leases in 2016, in the final weeks of the Obama administra-

It was improper for the Assistant Secretary to ignore the Forest Service's 2016 non-consent determination."

> Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes Chief Deputy Solicitor, Dept. of Interior

to the International Nickel Co, or INCO, in 1966, have been the subject of a number of legal opinions by attorneys over the past half-century who served presidents of both parties. With the exception of Jorjani, however, Interior Department lawyers had always found that renewal of the leases was discretionary and that the U.S. Forest Service maintained its right to either consent or reject lease renewal under

tion, the Bureau of Land Management canceled the leases, effectively ending hopes for the Twin Metals project.

President Trump made no secret of his political desire to reverse that decision and renew the mineral leases. After narrowly losing Minnesota in 2016, Trump and his campaign hoped a heated fight over a mining project would energize his supporters and put Minnesota into his win

column in his re-election bid.

It didn't work out that way. Trump lost Minnesota by nearly 250,000 votes in 2020, or a seven percent margin, despite attracting somewhat more support in parts of northeastern Minnesota than he had in 2016. At the same time, it now appears that Trump officials cut corners and ignored longstanding statutes in their rush to renew the leases for Twin Metals, undercutting their own efforts.

According to the latest M-opinion, Trump officials in the Interior Department violated BLM's own regulations on mineral leasing, failed to follow National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements in its abbreviated environmental analysis, and ignored federal law when it renewed the leases over the continuing objection of the Forest Service.

Despite Trump's appointments at the Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Forest Service, that agency never rescinded its veto of the leases over concerns about the mine's potential impact to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. While the Twin Metals leases had been renewed twice before by previous successors of INCO, the BLM had sought and received Forest Service consent on each of those occasions. Bledsoe Downs cites statutes that establish "the principle that the BLM cannot authorize any mineral development without Forest Service consent.'

The latest opinion cites similar determinations from both the Interior Department's Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) as well as court rulings on the subject, such as Grynberg v. Kempthorne, in which a federal district court

in Colorado determined that cancellation of an oil and gas lease by the IBLA was proper when it determined that it had been issued without first obtaining the consent of the Forest Service. "Here, the issuance of Twin Metals lease renewals similarly did not comply with the relevant statutes for mineral leasing in Minnesota," wrote Bledsoe Downes. "It was improper for the Assistant Secretary to ignore the Forest Service's 2016 non-consent determination and to fail to provide the Forest Service with an opportunity to consent or withhold consent for renewal of the leases before issuing them in 2019."

Meanwhile, the latest opinion faults the prior administration's handling of the NEPA process for the lease renewal, finding that department officials had

See LEASES...pg. 5

REAL ESTATE



Cook-\$90,000 Private 60 acre parcel is wooded with open fields. Near the Little Fork River. MLS#141514

Lake Vermilion-\$125,000 Pine Island 3.5 +/- acre lot with 205+/- ft Lake Vermilion lakeshore. **MLS#137634**

Orr-\$69,995 40 remote acres surrounded by public lands. Mix of trees and open fields. MLS#142784

Ash River, Orr-\$98,000 Boat-access river property. 4.5 acres and 300 ft shoreline. **MLS#139141**

Cook-\$39,900 40 acres, bordering hundreds of acres of state land to the west and south. MLS#142465



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LAKE VERMILION 5 BR, 2 BA w/ KIT, DR, LR, 2 FPs, deck, gazebo, hot tub, pool area and guest, cabin. 850 ft lakeshore with water on 3 sides. MLS#142496 \$2,900,000

LAKE VERMILION 24 acres w/road-access and over 3,000 ft lakeshore. Rare parcel with towering pine trees. MLS#141930 \$995,000

LAKE VERMILION Water-access lot, .35 acres w/50 ft lakeshore. Variance w/county for 720 sq ft cabin, boathouse and storage building. Surveyed. MLS# 141082 \$65,000

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OPINION

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Twin Metals leases

Trump administration violated federal law for political self-promotion

When political leaders put politics over process and the law, it leaves plenty of wreckage behind. The Biden administration's decision last week, to cancel the Twin Metals leases in the Superior National Forest, was just one of many examples of how the Trump administration's disregard of federal law and governmental process didn't serve anyone well.

Most all of us prefer a leader who "gets thing done," but the way things get done actually matters. As we report this week, a new legal analysis issued by the Department of the Interior details the ways that officials in the Trump administration botched the renewal of the Twin Metals leases, ignoring federal regulations and federal law in the process. The Biden administration, facing a holdover lawsuit filed against the Trump administration, was faced with the decision of defending the former administration's flawed process or canceling the leases.

Here's the reality. If the administration hadn't canceled the leases, the courts likely would have done so themselves. Even a conservative Supreme Court was unlikely to look the other way in the face of clear violations of federal statute.

There is, for example, no doubt that the U.S. Forest Service has the right, clearly laid out in federal law, to either approve or reject a mining operation on surface lands it controls within the Superior National Forest. That's a right that both federal agencies, including within the Interior Department and the courts, have previously upheld. Previous renewals of the Twin Metals leases had only come with Forest Service consent.

But with rising concerns about a possible mine just upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, the Forest Service, in 2016, exercised its veto power over the Twin Metals leases, citing long-term risks to the wilderness that Forest Service officials believed could not be mitigated. As the federal agency charged with ensuring protection of the country's most-visited wilderness area, the Forest Service's decision was justifiable and well-documented.

And most importantly, it's a decision that the Forest Service— even under the Trump administration never rescinded.

Instead, a former Koch brothers attorney, hired by Trump, used a fictional legal fig leaf to say it didn't matter. That was supposed to give

Trump's appointees in the Interior Department legal cover to renew the leases in time for their boss to crow about all he was doing for folks up here during his frequent visits to the region.

With friends like Trump, who needs enemies? All he offered was false hope to those who supported the mine. Trump, of course, didn't care whether the leases ever held up to court scrutiny. Like everything Trump does, it was all for self-aggrandizement. All for the show and his political advancement. He's never cared about the wreckage he's left behind. That's for others to clean up. In this case, it was the Biden administration left to clean up yet another of Trump's doo-doo piles. The Trump administration had an abysmal record in the nation's courts, in large part because agency decision-making was focused on pleasing an ignorant and impatient boss rather than following the law.

Folks in our area who saw Trump as an ally, mistook his braggadocio for competency and his divisive rhetoric for strength. He promised to appoint "the best people," which proved to be just another bit of self-promotion that was exactly the opposite of the truth. This was the gang that couldn't shoot straight, and it will take years to clean up after them.

We know that there are many Americans who don't care about any of this, who view federal process as little more than bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo designed to masquerade purely political calculation as rational decision-making. Government certainly isn't perfect, as the Trump administration showed us in spades. We've reported on governmental process for decades nowlong enough to know that in the right hands, it can lead to reasoned and defensible decision-making — even when we don't agree with

the final outcome. It's a slow and cumbersome process, but it's better than the alternative. President Trump undoubtedly would have preferred to rule by edict, and many of his supporters would have preferred that as well. Unfortunately for them, our founding fathers had a different vision, that divided the powers of government precisely to keep men like Donald Trump from running roughshod over the body politic. That may not please Trump and many of his supporters, but it's the reality of the system our founders created for America.

Love it or leave it.



Letters from Readers

More on Lincoln and America's history

I applaud Betty Firth's column, What would Abraham Lincoln Think?, in the Jan. 28 issue of this newspaper. It compared Lincoln's personal and political challenges during our civil war with today's pandemic and political challenges and how we can meet them just as Lincoln did.

However, I'd like to clarify and expand upon certain statements and presumptions made in her article.

She wrote, 'the right to own slaves was protected by the Constitution'. Although this statement is practically correct, slavery was never made legal by our written Constitution that was intended for posterity. The words slaves or slavery are never mentioned in that document. However, slavery was legalized as an unwritten covenant by mutual consent and understanding. In addition, the covenant was supported by SCOTUS with its pro-slavery bias under Justice Taney's leadership that provided 'constitutional-like' protection of slavery via its Dred Scott decision and the upholding of fugitive slave laws.

Next she wrote, 'On Jan. 1, 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves in the rebellious states'. Actually it was issued after the Antietam battle in September 1862 to become effective on Jan. 1, 1863. Since slavery was legal as an unwritten covenant, Lincoln could issue the Proclamation without technical violation of the Constitution, not that he couldn't or didn't violate it at other times in other ways. In the early going, both sides claimed the war was not about slavery - the North focused on Union preservation and the South focused on home rule. The war wasn't going all that well for the Union at this point, particularly in the east, and England was then considering coming to the South's aid, believing the Confederacy might persevere in this politically driven war. Lincoln needed to demonstrate military prowess prior to issuing a Proclamation that would place new emphasis on the slave issue. Otherwise the document calling for emancipation and Negro participation might signal weakness with the loss of

his support base. In effect the Proclamation would encourage emancipated slaves to move out of the South, thereby disrupting production and providing for Negro enlistment in the Union ranks. It was the Union's show of force in the Antietam battle that allowed Lincoln to issue the document providing for one of two options - to return to the Union within 90 days with slavery intact or lose the war and the slaves with it. Otherwise the war would continue until the unconditional surrender of Confederate forces. Davis rejected the offer as Lincoln knew he would and the 90 days expired on Dec. 31, 1862. And with the war's new focus on the slave issue it would be very unBritish-like for England to support an emancipated South when emancipation had already run its course across Europe. In short, the Proclamation following the Antietam battle was an ingenious plan by a consummate politician to: 1) keep England out of the war; 2) create production problems in the South and bolster the military ranks with Negro soldiers and; 3) place the war footing on solid moral grounds along with the goal to perpetuate the Union. In the face of conventional wisdom I believe it was the Antietam battle and the Proclamation that was the war's turning point and not the more

popular Gettysburg battle. Finally, she wrote, '...he (meaning Lincoln) had an overwhelming re-election victory in 1864 having won the hearts and trust of Americans'. That's substantially true although I'm not sure the Confederate Americans would have agreed. Specifically Lincoln's re-election in 1864 was a direct result of military victories over the 1864 summer that signaled a Union victory in the making and an end to war. I cite: 1) Lee bottled up at Petersburg by the 1864 summer in defense of Richmond with little chance for an offensive; 2) Sheridan ridding the Shenandoah Valley of Confederates threatening Washington, destroying food and forage in the process in July; 3) Farragut's occupation of Mobile Bay in August, denying its use as a Confederate seaport; and 4) Sherman capturing Atlanta in September, commencing his devastating march to the sea before turning north through the Carolinas to close on Lee's army in Virginia.

Jerry Brown **Buyck**

Greenwood board reaps what it sowed

Some members of the Greenwood Town board are continuing their intimidation and disrespect that has been directed at citizens and members of their own board. It started some months ago when Supervisors DeLuca and Ralston decided they didn't like then-Clerk Sue Drobac even though she enjoyed a large vote of confidence (186-102) in the previous election.

They went through several steps in hopes she would resign, or they could eliminate her position. First, DeLuca and Ralston decided to intimidate Clerk Drobac by installing a surveillance camera at her work station and falsely claimed it was for her security. But it lacked the alarm button that would have been needed if it were actually for security.

DeLuca and Ralston then cooked up a scheme to put forward a ballot question making the clerk's position a board-appointed office, an idea that voters rejected twice by large margins. Finally, Deluca and Ralston decided to cut Drobac's pay and hours in what they claimed was a cost-saving measure. Again, their actions represented an imperfectly veiled lie as Clerk Drobac was the only one to see the reduction.

DeLuca and Ralston didn't respect the choice of their own voters and Clerk Drobac, finally, got the message, threw her hands up and walked away. That gave Deluca and Ralston the chance to appoint someone (Debby Spicer) of their own choosing. Unfortunately, Clerk Spicer has found herself in the same circumstance as did Clerk Drobac, not enough paid hours to get her job done. You might say DeLuca and Ralston have had their "chickens come home to roost". DeLuca and Ralston are only furthering divisions in this community and discrediting the idea of public service. Please take note and exercise your right on Election Day.

JoAnn Bassing **Greenwood Twp**

How tech is helping us overcome the barrier of language

When I graduated from high school in 1976, I did so without having taken a foreign language. German and Spanish were available but not required, and there were other electives, like economics, that were more appealing and

relevant. Having just completed a year as an intern at the



local weekly newspaper, journalism was high on my list of career possibilities as I looked toward college. Aside from the fact that my father had earned his bachelor's and law degrees at the University of Kansas, the William Allen White School of Journalism there was one of the best in the country, so it was a given I would be

An old family friend and law professor there, Francis Heller, volunteered to be my academic advisor starting out. Among his many talents, Francis, a native of Austria, spoke five foreign languages fluently, including Mandarin Chinese. With images of President Richard Nixon's historic trip to China still fresh in everyone's minds, Francis noted that with a journalism degree and fluency in, Chinese I could virtually write my own ticket for a job with any major news service straight out of college. The idea was incredibly appealing, so I signed up for Chinese 101.

I learned that Mandarin Chinese was a tonal language and that if you used the wrong tone when trying to say "mother" you were saying "horse" instead. And that's about all I learned. Two weeks into the course, I was already a week behind.

The third week I met with my professor to review the results of a test we'd all taken that was supposed to gauge our ability to learn a foreign language. I had of the five prerequisite underlying skills, he said, followed by this: "I advise you to drop my class IMMEDIATELY." I couldn't get over to the registrar's office fast enough to fill out the drop slip. When I moved to Long

tested weak or very weak in three

Beach, Calif., in 2007, I knew that a significant percentage of the families in my Head Start program were Spanish-speaking, so I decided to give Spanish a try. I bought a Rosetta Stone learning

See LANGUAGE...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Power monopolized is no game

Our common sense and our grasp of the obvious facts of human suffering and of the obvious demands of human nature can act on the world like a bath of moral cleansing — like the spring blossoming of beautiful

Anyone who has played the board game "Monopoly" is familiar with the dynamics of success to the successful. Players who are lucky enough to land on expensive properties early in the game can buy them up, build hotels, and reap vast rents from their fellow players, thus accumulating a winning fortune as they bankrupt the rest of the community. Fascinating.

However, the game Monopoly originally was called "The Landlord's Game" and was designed to reveal the injustice of concentrated property ownership - not celebrate it. The game's inventor, Elizabeth Magie, was an outspoken supporter of economist Henry George's ideas, and when she first created the game in 1903, she gave it two very different sets of rules to be played in turn.

Under the prosperity set of rules, every player gained each time someone acquired a new property. This echoed George's call for a land-value tax. The game was won by all when the player who started out with the least money doubled it.

Under the second monopolist set of rules, players gained by charging rents to those who were unfortunate enough to land on their properties, and whoever managed to bankrupt the rest was the sole winner.

The purpose of the dual set of rules, Magie said, was for players to experience a practical demonstration of the present system of land-grabbing, (Antofagasta and Twin Metals), with all its usual outcomes and consequences, such as pollution and economic and environmental degradation, and

so to understand how different approaches to property ownership can lead to vastly different social

But when the game's manufacturer, Parker Brothers, bought the patent for "The Landlord's Game" from Magie in the 1930s, the company relaunched it simply as "Monopoly" and provided the eager, Depression-ridden public with just one set of rules — rules that celebrate the triumph of one over all.

