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# the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 33, ISSUE 6 February 18, 2022 \$1<sup>00</sup>

## INFRASTRUCTURE

# High water rates prompt questions in Tower

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**TOWER-SOUDAN** — Residents of Tower pay nearly 30-percent more for their water and sewer service than residents of nearby Soudan, even though both communities are served by a joint system that charges each community the same rate for the services it receives.

The difference in the rates charged by the two communities

30 percent higher for same service than nearby Soudan

is significant and has been a sore point with Tower residents for years. Yet city officials have been hearing more about the issue since approving a rate increase that adds \$20 a quarter to bills that were already substantially higher than their neighbors in Soudan.

The concerns prompted a weeks-long investigation by the

### EDITORIAL

Time to find out why water and sewer rates cost so much more in Tower than Soudan. **Page 4**

*Timberjay* to better understand why the same service costs so much more in Tower.

Michael Schultz, the city's new clerk-treasurer, told the city council this week that he's been researching the issue as well, and has found that the city's water and sewer billing hasn't been as reflective of actual costs as it should be and he promised updates will be coming soon. "There's nothing that the city is

trying to hide, but it could be a lot more transparent," said Schultz. At the same time, he noted that the city's water and sewer budget is complex and has proven more difficult to understand than he had expected. Schultz's comments reflect the findings of the *Timberjay's* own research. Under the joint powers agreement that created the *See...WATER pg. 10*

## SUSTAINABILITY



# Having a 'ball' on the ice

Volunteers gather large lake ice blocks for the summer cooling season at Steger Wilderness Center



by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

**ELY** - The 55th annual Steger Ice Ball was held on a snowy Saturday earlier this month near here when a crew of hearty volun-

teers worked all day to remove enough ice from Pickett's Lake to fill the rock ice cavern at Will Steger's Wilderness Center. A number of *See...ICE pg. 12*



Large ice blocks were cut and hauled from Pickett's Lake on a recent snowy Saturday at Will Steger's annual Ice Ball event. photos courtesy of Michael Gilgosh



## ISD 696

# Anti-maskers push to rescind COVID mandate at Ely schools

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

**ELY** — A small but determined group of Ely school district residents pushed the school board here Monday night to immediately lift the COVID-19 protective face-mask mandate that has been in place on the school campus since the beginning of the school year. Three people spoke to the board during the open forum portion of the meeting. Temporary board chair Rochelle Sjoborg said the meeting agenda referenced an update on the Ely Safe Schools Learning Plan and allowed the speakers to address the board on the face mask mandate issue. Parent Frank Udovich stated that he "is still solving some of the problems created by some of the people in power almost 10 years ago." He also apparently referenced recently-retired superintendent Erik Erie when he said, "It does not make me feel any better that the last guy is gone either, but if you don't have child-first policies, you are not going to be long for this school. He is gone and now we are picking up the pieces." Udovich said he "never understood the fear" of COVID, and indicated that those who do fear the coronavirus pandemic are "emotionally fragile." He said he tries to understand where those people are coming from. "I could never live like this. There is a vaccine. There are great therapeutics. We've had two years to get healthy and prepare for

*See..ELY pg. 9*



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

# Snowmobiler dies after being struck by ambulance

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**KABETOOGAMA**- A 61-year-old snowmobiler was struck and killed by a Kabetogama Fire Department ambulance Saturday afternoon as he

was attempting to cross a roadway, according to a release from the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department. Medical responders from the Kabetogama Fire Department were traveling eastbound on Ash River

Trail enroute to a medical call at about 3:35 p.m. when the ambulance collided with a snowmobile driven by Jeffrey Joe Blom, 61, of Thief River Falls, about a half mile east of Highway 53. Blom was traveling northbound on the

Arrowhead State Trail and was attempting to cross over Ash River Trail. Despite lifesaving efforts by medical personnel, Blom was declared dead at the scene. *See...FATAL pg. 12*



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## Contact The Timberjay

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Community notices

Amy Shreve to perform at Embarrass Free Church on Feb. 27

EMBARRASS - Amy Shreve is a singer, songwriter and harpist, who will be joined by her husband, Gary, to present music that will encourage and inspire listeners on Sunday, Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. at the Evangelical Free Church of Embarrass. Amy tours the United States, Canada and Europe and has led worship in over 200 conferences for “The Voice of the Martyrs”. The concert is free with a love offering to be received. All are welcome. The Evangelical Free Church, 5606 Taylor Road, is located on Highway 135, a mile and a half north of Four Corners in Embarrass. For further information, call the church at 218-984-3402 or visit [www.efreechurch.com](http://www.efreechurch.com).

Sisu Heritage annual meeting set for Sunday, Feb. 27

EMBARRASS- Sisu Heritage, Inc. will hold its annual meeting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 27 at Embarrass Town Hall. The featured speaker is Doug Workman of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society (TSHS), who will talk about the on-going TSHS project to restore and repurpose the historic Tower fire hall. The business portion of the annual meeting includes the president’s report and the financial report, voting on new and renewing board members, and information about 2022 events and projects, including the Apostolic Church and the Seitaniemi Housebarn. There will be time to socialize with fellow Sisu members over coffee an’ - and perhaps even win one of the door prizes. Sisu members are encouraged to attend. All community members are invited to join them for the afternoon. The meeting is a chance to learn more about the preservation work Sisu Heritage is doing and how to support it. Memberships are just \$10 per year. Embarrass Town Hall is located at 7503 Le-vander Rd. Call 218-984-3012 with any questions.

Dream Quilters to meet March 5

TOWER - The Vermilion Dream Quilters March meeting will be held Saturday, March 5, rather than the usual Thursday evening. The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. at St. Martin’s Catholic Church in Tower. The program will be a Chinese auction with proceeds donated to the food shelf. Members are asked to bring no longer needed quilting supplies, tools, kits or books for others to bid on. Also, bring a new or old creation that includes the color green or a shamrock for Show and Tell. Visitors are always welcome.

MSO concerts in Ely and Virginia this weekend

REGIONAL - The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra will present two concerts this month featuring the Young Artist Competition winners, Natalie Sandor on violin, and Rufina Robbins, soprano. The concerts will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 19 at Vermilion Community College in Ely, and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 20 at Goodman Auditorium in Virginia. Sandor has studied classical violin for six years and plays in various youth symphonies in the Twin Ports, including the Duluth Superior Symphony Youth Orchestra. She has been the recipient of numerous accolades for her violin playing and is excited to make her solo debut with the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra. Robbins, a soprano, has also made her mark as a singer in the Twin Ports. She has been a finalist at the Minnesota NATs competition for the past three years, a recipient of the 2020 Matinee Musi-cale Scholarship and a winner of the 2018 Schmidt Vocal Competition. As a winner of the PBS talent show, Celebration of Music, in 2018, she was featured on live television. Visit [www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org/](http://www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org/) for more information and to purchase tickets.

MINNESOTA DISCOVERY CENTER



Artists highlighted in the series include Barb Leuelling (above), along with blacksmith Doug Swenson, weaver Kristy Balder, and beader Jordan Gawboy. submitted photo

Video series ‘Crafting Legacy’ focuses on regional artists

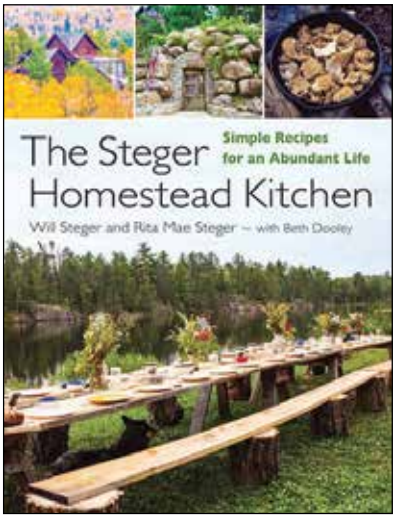
CHISHOLM- A \$14,999 grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board’s Creative Support for Organizations Grant Program last spring has allowed the Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) to produce three videos highlighting regional artists along with the purchase of a new 4k optima projector for the MDC theater, replacing the old, outdated projector. The videos include illustrations of traditional forms of blacksmithing, beading, and weaving. MDC Fund Development and Marketing Director, Jordan Metsa stated, “We are so grateful to be able to work alongside the Arts Board to help support artists and keep our organization relevant during these challenging times. Because of this funding, we were able to hire four artists and two filmmakers and pro-

duce content they can use to promote themselves and educate others at no cost to them. We were also able to purchase a new high-definition projector for our theater that will better serve our guests and businesses that utilize that space.” Metsa added, “Most importantly, this project will illuminate the wonderful traditions artists carry on through their respective fields of work and help support efforts to share that work with a wider audience.” As a result of this video series, MDC can increase audience engagement and appreciation for local history. Additionally, MDC can highlight the artists and traditions they carry on, helping the audiences imagine these various historical crafts and connect them to Rangers of the past. The total project cost was

\$41,999 and as such, \$14,999 will be covered as a part of the MSAB grant and the remaining \$27,000 was covered by MDC. Each of the three videos that make up the ‘Crafting Legacy’ miniseries are available for viewing on MDC YouTube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for Minnesota Discover Center) and will also be released on the Minnesota Discovery Center Facebook page in coming days and weeks. Additionally, the videos will be available to view in the MDC theater on a later date. This activity was made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Authors Will Steger and Rita Mae Steger to talk about their new cookbook “The Steger Homestead Kitchen” during upcoming virtual event

REGIONAL - Authors Will Steger and Rita Mae Steger will be in conversation with Beth Dooley in a virtual presentation of their new cookbook, *The Steger Homestead Kitchen: Simple Recipes for an Abundant Life*, as part of the Friends of the Hennepin County Library Talk of the Stacks series on Thursday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. Free virtual event registration at [www.support-hclib.org/steger-homestead-kitchen](http://www.support-hclib.org/steger-homestead-kitchen). A formidable voice calling for the preservation of the Arctic and the Earth, Will Steger is best known for his legendary polar explorations. He has traveled tens of thousands of miles by kayak and dogsled for over 50 years, leading teams on some of the most significant polar expeditions in history, including the first confirmed unsupported journey to the North Pole and the longest unsupported dogsled expedition. Will Steger has joined the likes of Ame-



lia Earhart and Jacques Costeau in earning the National Geographic John Oliver La Gorce Medal. In *The Steger Homestead Kitchen: Simple Recipes for an Abundant Life*, Will collaborates with his niece Rita Mae Steger, chef at

the Steger Wilderness Center, and accomplished food journalist and cookbook author Beth Dooley, in a personal and heartfelt collection of family recipes and stories. Interwoven with dozens of mouth-watering recipes for simple, hearty meals shared around home chefs’ own homestead tables, are Steger’s exhilarating stories of epic adventures exploring the Earth’s most remote regions. Prominently featured in the book are Rita Mae’s favorite meals, from generous breakfasts like grid- dlecakes, to warming lunches such as wild mushroom and wild rice soup, to tried-and-true snacks like Steger Wilderness Bars. Between both the recipes and the stories, the authors open their hearts and hearths, providing the practical advice and inspiration to cook up a good life in harmony with nature.