The discipline of economics tends to attract self-interested people. It has been established that after taking courses in economic game theory, students begin to behave much more selfishly.

Over the course of centuries to the present day, man's depiction has morphed from a nuanced picture to a crude cartoon. What began as a model of moral man has turned into a model for man. It is a clear caution to all students of economics.

Rational economic man's

influence on our behavior goes far beyond the classroom. A striking example was the Chicago Board Options Exchange, which opened in 1973 and became one of the most important financial derivatives exchanges in the world. In the same year the exchange opened for trading, two influential economists, Fischer Black and Myron Scholes, published what became known as the Black Scholes Model, which used publicly available market data to calculate the expected price of options traded in the market.

At first the formula's predictions deviated widely from 30 percent to 40 percent of actual prices at the Chicago Board Options Exchange. But within a few years and with no alterations to the model, its predicted prices differed by only two percent on average from the actual market

The Black Scholes Model was soon institutionalized and heralded as the most successful theory, not only in finance but in

all economics. Its creators were awarded Nobel Memorial Prizes.

Traders began to behave as if the theory was true and used the models predicted as benchmarks for their own bids.

Today, after 41 years, the false economics of supply-side neoliberalism has led us to where we are today. In our own towns and all around the world, we see human suffering at the hands of unchecked monopoly power, arrogance, indifference, and white supremacy.

Let's let our collective consciousness blossom along with the coming spring fragrance and simple goodness of our flowers and take back our monopoly of love and fairness.

Dutch philosopher Baruch Spinoza said that those who are governed by reason desire nothing for themselves which they do not also desire for the rest of humankind.

Tim Duff **Ely and Tonka Bay**

LANGUAGE...Continued from page 4

system. I listened almost exclusively to Spanishlanguage music stations. I tried at time to have very, very simple conversations with some staff and parents. To put it bluntly, it might as well have been Chinese. I've always felt bad

that I didn't learn a foreign language, but I am glad I've lived long enough for technology to provide a workaround for that. I traveled abroad for

the first time in my life in 2019, including stops in Mumbai, India and the country of Sri Lanka. I did not speak a word of Marathi or Sinhalese, but I was not concerned about communicating at a basic level at all because I had a smartphone loaded with relevant language apps that also gave me access to Google Translate. I actually used them very little because everywhere I went there always seemsedto be one of the locals who spoke English. I found that somewhat embarrassing, actually, encountering so many people who could speak my language when I could not speak theirs.

This past week I spent a great deal of time learning what I could about the Arrowhead 135 Ultramarthon that was going on this Monday,

Tuesday, and Wednesday. As I reviewed the list of registrants, one name in particular caught my attention, Marcio Villar of Brazil. This being the first time the race has been run since I moved here two years ago, I didn't realize there would be competitors from other countries. I Googled him and was fascinated by what I found. I decided I wanted to interview him. I also discovered in a fellow competitor's blog that Marcio didn't speak English. No English? No problem.

Step one was connecting with him through WhatsApp. I pulled up WhatsApp on my computer and scanned the QR code to connect it with my phone. In a second window I pulled up Google Translate. As I typed in English, the Portuguese translation appeared beside it. Just had to copy that and paste it into WhatsApp, and I was off and running. When he responded in Portuguese, I copied that into Google Translate to read it. Going back and forth like that, we had a good introductory chat and set up the interview for Sunday.

When I stepped into his hotel room we quickly got handshakes and hellos out of the way and reached for

our smartphones. I hadn't used Google Translate since my trip, and he rarely used it, so the first five minutes or so were rather awkward as we fumbled around with the technology. But once we figured out just how close we should be holding our phones as we spoke into them and focused on being more precise in our articulation, we settled into an easy rhythm of exchange. It seemed odd, at first, hearing the same Google Translate voice for both of us, but staying with that was better than wasting time trying to figure out jhow to change

Also different was how

our exchange progressed visually. As the conversation went along, we looked more at each other as a translation was playing, and our facial gestures and nods became more animated, as if to add back the nonverbal elements left out by Google

We talked for about 40 minutes, and I could have talked with him like that all day. He expressed the same sentiment. We ended not with a handshake but with a hearty hug. The connection we'd made was more than the technology, but it would not have happened without it. Language need not be a barrier anymore.

COUNCIL...Continued from page 3

this year. The *Ely Echo*, the only bidder, was selected as the city's legal newspaper for 2022. With a dwindling circulation (3,170 in 2022 compared to 3,376 in 2021, according to the Minnesota Newspaper Association rate book), the local publisher will be charging taxpayers a higher bid rate of \$3.75 per column inch for legal print ads in 2022, compared to \$3.50 last year.

➤ Approved, on a recommendation from the Ely

Utility Commission, to apply the Minnesota Power rebate credit toward reducing the residential and commercial fuel adjustment fees and absorb the off-peak and dual-fuel customers' fuel adjustments.

➤ Agreed to contract with recently-retired waste water treatment plant operator Mick Shusta, a Class A licensed operator, to oversee the facility's operations at a rate of \$500 per Equipment Operator II.

➤ Hired Joe Shusta to the new water/wastewater Operator I position. ➤ Hired Kurt Mattila

the internal posting position of Electric Line Worker Foreman, with the job description requirements to be met within 30

➤ Hired Neil Lepisto and Eric Mattila as Equipment Operator trainees, and Ed Horvat at

➤ Approved the rec-

ommendation from the Employee Relations Committee for the Library Director "to look into hiring" a Library Assistant.

➤ Agreed to advertise for sealed quotes for a partial demolition project at the former Zup's store.

➤ Approved a purchase agreement between the city of Ely and Kat Albrecht and Karl Lushin for the purchase of 40 N Klondike Dr. for \$27,500.

> Approved

Storefront Rehab Loan for Stony Ridge on Shagawa Lake to put new flooring in the restaurant for \$10,500.

➤ Scheduled a public hearing for Ordinance 351

to rezone parcels 301, 303, and 305 W Sheridan St. for Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 5:15 p.m.

LEASES...Continued from page 3

failed to include a no-action alternative in their analysis, which is standard practice under NEPA when the government is considering

a discretionary action.

At the same time, the opinion cites the irregular nature of the renewed lease provided to Twin Metals, which deviated significantly from the terms of standard leases normally issued by the BLM.

"In light of these considerations, I advise the Secretary that Twin Metals leases MNES-01352 and MNES-01353 were improperly renewed and are subject to cancellation under [federal law] 43 C.F.R 3514.30," concluded Bledsoe Downes.

Fruit of an

erroneous opinion The controversial Jorjani opinion, issued in 2017, provided a kind of legal fig leaf for the Trump administration actions. That opinion departed from every previous federal legal analysis on the subject by concluding that Twin Metals had an absolute right to at least three renewals of the leases. Bledsoe Downs cited BLM regulations which "substantively prohibit a non-discretionary right of renewal for the leasing of solid minerals other than coal and oil shale. Those regulations provide that hardrock

mineral lease renewals are decisions within the agency's discretion to grant

By claiming renewal of the Twin Metals leases was contractually mandatory, Jorjani's opinion allowed the Trump Interior Department to effectively circumvent the rights of the Forest Service and the obligations of the NEPA process. While seemingly useful in achieving the Trump administration's objectives, the Jorjani opinion appears to run counter to the terms of the original lease and the statements made by the Department of the Interior when the leases were issued in 1966. Those terms, and a 1966 press release from the Interior Department, had specified that any right of renewal of the original 20-year lease was conditional on the start of mining operations within the first 20 years. Neither INCO nor its successors ever met that requirement.

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Reinstatement of

leases not addressed The latest M-opinion largely avoids the related issue of the Trump administration's reinstatement of the mineral leases following their cancellation in the waning days of the Obama administration. That decision — which only reinstated leases that were by that time expired — has already been the subject of a court challenge, in which Judge Trevor McFadden, a Trump appointee, sided with the Department of the Interior in ruling that the reinstatement could go forward. In the latest M-opinion, Bledsoe Downes notes that the issues addressed in that case were substantially different from the issues surrounding the renewal of the expired mineral leases.

Lawsuits challenging both the reinstatement of the expired permits and the issuance of new ones are now likely headed for dismissal as moot. The Biden administration has already filed motions in federal court to dismiss the claims, citing the most recent decision to cancel the leases.

Status of EIS

The cancellation of the leases would seem to leave the ongoing environmental review of Twin Metals proposed mine plan in limbo. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which had begun its own environmental review of the plan, issued a statement noting that: "The federal action raises significant questions about the feasibility of Twin Metals' project as proposed. The DNR will need to carefully and comprehensively consider what this development means for the state.'

The U.S. Forest Service did not clarify a question on the status of its own environmental review of the Twin Metals proposal.

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TIMBERJAY

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

Week of Feb. 7

Monday

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

Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf-Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Feb. 15.

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

Greenwood Town Board-6:30 p.m. on Feb. 8.

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.

St. Martin's hosting "Souper Bowl" fundraiser, Feb. 13

TOWER- The annual fundraiser for the Tower Area Food shelf, "Souper Bowl Sunday," will be held on Sunday, Feb. 13. Volunteers at St. Martin's will be serving a Booyah Dinner from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church social hall. Those attending will have the option to eat in or take out. The cost is a freewill offering, and all proceeds are donated to the Tower Area Food Shelf.

This is the 18th year that St. Martin's has hosted this event. The event began as a youth project but has now evolved into a parish project; the youth still participate but the adults of the parish have joined in to assist. The work begins on Friday with the cutting of the vegetables, on Saturday the booyah and the desserts are made; and finally on Sunday the delicious meal is served.

Please join St. Martin's to lend support to the Tower Area Food Shelf.

Read It Here!

AINT LOUIS COUNTY

Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

Cook Transfer Station

2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook

Hours

Mon: 10am-6pm

Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm Soudan Canister Site

5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours

Mon, Wed, Sat:, Sun

8am-5pm

Aurora Transfer Station

5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora

Hours

Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm

Tue, Wed:10am-4pm

Sat: 8am-noon

Regional Landfill

5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm

Sat: 8am-3:30pm

ETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt

Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am–3pm Wed: 11am–5pm

County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp

Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm

Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30–4:30pm

Thu: 10am-5pm

Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th St. Louis County Environmental Services Department

1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday

www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

WINTER RECREATION

Rocks on the ice with Finnlander bocce ball

TOWER- Fourteen teams and a nice crowd of spectators spent a pleasantly-mild Saturday on the Tower Harbor, playing bocce ball on ice. Rinks were plowed out and flooded by volunteers, and the "rocks" were fashioned out of logs with a handle on top. The event was a fundraiser for the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board, which organizes and raises money for the annual Fourth of July celebration. And keeping with that commin unity spirit, event organizer Julie Johnson said the majority of teams donated their prize money back to the events board.

Playing bocce on outdoor ice rinks calls for a mix of luck and finesse, since the ice on the rinks is not perfectly flat and pushing out rocks while wearing warm mittens is also a challenge.

Results

1st place: Jordan Peitso, Sarah Anderson, Scott Marwick, Steph Carlson

2nd place: Dave Bialke, Joyce Bialke, Julie Bialke, Eddie Udovich

3rd place: Shara Dostert, Nate Dostert, Shannon Kelly, Travis Erickson

4th place: Matt Bjorgo, Crystal Ramford, Kelsey Norri, Patrick Norri.







Above: Nicholas Lindbery pushes off his rock. Left: Kassy Bjorgo Far Left: Matt Bjorgo **Below center: Measuring** tapes came out to determine a close call. photos by J. Summit **Below: Breitung Police** stopped by and gave the game a try.





Historical Society to meet on Feb. 9

SOUDAN-Tower-Soudan Historical Society will hold its regularly scheduled board meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 1 p.m., at Breitung Community Center in Soudan. The meeting is open to the public, and guests are welcome. Membership dues for 2022 (\$10 single; \$20 family) may be paid at the meeting or mailed to TSHS, PO Box 465, Tower MN 55790. Membership supports the TSHS goals and allows the society to continue its vision, mission, and projects.

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. Jayne 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, Feb. 5 from 11:30 – 1:30 p.m. (or until the food runs out). Other weekend skating parties are being planned.

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).

The Soudan skating rink is open for skaters of all ages on 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.

A separate skating rink for small children is now open.

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

Letters from Readers

Chickens should be allowed

To the Government,

Chickens should alood in Tower! My family loves chikens. We had chikens in Utah. They were gold and brown. Their names are Goldy, Browny, Rusty, and Suny. Chickens are my family's favorite animals! The laws should be changed! I am Harley, and I love animalsespecially chikens! I remember the time that Goldy sat with me in the hammock.

Please allow chik-

Harley Banks Tower-Soudan Elementary student and Tower resident



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.

Tower-Soudan-Embarrass Bookmobile Schedule

Every Wednesday: Feb. 9; March 2 and 23; April 13; May

4 and 25; June 15; July 6 and 27; Aug. 17; Sept. 7 and 28; Oct. 19; Nov. 9 and 30; Dec. Britt (Sand Lake



Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m. Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m.

at www.alslib.info.

Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 - 1 p.m. Soudan (Post Office Vicinity): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m. Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 – 6 p.m.

You can see the full bookmobile schedule on the website, alslib.info/services/bookmobile. For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at als@alslib.info, or website

College News

Brandon Johnson named to

Dean's List at St. Cloud State ST. CLOUD- Brandon Johnson, of Tower, has been named to the Dean's List at St. Cloud State University for the 2021 fall semester. To be eligible for the honor, students must have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Brandon is getting his BA in history from the College of Liberal

Amanda Christianson named to Dean's List at Northwest Technical College in Bemidji

BEMIDJI- Amanda Christianson, of Tower, earned Dean's List honors from Northwest Technical College in Bemidii, at the conclusion of the Fall 2021 semester.

Christianson is majoring in medical cod-

To be eligible for the Dean's List, NTC students must be enrolled for at least 12 credits and earn a 3.5 GPA during the semester. A total of 91 students earned Fall 2021 Dean's

List honors from the college. **James Boyd and Mikayla Mellesmoen named to Mankato** State 2021 Fall Semester

Dean's List MANKATO- James Boyd, of Embarrass, and Mikayla Mellesmoen, of Embarrass,

have both been named to the Academic High Honor lists (Dean's lists) for the past fall semester at Minnesota State University. Among 3,655 students, a total of 1,054

students qualified for the High Honor List by achieving a 4.0 straight "A" average, while 2,601 students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average to qualify for the Honor List. To qualify for academic honors, undergraduate students must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours for the semester.

ELY WINTER FESTIVAL 2022



Cub Scouts of Ely Pack 170 carved a block of snow at the Care Free Living Center facility last weekend in celebration of the 2022 edition of the Ely Winter Festival. Shown from left, Brantley Bailey-Johnson, Kate Smith, Ora Koehler, Brian Angelo, Kaelyn Puzel, Laurana Smith, and Pack Leader Cade Thibodeaux. submitted photo

WINDOW INTO YESTERDAY

Boarding houses are a big part of Ely's past

Ely-Winton Historical Society

The Finns called it a poikatalo, or boarding house. Literally this is translated as a "boy house," a place where a man could rent a room, get meals, lunches, and his laundry done. It was not uncommon for these rooms to have multiple tenants; some shared the same bed as shifts for the men changed.

Bathing? Well, that depended on the nearest neighborhood sauna.

Most boarding houses seemed to be owned and operated by Finns but the Slovenians and Swedes also had some. Winton probably had as many as Ely or even more, one of which was operated by the Knox Lumber Co.

The early days of logging and mining brought many single young men to Ely from Scandinavia and Yugoslavia. Families in Europe were large. The oldest son inherited the family farm and the younger brothers were left to fend for themselves. Many single young men looked across the ocean to ek a better life for himself.

Whether it was down in the mines in Ely, at the lumber mills in Winton, or in the forests, these men found hard lives before and after 1900. The boarding houses provided clean accommodations, meals were plain but hearty, and premises were secure. They were staffed by a bevy of white-aproned women who cooked, cleaned, and laundered dirty clothes and bed linens.

Drinking was much frowned upon.

Meals consisted of oatmeal, creamed rice, pancakes, savory stews, meatballs, fresh meat, fresh bread, rolls, pies, and cake, and lots of potatoes.

Both Mrs. Adam Mattola and Mrs. Victor



Juhola were excellent cooks and bakers. They attracted noontime customers beside the boarders. Mrs. Mattola had a dozen "girls" working with her besides her sister, two daughters, and husband, Adam, shown in a picture taken in 1915.

Laundry of the bed linens, towels and heavy woolen outerwear must have been a real challenge.

Eventually these boarders saved enough of their wages to send for a wife and perhaps even children. Modest homes were built and boarding houses became a thing of the past. Often very large, up to 15 and more rooms, the owners of these buildings reverted to renting single rooms but no longer provided meals. Some later converted the rooms into apartments. Looking around town one can guess where some of them were.

Mrs. Elizabeth Pete, a widow, had one of the

The photograph of the Victor Erickson boarding house in Winton, above, also shows Mrs. Erickson on the right with her baby. At left, the Victor Juhola boarding house also attracted noontime customers, besides boarders, for lunch. photos courtesy of th Ely-Winton Historical Society.

earliest boarding houses. No longer there, it stood on Camp Street just west of the bowling alley. On block of West Chapman Street stands the large gray sided house that was run by Mrs. Mattola. Another was Mrs. Juhola's boarding house on the 100 block of West Sheridan Street. Still another Finnish boarding house was operated by the Perämakis' on the north side of the first block of West Harvey Street. Mrs. Henry Koski kept one on Sheridan Street, just west of the Chocolate Moose. It is now torn down.

On West Shagawa Road was one, probably built by John Walsh, and then owned by John Korprivec and Ignac Musez. Undoubtedly there were others.

In Winton, because of the two lumber mills, there

were many: Hotel Winton. Johnson Boarding House, Knox Boarding House, Ahonen Boarding House, House, and the Weisinger

others. Today, the ones that are still standing can be most often recognized by being too large to be a usual residence, usually long and narrow, and with a simple gable roof. Each had been a real Ely institution in its

Boarding house. Perhaps

Pictures of these early boarding houses, along with a few artifacts from them, are on display at the Ely-Winton Historical Society and Vermilion Community College. Visitors can see a re-creation of a typical boarding house in the museum. Call 218-365-3226 for hours and more information.

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. 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.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



libraries

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics

Anonymous

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

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SUPPORT GROUPS:

Babbitt: 3rd Monday of

Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at

Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at

Ely-Bloomenson Hospital

Ely: 4th Monday of

218-365-3359, or

1-800-662-5711.

CAREGIVER

Carefree Living

ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Ely choir students attend Bulldog Choral Festival

DULUTH - Seven members of the Ely Memorial High School Pop Choir traveled to the University of Minnesota-Duluth on Jan. 25 to participate as singers in the 1st Annual Bulldog Choral Festival.

The attending students had been working on the music for this festival since early in January, said Ely choir

director Michael Rouse. Once at UMD, they were joined by students from 17 other area high schools to spend the day rehearsing as they prepared to perform in a concert that evening. The concert consisted

of performances by two of the UMD ensembles, the Concert Choir and the Jazz Choir. Next came the **High School Tenor-Bass**



The Ely Pop Choir participants included, from left, Tracy Thibodeaux, Alison Poppler, Emily Bialik, Matt Janeksela, Ella Nappa, Gabe Mann, and Matthew Johnson. submitted photo

festival choir followed by the Soprano-Alto festival

choir. The grand finale was a performance by the

combined High School SABT Festival Choir.

Cook council considers airport hangar expansion

by DAVID COLBURN

COOK- Conditions are ripe for Cook Airport to capitalize on a shortage of hangar space in the region, according to information presented to the Cook City Council at its Jan. 27 regular meeting.

operator Airport Doug McDuff attended the meeting to review a number of items related to the facility, and he called prospects for hangar expansion "very, very excit-

"There's currently 13 hangars in place, and that whole row is full," Mc-Duff said. "The records show that 2004 was the last lease that was written. There has not been room for development since

Now, acquisition of some additional property has made expansion of hangar space and the construction of an additional taxiway a possibility.

"We currently have seven people who are very, very interested in building hangars," Mc-Duff said. "We sent out an application with a statement of commitment to build to all seven of them, and two of them have sent their checks and their applications back already.'

That information will be included in an expansion proposal to be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration by Feb. 15. If approved, McDuff said, it would include moving the weather station to another location and provide for the necessary paving to accommodate the additional han-

McDuff said he was encouraged about the

prospect of gaining FAA approval because the Minnesota Pilots Association agreed to write a letter endorsing the project.

"And with this phase the city can lease up to 18 more spaces," McDuff

There's little doubt in McDuff's mind that those additional spaces would be locked up quickly, based on a survey of airports in the northern third of the state.

"Talking to each and every airport manager about their lease rates and hangar availability, there are no available hangars in this whole end of the state, and there's no space for hangar construction," McDuff said. "So, this is really going to fill a void. There's 18 spaces and I honestly believe within one to two years they're going to be gone. We're

the most fabulous lakes in Minnesota, and once the word gets out, those things are gone."

McDuff and City Administrator Theresa Martinson described discussions that have been held with landowners Jim and Kathy Curlee, who own property along the airport's south border. There's been a dispute over the boundary line that was triggered when trees were removed, per FAA requirements, to provide added clearance for approaches. McDuff said that the property line survey conducted by someone employed by the city's engineering firm was apparently in error.

"The markers weren't put in the correct spots and some trees got caught," he

Martinson said they

had a meeting with the Curlees, noting they have In other business, the had "a great neighborcouncil:

➤ Approved Mayor Harold Johnston's appointment of himself to the Cook Housing and Redevelopment Authority board of directors for a

five-year term. ➤ Received the Cook Public Library annual re-

➤ Heard a report on staffing and training from interim Ambulance Director Karen Schultz, Based on Schultz's recommendation, council members approved a new personnel training contract with Minnesota Public Safety Group, which also provides training for the city's firefighters. Schultz said the arrangement will save the ambulance service \$5,700 every two



Picek receives sheriffs' association scholarship

Hayden Picek, of Cook, is among 24 individuals statewide to receive \$2,000 scholarships from the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association to assist with education costs as they pursue degrees leading to law enforcement careers.

St. Louis County Sheriff Ross Litman presented Picek with a check on behalf of the MSA.

Picek is enrolled in

the Law Enforcement Program at Hibbing Community College. He serves on the Cook Fire Department and Ambulance Service. He said that interactions with law enforcement at emergency scenes led him to pursue a career in law enforcement.

MSA's annual scholarships assist students with training and education expenses.

Cook book club to meet on Feb. 8

COOK- The Readers and Rappers Book Club will meet at the Cook Community Center on Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 1 p.m. to discuss "The Lager Queen of Minnesota" by Ryan Stradal.

In the words of Oprah Winfrey, the book reveals how the fortunes and foibles of a brewery mirror the relationship between two sisters tussling over a family farm in this quirky, enchanting novel.

The community center is located at 510 Gopher Drive.

The book selection for March will be "I'm Still Here" by Austin Channing Brown.

Cook student gets academic honors

COOK- Neiva Smith, a student at Minnesota State - Mankato, is the recipient of academic honors for the Fall 2021 semester.

Smith was named to the university's Honor List, which requires a student to achieve a GPA of 3.5 to 3.99 to qualify for the Honor List.

hood relationship and we

continue to do so." As a

result, Martinson recom-

mended that the city pay

\$675 toward sharing the

cost of a new survey with

the Curlees, and said that

they have agreed to con-

about future maintenance

issues possibly affect-

ing both parties. Council

members approved the re-

tion of the new snow re-

moval equipment building

at the airport is coming

along, McDuff said recent

progress has been sporad-

ic, depending on weather

also granted permission

for the fire department to

use an abandoned house

on airport property for a

members

conditions.

Council

While the construc-

quest for payment.

communications

Bunyan offers Youth Tour trip essay contest

REGIONAL-Area high school students ages 16 or 17 are encouraged to enter the Paul Bunyan Communications Essay Contest for a chance to attend the 2022 Youth Tour

in Washington, D.C. June 1-5, with all expenses paid by Paul Bunyan Communications.

years.

Students must be 16 or 17 years of age and in high school, with their parent/guardian a member of Paul Bunyan Communications Cooperative.

The deadline for entries is March 4.

Complete details about the Youth Tour and how to enter the contest are available on the Paul Bunyanb website at shorturl.at/prCI4.



Star-spangled Grizzlies

From left, North Woods band instructor Karl Kubiak, Payton Scofield, Brandon Cook, and Principal John Vukmanich join other pep band members in playing the National Anthem at a recent Grizzlies basketball game.

D. Colburn photo

Annual snowmobiling days observed at North Woods

School Day." This year's cold temperatures and ample snowfall have made it a banner year to enjoy the outdoors on a sled, so we wanted to take advantage of it early. This will give us the opportunity to have additional events moving into February and maybe even March. With some conflicts on each day with sports and activities, I also decided to have a two-day event this year. As a result, we let students ride on Thursday and Friday.

Some years it has been bitter cold, some years there has been minimal snow, and at least one year there was so much snow that kids were get-

FIELD TWP- Each ting stuck in the ditches. lost and also the inevitable



JOHN **VUKMANICH**

Over the years we have had an accident or two, students running out of gas, students getting

year at North Woods Anthony Vito, if you are concerns with crossing the successful event that gives our kids a chance to show off their sleds and riding skills. Plus, who can argue against showing up for class on a sled?

> We had a first this year, with Chloe Johnson and Haley Leinonen being the first female students to participate. They rode double on Haley's Ski-Doo Expedition. I am really proud of them for showing all the guys what we already know: Many females ride snowmobiles and enjoy the sport just as much as the guys do.

> We had a mix of machines this year - Ski-Doo, Arctic Cat, and Polaris were all repre-

small player in the market, as I remember seeing just as many Phazers and Exciters back in the day as anything else. The age of the machines ranged from the mid-1990's all the way up to late-model rider-forward sleds. Some readers may be aware that Principal Vukmanich is a vintage snowmobile guy, so I really like seeing the older sleds still making it out onto the trail.

Each year, I meet with the riders a day ahead of time and emphasize safety. Growing up, I had a 340 Arctic Cat Jag, and my Dad had a 440 El Tigre. The 440 was considered a "big horsepow-

Kabetogama Lake Canister Site

10150 Gamma Rd

Winter Hours

Wed: noon-4pm

Sat: 8am-noon

Portage Canister Site

6992 Crane Lake Rd.

Area Solid Waste Facility

site hours

sented. Growing up in er" machine back in the the 1980s, I would never 1970s, but now our kids School, we have "Ride reading this, you may re-Your Snowmobile to member digging that XLT the most part, it has been a ha would become such a well over 100 horsepower need trails. To have trails and suspension so good that the bumps almost disappear. All of this power and technology requires self-control.

Riding safely and responsibly is the most important thing that we can do as snowmobilers. If you ride a lot, like me, you have undoubtedly witnessed plenty of bad behavior on the trails. We all, collectively, have to do a better job of riding safely and being more respectful to other riders. Just last week, I witnessed numerous riders on the wrong side of the trail and riding at unsafe speeds for the conditions. I use this event as a way to talk to the kids

about this. If young people can realize that for we need support from the clubs, the State of Minnesota, and local landowners. This cannot be taken for granted and requires that we are good stewards

of the sport. I look forward to continued events, and also want to thank the local DNR for having a Conservation Officer present to help us cross Highway 53 safely.

Ride safe everyone!

Tradition

of Trust

· Traditional Funerals

· Graveside Services Cremation

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Driver Haley Leinonen and passenger Chloe

Johnson were the first-ever female participants in this year's North Woods Snowmobile Day. submitted photo

Ash River Trail Canister Site 11391 Ash River Trail Winter Hours

Sat: 12:30pm-4:30pm

Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53

Winter Hours Tue, Thu: 9am-noon Sat: 8am-noon

Cook Transfer Station

Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm

5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia

Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm

2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm

Winter Hours Tue, Sat: 1pm-4:30pm **Regional Landfill**

5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours

Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Household Hazardous Waste Facilities

3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing

Sat: 8am-1pm

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

St. Louis County **Environmental Services** Department 1-800-450-9278

8380 Hwy 73

Hours

Sun: 10am-4pm

Winter Hours

Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm

Sturgeon Canister Site **County 77 Canister Site**

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COVID-19 Omicron variant surge levels off statewide

CORONAVIRUS

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- While new COVID cases caused by the Omicron variant appear from various sources to have leveled off, case counts remain at pandemic-high levels and may not decline much for the next two weeks.

Minnesota Department of Health data show that there were 78,155 new COVID-19 cases in the seven days between Jan. 26 and Feb. 1, for an average of 11,165 new cases per day. A declining but still present backlog of lab reports suggests the total number underrepresents the prevalence of new cases in the state.

New cases in St. Louis County showed a modest decline in the most recent data. The seven-day case positivity rate of 255.7 on Jan. 21 had dropped to 233.4 on Jan. 28. That number is nearly equal to the highest seven-day

average case rate recorded during the massive November 2020 surge.

The most recent seven-day case positivity average for Minnesota is 21 percent, down from 23.2 percent the week

But the news isn't all rosy when one looks at the Mayo Clinic COVID-19 dashboard projections. Over the next two weeks. all of Minnesota's counties will remain at the highest indicator for average daily cases, with numbers beginning to edge downward around Feb. 10.

Breakthrough case data from MDH show that those not fully vaccinated continue to bear the brunt of COVID-19 infections. Between ages 12 and 64, breakthrough infections among those not fully vaccinated have been running in excess of twice as high as infections in fully vaccinated individuals. The disparity in those 65 and

older is nearly six times as great.