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MINING

# Northshore Mine to be idled, layoffs coming

Production shifting to Minorca Mine, Northshore’s status may shift to “swing operation”

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- More than 400 employees of Northshore Mining operations in Babbitt and Silver Bay are facing layoffs in May after Cleveland-Cliffs confirmed last week that the facilities will be idled at least into the fall.

The action comes in the midst of an ongoing royalty fee dispute between the company and the Mesabi Trust, which receives payments based primarily on the selling price of pellets shipped from Northshore Mining’s Silver Bay processing facility, and a lesser amount based on the amount of ore extracted from the Peter Mitchell Mine near Babbitt.

Cliffs CEO Lourenco Goncalves said in an earnings call Friday with investors that production of direct reduced, or DR, grade pellets will shift to the company’s Minorca Mine in Virginia in May, idling both the Silver Bay production facility and the Babbitt mine that feeds it.

“Because we are now able to produce (DR) grade pellets at Minorca, and mainly due to the ridiculous royalty structure we have in place with the Mesabi Trust, we will be idling all production at our Northshore Mine. No production, no shipments, no royalty payments,” Goncalves said in the call.

The change is a 180-degree shift in direction from 2019, when Cleveland-Cliffs invested \$100 million to upgrade the Silver Bay pellet plant to produce DR-grade pellets from ore mined at the Peter Mitchell Mine, with the intent of producing pellets both for their own use and to be sold to other manufacturers. Northshore produced 3.8 million long tons of iron ore pellets in 2020.

Layoffs are expected for 410 of Northshore’s 580 employees, Cleveland-Cliffs director of corporate communications Pat Persico said. Some will be hired at other Minnesota operations, she added.

No date has been given for when Northshore Mining might resume production, and a general reference to “the fall” was left open-ended by Goncalves.

“We also acknowledge that our strategy to stretch hot metal by adding increased amounts of scrap to the (basic oxygen furnaces) is working extremely well. With more scrap in the BOF’s, we need fewer tons of hot metal to produce the same tonnage of liquid steel. As a consequence, the Northshore idle could go longer than currently planned,” he said.

Cleveland-Cliffs’ confirmation of the idling had been anticipated by Northshore Mining employees since Goncalves openly discussed the option in



an October earnings call.

“We will soon be shifting our DR-grade pellet production away from Northshore and into Minorca, where we will not have to deal with the unreasonable royalty structure at Northshore,” Goncalves said. “Even though it’s not prohibitive, (it) could be a lot less. That’s why we are moving from the Northshore, with a bad, very bad royalty structure, to Minorca. That will be a big savings in terms of cash cost from the royalty standpoint. As we plan to no longer sell pellets to third parties in the coming years, Northshore will become a swing operation, which we will keep idle every time we decide to do so.”

Minorca became a viable alternative when Cleveland-

Cliffs acquired it and other Iron Range mining properties from ArcelorMittal USA in a \$1.4 billion deal in 2020 that made Cleveland-Cliffs the largest producer of taconite on the Range.

“Little (did) I know at the time that I made that investment (in Northshore Mining) that I would be able to acquire Minorca inside the transaction of ArcelorMittal,” Goncalves said. “If I had a crystal ball, I would not have invested that \$100 million.”

Babbitt Mayor Andrea Zupancich told the *Duluth News Tribune* on Friday that she was “stunned” by Friday’s announcement, and said the effects of idling mine operations would be widespread.

“It’s not only the miners

that are affected, it’s absolutely everyone else in town that’s affected,” Zupancich said. “It’s the school that’s affected, it’s the government that’s affected, it’s the businesses in town that are affected, it’s the bars and restaurants in town that are all affected. So, it’s a massive trickle-down effect.”

**Arbitration ruling**

The current situation is related to an ongoing dispute over royalty payments that the Mesabi Trust formalized in late 2019 by filing for arbitration of the disagreement with the American Arbitration Association. Mesabi Trust alleged various breaches of the 1989 royalty agreement under which Northshore extracts iron ore from Mesabi Trust lands, resulting in underpayment of royalties to the trust.

An arbitration hearing was held in July 2021, and in October the Mesabi Trust was awarded “\$2,312,106 for underpaid royalties on DR-grade ore in 2019 and 2020 and interest in the amount of \$430,710, calculated through June 30, 2021, and continuing to accrue until paid,” according to a trust press release. The arbitration panel declined Mesabi Trust’s demand for greater information sharing by Cleveland-Cliffs, as well as denying compensation

See **NORTHSHORE...** pg. 5

# DNR discontinues review of Twin Metals’ mine plan

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The state of Minnesota has discontinued its environmental analysis of the mine plan submitted in late 2020 by Twin Metals. The Department of Natural Resources, which was overseeing the environmental review process for the state, informed the company of its decision in a letter submitted to Twin Metals on Tuesday.

The letter states that discussions between DNR staff and Twin Metals representatives had indicated that the company wished to discontinue the environmental review work, which was being undertaken at Twin Metals’ expense.

The DNR said it would issue separate correspondence terminating the contract and returning unexpended funds to the company.

The DNR decision comes in the wake of the termination last month of two federal mineral leases critical to the Twin Metals project. Twin Metals indicated this week that they intend to challenge the federal decision in court and they described the DNR’s latest action as a “pause.”

“Twin Metals Minnesota is working to determine the next steps to continue to advance our underground copper, nickel, cobalt and platinum group metals project,” the company said in statement. “A pause on the environmental review process is

necessary and appropriate while we defend our project and our mineral rights in court.”

But this week’s DNR letter suggests that Twin Metals will face other challenges even should they prevail in court. DNR officials indicated they’re concerned about aspects of the Twin Metals proposal, including their current plan to dispose of tailings on 640 acres of state school trust lands.

“Based on information available to date, the DNR has determined that Twin Metals’ currently proposed location for its tailings facility would potentially encumber School Trust mineral resources,” wrote DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen in her Feb. 15 letter to Twin Metals. “Furthermore, the DNR

believes this use would pose an unacceptable financial risk to the State and potentially to the School Trust Fund. The DNR has notified the Office of School Trust Lands of our concerns with the proposed tailings facility location.”

Those concerns likely center around the school trust’s potential legal liability should the tailings facility eventually pollute, which is common for such facilities. Federal court decisions, such as *Chevron Mining v. U.S.*, in other jurisdictions have indicated that surface owners of property polluted by mining waste, whether or not the owner created the waste, can be held financially liable under the federal law known most commonly as the Superfund Act.

Becky Rom, of Ely, a retired

attorney who heads the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, argued that the state school trust could face substantial financial liability. “Twin Metals is a shell company and at the end of the day, it’s only asset would be a polluted mine site,” said Rom. “Under the Chevron case, the obligation for addressing the pollution could fall on the state.”

Even if Twin Metals were to prevail in the legal battle over its two federal mineral leases, Rom predicts Twin Metals would need to find a new location for its tailings facility, and that could prove challenging, and require the company to significantly revise their mine plan.

“This is not just a ‘pause’,” said Rom. “This is a bigger deal than that.”

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# OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

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## Editorial

### Public utility rates

It’s time to find out why water and sewer costs so much more in Tower than Soudan

As we report this week, residents in Tower pay \$234 a year more for water and sewer than their neighbors in Soudan, yet both are served by the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board and pay exactly the same rates for the services that the joint powers board provides.

After rate increases in both communities, which took effect Jan. 1, residential water and sewer customers in Tower will pay more than \$1,000 in 2022 for the privilege of turning on their tap and flushing their toilets. Over in Soudan, residents will pay just \$780. This disparity isn’t a new issue. It’s been this way for years, and yet city officials seem to have preferred not to ask why.

Neither community’s charges are particularly out-of-line when compared to other small municipal systems, but that’s not the point. City officials in Tower, for too long, have been willing to shrug their shoulders and pass off the difference as the result of factors beyond their control.

When asked about the difference for our story, neither city nor township officials could provide an answer. City officials pointed out that Tower uses more water and sewer, and so has to pay more, but that answer doesn’t explain the disparity.

Based on 2021 data obtained by the *Timberjay*, Tower and Soudan used virtually identical amounts of water. While Tower used considerably more sewage capacity, sewage rates have been quite low in the two communities prior to 2022, which means the TBWWB billed Tower just \$4,000 more than Breitung Township for the extra usage. Large commercial and institutional users, like schools, restaurants, and laundromats, should be paying for most of that.

In either case, our report on the subject compares residential customers, and we’ve seen no evidence that suggests residential ratepayers in Tower flush their toilets any more frequently than in Soudan.

Our investigation into this issue found that Breitung Township does a good job of assessing its costs and billing its customers appropriately. Both communities charge customers based on a “water” and a “sewer” line item, and in Breitung, the amount billed on those two lines matches up to within a few hundred dollars of the roughly \$114,000 that the TBWWB billed the township in 2021. The extra charges, contained in three other

line items that the township assesses customers, to cover the cost of maintaining their own water and sewer infrastructure, again, also match up very well with what the township spends to operate and maintain its infrastructure. When the billings to customers match the costs to the provider, there is transparency and utility customers can be confident they’re being charged the true cost of the service.