The most recent data available from the week of Dec. 26 shows that there have been 284,526 breakthrough cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota, 8.3 percent of all of the cases in the state.

Vaccinations

Statewide, 69.1 percent of eligible recipients age 5 and older, nearly 3.6 million people, have been fully vaccinated. Over 3.8 million Minnesotans have had at least one dose of vaccine.

As the state's \$200 gift card vaccination incentive program for ages 5 to 11 moves into full swing, an even younger group of children may soon become eligible for vaccines.

Various national news outlets reported on Monday that Pfizer is preparing to ask for emergency use authorization of its vaccine in children from six months through four years old. Initial research data indicate that younger children in that range show a stronger immune response to vaccination than those on the upper end. Pfizer officials have said that an emergency use authorization now would allow vaccinations to begin while they do the additional research necessary to determine the proper dosage to obtain the full immune response in the older group, which could mean an extra shot.

Hospitalizations

While COVID-related hospitalizations also appear to be slowly decreasing statewide, the data varies from region to region, and a look at the state's COVID response capacity data suggests that decrease isn't being felt to any significant degree in northeastern

As of Tuesday, no pediatric ICU beds and only three adult ICU beds were available in the seven-county region. Only six

and 60 adult non-ICU beds were available throughout the seven-county region.

Regional data

Information available for the Timberjay's coverage area presents different pictures of which way the Omicron needle is leaning.

According to the county's COVID dashboard, residents in the North Country are faring better than the rest of the county when it comes to new case

The county uses weekly case rates per 100,000 for comparison purposes across the county's three regions, and the rates in the northern region are well below that of the Duluth area and central and western St. Louis County.

Whereas the countywide rate for the week of Jan. 16 was 1,218.6, it was 38 percent lower in the North Country, coming in at 761.7. That rate in the northern region also

week of Jan. 16.

However, weekly zip code level reports from the state run in the opposite direction, with reports from last Thursday showing multiple abnormally large case counts.

Fifty-five new cases were reported for Ely and 26 for Cook, the two highest increases, but Orr was close behind with 22 new cases. Sixteen new cases were reported for Tower, ten for Embarrass, and four for Soudan.

As the weekly case rate per 100,000 and weekly case rate figures represent different reporting periods and methodologies, and with state reporting potentially affected by the gradual clearing of the lab sample backlog, neither figure can be taken in isolation to make a determination of the Omicron trend in the area.

MEDIA Continued from page 1 -

won first place in the breaking news category. "Competing against a strong field, this entry stood out in both its timeliness and execution," wrote the judges. "The reporter gave readers what they needed while weaving in excellent details. Good photos, too."

Timberjay graphic artist Scarlet Stone also

won praise for her ad design. "Great local ad support, good theme pages, and nicely laid-out pages with well done, creative ads!" wrote the judges in awarding first place for advertising excellence. "Especially liked the real estate page section."

Timberjay editorials, once again, won the

notice of the judges as they awarded the newspaper first place for editorial page as a whole. "The editorials really stand out on this entry," wrote the judges. "Lots of top-notch views and opinions."

Marshall Helmberger won second place for best columnist, writing on a wide range of topics.

"Helmberger demonstrates versatility in columns on struggles with a home rehab project, his personal war with a woodchuck and how he introduced a relatively new colleague to ricing. The woodchuck column was a particularly fun read!"

Cook/Orr Editor David Colburn claimed a second-place award under arts and entertainment for his feature story, From Cook to Chicago with Love, about Trevor Nicholas.

"A really nice story with an appealing layout,' wrote the judges.

MarshallHelmberger's report on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's decision to change clean

water rules to reduce the need for clean-up of mining discharges, won second place under business reporting. "An alarming story one that needs to be told and talked about," wrote the judges. Undeniably wonkyand for non-science readers will be a bit of a chew-but a critical story that needs to be told and acted upon."

BAKK...Continued from page 1

Monday. Bakk, who will turn 68 later this year, has served in the Legislature since 1994, holding the title of either Senate majority or minority leader, for much of that time. He underwent heart surgery in 2020 for a leaking valve and while his recovery has gone well, he knows there are times when the pressures of elected office take too big a toll.

"I just had my annual physical down at the Mayo," said Bakk. "My doctor told me that less stress would be a good

The political changes that have overturned traditional voting patterns in northern Minnesota are also part of the equation. Bakk faced one of his toughest campaigns in decades in 2020 as the political winds shifted in favor of Republicans in the region. Bakk lost in places like the city Babbitt and Koochiching County, where he had previously won by two-toone margins. Bakk says he hasn't changed politically, but the way many of the region's voters view the DFL has changed.

Even having forsaken the DFL label, Bakk could face considerable uncertainty in a re-election bid. Bakk said he'd like to run as an independent, which would almost guarantee a DFL challenger, but it's unclear whether he could face a three-way challenge from a GOP opponent as well. "I am working on that and so far it's going pretty well," said Bakk, when asked if he's likely to face Republican opposition.

Throw in the political uncertainty of this year's redistricting and the makeup of a new senate district in the region, and it has left Bakk more ambivalent about a re-election effort than in the past. Yet the question of who would replace him looms large. "I've been looking around, wondering who will pick up the flag when I leave," said Bakk, who sees his and Tomassoni's Senate seniority as important political levers for the region. "If Tomassoni and I both leave at the same time, it would be pretty hard on northern Minnesota. I feel some obligation to not just cut and run." He said someone with experience, such as a county commissioner or House member, would be his first choice.

While Bakk didn't state it outright, given the value of seniority, it's also apparent he'd like someone considerably younger to take his place. He noted that the region hasn't been able to build as much seniority in the state House since the retirement of the late Rep. Tom Rukavina and the defeat of Rep. Loren Solberg. Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls, who replaced the late Rep. David Dill in 2015, is now the senior House member from the region.

Unfinished business Bakk is also motivated by his desire to see some major initiatives through to completion, and this session offers the potential for making big strides on some of his top priorities. With a historic \$7.7 billion projected budget surplus and a DFL governor who is pushing a whopping \$2.7 billion bonding bill, Bakk is in a key position to advance projects close to home.

As chair of the Senate Capital Investment Committee, a plum position he negotiated with Republican leaders at the time of his departure from the DFL, Bakk will be in a key position to help shape whatever bonding measure is approved later this year. "I do think the Arrowhead got shortchanged," said Bakk, when asked about the governor's bonding proposal, which was light on local government projects from the region. "The Legislature will obviously have its own priorities,"

Bakk added.

He's skeptical that Senate Republicans will accept Gov. Tim Walz's total price tag for bonding, suggesting that \$100 million to renovate facilities for non-profits and a total of \$250 million for affordable housing is likely to face opposition from the GOP. Bakk said he recognizes the desperate need for affordable housing outside the metro area, but said the lack of interest in building affordable housing in Greater Minnesota has kept most of the recent housing dollars in the Twin Cities. "None of that money ever finds its way up here," Bakk said.

When it comes to preserving the state's own public infrastructure, Bakk is clearly on board, citing the state college and university system. "We're way far behind," he said. "MNSCU has a lot of old buildings

that need maintenance." Bakk agreed as well with the governor's emphasis on repairing water in frastructure. ``That's abigpriority for me," said Bakk, suggesting he might push for an even higher spending target than the governor has

proposed.

And he lauded Walz's proposal to earmark \$12 million to build the new park lodge at the Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park, a park that Bakk had a major role in creating. Completing the build-out of the park is clearly among the projects that Bakk sees as part of his legacy in office. He brought members of the capital investment committees to the park this past fall to show them the possibilities.

Funding construction of a new medical school facility for UMD is another high priority, he said.

He said the U of M's regents recently listed the\$12 million project as a priority. While UMD already has a medical school, Bakk said a new facility located near Duluth's downtown healthcare district could help address the region's chronic shortage of physicians. "It could be a great feeder system for Essentia and St. Luke's," he said. "The benefit of having a



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Burgers, Chili, Chicken Wild Rice Soup

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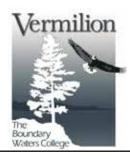
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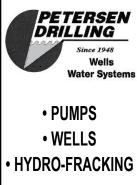
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Arrowhead is final bow for Brazilian runner

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Marcio Villar was the first runner this year to complete the daunting Arrowhead 135 (A135) winter ultramarathon course, but his name won't be found in the official list of finishers, because Villar accomplished the feat last Friday, before the race ever started.

Villar was attempting to do something race organizers don't recognize but many elite ultramarathoners covet as a personal achievement, that of "doubling" the race by doing it from the end to the beginning and back again.

Villar, 54, has already cemented his elite status in the world of ultramarathons, these extreme tests of human endurance, and doubling and even tripling these events has been a personal quest to push himself to the maximum limits.

"What motivates me is to undertake challenges that no one in the world has ever achieved," Villar said in a 2013 article about his exploits. "The impossible does not exist. When we do what we love and dedicate ourselves, we can always go further."

Villar has already doubled two of the three races considered to be the World Cup of Extreme Environments. California's Badwater 135-miler starts below sea level in the





Brazilian racer Marcio Villar, 54, endured a frosty face during his solo run of the Arrowhead 135 this week.

photo by D. Colburn.

scorching, dangerous heat of Death Valley and ends on the slopes of Mt. Whitney at 8,300 feet. The daunting Brazil 135, held in the Serra da Mantiqueira Mountains, is a roller coaster ride combining 30,000 feet of cumulative elevation gain with 28,000 cumulative feet of descent. Adding a double in the A135 would make him the only person in the world to have doubled all three.

But the A135 has been an obstinate foe.

Villar had to drop out of his first A135 in 2008 but returned in 2009 to place sixth on foot. He completed

the course again in 2011, placing 15th. Since then, attempts to double the race in 2013, 2016, 2019, and 2020 have all ended short of the mark.

"Ihave already doubled or tripled the other extreme difficulty tests, but only in this one I still haven't managed to do," Villar said. "This test represents, for me, an overcoming, of never giving up on this dream until I conquer it."

Health issues faced by Villar have only intensified his desire. A rare autoimmune disease, juvenile temporal arteritis, diagnosed in 2015, required drug treatments and head surgery that could have shortened his career. The accompanying intense steroid treatments caused the deterioration of the femur in one of his legs, necessitating a hip replacement. Yet in 2017, only ten months after that operation, he broke the world record for the 500-mile Santiago de Compostela trail between Spain and France.

"I underwent five operations, placement of prostheses in the hip and three surgeries on the spine," Villar said. "I think anyone in the world would have given up, but I'm here to make my dream come true. It's a lot of snow, but I'll bring that mark, God

villing."

Villar planned to arrive in International Falls on Jan. 16 to begin acclimating for the race, but his flight was delayed by a day. The time for his adjustment to the bitter cold of northern Minnesota was shortened even more when, according to a post on Villar's Instagram account, race organizers insisted he run his solo portion of the double before the A135 instead of after for his own safety.

So, on Wednesday, Jan. 26, Villar took a taxi from International Falls to the finish line at Fortune Bay Casino Resort to begin the first leg of his hoped-for double. And for the first time in 11 years, he completed the entire course, all alone, finishing late Friday night in International Falls.

"It was very difficult," Villar said. "The temperature dropped a lot. I was frozen in the middle of the trail."

When the *Timberjay* caught up with Villar at his hotel on Sunday, it was clear the trek had exacted a toll on him beyond what he had wished. The interview was punctuated by the sound of Villar's deep hacking coughs.

"I think it froze my airways – I have a lot of coughing," he said. "I'm measuring my oxygen action here (and it) is very low. I'm having a lot of difficulty breathing and we'll see if I can recover to start the second leg tomorrow."

But when the roster was posted for the start of the race on Monday, Villar's name wasn't on it. He had withdrawn, and the dream of doubling in what he had called the "last and greatest challenge" of his life was over.

But instead of disappointment, the soft-spoken Brazilian focused on what he had accomplished. "I left Rio de Janeiro

in Brazil with a thermal sensation of 50 degrees Celsius and arrived here to face a forest with minus-40 degrees Celsius alone for three days. I think I have to be happy to have made it, right?" Villar said. "I think it's a victory, so I tell people that you can have the worst difficulty in your life, but whatever problem you're in, never give up on your dream. Believe, fight, that one day you will get there."

And this particular personal dream has never been as important to Villar as his dream of helping and inspiring other people through his running, and also of bringing recognition to his beloved home of Botafogo and Brazil.

"My mother passed

away eight years ago and everything I do has philanthropy for her to be proud of me," he said. "This race is raising funds for the cancer hospital where I have been a volunteer for 15 years. My mother was cured of cancer by them, and this was the way I found to give back When I broke the world record on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela I paid for the treatment of special children with cerebral palsy and Down syndrome. I have already paid for 38 heart surgeries for children by running When you have a purpose in life it makes all the difference."

That purpose will keep Villar active in charitable causes even though he's formally retiring from the ultramarathon circuit. He plans to keep running in shorter local and regional events, and he also does motivational speaking for businesses and community organizations.

And always a dreamer. Villar already has another in mind.

"After this race, which will be the last of my career. I intend, if I get support to climb Mount Everest," he said. "This is my next dream."

Brazilian journalisi Iuri Totti contributed to this story.

RACE...Continued from page 1–

challenging events at that distance in the world.

While the three races are designed as extreme challenges, safety is paramount for event organizers, and Krueger repeatedly reinforced awareness of numerous potential hazards, including one particularly unique to the A135 – snowmobiles.

"Don't assume that that snowmobiler coming down the trail is looking out for you," Krueger said. "Make yourself visible. I'm a stickler for the blinkies and high visibility stuff. The forecast for Monday is pretty nice and there's a very good chance for a lot of snowmobiles."

The weather the first day was unusually mild, with temperatures in the mid-20s, followed by falling temperatures and high winds on Tuesday and much colder weather for the final day of the event. The race is held in late January or early February because it typically coincides with some of the

coldest temperatures of a northern Minnesota winter.

Krueger said the mild temperatures could impact the race.

"It softens up the trail," Krueger said. "People on foot, it's hard on their feet. Bikers have to let a lot of air out of their tires, and they go a lot slower. And they all sweat more."

Shattering the mark

If anyone should have been sweating, it was Sue Lucas, holder of the women's foot race record of 42 hours, 31 minutes, a record Gretchen Metsa, of Buhl, was intent on breaking this year. To do so, Metsa would have to shave more than seven hours off her 2020 race time.

Metsa is a familiar face to many in the Cook and Orr area, with family ties and a job at DreamWeaver Salon and Spa in Cook.

"I grew up on Old Ash Lake Rd.," Metsa said. "I ran sled dogs with my brother on the Arrowhead snowmobile trail. So, this trail, it's like my home."

The mother of three has also made a mark with her racing in the broader world through her openness about her Type 1 diabetes, a condition her daughter Mialynn shares. Metsa competes in part to show Mialynn that she doesn't have to be limited in life by diabetes, and her story has been retold in numerous publications and a feature video by OutsideTV. Metsa upped her training game for this year's A135 by getting coaching through Wisconsin-based Trail Transformation to fine tune everything from stride mechanics to nutri-

"They brought attention to different things I was doing wrong," Metsa said. "I feel like I trained less but I trained smarter. It was awesome."