There is currently no such clarity in the case of Tower and there hasn’t been for years. The city charges its customers considerably more under their “water” and “sewer” line items than the city pays to TBWWB for those services. In 2021, the TBWWB charged the city \$121,448 to provide water and treat sewage. Yet the city charged its customers almost \$147,000, or about \$25,000 more than that on the water and sewer lines of their bills. On top of that, the city adds in additional line items, charging customers for things like “capital reserve” and “filtration debt,” both of which are already included in the \$121,000 that the TBWWB billed to the city last year. Add it all up and the city charged customers approximately \$191,000 for services from the TBWWB that cost \$121,000. On top of that, the city bills its customers an additional \$37,000, for the operations and maintenance of the city’s water and sewer infrastructure.

We’re sure that it is costing the city more than \$37,000 a year to maintain its own utilities infrastructure, but how much more isn’t clear because its water and sewer budgeting is unnecessarily complex and unclear.

What we do know is that the city collected \$248,227 from its water and sewer customers last year, while paying the TBWWB \$121,448. Yet, according to city officials, the city’s utilities barely broke even. If so, that says that Tower spent approximately \$127,000, or well over twice the \$60,000 Breitung spent, to maintain a water and sewer system that serves almost the same number of customers. City officials need to be asking themselves why that is.

This isn’t a small item. City residents pay a lot for their drinking water and a toilet that flushes. Indeed, many homeowners pay more for these services on an annual basis than they pay in property taxes. City officials owe it to their residents to take a serious look at why these basic services cost so much more in Tower.



### Letters from Readers

#### Greenwood board seems to stumble into more trouble

The Greenwood Town Board continues to stumble and fumble on even the most elementary tasks, as seen from the very onset of their most recent meeting. They opened the meeting with no agenda, no minutes from the previous meeting and no clerk. The clerk arrived late with a basic agenda and the supervisors’ information packet, but the agenda had no topics under old or new business.

The board moved on to discuss a request from the Fire Department that the firefighters be issued 1099s instead of the W2s they are currently receiving. This change, if allowed, would designate them as independent contractors, as they were incorrectly classified previous to 2016.

The town board in 2016 consisted of myself, John Milbridge, Carmen DeLuca, Gene Baland and Chairman Rick Worringer. We as a board, and having two fire fighters on our board, determined the fire fighters had been misclassified. The 2016 board sought the opinions of both the MAT lead counsel, Eric Hedtke, and township attorney, Mike Couri, who both confirmed the firefighters were misclassified. Misclassification could lead to liabilities and financial penalties levied by the IRS so I motioned to switch to W2s and Chairman Worringer seconded that motion which passed unanimously. During the discussion of the motion, Deluca said the township attorney felt if we act quickly the chances of penalty would be small.

That leads us back to the last meeting of the 2022 board where DeLuca did a flip flop, apparently with the support of Rick Worringer, Fire Department Safety Officer, and made a motion to restore the 1099s. Fortunately, Supervisor Sue Drobac was able to delay this action because the current 2022 board would have deliberately misclassified its employees after being counseled to the contrary by the township

attorney and the MAT attorney. The reasons given by the fire department in requesting this are not clear but could have led the board to facilitate unemployment insurance fraud.

This board, save two members, is a sad and embarrassing lot.

**John Bassing  
Greenwood Township**

#### Why is socialism fine for business but not average folks?

Economic recovery is in the air. The IRRRB helped rebuild the Zup’s Cook Store (which was lost in a fire) with a healthy recovery grant given to the city, as well as helping this past year with the renovation of the vacant Shopko Building in Ely for the new Ely Zup’s Store. The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners has a film rebate program of a 25-percent incentive for the movie business here in NE MN. The Duluth Seaway Port Authority has received \$10.5 million from the Port Infrastructure Development Program to rehabilitate the Clure Public Marine Terminal and to help with Berths #10 and #11 for the Clure Terminal Expansion Project. There is also help for those affected by loss of income due to COVID-19.

Basically, much of this is possible due to PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) funds from the mines paid to the IRRRB. Other money comes from federal funding by government agencies sourced by individual and corporate taxes. It is a win/win situation for all citizens because it helps support, strengthen, and diversify our economy here.

Yet, “alternative news” outlets and talking heads on social media are decrying the “progressive socialist agenda” of our various government leaders while at the same time actually benefiting from these business grants. Even Congress members tout the economic boost, but say the “Washington Administration” is leading us down a road of socialist perdition.

Quite frankly, all these government grants are basically progressive in nature. Whether it be tariffs on competing imported goods, grants to help struggling businesses, or USA agricultural crop price subsidies with discounts on ag crop loss insurance, it is all government help that has existed for quite some time in one form or another. All congressional districts in the USA get some kind of financial help for ag, highways or other needs, but no one really objects to it.

However, when the subject of personal “entitlements” is brought up, hackles get riled. Social Security, unemployment benefits, workers’ comp, the SNAP program, fuel assistance and other social safety net programs are considered part of the “evil socialist agenda”.

I ask my conservative friends why business grants are OK, but help for those individuals who meet financial challenges is bad. They usually reply that businesses deserve help because “they provide jobs.” However, I usually remind them that individuals that get a little hands-up are able to eventually fill those jobs and often start businesses of their own. As Paul Wellstone said, “We all do better when we all do better.”

**Mark Roalson  
Hoyt Lakes**

#### We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay’s* editorial page. We want to know what you think!

## My Valentine’s Day gift from Dad

I was cleaning the guest bedroom last weekend and came across the old gray, waterstained shoe box that I knew held treasures. Upon opening it, I saw a bunch of letters held in a bundle by a sticky old rubber band that snapped the moment the letters were picked up. They were the letters my dad had written to



me when I lived in rugged Alaska with my first husband from 1980 to 1983. There were about forty of the artifacts... as the written word on paper has become. The letters were still in their original envelopes, displaying a variety of fifteen and twenty-cent stamps and addresses to places we’d lived

Fairbanks. Realizing the need as of late to feel close to dad again, I carried the box downstairs to the living room, grabbed a cup of coffee, cuddled in a corner of my floral loveseat, and began to pour through them.

Reading letters forty years after they were written is like spending time with dad, mom, my brothers, my sister-in-law, and even the dog once again. I remembered the loneliness and how I yearned to receive the letters and how then all life stopped for those minutes when

I delighted in reading them. My dad’s humor is throughout, along with narratives about my home town of Hoyt Lakes, projects, car shopping, the future in mining, struggles with weight, and love of his family. Three of the original five in our family have died but I could feel dad’s deep love coming through the veil of time....to me, his only daughter....“the girl with the curl right in the middle of her forehead.” It was a ditty he often sang to me.

My dad was a mechanical engineer at Erie Mining

Company, a salaried position with quite a bit of job security. He also was largely a jack-of-all-trades. He worked on various projects, refusing to “hire out,” in order to save money. It was the way it was done back then. Dad just took his sweet-time and made many jokes about mother being the foreman, to ease his tendencies to procrastinate. Throughout the letters, dad was working on putting a bathroom with a shower in the basement. On January 9, 1980,

See **GIFT...**pg. 5



# Letters from Readers

## Why being a citizen is much more than being a consumer

CITIZEN or consumer? A citizen pushes and pulls in a bottom-up power relationship, whereas consumers are pushed and pulled from above. Citizens choose to cooperate for civic action to solve problems, but consumers make choices from what is offered. Conversation

of civic ideas and issues is proactive. Reactively, consumers “buy” what others sell; beliefs, ideas and things. Both political and economic consumption are top-down power relationships. PARTICIPANT or spectator? Participants stand up to be heard and counted, a spectator stands up to applaud and cheer. Citizens demand truth and justice, consumers accept the status quo. Participants fight back, spectators go along to get along. Workers in the U.S. economy are subjects,

not players. Without voice, both in workplace and marketplace, one is conditioned to respond. ACTIVISM or status quo? Active citizens revel in the substance of ideas and issues they confront daily. Social change for a more just society is their passion. Experiencing life through others is mere fantasy. Consumption of identity, image, style, and status in celebrity culture creates illusions of self-importance. Social control maintains the status quo to preserve power and privilege

of wealth. INTERNAL or external? Citizens are internally driven to act on the outside world, consumers are externally driven to be acted upon by the outside forces. Citizens think for themselves. Outwardly driven people willingly follow charismatic cult-like leaders. Phony culture wars distract consumers from economic wars waged on the public. COMMUNITY or consumption culture? Citizens have a deep sense of community interest for

the public good. Civic responsibility requires serious reflection in the marketplace of ideas and issues. Consumers are lured into marketplace manipulation by the pleasure principle. Consumers seek convenient, quick and easy fixes and hear what they want to hear or see what they want to see. **Harold Honkola**  
**Winter Haven, Fla.**

# Breitung to purchase body cams for police

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- The Breitung Town Board, at their Feb. 10 meeting, approved the purchase of two body worn cameras (BWC or bodycams) for the Breitung Police Department. The units cost \$1,195 each and come with a charger that also automatically will upload the camera footage to a secure online “cloud” storage site.

Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing told the town board he had not received any public comment on the issue. A meeting that served as a public hearing on the issue only attracted one township resident, retired game warden Doug Erickson, who did not express any concerns with the purchase. Reing said most area departments had already purchased, or were in the process of purchasing, these cameras. “They are more and more common now,” he said. “Everyone wants transparency.”

The police department has developed a policy to oversee the use of the cameras, mostly based on state statutes, Reing said. The policy will require officers to wear BWCs while on duty, and these must be turned on when responding to a call for service. This includes emergency calls, traffic stops, search warrants, arrests, and all official law enforcement-related encounters. Casual encounters with the general public not related to a call will only be recorded at the discretion of the officer. The cameras will also be used during criminal investigations. Recordings will be the property of the Breitung Police Department. Recordings can be stopped if there is a privacy concern during a call, and officers are allowed to pause the recording to exchange information among other law enforcement personnel or while speaking to an attorney. The camera lens may also be obstructed by an officer in the event of capturing informants

or undercover officers. Such a covering must be documented. State statutes set the guidelines for how BWC recordings may be released to the public, and protect the identity of undercover law enforcement officers, victims of criminal sexual conduct or sex trafficking, and the identity of a victim or witness to a crime (if they request not to be identified publicly, unless the agency reasonably determines that revealing the identity would not threaten their personal safety or property). Other exceptions are detailed in the township’s new policy. The Breitung Police Department also has the authority to make data public that is otherwise private if they determine that access will aid the law enforcement process, promote public safety, or dispel widespread rumors or unrest. The new policy also sets forth how the video data will be retained and for how long. The data will be stored on secure cloud-based servers.

**Recreation committee** Recreation committee members Greg Dostert and Matt Tuchel updated the board on their priority list. The township, at its Feb. 4 meeting, had decided to ask for \$150,000 from the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant program. The program requires a 20-percent match (in this case \$30,000) from the township. Dostert said that purchasing new boards for the hockey rink would use up most of the grant dollars. The committee is currently waiting to get firm quotes for the new boards as well as new lighting for the rink. If there is any additional money to spend, the committee would like to develop a disc golf course, which would cost around \$10,000. The township will look at some additional funding sources for the project and can possibly reduce the cost if they can use township or volunteer labor to help install the hockey rink boards. The committee said one

additional way to raise money would be to sell advertising on the hockey boards. The township would need to develop a policy to address what types of advertising would be permitted and what the costs would be. The DNR application is due by the end of March, but the township will be submitting it early to get their grant reviewed, giving them time to make any changes that are required. The township is working with JPJ Engineering on the grant process. “The DNR gets a lot of applications,” said Chairman Tim Tomsich. “It is a pretty competitive process.” Dostert said the township has received a donation of 75 feet of rubber belting material from Joe Morin to use as a pathway to the new little skating rink area. Dostert said another area resident also had offered to donate belting, but the township already had gotten what they needed.

## HEALTH CARE INNOVATION

# Bois Forte receives \$50,000 Northland Foundation grant

REGIONAL- Bois Forte Health and Human Services in Nett Lake received a Tribal Nations Grant of \$50,000 for their Integrated Rural Community Aging Program, to support the creation of a durable medical equipment lending program and pilot the use of cellular health monitoring equipment to help

elders continue to live at home. The Northland Foundation announced that its Grant Program made two dozen funding awards to nonprofit organizations, schools, and Native nations during the final quarter of 2021. Several of the largest grants will support services for survivors of domestic violence,

as well as programming that aims to prevent violence affecting Black, Indigenous, and other youth of color. In addition, three major grants of \$50,000 each were made through the foundation’s Integrated Rural Community Aging Program. The grants, in partnership with the Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, and

Grand Portage nations, support programs that help elders age in place in their homes and communities. “Domestic violence and aging services are both longtime Northland Foundation priorities,” stated Director of Grantmaking, Erik Torch, “and the stress and social isolation driven by the

pandemic have only increased the call for programming in these areas. Grantees across the region are creatively addressing these big needs, under tough circumstances, and we are happy to help support their work.”

## GIFT...Continued from page 1B

dad wrote, “The project continues and I’m charging mom \$24 an hour for my expert carpenter/plumber/electrician work but she won’t pay me....she’s a tough employer. I’m going to file a union grievance pretty soon.” A few days later he added to his letter.... “If the union has settled the grievance with my employer since I’ve been gone I’ll continue to wire the project, otherwise I will start picketing. Another item I demand is FM music while I’m working. There’s a female announcer with a sexy voice on WEVE and I enjoy listening to her and the union backs me to the hilt.” Finally in the fall of 1982, when bathing in the tub had worn out its welcome, Dad wrote, “My project is nearing completion and I’m sorry to see it end but soon the sheet rock will come and I can finish over Thanksgiving vacation because mom is getting a tiny bit excited as she sits on the bottom step with towel and soap.” Dad and I had a tradition of driving to Knife River on the North Shore to go to Russ Kendall’s fish store. On very rare

occasions he would take “a mental health day.” On one occasion he said he was thinking of going down for a fish, told me to skip school and we’d sneak out east of Hoyt Lakes down the Moose Line Road. “Yippee!” I loved those rides with just me and dad and years later I can see he did too because he wrote, “I wanted to go to Knife River for a big trout but no one cares for the ride and I missed your company so I have not gone yet, but one of these days I’ll go.” Dad loved getting my long, detailed letters and often took them to share with his coworkers who found it unbelievable that we had traveled to Alaska in a rusty 1966 Delta Oldsmobile and were living in a sod-roof cabin, salmon fishing, hunting and white-water rafting. On December 12, 1980, he wrote, “I’m going to look in the catalog for a camera for you, that’s how much I want photos of everything you’re doing. It’ll be a Kodak point and push model...nothing elaborate. I just ordered one for you from “clunky Wards.” (Montgomery Wards) I’ll pack it up and ship it, like

I said, a point-and-push type coming next week.” I wonder where we mailed that film for developing, now that I think back. It’s also really fun to read how inexpensive things were back then. In a letter dated February 1981, dad writes, “Mom quit the milkman because he was charging us \$1.16 for a half-a-gallon and she bought a gallon in Virginia for \$1.94 yesterday. When I mention the cost of the gasoline to go and get the milk she gets angry with me.” Also in that letter, “JC Penney has 1/2-inch electric drills on sale now for \$40, they’re usually \$65. I’m tempted but really don’t need it.” I always remember getting so excited when dad would put “Lucky Bucks,” a \$20 bill, in with his letters and say here’s some hamburger money for you. We were never able to afford to go out for dinner and twenty dollars covered it then. My mother, a first-grade teacher, had been taking Norwegian rose-maling and folk art painting classes in Virginia at the Owl’s Perch in the Thunderbird Mall. In one letter, while indulging in

a Jim Beam highball he added, “If mom gets high it’s from breathing that paint and mix. Jim Beam doesn’t help much and the combination must be 150 proof. I’m moving out of this chair before I pass out,” he says. “You should see all the beautiful things mom is doing here in her new hobby. She’ll show you one day.” Today, my house has so many painted treasures created by mom. His running comments about Erie Mining Company (later known as Reserve) remind me that our lives here on the Iron Range have always been shadow-cast with uncertainty about the future of taconite mining. In January 1983, during a shutdown, he reports, “This country is really bad now. Erie is going to open in April, but only for those with whiskers and I’m not sure how far back they’ll go. Rumors have it 1968, but it’s not official. The younger employees do not know what to do.” In April 1983, dad was interested in buying a new car and wrote, “Today I might go to Cook to get a price from Simonson

Chev/Olds on that beautiful Caprice in their lot. It lists at about \$12,700. Wow!” Then comes my favorite letter with his hilarious account of buying a car. “Whenever you leave an automobile agency and the sales person has smiled at you and offered his handshake...you are surely screwed...because you have just signed on the line and are now committed. I hate those moments. Face reality though, you buy a car once in 3 to 10 years and are not experienced with the tactics these car guys practice every day, so be extremely careful, and even then you might get the old corn-cob in the butt. The best defense or offense is to pit one dealer against another and use remote bank financing from a dependable bank. Of course banks can screw you too, so you must be careful from the front and the rear...just like a squad in combat. Automobiles are a pain, and yet a guy can hardly do without one up here. I’d rather ride a bus, train or plane except they don’t go when and where I want. Old guys like me should have nice cars to screw around

## NORTHSHORE...Continued from page 3

for attorney fees. In response to Friday’s announcement by Goncalves, Mesabi Trust officials filed a document on Monday with the Securities and Exchange Commission suggesting

that Cleveland-Cliffs has not attempted to reach a resolution of the dispute. “Cliffs has not recently requested any changes to the royalty structure, which is governed by a 1989 royalty agreement, and

Cliffs has historically failed to engage in meaningful negotiations requested by Mesabi Trust to address the interpretations of the royalty structure,” the statement said. The trust received

nearly \$53 million in royalty income from Cleveland-Cliffs through the first nine months of 2021, according to the trust’s third-quarter SEC filing. Mesabi Trust stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange, and it

\$22.63. It declined to a low of \$20.02 on Monday, and as of close on Tuesday stood at \$21.99. *Minnesota Public Radio contributed to this report.*



Week of Feb. 21

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 March 15.

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

Thursday

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

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

Breitung Town Board- 12 noon on Feb. 24.

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at [vermilioncountry.org](http://vermilioncountry.org).



Vermilion Country School Honor Roll

TOWER- The following students have been named to the second quarter honor roll at Vermilion Country School in Tower.

A Honor Roll

Brandy Strange  
Ally Heglin  
Alyssa Costello  
Bailey Pratt  
Caleb Ramponi  
Brody Anderson  
Brandon Strange

B Honor Roll

Ailie Petrzilka  
Anna Chavez  
Isaac Archembeau  
Jaymes Scholz  
Kyler Tuura  
Siri Salmela  
Owen Stellmach

Area students name to Vermilion Community College Fall Honor List

ELY- The following students were named to the Fall 2021 Honors List at Vermilion Community College in Ely. Students named to the honors list have attained a GPA as listed below for the semester. Students with highest honors received a GPA of 3.75 or higher. Students with honors received a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Michael Trucano, of Soudan, Highest Honors;  
Ethan Zaitz, of Tower, Highest Honors;  
Andrew Zika, of Tower, Honors.

WINTER DRIVING

How bad are those roads? Really, really bad!

TOWER- If you are wondering how bad the roads have been since Friday, Feb. 11, don't try asking Bob Reichensperger, from Bob's Service and Towing, because he's not at the gas station. He's been out, almost non-stop it seems, on towing calls.

"Business has been good," said employee Scott Marwick with a wry note in his voice. "We've lost count of how many accidents. It's certainly more than there should be!"

Black ice had formed on Highway 169, especially between Tower and the Y Store. And in many spots it's hard to tell if the road is clear, or iced over.

"It hasn't been warm enough for sand or chloride to help," said Marwick. "We need a warmer day." With a stretch of daytime



temps that only reached into the lower single digits at best, black ice has been a persistent problem.

Traffic was shut down for a while on the morning on Feb. 15 as Bob's wrecker hauled a Suburban out of a snowbank, where it was resting on its side. Fire department members from Brei-

tung and Vermilion Lake were on site doing traffic control in both directions, trying to slow down oncoming traffic, because once a vehicle was close enough to see the flashing lights, it would be too late to try to slow down.

The 2002 Suburban, driven by George Bakassoulas, age

71, of Ely, slid off the road and rolled onto its side. Jeane Bakassoulas, age 71, was transported to the Virginia Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, while George was unharmed.