It was effective, too. From the time Metsa hit the trail at 7 a.m., she was

in almost constant motion throughout the race. She quickly put previous champion Pam Reed, who won the running competition in 2020 and 2018, in her rear-view mirror and never let up. She skimmed right through the three mandatory checkpoints, kept right on going through the night, and turned in a race for the ages.

When she crossed the finish line at Fortune Bay on Tuesday afternoon in the astonishing time of 33:05, Metsa had pared 16.5 hours off her 2020 race time and obliterated the former record by over nine hours.

"You always want to beat a record good so that you don't have to come back and re-do it," Metsa said

Two hours after Metsa had left the course, the next closest female run competitor was still 30 miles away from the finish line.

Records, winners

The winner of the

men's run was Jake Hegge, of Onalaska, Wis., with a time of 28:27, breaking the old record of 30:54. In addition to being a physical therapist and an elite ultramarathoner who competes across the country and in Europe, Hegge also happens to be the founder of Trail Transformation, Metsa's coaching service.

An even bigger record-smasher than Metsa's came in the women's ski division. Shalane Frost, of Fairbanks, Alaska, covered the course in 20:41, 14 hours faster than the record set by Kate Coward in 2020. Frost's time also eclipsed the men's record time, making her the fastest skier the A135 has ever had.

Minnesotan Mike Brumbaugh topped the men's ski division with a time of 21:48.

The men's bike race was won by Matthew Bosman, of Minnetonka, with a time of 14:22.

former women's ski recordholder, took first place in the women's bike division with a time of 17:42. Coward has also competed as a runner in past events.

Kate Coward, the

As of Tuesday evening, no kick sled runners had crossed the finish line.

Sixty-five bikers, 65 runners, three runners with kick sleds, and nine skiers representing 27 U.S. states and four foreign countries started the race on Monday.

As of early Tuesday

evening:

Four bikers remained

out on the course, 45 had finished, and 16 had dropped out.

Twenty-nine runners were still on the trail, only two had finished, and 34 had dropped out.

➤ Three skiers were still on the course, five had finished, and one had dropped out.

➤Twokicksledrunners were still on the course, and one had dropped out.

ELY ... Continued from page 1

Festival pin was designed by Nancy Ensley and depicts the most popular part of Ely's seasonal celebration.

"This is the first time I carved a snow carver carving snow," Scheibe said.

The festival kicks off tonight with an opening ceremony in Whiteside Park, beginning at 6:30 p.m., with a torchlight procession and

lighting.

"There are plenty of activities to fill your schedules," said organizer Shauna Vega. "The board and volunteers have been busy putting all the final details together and we are ready to bring back some time-honored favorite

events."

The Snow Sculpting Symposium, Ely ArtWalk, snowshoe hikes with the Listening Point Foundation and the Great Nordic Beardfest are all back for this year.

The snow sculpture symposium includes sculpting teams from Minnesota, the upper Midwest, Germany, and Argentina. Starting today, Whiteside Park will be full of visitors flocking to see the snow sculptures as they take shape.

A full schedule and

A full schedule and more festival information can be found on the event's website at www.elywinter-festival.com. It will include additional details about events and COVID-19 updates. A brochure with all the details is available at many local businesses all over town.

The amateur snow

The amateur snow sculpting contest also returns this year. Amateur individuals, families, and

groups have been carving their creations this week. Judging and prizes will be awarded Saturday afternoon.

The Great Nordic Beardfest will be conducted at two venues over two days, at the Boathouse Brewpub and Restaurant tonight, and at Ely's Historic State Theater on Saturday. Check out their website, www. greatnordicbeardfest.com. for more information and to register.

Tonight, at the Boathouse, the Belt Tournament competition begins at 7 p.m. Music will be provided by Steven Solkela and The Hobo Nephews of Uncle Frank. Admission is \$10 or \$5 with a Winter Festival pin.

Doors open at the Ely State Theater at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 5 for the main event competition. Admission is \$25. Tickets are available online at www.movies.elystatetheater.org.

Music by Waffle House Melee, Charlie Parr, and Black-Eyed Snakes.

Snowshoe hike tours out to Sigurd Olson's historic Listening Point will be available through the ten days of the festival.

The Ely Folk School will be hosting a variety of classes, from Diamond Willow Walking Stick Carving and Pasty Making to Crafting a Gemstone Necklace and Date Night Pottery all week. For more information, go to www.elyfolkschool.org.

Winter camping demonstrations at Whiteside Park, Whirlwind outdoor activities and museum tours at the Dorothy Molter Museum, Vermilion Law Enforcement Ice Fishing Tournament, snowshoe hiking on Burntside Lake, and more outdoor recreational activities will be available.

The windows of many downtown Ely businesses will be turned into a walking

art gallery as the Ely Art Walk returns for local artists to display their best works.

The Ely Winter Festival 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.

This activity is also made possible by a grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

"The Ely Winter Festival would like to thank Veterans on the Lake, Raven Words Press, Twin Metals Minnesota, Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, Grand Ely Lodge, and Ely Family Dental for their generous support," Board Member Shauna Vega said.

For more information, contact Shauna Vega at 218-365-SNOW or Shauna@elywinterfestival.com.



WE BUY CLEAN USED VEHICLES

COVID-19 advisory council questions ISD 696's new rules

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY – On the heels of ISD 696 following the lead of state and federal officials in reducing the required quarantine period of those who test positive for COVID-19, local health officials on the Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council (ELSPAC) recently voiced their concerns.

Students and staff are now allowed to return to school five days after showing symptoms or testing positive, following action by the Ely school board at an emergency meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Two days later, at what was superintendent Erik Erie's final advisory council meeting, Heather Holthaus, of the Essentia Ely Clinic, questioned the new rules amid recent reports that indicate the Omicron variant of the coronavirus has reached its peak. "I wasn't excited at all to see the change in quarantine (rules)," she said. "We are still seeing plenty of COVID coming through."

Holthous related that many people are testing negative for the antigens at the peak of symptoms, and then testing positive a couple of days later. "I question whether or not that is why Omicron is so contagious," she said. "People are contagious in the beginning and they are not testing positive. I've had other families who said they tested negative with the nasal swab and then test positive with the throat (swab)."

The Elyschool board's decision to cut the isolation period in half, going

from 10 days to five days, allowed nearly 50 students, according to K-12 principal Anne Oelke, to return to school the following day rather than remain isolated from the campus.

The new guidelines allow students and staff to return to campus as long as they are symptom free and do not have a fever.

Holthaus continues to advocate for different COVID-19 testing methods for the Ely Essentia health facility. "Even here, I've broached that with the powers that be and the higher ups with Essentia. They are looking into maybe some different types of testing. As far as testing goes with us, we are still coming back with 50- to 55-percent of the people who are tested coming back positive," she said.

Superintendent Erik Erie told the ESLPAC that school administrators consulted with local health care professionals before bringing the recommendation to the school board.

According to the most recent report, the Ely schools COVID-19 positive test count on Jan. 27 was at 10. The cumulative positive test count so far for the 2021-22 school year stood at 177, according to Erie. A total of 48 positive cases were recorded during the 2020-21 school year.

At the Jan. 20 ESLPAC meeting, St. Louis County Department of Health consultant Aubrie Hoover provided some "happier" news. "For 5-11 years-olds, in all of St. Louis County, 34 percent have had their first (COVID-19 vaccine) dose, and 29 percent have completed the series," she said

r. For St. Louis County 12-17 year olds, the vaccination rate was stuck at 49 percent for many weeks, according to Hoover. "Now we have 50 percent who have had one dose and 46 percent have completed that series," she said.

The Ely school district, and other regional school systems, have ping-ponged their coronavirus quarantine policies over the past two years, including 14-day requirements for those with positive cases and those who might have come in close contact with positive cases, perhaps even entire classrooms. Quarantine periods have steadily been shortened since the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

The Elyschool board's latest revision to the district's safe learning plan also eliminated provisions to transition individual elementary classrooms to distance-learning if multiple cases were identified in a classroom within seven days, and to consider quarantine and distance learning for middle and high-school groups when more than one case is identified in a classroom.

Protective face masks remain a requirement for all students, staff and visitors indoors on the Ely school campus, except during after-school extra-curricular activities.

Vaccine rate metrics

An Ely school board member continued to push for the vaccine rate metric to be considered in adjusting the school's face mask mandate.

"We should be having a discussion about consulting with local medical professionals about a campus-wide vaccination percentage that would also trigger going to masks recommended,"Tom Omerza said.

Erie responded, "We haven't pursued that any further. There has been some discussion, and I think at the time, we didn't have (access) to the staff rate. We reported two weeks ago that 86 percent (of Ely school staff) had the first dose. I'm assuming by now they have had their second dose. And that's good news. We haven't taken that any further but we could certainly discuss that."

Omerza speculated that the new superintendent, coming on board at the beginning of February, will continue to lead ESLPAC meetings.

"We have a little while before that happens to try to get a local medical community perspective on that," he said. "Our group here could certainly consider a possible recommendation to the administration and school board."

Last fall, local physician Dr. Joseph Bianco said that if the Ely vaccination rate was 80 percent or more, face masking wouldn't need to be a consideration.

"I think we have to look past the huge challenge we are having right now," Omerza said. "We are going to get past this. We need to be a little more proactive than reactive. Let's plan ahead a little bit so we can be ready to move once Omicron is down and if there's not six more Greek letters of variants coming out around the world, and the hospitals aren't packed, we should be ready to make a move."

Erie implored the Essentia Ely Clinic and EBCH representatives to have the vaccine percentage conversation within their facilities to determine a threshold recommendation.

Holthaus said she's had that discussion with Dr.Bianconumeroustimes.

"I don't foresee his thoughts changing on those numbers," she said. "We have vaccines ready to go. We have wide open schedules. I'm seeing not so many five-to 11-year-olds. That is a hit or miss at this point. We are seeing a hefty decline in vaccinations."

She said she did not see a COVID-19 vaccine goal of 80 percent happening in Ely.

Omerza pressed the issue. "It is not being communicated. What is the incentive of having a vaccine? (No face masks) could be an added incentive for parents to consider," he said. "We need consistent communication to get the vaccine. Help yourself, help the community."

Oelke said she includes in her weekly update to parents that many financial incentives are available from the State of Minnesota to entice families to get their children vaccinated.

Ely 6-12 principal Megan Anderson added, "I am on board to get rid of masks. Nobody wants to be in these, but right now, it is not even on my radar that that could be something we are looking at with the rates climbing the way they are. I

can't imagine taking masks away."

Tiffany Zemke, the ELSPAC' Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital representative, confirmed that positive COVID-19 cases continue to come through the local health facility. "We are having people coming to the (Emergency Room) that are positive, but also some that may test negative. Our COVID wing does remain open, fortunately we have no one now in there with COVID which is kind of nice," she said.

"The big thing is that it is not just COVID out there," Zemke added. "We've seen influenza, rhinovirus, common colds, there's a lot of things going on out there. Overall, we are holding our own here."

The next ELSPAC could be on Thursday, Feb. 3, depending on scheduling by new ISD 696 superintendent John Klarich, who begins his duties at the beginning of February.

"I want to thank you personally for being part of this group," Erie said before ending his final ELSPAC meeting. "I want to thank everybody for their input and patience. This has been important work that you have been doing. Your feedback and participation has been really important to me and the school district."



February 3-13, 2022







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

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.

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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 Info & Registration elyfolkschool.org 218-235-0138

FOLK

skills & crafts

SCHOOL

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.











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

Thurs, Feb 10

Dorothy Molter Museum Virtual Gathering 7pm, rootbeerlady.com

Fri, Feb 11 - Sun Feb 13

7pm - 8:30pm, State Theater

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



12 February 4, 2022 THE TIMBERJAY

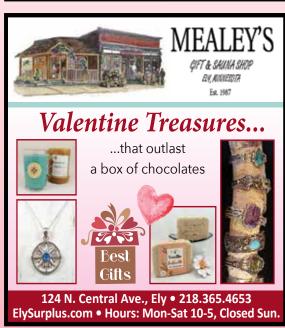


Happy Valentine's Day from the crew at The Timberjay!











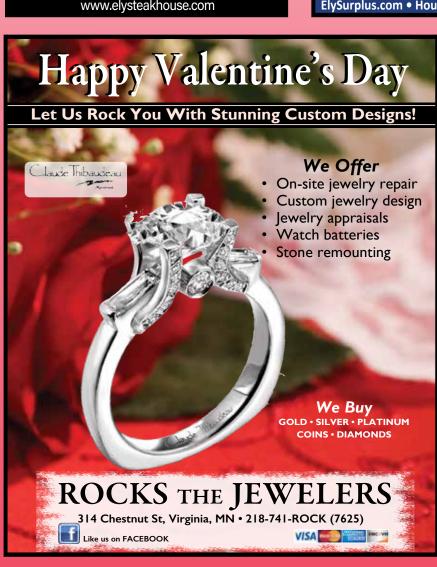








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NORDIC SKIING

Ely continues to show strength

Skiers finishing well above the pack against much larger schools

by Marshall Helmberger
Managing Editor

ELY— The Wolves ski teams finished high in the pack against a slew of much larger schools here on Tuesday, in a hastily-prepared Ely Invitational event that was pushed up two days to avoid extreme cold. The Ely girls finished a strong second among the ten schools that

took part in the Ely event, held at Hidden Valley. The boys settled for third place after Proctor/Hermantown edged them by a point for second. led all Ely skiers with a second-ond-place overall finish in a field of 46 racers. He finished the classic race in 17:42 and the freestyle event in

With temperatures in the 20s to start the race, the snow was considerably softer than last Friday's competition in Duluth, which led to significantly slower times for most of the racers.

Senior Gabriel Pointer

ond-place overall finish in a field of 46 racers. He finished the classic race in 17:42 and the freestyle event in 15:05.6, for a combined time of 32:47.4. Fellow senior Jon Hakala finished in ninth with a combined time of 34:32.3, while senior Micah Larson finished in 11th place with a combined time of 35:05.6.

In the girls pursuit com-

Ely's Micah Larson shows determination as he competes on Tuesday at Hidden Valley.

photo by C. Ellerbroek

petition, junior Zoe Devine led the Ely girls with a fifth-place finish in a field of 54 racers. She combined a classic time of

See NORDIC...pg. 2B





GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies stay above .500

Koch red hot against Barnum, but team slips to Bombers anyway

y DAVID COLBURN

by DAVID COLE
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods girls withstood one foe but wilted in the face of another's furious comeback this past week, picking up a win against Red Lake but falling Monday to Barnum.

Grizzlies sophomore guard Helen Koch was in that rarified space known as "the zone" during the first half against Barnum on Tuesday. Whether bombing from three-point land or making steals and leading fast breaks, nearly everything she touched turned to gold. Koch scored 18 points, including three consecutive treys, as the Grizzlies bolted to a 24-8

Above:The Grizzlies'Talise Goodsky hustles the ball against Red Lake.