SUPPORTING OUR FOOD SHELF

Lots of smiles at "Souper Bowl" fundraiser at St. Martin's

St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower hosted their annual "Souper Bowl" fundraiser on Feb. 13. A combination of adult and youth volunteers cut vegetables for the bouyah, baked desserts, and then served meals, with donations taken for the Tower Area Food Shelf. The donations will be presented during March FoodShare Month.

Far right: Matthew Zupancich helped serve the meal.

Right: Jennie Nelson took donations, with some help from George Stefanich. photos by J. Summit



VALENTINE'S DAY



These young Tower-Soudan Elementary students got to celebrate Valentine's Day for the first time, because previous celebrations were canceled due to COVID-19. Many were a bit confused about why they were giving and receiving cards, but they all seemed to really enjoy the candy! At left: First-graders painted Valentines for the seniors at Vermilion Senior Living. Below: Students handed out treats to their classmates and checked out the candy. From left: Sherrie, Ray and Brendin, and Nesstah.

photos by J. Summit



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Hockey Day in Soudan set for Saturday, Feb. 26

SOUDAN- Hockey fun is set for Saturday, Feb. 26 at the Soudan Skating Rink. The annual "Hockey Day in Soudan" starts off at 11 a.m. with a youth hockey game. The classic Tower versus Soudan adult hockey game will get underway at 1 p.m. All area skaters are welcome to come out and play, and spectators are welcome to come and cheer on the action.

St. Martin's announces Ash Wednesday service times

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower will hold their Ash Wednesday service at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2. Additional services are set for 12 noon at Holy Cross in Orr, and at 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's in Cook.

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. 19 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). This week's party is funded by Dick Johnson, Paul and Judie Pishler, and Dan and Debbie Wiirre.

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.





OUR COMMUNITY



A last look at the 2022 Ely Winter Festival



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 speakers suggestion, contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com or call her at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

➤Feb. 22: All about the WolfTrack Classic with Eva Sebesta, Executive Director of the Ely Chamber of Commerce.

➤March 1: Introducing Boundary Waters Connect and Bear Witness Media with Lacey Squier and Matthew Baxley.



Photos by K. Vandervort

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



snow snow snow more snow  
trudging through deep white snow banks  
cold cold very cold

Ely youth snowmobile safety training offered next weekend

ELY – Youth Snowmobile Safety Training, for those ages 11-15, will be held Saturday, Feb. 26 at Vermilion Community College

Sponsored by Ely Igloo Snowmobile

Club, the class runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Room NS 111 at VCC. Lunch will be provided.

Students must take the online safety course prior to the class. The course can be found at [www.snowmobilecourse.com](http://www.snowmobilecourse.com). Online course completion certificate must be brought to the class. Cost for the course is

\$24.95 plus tax payable online.

Snowmobiles and helmets will be provided. Students may also bring their own helmet.

Students must be at least 11 years old prior to Feb. 26, 2022 to take this course.

Contact instructor Dave Marshall at [dave.marshall@ely.mn.us](mailto:dave.marshall@ely.mn.us) or 218-343-1711 for more information or to register.

Higher Education Briefs

VCC Fall Honors

ELY - The following students were named to the Fall 2021 Honors List at Vermilion Community College here.

Students named to the honors list have attained a GPA of 3.75 for Highest Honors, 3.5 for High Honors, and 3.0 for Honors.

Elijah Anderson, Honors, Alexander Barker, Highest

Honors, Kale Beno, Highest Honors, Amanda Block, Honors, Zoe Devine, Highest Honors, Kesley Ebbs, Highest Honors, Chloe Ecklund, Honors, Matthew Egan-Ostrokol, Highest Honors, Dylan Fenske, High Honors, Taylor Gibney, Highest Honors, Phoebe Helms, Highest Honors, Adam Hornstein, Honors, Jonathan Huju, Honors, Kahsha Hyde, Highest Honors,

Caleb Janeksela, High Honors, Jeremiah Kaercher, Honors, Jaicee Krings, Honors, Sophia Kurnava, Honors, Chelsea Larson, Highest Honors, Sidney Marshall, Highest Honors, Brett Moschel, Highest Honors, Cedar Ohlhauser, High Honors, Lauren Olson, High Honors, Gabriel Pointer, Highest Honors, Gracie Pointer, High Honors, Lauren Porthan, High Honors, Abigail

Rehbein, Highest Honors, Madelyne Roderick, Honors, Louise Schmitt, Highest Honors, Jennifer Shuster, Highest Honors, Lindsay Sikora, High Honors, Brandi Smith, Honors, Deborah Spengler, Highest Honors, Kelly Thompson, Highest Honors, Nacomis VanMeter, High Honors, Kayley Wika, Highest Honors, Emilie Wojcik, Honors.

Ely student honored at Bethel

ST. PAUL – An Ely student attending Bethel University in St. Paul was named to the Dean’s List for academic excellence for the fall 2021 semester.

Abigail Schwamm is a senior at Bethel University. She is the daughter of Rebecca Zwolinski and Stephen Schwamm.

The Dean’s List honors students who achieve an outstanding scholastic record during a semester with a grade point average of 3.6 or greater.

Nobisch honored at NDSU

FARGO, N.D. — Izaak A. Nosbisch, of Ely, was among the 3,850 North Dakota State University students to be placed on the fall 2021 dean’s list. Nosbisch is studying mechanical engineering.

A student must earn a 3.50 grade point average or higher and be enrolled in at least 12 class credits to qualify for the list.

Mattson honored at Mankato

MANKATO- Trevor Mattson, of Ely, was named to the Honor List for the past fall semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Among 3,655 students, 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 student honored at St. Olaf College

NORTHFIELD - Anna Nelson, of Ely, was named to the St. Olaf College dean’s list for the fall 2021 semester. She is studying nursing and is the daughter of Jeffrey and Marja Nelson.

The dean’s list recognizes students with a semester grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4-point scale.

Merhar honored at Iowa State

AMES, Iowa - More than 9,700 Iowa State University students were recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2021 Dean’s List, including Jenna Judith Merhar, of Ely, who is studying for an Accounting degree.

Students named to the Dean’s List must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

VCC announces Fall 2021 graduates

ELY- The following students are among the 2021 Fall Semester graduates of Vermilion Community College.

Annika Bixby, AAS, Veterinary Technician; Matthew Egan-Ostrokol, CERT, Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy; Kahsha Hyde, CERT, Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy; Louise Schmitt, AA, Liberal Arts and Sciences; Brandi Smith, AAS, Veterinary Technician

Montana makes Dean’s List

MADISON, Wis.- The University of Wisconsin-Madison recognized students named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester of the 2021-2022 academic year.

Thomas Montana, of Ely, who is enrolled in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, was on that list.

To be eligible for the Dean’s List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

Pasmick graduates from St. Mary’s

WINONA - Laura Pasmick, of Ely, received a bachelor of arts degree from Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota in December 2021. She is the daughter of Wayne and Sue Pasmick.

Pasmick was also named to the first semester 2021 Dean’s List. The list includes 417 undergraduate students who earned a grade point average of 3.6 or better

Coughlin honored at Univ. of Utah

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah- McKenna Coughlin, of Ely, was named to the University of Utah’s Fall 2021 Dean’s List. Coughlin’s major is listed as Engineering BS.

Coughlin was among more than 9,600 students named to the Fall 2021 Dean’s List. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher in at least 12 graded credit hours during any one term.

Local student makes dean’s list

ST. CLOUD- St. Cloud State University announced the names of more than 1,100 students whose academic achievement placed them on the 2021 fall semester dean’s list.

Cole Miller, of Ely, who is enrolled in the School of Public Affairs, and studying Land Surveying/Mapping Science, BS, was on that list.

To be eligible for the honor, students must have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Libraries

Ely library

Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays Phone: 218-365-5140

Babbitt library

Monday	Noon-6 pm
Tuesday	Noon-6 pm
Wednesday	Noon-6 pm
Thursday	Noon-6 pm
Friday	Noon-5 pm

Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous

OPEN AA - 7:30

p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.

**SUNDAY NIGHT AA** - at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church is cancelled.

**ELY WOMEN’S OPEN AA** - Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.

**BABBITT AA** - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church

**AL-ANON** - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely.

For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.

**BABBITT AL-ANON** Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.

**CO-DEPENDENTS’** 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, Ely.

**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED**

- Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS:**

Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living

Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital



# Empty Bowl fundraiser returning on March 4

## Soup, ceramics, royalty and more will make North Woods event festive

FIELD TWP- North Woods art teacher Rachel Betterley and her students are putting the final touches on the ninth annual Empty Bowl event to be held in the North Woods School Commons from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on March 4.

“Empty Bowls is a nationally known form of fundraising and advocacy for hunger awareness,” Betterley said. “Art teachers and ceramic artists create bowls and have a soup fundraiser, and sell those bowls.”

Students have created more than 120 ceramic bowls that will be sold for \$10 each. A bowl purchase comes with the option of having 10 different kinds of soup, as well as dessert.

Betterley noted that the meal is served in Styrofoam containers, while the ceramic bowls are wrapped up to take home.

“I recommend coming earlier rather than later,” Betterley said. “Sometimes you miss out on the ones that are the most popular.”

Miss Minnesota, Elle Mark, will be there for autographs and free pictures, and will sing the National Anthem before the Grizzlies basketball game.

Wheel throwing demonstrations, basket raffles, and more are in store for a fun-filled event.

Proceeds from the Empty Bowl event will go to food shelves in Cook and Orr.



Above: North Woods third-grader Cora Goodbird peeks out from behind classmates Elizabeth Trip, Charlie Holter, and Connor Anderson after they finish glazing bowls. D. Colburn photo

Right: Samples of ceramic bowls available for sale at the Empty Bowl fundraiser. submitted



# Giving appreciation to ambulance crew is complicated

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Appreciation comes in many forms, but when government gets involved, sometimes expressing it can get rather convoluted, as Orr City Council members discovered at Monday’s regular council meeting.

The sentiment was simple enough. Orr Ambulance Director Donna Hoffer wanted to have an appreciation dinner for her crew, something most people would likely agree is well deserved.

But according to state law, public funds cannot be used for employee social or recognition events unless specifically authorized by law or charter. As much as they might want to, city council members did not have the authority to approve and sponsor such an event.

The possible fix presented to the council by Hoffer was for them to consider adopting an employee wellness and recognition program, which would then allow for an appreciation dinner. But the policy would have to apply to all departments and have specific objectives for designated funds.

A suggestion that the ambulance crew could raise money on their own for a dinner was quickly

nixed by Carter.

“Anything owned by the city (including) volunteer fire and volunteer ambulance cannot hold fundraisers,” she said.

Donations received by the service also could not be used for an appreciation dinner without a wellness/recognition program in place.

While Councilor Melissa Wright spoke in favor of creating such a program, councilor Bruce Black expressed concerns about providing for each of the city’s departments, noting that the ambulance service gets donations other departments don’t.

“Not everybody’s going to be able to use donations to be able to fund whatever they need,” Black said.

Rather than have the city create a wellness/recognition program, Astleford suggested that they ask community members to take responsibility for an ambulance appreciation dinner.

“I can guarantee the community would foot the bill. They’d donate to it,” he said.

And Astleford had someone in mind to take it on.

“My wife,” he quipped. “We just volunteered my wife.”

**EMS compensation**

In a larger show of

support for the ambulance service, council members approved a slate of pay adjustments for staff that Hoffer proposed and indicated were long overdue. Orr has been paying less than surrounding services, Hoffer said, and she hopes that raising compensation with help to retain and possibly attract staff.

The adjustments approved by the council include:

- Increasing the quarterly pay of the director to \$650 and the assistant director and training officer to \$500 each, to take effect in April.
- Increasing the hourly pay of EMTs to \$4, EMSs to \$3, and firefighter drivers to \$2. That was approved to begin with the current pay period.
- Per run compensation was also increased from \$30 to \$40.

Astleford voiced his approval of the increases.

“My personal feeling is that it’s a very cheap price to pay for good health,” he said. “And the way inflation is going now, I know people’s wages aren’t going to keep up with stuff, but this would be a start. It takes a lot of people’s time.”

Hoffer said that the ambulance crew could use more help.

“We have basically ten people on staff that run

this ambulance service,” she said.

In other business, the council:

- Heard a brief overview from Rick Oveson

about proposed plans to convert a portion of Oveson’s Pelican Lake Resort and Inn to condominiums for sale, while reserving space for hotel

use as well. Oveson provided the council with a complete packet of information and the proposal will be discussed at a future council meeting.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Sewer district to review plans

ASH RIVER- The Ash River Sanitary Sewer District board will meet at the Ash River Trail Lodge at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22 to consider the findings of the facility plan for the Ash River Collection and Treatment System. Public comment on the plan will be welcomed.

The meeting will also be accessible virtually via Microsoft Teams at [https://tinyurl.com/2p8e-](https://tinyurl.com/2p8e-yea6)

yea6. Call-in is available by dialing 1-877-242-7640, then entering 138937010 when prompted for the conference ID.

**Church offers free community meal**

COOK- Trinity Lutheran Church, 231 2nd St. E in Cook, will host its monthly community meal on Thursday, Feb. 24 from 4 to 6 p.m. The drive-through meal will feature chili, sides and a dessert. The meal is free and open to the public.

### Mass times set for Ash Wednesday

REGIONAL- Vermilion and Pelican Lake Catholic Parishes have announced times for Ash Wednesday services on March 2.

Mass will be celebrated at St. Martin’s in Tower at 9 a.m., at Holy Cross in Orr at 12 p.m., and at St. Mary’s in Cook at 5:30 p.m.

## SENIOR NIGHT



North Woods took time before Tuesday’s game to honor their seniors, the largest such group Coach Will Kleppe can recall. Pictured are, front row, from left, Haley Bogdan, Alex Hartway, T.J. Chiabotti, Ty Fabish, Bryce Chosa, Lillian Voges, and Abby Koch; back row, Jake Panichi, Ethan Byram, Sean Morrison, Davis Kleppe, and Erik Aune. C. Stone photo

# Principal reflects on the influence of others

by JOHN VUKMANICH  
North Woods Principal

FIELD TWP-- I first met Jeff Mumm in 1997 as a soon-to-be college graduate looking for a teaching job. I was student teaching at Grand Rapids High School in their band program, and had started applying for teaching positions in March. My goal was to land a gig before I was done student teaching in May so that I was all set and could enjoy my final summer before entering the workforce. The job market for teachers back in the 1990s was quite competitive. There was a teacher surplus, not a shortage like today. Those of us who were entering the teaching profession were advised to make ourselves as marketable as possible, which meant pretty much being available to coach or supervise almost any activity outside of the school day and to fill one’s resume full of work-related experiences.

As an instrumental music major (read “band director”), the applicant pool was not as large as it would have been had I

been looking for a job in history (my first love). Nonetheless, I was prepared to offer to coach football or swimming as I had experience as an athlete in those areas. After interviewing with three different schools, I decided to accept an offer to become the new middle school band director at Franklin Middle School in Thief River Falls. The decision would prove to be advantageous as I would meet my future wife there, but that is a story for a different time!

In addition to needing a band director, the middle school needed an eighth-grade football coach. Jim Sims, the activity director, came in to meet me as I was signing my contract and asked if I would be interested in interviewing for the coaching job. I asked him when the interview would be, and he said, “Now.” Fair enough. Mr. Sims advised me that I would be meeting the head coach for the interview in the weight room, where the coach was finishing up with off-season weight training. He introduced me, and I nervously

took a seat on the benchpress with Head Coach Jeff Mumm.

I will never forget the interview. Coach Mumm asked me this question: “Sum up your football coaching philosophy in one word.” My answer immediately was, “Fundamentals.” He offered me the job, and I was now the band director and the eighth grade football coach!

I tell you this story to tell you this: I learned so much from Coach Mumm that I could never fit it into a single article. Jeff was very demanding of his players in terms of good character. They cleaned up the locker rooms after a road game, leaving it cleaner than when they got there. If they stopped to eat, the team captains made sure that the McDonalds or DQ they were at was clean and that the bathrooms were not left messy. The players said, “Please” and “Thank you.” In his Prowler Football Parent/Player Handbook, he outlined the expectations for players and for parents. Coach Mumm made it very clear

that Prowler Football was a family, not just a team. All coaches at all levels 6-12 were expected to run the same drills, the same plays, and have the same expectations. My eighth graders started out with only four plays. When I asked Coach Mumm when we could run more plays, his answer was, “When you can score a touchdown every time you run these four, I will give you more plays.” Ok then! At Homecoming, the varsity team ran onto the field through a tunnel made up of all of the other players from grades 6-10 who were not on the varsity team. The expectation was that all players were involved in the family.

Our coaching staff was also a family. We went to clinics together, we gathered at Jeff’s home after every home game. We watched film together. We scouted together, taking an old station wagon all over northwest Minnesota to find out what the opposition was doing. One of the most profound memories I have was when Coach Mumm came to observe eighth grade

football practice. My coaching partner, Dave Jobe, was a bit more experienced than I was, and had played college football at South Dakota. We were both a little nervous, as we knew Coach Mumm had such high expectations. At one point during practice, Mumm put his arm around my shoulder and said, “Coach, do you see all those chubby boys out there who can’t run?” I replied, “Yes.” He then added, “Those little chubby boys are going to be 230-pound men when they are 17 years old, and I need them on my offensive line for our running game. You make darn sure you make football fun for them.”

His program was incredibly successful, although making it to State meant beating perennial powerhouse Detroit Lakes. Yes, Adam Thielen went to school there!

The sad news of Gene Goodsky’s passing on Feb. 9 caused me to think about some of the influences I have had over the years. In talking with students and staff at North Woods, it is very appar-

ent that Gene had a positive influence on so many people as a tribal leader and elder, veteran, teacher, drummer and singer, cultural advisor, language speaker, storyteller, and dedicated sports fan. Gene would have been very proud of his granddaughter Aayanna, who presented a very thoughtful slideshow full of pictures and memories of Gene at a memorial service at North Woods School last Friday. Students and staff were able to come to our commons to pay homage to Gene, and I would like to thank Aayanna for her initiative in putting this together. Gene’s influence crossed over many boundaries, and without a doubt, his influence and wisdom will be carried on by those he knew.

I pay tribute to all of the positive influences in my life, and hope that everyone has someone they remember who had a positive effect on them. As we navigate through the complexities of school and society, we must always be mindful of the impact we have on others.



## Council addresses a number of ambulance issues

Donald G.

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Youth Grant applicants must call Keiko by Friday, March 4  
to schedule a grant review meeting.