Right: The Grizzlies' Helen Koch drives in for two of her 31 points against Barnum.

photos by D. Colburn

lead at the ten-minute mark. The team fed off Koch's success with withering defensive pressure and fast-paced offense.

And then, inexplicably, the scoring disappeared, the defense developed holes, turnovers mounted, and the Bombers fought their way back. A trey

See NW GIRLS...pg. 2B



Twin blowouts cap week for Ely

Team tops N-K 82-29 on Monday

 $\frac{\text{by } Marshall }{\text{Managing Editor}}$

ELY — Back-to-back blowout victories have the Timberwolves feeling good as the girls basketball season heads into the stretch. A 23-point run to start the first half here on Monday night helped spark Ely's 82-29 shellacking of Nashwauk-Keewatin. That game came on the heels of last Friday's 61-39 rout over Duluth Denfeld.

"We're playing well

on offense," said Ely Head Coach Max Ganttin the wake of Monday's game.

of Monday's game.

The Spartans faced a buzzsaw on Ely's hardwood as strong defense kept them in check while four Ely players reached double digits in scoring. Madeline Perry was machine-like on the inside, connecting on ten shots plus a free throw to lead all scorers with 21 points. Grace LaTourell

wasn't far behind with 19

points, including three from

beyond the arc. Lily Tedrick

Right: Ely's Clare Thomas dribbles the ball up court against the Spartans.

photo by J. Greeney

and Madeline Kallberg connected for 14 points apiece.

"It was a solid game all the way around," said Gantt. "I'm really impressed with our scoring ability at times this year," he said.

While the Wolves broke Monday's game wide open from the jump, Friday's

See WOLVES...pg. 2B



BOYS BASKETBALL

Bianco hits 31 points as Wolves rout Littlefork

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

ELY — Junior Joey Bianco poured in 31 points and notched 20 rebounds for a double-double as he led the Timberwolves to a 66-28 drubbing of Littlefork-Big Falls. Ely's defense dominated throughout as they held the Vikings to just nine points in the first half.

"We played well defensively all night against a very young Littlefork team," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald.

Senior Harry Simons scored 16 points and junior Gunnar Hart posted seven rebounds on the night.

Ely's previously-scheduled Tuesday night contest with Carlton was postponed to Saturday, Feb. 12, due to a conflict with precinct caucuses.

The Wolves are set to host Eveleth-Gilbert on Friday. They'll travel to Deer River to take on the Warriors on Tuesday.

North Woods skid now at three games

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

DULUTH- The North Woods Grizzlies suffered their third consecutive loss last Friday at Duluth Marshall, 81-69.

Playing again without center Sean Morrison, the Grizzlies trailed from the outset, but kept the game close, trailing just 33-28 until a 10-0 run by the Hilltoppers left North Woods facing a 15-point deficit at 43-28. North Woods cut that lead to 45-35 by halftime.

The second half was essentially a draw. The Grizzlies trailed at one point by 16, but closed to within nine before the Hilltoppers seized control to close out the 12-point win.

Three-point shooting, a staple in Grizzlies' wins, was their Achilles heel against Marshall. North Woods hit only eight of the 30 treys they attempted, a mark of 26.7 percent.

"It was a poor shooting night for us," Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe said. "We couldn't sustain any runs without a few shots falling, and as usual when we weren't hitting Marshall seemed like they couldn't miss." Senior Jasper Timm was the dif-

ference-maker for the Hilltoppers, and Kleppe said that went beyond his game-high 33 points.

'The Timm kid is an all-around

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Trevor Banks named new Breitung fire chief

Dy STEPHANIE UKKOLA

Γimberjay staff writer

SOUDAN- Trevor Banks began his new role as Breitung Fire Chief on Feb. 1. Banks was selected for the position by the department at their annual meeting in January and was approved by the town board on Jan. 27. Banks has served with the department for several years, most recently as captain.

Longtime Fire Chief Steve Burgess retired from his chief duties as of Dec. 31. Burgess will remain a member of the department and share the duties of training officer with Cade Gornick.

Other fire department roles changed as well. Matt Tuchel will continue to serve as assistant fire chief, Doug Carter will become captain (previously Banks), and Lance Dougherty will become lieutenant (previously Matt Tomsich).

Police

The board reviewed several department policies for Chief Daniel Reing, including a use of force and deadly force model policy, taken from the Minnesota POST Board and MN Statute 626.8452, a firearms weapon policy, and an office cleaning policy. Reing reported responding to over 50 calls in January, working on three investigations, writing two citations, and making one arrest for DWI.

Recreation

In recreation-related news, the board:

➤ Heard that the new little skating rink is well-used and well-loved. The rink needs a rubber path for skaters to walk from the skating shack to the rink. If anyone has any rubber belting to donate, please call Supervisor Greg Dostert at 218-248-0648.

➤ Hockey Day is set for Saturday, Feb. 26. The day will begin with a youth game for ages 12 and under, a boot hockey game for all ages, and end with the much-anticipated Tower vs. Soudan game for ages 18 and up.

➤ Heard that JPJ Engineering will make grant applications for the park upgrades and bike trail project on the township's behalf.

➤ Tomsich reported that grant guidelines changed for the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant. The maximum grant went from \$500,000 to \$600,000; however, the grant requires a 20-percent match from the applicant. The

board offered to match \$30,000 for the project.

➤ Heard that Stephanie Ukkola will be stepping down from her leadership role on the recreation committee.

Other news

Other items considered by the board included:

➤ The board will follow CDC guidelines for employees who are sick or exposed to COVID but will not require universal masking.

➤ Received \$90,000 from CDBG for infrastructure improvements.

➤ Accepted a donation of \$25 from Emanuel and Judy Sunsdahl for the police department.

➤In negotiations over trail maintenance with the City of Tower, each municipality agreed to maintain only their property in the future.

➤ Agreed to discuss a donation to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society at the annual meeting.

➤ Heard that the Breitung Community Picnic will be held

on Sunday, July 3. ➤ Set township election hours for 1 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March The annual meeting will follow.

The next township meeting is a special meeting to discuss police body cameras and the recreation project. The meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 10 at noon. The next regular meeting is Thursday, Feb. 24 at noon. The board of audit will be held on Feb. 24, after the regular meeting.

HOCKEY

Timberwolves lose two more on home ice

Ely Editor

ELY – The Ely hockey team dropped back-to-back games at home this past week, losing 4-1 to Bagley-Fosston here last Saturday. They fell 5-1 to Duluth Marshall last Thursday, as the latest two matches dropped their season record to 3-15.

Ely fell behind 2-0 to the Flyers in the first period Saturday at a nearly-full Ely Ice Arena. Neither team scored in the second period. With a 3-0 deficit, Ely junior forward Kole Macho scored at the 14:15 mark on a power play to put the Timberwolves on

the board. He was assisted by sophomore Chase Anderson and junior Logan

Bagley scored an empty net goal at 15:55 for the 4-1 victory.

Ely had four power play opportunities for the day, and allowed Bagley just one power play chance on just one penalty. The Timberwolves

had 20 shots on goal and the Flyers had 38 scoring chances in the game.

Against Duluth Marshall last Thursday, the Timberwolves' lone score came halfway through the final period. They had just 13 scoring chances against

Right: Elv's Kole Macho is upended during Saturday's game with Bagley-Fosston.

photo by K. Vandervort

the Hilltoppers.

Duluth scored one goal in the first period, and three more in the second period to take a 4-0 lead into the final frame. The Hilltoppers scored one more to take a 5-0 lead before Ely freshman forward Jace Huntbatch lit the lamp at 8:16 on an even-strength effort with an assist by sophomore forward Deegan Richards.

The Hilltoppers hit Ely goalie Chase Sandberg with



55 shots in the game. The Duluth Marshall skaters were called for six penalties in the game. Ely had two penalties.

Ely was scheduled to

host Park Rapids Thursday night at the Ely Ice Arena, and travel to Siren, Wis., on Friday. The Timberolves will host North Shore on Tuesday, Feb. 7, travel to

Moose Lake on Friday, Feb. 11, and wrap up the regular season with a game against Mora in Babbitt at the Ron Castellano Ice Arena.

NORDIC...Continued from page 1B

19:22.0 and a freestyle time of 17:22.5 for a total time of 36:44.9. Fellow junior Phoebe Helms finished in 14th place, with a combined time of 39:27.6.

Tuesday's strong performance came on the heels of last Friday's Duluth East Invitational, where the Ely girls again finished second overall, while the boys took third in the ten-team field.

Ely junior Zoe Devine finished second in the pursuit competition in both the freestyle and classic races, both times right behind freshman phenom Della Bettendorf, of Proctor/Hermantown.

Devine skied the freestyle race in 14:09.5, less than five seconds out of first. She finished the classic course in 15:45.1,

for a combined time of 29:54.1, good for second place overall.

Fellow Ely junior Phoebe Helms came in 12th in the freestyle event, with a time of 15:14.9 and finished tenth in the classic race, with a time of 17:33.2. She finished in 12th place overall, with a combined time of 32:47.2.

Ely senior Gabriel

Pointer led the way for the boys, finishing fifth in both the freestyle and classic competitions, with times of 12:58.5 and 14.33.8 respectively, although he finished in sixth place overall with his combined time of 27:31.8. Fellow senior Micah Larson finished in eighth place in the classic race with a time of 14:56.0 and came in 12th

in the freestyle event with a time of 13:22.3. His combined time of 28.18.0 was good for eighth place overall. Senior Jon Hakala finished in 11th place in the freestyle, with a time of 13:15.8 and in tenth place in the classic race, with a time of 15:13.8. His combined time of 28:28.5 left him just behind Larson in ninth place overall.

Ely skiers are set to compete in the Section 7 state-qualifying meet next Wednesday at Giants Ridge. The competition gets underway at 9:30 a.m. The state meet will be held Feb. 16-17, also at Giants Ridge.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

great player," Kleppe said. "He scored the basketball to the tune of 33 points, but his greatest strength is his floor leadership and communication. He was getting his teammates in position and showed leadership throughout the game."

Despite the shooting challenges, the biggest disparity between the teams was at the free-throw line. Marshall players toed the line 20 times and dropped in 14. North Woods reached the stripe only six times, hitting three.

T.J. Chiabotti led the Grizzlies with 19 points, followed by Brenden Chiabotti with 14, Jonah Burnett with 13, and Jared Chiabotti with 12.

Kleppe has an idea of what needs to happen for the Grizzlies to get back to winning.

"We need to get back to what each player contributes best to the team," he said. "We've learned over the last few games that our success lies in our ability to play as a team. No individual is going to carry us to a win purely on shooting the basketball. We need our role players to do what they do best and get us back on track."

"It's interesting," Kleppe continued, "that our chemistry is good in practice and communication is strong. It's great to see our interactions and positivity in practice, but when the crowd arrives we don't do those things as well. The boys are working hard, and we've had some great practices during this skid. It just hasn't translated to the games."

The Grizzlies were scheduled for a home game against Class AA Greenway on Friday and a trip to Blackduck next Tuesday.

NW GIRLS...Continued from page 1B-

63-57.

by Barnum guard Jacinda Wright erased a 16-point deficit and tied the score at 24-24.

Koch rebooted the Grizzlies with a 7-0 scoring flurry, and Kiana La Roque's bucket with under a minute gave North Woods a 37-29 edge at the half.

Barnum recaptured the lead at 43-42 with 11 minutes left to play, but another triple by Koch, a bucket and one by Hannah Cheney, and a charity toss by Tatum Barto put the Grizzlies back on top, 49-45.

Less than five minutes later, however, North

Woods was reeling from another big Barnum run of 16-1. The Grizzlies couldn't overcome the 61-50 deficit in the final two minutes of play, losing

Koch scored 27 in the first half and 31 for the game and made six three-pointers. Grizzlies Head Coach Liz Cheney praised Koch's performance.

"She just came out of nowhere," Cheney said. "We were like, 'Helen's on fire.' She was so hot."

The only other player in double figures for North Woods was Hannah Kinsey

with 11.

Red Lake

This game was a track meet from the get go, with the Warriors holding a narrow lead throughout the half until Cheney canned a pair of free throws to put the Grizzlies ahead 23-22 with 2:04 to go in the half. A late flurry gave North Woods a 29-24 lead at halftime.

The Grizzlies went ahead 39-30 early in the second period on a putback by Kinsey and a steal and layup by Talise Goodsky, but the Warriors trimmed that lead to 45-43. North Woods rebuilt and expanded their lead 59-46 on a

Koch driving layup with 3:49 left to play.

North Woods fans grew nervous as the Warriors fought back to within 59-54 with still over a minute to play, but the Grizzlies held on for a 61-56 victory.

"I was proud of how the girls worked their press tonight," Cheney said. "That helped us get ahead and stay ahead."

Cheney noted that the play of Goodsky was key to the win.

"It was her game tonight," Cheney said. "Talise was where we needed her to be tonight."

North Woods got 14

points from Goodsky to go with Cheney's team-high 19 and Kinsey's 14.

North Woods was scheduled to put their 9-8

record on the line Thursday with a home game against Deer River before hosting Cherry on Tuesday.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

contest was a tale of two halves, as the teams headed into halftime knotted at 27. But the Wolves emerged from the locker room with renewed focus and outpaced the Hunters 34-12 in the second half. "It was a

very nice second half effort, especially on defense," said Gantt.

Perry again led the way for Ely with 16 points while LaTourell added 11 and Sarah Visser added ten. Lily Tedrick scored nine points, while Kallberg added eight.

"It felt good to get some wins," said Gantt. "We are playing well on offense. Now it's time to continue to get better on defense as we have some tougher games ahead."

The Wolves were set to take to the road, facing off against Eveleth-Gilbert on Thursday and Mt. Iron-Buhl on Monday. They'll host Mesabi East on Thursday, with a 7:15 p.m. varsity start.

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February 4, 2022 **3B** THE TIMBERJAY

INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER

Ely Wolf Center loses oldest ambassador

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY - Grizzer, an ambassador wolf at the International Wolf Center, was euthanized last week. He was 17-1/2 years old and was the oldest wolf in the Center's 30 years of having an ambassador pack.

"We're all so sad today," said Grant Spickelmier, the Center's executive director last week. "Grizzer meant so much to so many of us and to so many people around the world. Watching him encourage his retirement packmates to race around the enclosure with him during those Grizzer 500s was inspiring to all of us."

Grizzer and his packmates at the Wolf Center have educated more than half a million visitors at the exhibit in Ely and countless more online through regular YouTube videos, wolf logs and webcams.

According to Spickelmier, the decision to euthanize Grizzer came after a consultation with the Wolf Center's local veterinarian. His condition began to decline late last month when wolf care staff observed him having troubles.

"He was brought into the wolf care building and the veterinarian was called to begin monitoring him," he said. "Blood samples were taken and IV fluids and antibiotics were



administered. A portable x-ray machine from the nearby Vermilion Community College veterinary technician program was brought in for chest and abdominal x-rays, but nothing significant was found.'