Date	Eq Conn	City of Tower								Breitung Township										
		Sewer (gal)	Sewer \$	Water (gal)	Water \$	Filtration	Capital Reser	Capital Reser	Capital Reser	Sewer	Total	Sewer (gal)	Sewer \$	Water (gal)	Water \$	Filtration	Capital Reser	Capital Reser	Sewer	Total
01/07/21	247	\$1,307,400	\$1,438.14	959,920	\$1,583.87	\$4,236.05	\$7,064.20	\$4,075.50	\$3,750.00	\$22,147.76	245	980,820	\$1,078.90	892,150	\$1,472.05	\$4,201.75	\$7,007.00	\$4,042.50	\$3,750.00	\$21,552.20
02/02/21	247	\$1,158,700	\$1,274.57	956,350	\$1,577.98					\$2,852.55	245	930,800	\$1,023.88	923,650	\$1,524.02					\$2,547.90
03/15/21	247	\$1,088,900	\$1,197.79	861,600	\$1,421.64					\$2,619.43	245	1,395,100	\$1,534.61	1,560,400	\$2,574.66					\$4,109.27
04/06/21	247	\$1,897,400	\$2,087.14	1,086,620	\$1,792.92	\$4,236.05	\$7,064.20	\$4,075.50	\$3,750.00	\$23,005.81	245	2,245,480	\$2,470.03	2,119,740	\$3,497.57	\$4,201.75	\$7,007.00	\$4,042.50	\$3,750.00	\$24,968.85
05/12/21	247	\$3,238,600	\$3,562.46	966,020	\$1,593.93					\$5,156.39	245	2,718,680	\$2,990.55	1,181,560	\$1,949.57					\$4,940.12
06/04/21	247	\$1,851,000	\$2,036.10	1,188,890	\$1,961.67					\$3,997.77	245	1,129,800	\$1,242.78	946,220	\$1,561.26					\$2,804.04
07/12/21	247	\$1,601,400	\$1,761.54	1,376,900	\$2,271.89	\$4,236.05	\$7,064.20	\$4,075.50	\$3,750.00	\$23,159.18	245	873,960	\$961.36	1,085,320	\$1,790.78	\$4,201.75	\$7,007.00	\$4,042.50	\$3,750.00	\$21,753.38
08/12/21	247	\$1,518,900	\$1,670.79	1,674,610	\$2,763.11					\$4,483.90	245	753,420	\$828.76	1,496,440	\$2,469.13					\$3,297.89
09/07/21	247	\$1,353,000	\$1,488.30	1,434,140	\$2,366.33					\$3,854.63	245	707,640	\$778.40	1,060,260	\$1,749.43					\$2,527.83
10/18/22	272	\$1,353,000	\$1,488.30	1,012,520	\$1,670.66	\$4,664.80	\$7,779.20	\$4,488.00	\$3,750.00	\$23,840.96	248	789,720	\$868.69	701,440	\$1,157.38	\$4,253.20	\$7,092.80	\$4,092.00	\$3,750.00	\$21,214.07
11/12/21	247	\$1,633,000	\$1,796.30	900,170	\$1,485.28					\$3,281.58	245	1,101,560	\$1,211.72	688,380	\$1,135.83					\$2,347.54
12/16/21	247	\$1,479,800	\$1,627.78	891,350	\$1,470.73					\$3,098.51	245	1,069,000	\$1,175.90	608,910	\$1,004.70					\$2,180.60
		19,481,100	\$21,429.21	13,309,090	\$21,960.00	\$17,372.95	\$28,971.80	\$16,714.50	\$15,000.00	\$121,448.46		14,695,980	\$16,165.58	13,264,470	\$21,886.38	\$16,858.45	\$28,113.80	\$16,219.50	\$15,000.00	\$114,243.71
01/10/22	272	\$1,753,500	\$1,928.85	865,620	\$1,428.27	\$4,664.80	\$7,779.20	\$4,488.00	\$3,750.00	\$24,039.12	245	1,403,640	\$1,544.00	844,750	\$1,393.84	\$4,201.75	\$7,007.00	\$4,042.50	\$3,750.00	\$21,939.09

Schultz did suggest this week that the city could form a committee to delve more deeply into the issue and try to reconfigure the city's water and sewer budget and the line items on the bills sent to customers. Schultz noted that the TBWWB has significantly changed the way it now bills both the city and the township, which could make it an opportune time to reconfigure the city's budgets and billing. The council took no action on his suggestion.

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ELECTION 2022

# Steva seeks DFL endorsement in Senate District 3 race

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- Keith Steva, of Cook, said concern for the future of his grandchildren, all ten of them, is prompting him to seek the DFL endorsement in his quest to represent a huge swath of northeastern Minnesota in the state Legislature. Steva is passionate when it comes to addressing the threats posed by climate change and he hopes to highlight those concerns in a race for the Senate District 3 SEAT, now held by Independent Sen. Tom Bakk, of Cook. The district, which stretches from Lake Superior nearly to Lake of the Woods, is a region of the state that has already felt the effects of a warming climate.

Steva and his wife, Amy, have been involved for many years in climate change issues, and it was a conversation they had, Steva said, that caused him to set his sights on the Legislature.

“A scenario popped into our discussion about what our grandkids would say 30 or 40 years from now,” Steva said, “particularly if we don’t take action now and things are going toward the worst-case scenario – would they turn to each other and say, ‘They knew and they did nothing.’?”

That got the couple to thinking about what else they could do, and when they considered the gridlock over getting climate-related legislation passed in a divided Minnesota Legislature, hat in the ring.

“All I have to do is to show up and vote for the legislation and I’m making a difference,” he said. “So, that’s the why.”

Steva is anything but a one-trick pony when it comes to the issues. Equal in stature to climate issues are Steva’s concerns for families and workers, as illustrated on his website, keithsteva.com. Steva’s priorities for families, to name a few, include affordable housing, afford-

## Cook resident compelled to act now for a better future



Senate candidate Keith Steva, of Cook, has created cozy-feeling issues videos as part of his digital campaign footprint.

able quality day care and universal Pre-K, affordable quality healthcare, and affordable quality elder care. In the realm of work, Steva focuses on traditional areas such as the trades, iron mining, sustainable timber practices, and tourism, while also promoting 21st century jobs and high-tech employment. Underpinning those things is the training and education necessary to be successful in those occupations.

“We live in this district and we see and hear of the problems that families face,” Steva said. “While we have to look at the long-term climate change issue, we have problems today that we have to address as well. People are uncertain about their future. You have to deal with the future, but we also can’t turn our back on what’s happening right now.”

### Professional background

Steva touts his extensive and successful career in the technology field as evidence of his ability to identify problems and opportunities and create team-oriented solutions to help businesses create jobs.

After obtaining a master’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota, Steva went to work for Digi-Key Electronics, an electronics distributor in Thief River Falls. Twenty-

five years later, thanks in part to Steva’s efforts, that small company with a dozen employees had grown to be a \$5 billion enterprise. Steva said he helped to create over 4,500 jobs.

He moved on to the West Coast, where he worked for large tech companies like eBay, Salesforce, Gateway 2000, and PayPal. His work with eBay took him to Shanghai, China for two years to create a technical support team for eBay China.

“I worked with the Chinese government, got the permits, found the location, hired and trained the people, and integrated them into eBay’s operations,” Steva said. “I learned a lot about people, cultures, and things like that.” Before he could seriously consider retirement in the Midwest, Digi-Key came calling again, asking him to come back and help the company with some capacity issues.

“They asked me to come back for three weeks and it turned out to be three years,” Steva laughed.

To fix the problems, Steva became the company’s chief information officer, supervising a staff of 350 engineers and other technical workers to introduce new technologies, introduce new ways of developing software, and create plans for new systems and new jobs.

### Economic development

Steva is keen on developing the necessary infrastructure to support job growth of all kinds that will bring people to the largely rural Third District. But the traditional view of infrastructure as roads and bridges and water and power systems and such is too narrow to embrace Steva’s definition of the term. For him, infrastructure encompasses things that improve the quality of life in a community.

“First and foremost, you’ve got to have a place that people want to live,” he said.

That includes paying attention not only to workplaces and affordable quality housing, but to the social environment, too.

“Because a lot of these folks are younger, they like to get out and be social in the evenings and weekends,” he said. “There’s a lot that has to be there in place to draw people.”

And with an increasing number of businesses allowing their employees to work from a distance, having access to high-speed broadband and remote offices to work from should be in the mix, Steva said.

“And if we’re going to have a good infrastructure that’s appealing, we need to have the basic services like good education and good medical services in our communities,” he added. “Another thing I’m concerned about is our trades in the area. I have a project that I tried to line up with somebody last July and they’re going to come this spring. Just to get an electrician, they might literally be three months out before they can come do some work for you. So, we’re short on trades.”

Steva believes that making training and education for these varied careers accessible in the district, beginning with well-de-

veloped career pathways in public schools, will keep many people close to home.

“We want to provide a path for the people who live here and the young folks who live here to stay here,” he said.

When it comes to climate change, Steva readily volunteers that many of his ideas about what needs to be done have been shaped through the work he and Amy have done with The Nature Conservancy. Steva believes in “natural climate solutions” that manage our natural resources more effectively.

“Farmland, prairies, forests, wetlands and water all can be managed for climate change,” he said. “For example, farmers can use practices like no-till and cover crops, which in no way harm their ability to grow crops, and in fact might even be net positive for making it economically more desirable.”

Steva is also a proponent of letting forest trees grow longer before they’re harvested.

“That would absorb and bind more carbon into the wood,” he said. “At some point you will still harvest them and benefit from the wood products.”

### Getting things done

Meanwhile, Steva’s likely opponent, Tom Bakk, has yet to decide if he is going to run for re-election, but Steva would like to see the seat go back to the DFL. As a freshman senator, Steva acknowledges he would lack some of the political clout Bakk has built up over the years, but believes he can make an impact through collaboration.

“My nature is, first of all, that I’m going to listen and not do a lot of talking,” Steva said. “From listening, other people feel heard, so you tend to start developing communication and a bond with people.”

And while Steva said

the job would be easier if the DFL regained control of both houses of the legislature, collaboration is still the key to getting things done.

“Success rarely is done by individuals,” he said. “Success is usually achieved by a group that’s generally moving in the same direction. I’m going to be looking in two directions. I’ll be looking to my fellow DFL people, the people who are experienced, that have been there and know the who, the why, and the how. I’m not going to be the guy who comes up with 50 bills to solve the world’s problems. I’m going to be the guy to listen, make some suggestions to support people, and try to get ideas through.” “Then the other direction,” Steva continued, “is that I have to look across the aisle, and I guess all you can do is look for any points that are opportunistically aligned, where Republican goals and our goals align. Would it be as much as we would like to have as Democrats? No, it will be far less. But whatever we can get through is better than getting nothing. It’s not like they’re the evil empire and you can’t talk to them. I’ll look to capitalize on opportunities to the extent I can.”

While Steva has a campaign website, keithsteva.com, a Facebook page, and YouTube channel with videos explaining his positions on various topics, he said he hadn’t actually made a formal announcement yet that he’s running. He was waiting on Tuesday’s release of court-drawn redistricting maps to be sure he wasn’t excluded from the district after the lines have been redrawn. But clearly, Steva is already in it to win it.

“We’ve got to do something for our grandchildren and future generations,” he said. “Time is running out, and playing around and talking isn’t going to cut it. We’ve got to take action and get it done the best we can.”

## CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

# Vaccinated now the majority of new COVID cases

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- While the Omicron-driven wave of the coronavirus pandemic now appears to be in full retreat, data on breakthrough infections reveals that more new cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota are occurring in vaccinated individuals than in unvaccinated.