Wolf Curator Lori Schmidt added, "In between the vet exams, diagnostic testing and treatments, some of Grizzer's trusted wolf care team members spent the day keeping him comfortable in the wolf care center. The special bond that is formed during the neonate pup socialization stage has the most value on the last days of an animal's life," she said.

hopeful Despite some moments where Grizzer ate a pound of beef and took meds early on the morning of Jan. 27,

his decline and more obvious indications of distress prompted the decision to euthanize him at approximately 7:40 a.m., Schmidt said.

Grizzer joined the Center's ambassador pack in 2004 with his littermate Maya. He was moved to the retirement pack in 2011 after her tragic death.

"He had lost confidence in his status and without the dominance of his littermate, he couldn't compete with the younger packmates," she said.

While he was in retirement, Grizzer saw several wolves share the enclosure with him, including Denali, Luna and Aidan, as well as Boltz in a neighboring retirement enclosure. He was also engaged with the Wolf Center's 2021 pup, Rieka, often

interacting with her through the fence that separates the Exhibit Pack from the Retirement Pack, according to Schmidt

To learn more about Grizzer's condition, he was transported to the Ely Veterinary Clinic for a necropsy performed by Dr. Kristine Woerheide. Those results will further educate staff as the Center continues to manage the three remaining ambassador wolves at the facility in Ely.

New board members

The Ely Wolf Center's longtime board chair, Nancy Jo Tubbs, stepped down from her post at the end of the year, and a new chair was elected. Tubbs, who operates Camp Van Vac outside of Ely, remains on the board, according to Communications Director Chad Richardson. Tubbs had served as board chair since the 1990s

The new chair of the Board of Directors is Judy Hunter.

Hunter is a retired Girl Scout Council CEO. She became involved with the International Wolf Center after moving to Minnesota and started volunteering in several areas, including its Alpha Legacy donor program. After she joined the Board of Directors in 2012, those opportunities expanded to include participation on the Development Committee and chairing the 2013 Symposium

Task Force. She was co-chair of the 2018 International Wolf Symposium and is serving in the same capacity for the event in October.

"I believe in our work providing education about wolves and believe we must help the next generation understand the environment and the role we play in its balance," Hunter said. "The Center has a staff, both professional and volunteer, who are dedicated to our mission. It is exciting to be an active part of the team.'

The Wolf Center board's new vice chair is Rick Duncan, a Minneapolis-based attorney.

Duncan practices in the fields of environmental law, federal Indian law, and commercial litigation. He has extensive experience in the Endangered Species Act and the Wilderness Act, statutes critical to wolf conservation, and received the Sierra Club's William O. Douglas Award in 2007.

The Wolf Center also welcomed a new board member, Madan Menon.

Menon, who lives in Milpitas, Calif., is the COO and a board member at Innovative International Acquisition Corp, with a 17-year career in technology startups spanning multiple countries.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Walter C. Jarecki Jr.

Walter Chester Jarecki Jr., 79, of Lake Vermilion-Tower, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022, at Essentia Hospital in Fargo, N.D. A Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 19 at St. Philip's Catholic Church in Bemidji with a visitation one hour prior at the church. A private family interment is planned for the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii. Arrangements are with Olson-Schwartz Fu-

neral Home of Bemidji. Walter was born on April 1, 1942, to Walter Chester Jarecki Sr. and Alvina Zubik in Chicago, Ill. Walter graduated from Lane Tech High School in 1960. He enlisted in the United States Air Force and served in Minot, N.D., from 1961-1965 as a Weapons Specialist, Airman 1st Class. On Aug. 17, 1963, Walter married Mary Margaret Kempert at St. Philomena Catholic Church in a Polish neighborhood in northwestern Chicago. He worked as a machinist at Stewart-Warner, an American manufacturer of vehicle instrument gauges and lubricating equipment. In 1977, Walter and Mary move their family to northern Minnesota, where they purchased Pine Trees Resort on Lake Vermilion. In 1984, he and Mary purchased the famous Y-Store, located at the junction of County Road 77 and Highways 169 and 1, near Tower.

Walter is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary; their five children, Walter (Nancy) Jarecki,

Walter was a member

of St. Martin's Catholic

Church in Tower.

David (Martina) Jarecki, Mary (Daniel) Voss, Susan (Timothy) Dondelinger and Catherine (Michael) Shelton; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren, sisters, Alice Burgston and Janet (Carl) Mazur; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Patricia J. Gunderson

Patricia "Patsy" Jane Mathison Gunderson, 85, of Cook, passed away peacefully in her home on Friday, Jan. 28, 2022. A funeral service will be held at noon on Saturday, Feb. 5 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be one hour prior. A luncheon will be held immediately following the service at the Cook Community Center.

Joel D. Kantola Joel Daniel Kantola, 38, of South St. Paul, formerly of Cook, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022. A visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 10 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 11 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Cook, with visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. The family appreciates masks being worn at the visitation and service. A luncheon will be held following the service at the Cook Community Center. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook

He is survived by his parents, Terry and Bernie Kantola; sister, Stacy (Levon) Kalemkiarian; nephews, Luca and Logan Kalemkiarian; girlfriend, Knapp; grandmother, Doris Kantola; aunts, Joan (Jim) Edblom, Doreen (Galen) Bergman, Mary Nelson, Patricia (Ron) Dillavou, Jean (Tom) Clark and Teresa (Brian) Bergene; uncle, Marty (Ginny) Reagan; and numerous other rela-

tives and friends.

Harold R. Ptacek

Harold Ronald Ptacek, 84, of Babbitt, passed away on Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, after a year's long battle with pancreatic cancer. Visitation will be for one-half hour prior to the 11 a.m. memorial service on Saturday, Feb. 5 at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Babbitt with Pastor Brian Birk officiating. A luncheon will be held in the basement of the church immediately following the service. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his children, Brad (Heather Dalzen) Ptacek, Denise (Jeff Cordell) Ptacek and Brett Ptacek; numerous honorary children; grandchildren, Bailey Jimenez, Laughlin Ptacek, Drew (Hanah) Cordell, Na-(Walker) Dametalie wood and Bryce Cordell; great-granddaughter, Damewood; Adeline nieces and nephews; many special great-nieces and great-nephews; and many dear neighbors and friends.

Gerald Taylor

Gerald Taylor, 80, of Ely, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, at Vermilion Senior Living in Tower. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his wife, Claire Taylor; and daughters, Victoria Taylor and Kimberly Taylor.

Mona Maki-Thoren

Mona Maki-Thoren, 60, of Ely, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, at the Boundary Waters Care Center. A celebration of life will take place this summer. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home

She is survived by her children, Nora Thoren of Grand Rapids and Tara Tome of Ely; longtime spouse, James "Mort" Tome of Ely; sister, Tonya Maki of Ely; brother, Brian (Sue) Maki of Ely; nieces, Anna (Colin) Yahnke of Elv and Christine (Geoff) Maki of

(Roxanne) Maki of Saginaw; niece, Kalyn (Matt) Zimmer of Duluth; nephew, Caleb Maki of Esko; brother, Leroy 'PeeWee' (Shirley Kidd) Maki of Ely; sisters-in-law, Mary (Pete Swanson) Grahek, Barbara (Bill) Godlin and Valerie Felmus, all of Ely; numerous cousins, great-nieces and many friends.

Jean L. Suomi

Jean Louise Bailey Suomi, 85, of Babbitt, died on Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022, at Edgewood Vista Senior Living in Virginia, surrounded by her family. Graveside services will be held at a later date in the Embarrass Cemetery. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

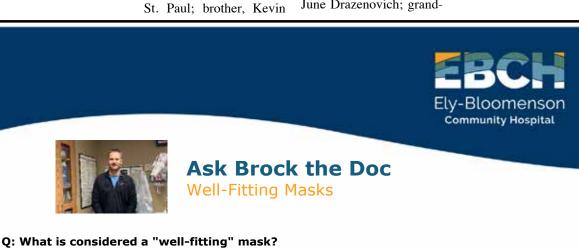
She is survived by her daughters, Jayne (Keith) Peterson of Cotton and Joan (Gary) Mellesmoen of Port Richey, Fla.; brother, Don (Katie) Bailey; brother-in-law, Doug Vollom; sister-in-law, June Drazenovich; granddren, extended family and friends.

children, great-grandchil-

John Skubic

John Skubic, 63, of Poulsbo, Wash., originally of Ely, died on Friday, Jan. 21, 2022. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb.12 at Grace Point Church in Bremerton, Wash. Streaming of the service is available on the Grace Point Kitsap YouTube channel. Memorials are preferred to West Sound Community Church in Poulsbo or a

charity of your choice. He is survived by his wife, Lori Read; children, Michael (Vicki) Skubic (Phillip) Ashley Buckley; stepchildren, grandsons and step-grandchildren: father is Skubic; sisters, Mary (Robert) Salmonson and Carol (Jerry) Wheeler; brother, Jerome; nieces and nephews.



A: Wearing a mask is one of the best ways to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Make sure your mask fits tightly against your face. If you touch or adjust your mask often, it might not fit you correctly. When choosing a mask:

- Select a mask with a metal strip across the top, and bend the strip over your nose to fit close to your face
- Check for gaps by cupping your hands around the masks outside edge to be sure no air is flowing from underneath the edges of your mask
- Pick a mask with layers that will stop respiratory droplets from escaping from your mask or getting inside your mask. A cloth mask with multiple layers of fabric or a disposable mask underneath your cloth mask are both good options.

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

Ely. MN 55731

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

4B February 4, 2022 TIMBERJAY Newspapers

Jutdoors Our lives in the Northwoods



JOHN BEARGREASE

Local racers take top spots in the 40

Ashley Thaemert, of Tower, and Dusty Klaven, of Togo, finish first, second in Beargrease short race

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Coming in first and second in the John Beargrease 40 this week had special significance for two North Country mushers.

Ashley Thaemert, of rural Tower, and Dusty Klaven, of Togo, finished first and second respectively in the shortest of the three races held as part of the annual Beargrease on the North Shore. It's a short race designed mostly for novice racers or those without enough dogs for one of the longer distance competitions.

"It's mostly just for fun," said Klaven, who finished 90 seconds behind Thaemert. The two women have become friends over the past few years, with a bond that's been forged over their mutual love of dogs and mushing.

They regularly share their dogs with each other, mixing and matching over time. Indeed, the two mushers had seven-year-old brothers, both of whom were born at Klaven's kennel, leading their teams this week. For Thaemert, it was Willy who led the way to her first-place finish, while his brother Skinner brought Klaven's team home in second place. "To me, it was special knowing that those two dogs from my kennel are still out there racing well," said Klaven.

Klaven is now raising a six-week-old litter of puppies from other dogs in Thaemert's winning team. "That makes the future look real bright," said Klaven.

Thaemert said she first met Klaven, a veteran musher, a few years ago, while preparing for the Beargrease. "She's been racing a long time, and she's been really helpful for me in learning to race dogs," said Thaemert.

It was happenstance that pitted the two racers together in the Beargrease short race. For Klaven, a previous Wolf Track Classic winner who has regularly been a top-ten competitor in the Beargrease mid-distance race, the switch to the short race was a practical decision after a difficult start, personally, to the season. She spent much of December down with a tough case of COVID-19, during which she said she could barely breathe and was unable to train with her dogs. Then, a death in her family took her focus elsewhere for a time. "There were some things that I couldn't control," she said. "I had to put reality first.'

It was concern for her dogs that prompted Thaemert to scale her own plan to run the mid-distance race again this year. When one of her lead dogs had a litter of puppies just before the start of the training season and another developed a shoulder problem, she scaled back to the 40-mile race. She said Willy had also developed a shoulder problem during the mid-distance race last year and hadn't fully recovered.

Both mushers said the short race was actually a lot of fun and it gave both of them a chance to give some experience to their younger dogs. Thaemert ran with four of Willy's pups, born about a year ago. "It's their first race and it's good to get them used to the distractions of racing, so that next year when we put them in longer races, they know what to expect." At 40 miles,





she said she can just let the

dogs run at their pace without

having to worry as much that

they might injure themselves.

"This way, they get a fun season

before we ask them to do the

Thaemert have more racing

among a large field of mushers

competing this weekend at

the Minnetonka Klondike,

a 38-mile race around Lake

Minnetonka that boasts a

\$10,000 prize for the first-place

be competing in the six-dog

class in the Wolf Track Classic

in Ely on Feb. 27.

The two friends will also

yet to come this season.

And both Klaven and

Both women will be

tougher races.'

finisher.

Top: Ashley Thaemert, of Tower, is intent on her team as she competes this week in the John Beargrease 40. Above: Tired but enthusiastic dogs on the trail.

Left: Dusty Klaven with her second-place plaque.

Below: Joanna Oberg, of Grand Marais, with John Fisher, of Cook, coming up behind.



Friday

11 -20 0.00 10 -14 0.00

01/30 22 -2

01/24

01/26

Saturday

01/30 22 6 YTD Total



Trails

to "good."

REGIONAL- Area snowmobile trails remain in good condition around the area, despite the lack of snow in recent days. Heavy traffic on the trails have led to a few more issues with rocks and other hazards, leading the Department of Natural Resources, to change the rating of both the Taconite and Arrowhead from last

week's "very good" rating

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Monday

19 -8 0.00 9 -13 0.00

21

Sunday Lo Prec. Sn. Emb. Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Cook Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Tower Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Orr 01/24 3 01/25 2 4 -34 0.01 0.3" -37 0.00 -25 0.00 01/24 2 -24 0.04 0.8" 01/24 0 -15 0.04 0.8" 01/24 2 -37 0.00 0.00 0.00 01/26 -7 -35 0.00 01/27 23 -16 0.02 01/28 9 -27 0.00 01/29 8 -18 0.00 -6 -30 0.00 23 -20 01/26 -6 -36 01/26 -6 -30 0.00 01/27 22 -15 0.00 01/28 10 -26 0.00 01/29 7 -17 0.00 01/30 21 1 0.00

01/28 13 -12 0.00 01/29 9 -16 0.00

01/30 20 -9 YTD Total

WILDLIFE **Aerial moose** survey held last month

REGIONAL - DNR biologists should have an updated moose census for 2022, with extrapolated results expected to be issued in late February or early March.

The annual aerial survey has been an important management tool for the DNR as it seeks to better understand dramatic changes in the state's moose population in recent decades. The DNR canceled the survey last winter due to COVID-19 concerns, but the agency was able to complete the survey last month, with assistance from DNR pilots and biologists from the DNR, the Fond du Lac Band and the 1854 Treaty Authority.

The team surveyed 53 plots in the northeastern Minnesota moose range to assess both the population and the forest conditions being utilized by moose. Those results form the basis for the annual moose population estimate, which has remained generally stable in recent years at an estimate of about 3,000-4,000 animals.

FOREST PESTS

Spruce budworm damage was the worst since 1995

REGIONAL-Defoliation from spruce budworm reached its highest level in Minnesota since 1995, last year.

According to the DNR, approximately 303,000 acres of balsam fir and spruce suffered defoliation, while about 81,000 acres of balsam and spruce were killed as a result of repeated defoliation and last year's drought

conditions. Most of that damage occurred in Lake and western Cook counties.

Spruce budworm has defoliated or destroyed an average of 282,000 acres of fir and spruce forest per year in northeastern Minnesota since 2018. Despite its name, the spruce budworm prefers balsam fir but will also feed on other species, including spruce, tamarack, and pine,

when populations are high. Unlike other parts of the U.S. where the budworm essentially disappears after massive outbreaks, the budworm population in Minnesota has a continuing population that has been observed in the Arrowhead region since 1954.

In Minnesota, spruce budworm typically feeds in an area for six to eight years, which is about how long balsam fir can withstand defoliation before it dies. The population then moves to a different zone in northeast Minnesota.

The past few years of dry weather, particularly in the spring and early summer, may have worsened the spruce budworm situation. Scientists suspect that warm, dry weather increases the survival of budworm larvae. Last year's forest

damage, combined with drought, possibly played a role in Minnesota's fire season, including with the 27,000-acre Greenwood fire in Lake County, which burned in the heart of the budworm outbreak.

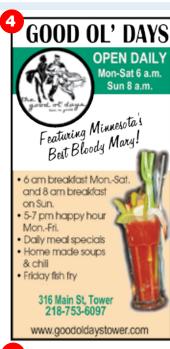
Check Out These... owmobile #01

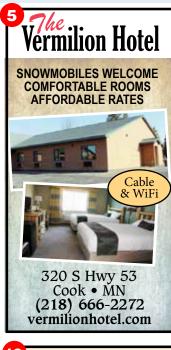






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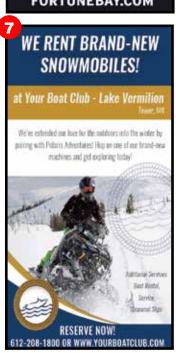




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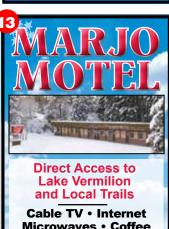


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PUBLIC NOTICES

CALL FOR BIDS

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

Please submit bids to: Stuntz Bay Association Dock and Crib Bid 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

BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT MEETING

The Bearville Township Board of Audit is scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, 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

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE City of Tower Publishing of Ordinance 1 Update

1st Reading November 8, 2021 2nd Reading December 13, 2021 Given length of Ordinance, please view at: https://cityoftower.com/pub-

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 4, 2022

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Case Type: 14 Other Civil (Quiet Title) Court File No. 69DU-CV-21-1472

SECOND AMENDED SUMMONS

Darren K. Lilja, Plaintiff, Lorraine B. Hanela f/k/a Meden; the Lorraine В. unknown heirs of Leonard F. Meden; the unknown heirs of Janet M. Meden; Susan M. Maki; Cynthia L. Pylka a/k/a Cindi Pylka; the unknown heirs of Keith Pylka; Eric Pylka; the unknown heirs of Nancy J. Klein; Tania Meden; Mellisa Smith; Justin Klein; the unknown heirs of Chester J. Bogucki; the unknown heirs of Illa Mae Bogucki; Chester M. Bogucki; William R. Bogucki; Laurie Powell; Gerald Severson; the unknown heirs of Sandra Dearey; John P. Dearey; John M. Dearey; Suzanne Knight; the unknown heirs of Julia Schoenecker; Jerome T. Schoenecker; the unknown heirs of Ann Krall; John J. Krall; Dolores A. Butzke f/k/a Dolores A. Krall; Mark Lorenzo; the unknown heirs of Emma Scoffidi a/k/a Emma Scaffidi; the unknown heirs of Liborio Scaffidi a/k/a Liborio Scoffidi a/k/a Lobario Scaffidi; the unknown heirs of Josephine Capretti; the unknown heirs of Peter R. Spacagna; Peter A. Spacagna; Adam H. Spacagna; Jonathan D. Hannah a/k/a Jonathan D. Hannah-Spacagna; Daniel L. Spacagna: the unknown heirs of Raymond O. Spacagna; Katherine Spacagna; Katherine L. Spacagna; Raymond O. Spacagna, Jr.; Joseph F. Spacagna; Daniel J. Spacagna; Katherine E. Woods; the unknown heirs of Ronald J. Spacagna; Christopher

THIS SECOND AMENDED SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS.

Randolph M. Young; Roberta

L. Brofman; all other persons

who are deceased: John Doe:

Mary Roe; ABC Corporation;

unknown claiming any right,

title, estate interest, or lien in the real estate described

the complaint herein

persons

all other

and

Defendants.

You are hereby summoned required and to serve Plaintiff's attorneys upon an Answer to the Second Amended Complaint which is on file in the office of the Court Administrator of the above-named Court, within 21 days of the date on which you received this Second Amended Summons. If you fail to do so,

judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Second Amended Complaint. mail or deliv-You must er a copy of your Answer to the person who signed Second Amended Summons located at Olson, Redford & Wahlberg, P.A., One Corporate Center 7401 Metro Blvd., Suite 575, Edina, MN 55439

ACTION AFFECTS THIS REAL PROPERTY located in St. Louis County, Minnesota, legally described as follows: South one-half of the Southeast Quarter (S ½ of SE 1/4), Section Two (2), Township (62), Hange Sixty-two (62), Range Thirteen (13). EXCEPT: the South one-half (S ½). EXCEPT: the West half (W 1/2) thereof. Subject to the mineral rights and other rights, reservations, restrictions and easements of record.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the object of said action is to obtain a judgment declaring the Plaintiff is the owner in fee of the property described above, and that the defendants, and each of them. have no right, title, estate, interest, or lien in or upon said real estate except as stated in the Second Amended Complaint in said action.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that no personal claim is made by Plaintiff against any of the Defendants

Civil cases are subject to Alternative Dispute Resolution processes in Rule 114 of the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts. Alternative Dispute Resolution includes mediation, arbitration, and other processes set forth in the rules. You may contact the Court Administrator for information about these proce and about resources available in your area

DATED: November 8, 2021

REDFORD WAHLBERG, P.A. /s/ Monica D. Pelkey Katherine L. Wahlberg, #387001 Monica D. Pelkey, #401892 One Corporate Center I 7401 Metro Blvd, Suite 575 Edina, MN 55439 (952) 224-3644 katiew@olson-law.com monicap@olson-law.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 4, 11 & 18, 2022

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Resume

Please mail to:

3. District Application and three current

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12

15

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47 48

18

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38



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14

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30 | 31

54

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31 Thin cut

35 Standard

38 Conk out

45 Farm female

McEntire

Jannings

49 Gulf War mis-

48 Unspoken

feeling

sile

46 Country's

40 Pamper

43 Sage

47 Actor

33 Beatles classic

King Crossword

13

19

39

49

7 Admin. aides

Diminutive

11 Color worker

suffix

16 Dinner for

Dobbin

20 Corn spike

slang

22 Toy block

name 23 Place

21 Excellent, in

53

40

50

ACROSS 1 Kitten's cry

- 4 Opera set in
- Egypt 8 Garden
- intruder 12 Eggs
- 13 Some deer 14 — -bitty
- 15 Containers for laundering
- Appease "So there!"
- 19 Pittsburgh pro
- Emphasize
- 24 Droop
- 25 Chop Pirate's pota-
- tion 28 Yokels
- "I've Got in Kalamazoo"
- 34 Pinnacle "- come 36
- back now, hear?"
- 39 PC alternative 61 Layer
- 41 Roman 151
- "— the season ..."
- 44 NASA vehicle 46 Critic's
- essays 50 Part of DJIA
- 51 Send forth 52 Give a faded
- look to, as jeans
- 56 Lettuce vari-

57 Think (over) 8 Know-it-all 58 HBO rival And others 59 Sheltered (Lat.)

60

- 60 Between jobs 10 37 Trifled (with)
 - **DOWN** 1 Trim the grass
 - 2 Actress
 - Longoria
 - 3 Remove by
 - cleaning 4 Tennis legend
 - Ashe
 - 5 Debtor's note 27 May honoree 53 Unwell
- - 6 Society new- 29 Aftermath
 - 30 Vogue rival
- 54 Yon maiden 55 Sweetie

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

♦ Moderate
♦ Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

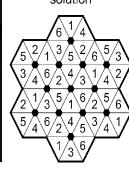
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VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 vhhpdirector@gmail.com This ad is 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: 25 mins.





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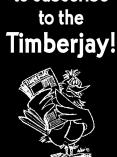
HELP WANTED

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

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YOUR SIDEWALK SHOVELED? Call Jordan Rice at 218-404-5762. Tower-Soudan in-town areas. 1/28nc

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

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

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give 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.)

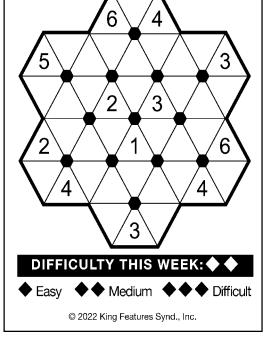
HIV/AIDS? For confidential compassionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

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

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

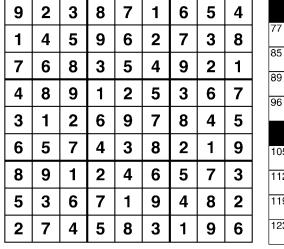
by Japheth Light

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



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer



Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum.

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45 Greek

cheese

46 Lamb's call

48 Encountered

purchase

53 Make public

55 Public health

56 "Drop Dead

Mayall

Fred" star

57 Infants' cries

58 "Isn't - little

59 Jackie's "O"

61 Best-of list

66 Possesses

67 — Valley,

Francisco

San

one hand

old for her?"

47 Bratty kid

51 Proof of

— **-**fi

agcy.

Super Crossword 4 Cowboys' 42 Deborah of

96 What might 49 Margarine, result in neck cords

an octuple

98 Arizona tribe

of 11-Down

rinse partially

bogey?

99 Oscar -

Renta

101 Solution to

sonabird

vehicles

reach?

bold?

120 Kellogg's

waffles

central

Poland

122 Beast of

114 Comic

within easy

Foxx being

- quaintly
- 6 Home to the
- 10 Sporty Mazda 52 Ridicule 15 Pats gently
- 19 Mistake 20 Co. bigwigs
- 21 Tunesmith on a Greek Harold island? 22 Opera solo
- 23 Denim pants 62 Abbr. on a that rise up to the navel? 25 Illusions a
 - postman performs with **65** Add his letters?
- 27 Astrologer Sydney
- 28 Small dent 29 Discusses at lenath, with

ACROSS

1 Uncertainty

Taj Mahal

- "over" 30 Bet taker who's great with
- scissors? 35 Weed-nixing
- **37** B'rith 38 "- afraid of 39 Baffle a
- lecherous fellow? 44 Actor
- Crystal playing a high-ranking policeman? 48 Ship spars

19

44

64

85

96

with an audience watching?

- 50 Pants lines 51 Ump relative
- 53 Busy crawler **54** Phone bug 55 Violent guys
- 60 "Can witness?"
- bank door 63 Eagle's nest 64 Make anew
- cornstarch to spiced tea?
- 69 Sitarist Shankar 73 Appeals
- 75 Debt memos **76** Involving
- warships 77 Bloated dancer?
- 82 Genetic helix 121 City in 84 Sugar suffix 85 Florida Air
- Force Base 86 Realty unit 87 Uses logic
- 89 Kingly Norse name 90 Seismic
- event song sung
- 93 Romantic

Borden 123 Plumlike fruit **124** Tending to ooze

20

1 Cotillion star

126 Ford fiasco

2 Mine metal

125 Comply with

3 Net address

5 "Go ahead, I'm listening" 6 Sour-tasting 7 Transmission

- **lubricants** 100 Currency unit 8 "Hellboy" star
 - Perlman 9 Beast of burden 10 First lady
- closed eyes? Eisenhower 105 Akron native 109 Sale caveat 11 Persia, now 111 Olive-green 12 Dismounts
- from a horse 112 Supermarket 13 — Aviv
 - 14 Patriotic songs 15 Lectern spot
 - 16 Shoe part 17 BMX vehicle shamelessly
 - **18** Give lip to 24 Pantry item
- 119 Longish skirt 26 Scraping file 28 Belittle,
 - informally 30 Ottawabased TV
 - network
 - 31 Disconnect, as a door
 - 32 Sullied

 - 40 Musical

10 11

21

- 36 Ump's cry 39 Ump's cry
- Thompson

- **34** Eloise creator

period since

the 1950s

41 Balm additive

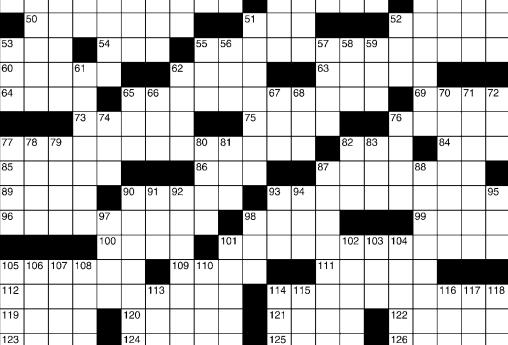
- 33 Barn hooter
- 68 Mongrel dog 70 "Anne of

13

- Gables" town 71 Feudal
- tenants 72 Dot in la mer 74 Actor Cariou 76 Skylab org.
- 116 Ar-tee linkup 77 Lowly worker 117 Fizzle out 78 Aptly named hybrid fruit

22

- 118 Costa Sol 15 16 17
- 24 35 38 42 49 63 62 161 70 71 73 74 84



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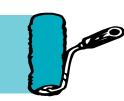
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- 79 Custard tart "Quo Vadis" 80 Deer cousins 43 Huge spans 81 "Annabel
 - Lee" poet 82 Wildlife lair 83 Arrest
 - 87 Enter hostilely
 - again 88 Europe, Asia and Africa
 - **90** Pear relatives
 - 91 Hagen of the stage
 - 92 Like fugitives 93 —'wester (storm type) **94** —Pen
 - 95 Lah-di-97 Talk to God 98 Command
- countable on ctrs. 101 Actress 62 Closed hand Spacek
- 65 Actor Danson 102 Fluster 103 Previous to 104 Zellweger of
 - Hollywood 105 Resistance 106 Salute
 - **107** -Chinese 108 Pooch in "Garfield"
 - 110 Knock off 113 Get mellow 114 Slo- — fuse 115 Knock off



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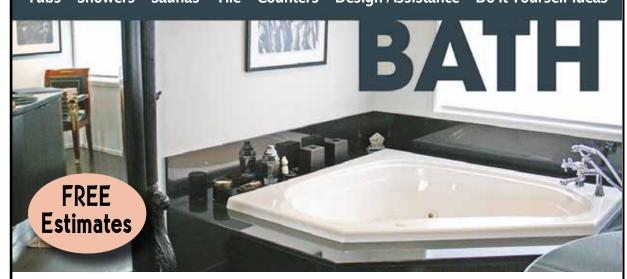
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editor@timberjay.com or drop off at the Timberjay office at: 414 Main Street, Tower, MN 55790

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

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