Breakthrough data from the Minnesota Department of Health for the month of December indicate that well over half of the new cases reported were among people who have been vaccinated at least twice.

That development points to the waning efficacy of immunizations that many people may have received nearly a year ago. In addition, the data on breakthrough cases does not differentiate between those with the standard two-shot regimen and those who have

received boosters, which have been shown to significantly increase resistance to Omicron.

At the same time, with nearly three-quarters of the state’s population now vaccinated, it’s a much larger segment of the population. It’s simple math – with three in four eligible people vaccinated, more people can get a breakthrough case than ever before. Still, with about 3.5 million fully vaccinated, only about one in ten, about 350,000, have had a breakthrough case.

What remains clear in both the MDH and national data is that those who have been vaccinated have significantly lower rates of infection, serious illness, hospitalization, and death when compared to unvaccinated people. According to the latest data from MDH, unvaccinated people between the ages of

18 and 64 are about seven times more likely to be hospitalized due to a COVID infection and between seven and eight times more likely to die.

### Area data

While all six North Country zip codes monitored by the *Timberjay* registered new cases in last Thursday’s state report, all showed a decrease in the number of new cases from the prior week. Ely dropped from 36 to 26 new cases. Cook’s 14 new cases were six fewer than the week before. Orr had the most dramatic drop, from 19 to only two. Soudan

went from 11 to two, while Tower fell from 10 to 7. The least amount of change was registered in Embarrass, where 11 new cases was a drop of only one.

The rate of new cases in the last week, as reported by MDH, was at its lowest level since mid-December, before the major spike in cases caused by the omicron wave.

The picture in St. Louis County is similar. The seven-day case average on Feb. 11 was just 86.9, similar to the 90.7 mark recorded on Dec. 26, and far, far below the omicron spike high of 407.6 on Jan. 18.



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## ICE...Continued from page 1

Polar Expedition veterans participated, including Steger’s videographer, Jerry Stenger, and fellow explorers John Stetson, Nancy Moundalexis, and Julie Hignell. Ely-area resident Michael Gilgosh participated in his fourth year at the Ice Ball and supplied the *Timberjay* with a photographic record and his thoughts on the day.

“This is a good year for nice thick ice. The day transformed this winter’s lake ice into the cooling power essential for the coming summer season of community activities at the center,” Gilgosh said.

The temperature was in the low single digits at the start of the day, in contrast to the 30s last year, according to Gilgosh.

“Light snow fell during most of the event and heightened the beauty of the day. The wood fired sauna, near the lakeshore, was started early in the morning for use later in the day. The smoke wafted occasionally over the lakeshore adding more charm and nostalgia to the senses,” he said.

“The lake ice was 18-20 inches thick this year. Will deemed all the blocks usable, but the slag (the top half or so of more porous, discolored ice) was removed so blocks could be handled easier,” he said. “On the lake, the ice was cut into smaller, lighter blocks, making them more easily removed from the open water with metal tongs.”

In spite of the smaller volunteer crew of invited guests this year, enough ice was harvested to fill the super-insulated, north-facing icehouse located close to where it will be used at the Wilderness Center, located deep in the woods a few miles from Ely.

Several sled loads, each carrying close to a ton of ice, were drawn up the icy road from the lake-shore by a team of Shire draft horses.

“Long time Ice Ball devotee Lisa Ringer, who operates an organic farm in Maple Plain, along with her crew, Mike and Al, brought four Shire draft



This snowy scene on Pickett’s Lake, near Ely, was photographed by Michael Gilgosh, shown at right, who participated in his fourth Ice Ball at the The Steger Wilderness Center on Feb. 5.



horses up from the western Twin Cities to pull the ice sled up the steep road from the lake to the Ice House, as they have for many years,” he said. “A custom-built sled made for the annual harvest was easily pulled by the hefty team of Shires.”

The building near the Ice House, called the Lodge (one of the original buildings at Will’s “Homestead”) served as a warmup house and kitchen for the Ice Ball attendees.

“In the spirit of the

recently published book, *‘The Steger Homestead Kitchen: Simple Recipes for an Abundant Life,’* a trio in the kitchen prepared delicious soups, chili, and sandwiches for volunteers,” Gilgosh said. “Seating was at the ever-present long wooden table that hosted warm conversation and good cheer.”

The ice, packed in sawdust and loaded into the Ice House, will hopefully last well into the

summer months for food preservation. “The day’s effort fit perfectly into Will’s ideals of self-sufficiency and conservation of energy,” he said. “Ice and sawdust, nature’s two elements of refrigeration at the Homestead. Job done.”

The Will Steger Wilderness Center is a towering building overlooking the lake just outside of Ely. It is a place to escape the din of modern life and focus on issues of sustainability and problem-solving that can

be taken into everyday life, according to the center’s website.

Steger is best known for his legendary polar explorations. He traveled tens of thousands of miles by kayak and dogsled over 50 years, leading teams on some of the most significant polar expeditions in history. Steger led the first confirmed dogsled journey to the North Pole without re-supply in 1986, the 1,600-mile south-north traverse of Greenland in 1988,

and led the first dogsled traverse of Antarctica, a seven-month, 3,741-mile International Trans-Antarctica Expedition in 1989–90.

## FATAL...Continued from page 1

County sheriff supervising deputy Nate Skelton said that Blom was traveling with his wife, who was behind him at the time of the accident.

The release did not indicate how road conditions, visibility, or other factors may have contributed to the accident. Skelton said that the Minnesota State Patrol is doing a “full reconstruction” of the accident.

It was the second such incident of a vehicle-snowmobile collision at a road crossing in Minnesota in the past three weeks. On Jan. 22, a 55-year-old man suffered non-life-threatening injuries in a collision with a truck on Highway 95 near Princeton.

Most snowmobile fatalities result from drivers losing control of a sled and colliding with a tree or other objects, and fatalities at trail/road intersections are rare. According to DNR annual reports, two of the 11 snowmobile fatalities during the 2020-21 season involved vehicle-snowmobile collisions, one in Aitkin County and one in LeSeuer County. Both victims were males in their mid-50s.

St. Louis County Sheriff’s deputies, Kabetogama first responders, International Falls Ambulance, Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota DNR, and the U.S. Forest Service assisted with the call.



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## NORDIC SKIING

# Ely girls team competing at state

### Seniors Gabriel Pointer and Jon Hakala qualify for the boys competition

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

GIANTS RIDGE— A slew of Ely skiers were competing in the state Nordic competition on Wednesday as the *Timberjay* went to press. More racing is scheduled for Thursday and the *Timberjay* will report on the results once they’re available.

The Ely girls were

competing at state as a team, thanks to their strong second-place finish at the Section 7 ski meet held last Wednesday, Feb. 9. Ely seniors Gabe Pointer and Jon Hakala qualified as individuals in the boys competition.

The results continue Ely’s long history of excellence in Nordic ski competition, despite being one of the smallest schools

**Right: The Ely girls Nordic ski team with their second-place trophy from the Feb. 9 sectional meet. Pictured are (kneeling l-r) Sydney Durkin, Gracie Pointer, and Phoebe Helms. Back row (l-r) Anna Dunn, Rena Johnston, Zoe Devine, Claire Blauch, Ava Skustad, and Anna Larson.**

photo courtesy G. Pointer

in the state to field a team.

Ely junior standout Zoe Devine finished third overall in the combined classic and skate competition, with an overall time

of 36:16. That was just 23 seconds behind first-place finisher Lily Brown, of Duluth East, and was a full 50 seconds faster than the

*See SKIERS...pg. 2B*



**Left: Ely junior guard Joey Bianco gets serious air as he towers over a Lakeview Christian defender Tuesday night in Ely. Bianco, the Wolves’ leading scorer this season, has been on a tear in recent games. He notched a triple-double on Saturday in a 92-55 rout over Carlton.**

photo by  
J. Greeney

## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Grizzlies score big in three straight Ws

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- With sectional playoffs just weeks away, the North Woods boys basketball team appears to have adopted a mantra from the infamous Cobra Kai dojo of “Karate Kid” fame: No mercy.

Fond du Lac, Littlefork-Big Falls, and International Falls were the most recent trio of bottom-dwellers to wither under the wrath of the Grizzlies, who obliterated their foes by a combined total score of 290-124.

The Grizzlies scored home blowouts of 82-40 over Fond du Lac on Feb. 10 and 106-49 over I-Falls on Tuesday, and a 102-35 road beatdown of LBF on Friday. Their opponents had a combined total of eight wins among them coming into the contests, and no more after the Grizzlies were finished with them.

North Woods ran its current winning streak to five games by playing classic Grizzlies basketball – dominating end-to-end pressure defense to throttle opposition offenses and generate high-percentage shots, and quick ball movement in offensive sets to find open shooters inside and out.

That defensive dominance was in its highest gear during the second half of the LBF game. Already up 58-28 at the half, North Woods allowed only two Vikings field goals and seven points in the entire second stanza. The Grizzlies forced 34 turnovers in the game that they turned into 42 points.

In each game the Grizzlies took control from the opening tip and held halftime leads of 30 or more, providing ample opportunity for Head Coach Will Kleppe to test different lineup combinations.

Ten of the 15 players who got

*See NW BOYS...pg. 2B*

## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Stats galore in great week for Ely

### Simons hits career-high 37 points in rout over Carlton

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY — The Ely boys hoops squad picked up the pace big time this week, notching three straight wins to post some of their best stats of the season while improving the team record to 13-8 as they head into the penultimate stretch.

On Tuesday night, junior Joey Bianco notched a double-double and led all scorers with 28 points, along with a dozen rebounds and seven assists, as he helped Ely take down Lakeview Christian, 70-51. Bianco had plenty of help

along the way, as senior Harry Simons added 20 points and Mason Davis connected for 14. Junior Erron Anderson grabbed seven boards to help the cause.

Tuesday’s victory was just the latest in the string for the week. On Saturday, at Carlton, Simons was machine-like from beyond the arc as he connected on eight treys en route to a career-high 37 points to lead the Wolves to a 92-55 win over the Bulldogs. Not to be outdone, Bianco scored a rare triple-double, with 21 points, 16 assists and ten rebounds in an astounding all-around effort. Davis scored a career-high 15

points as well, making a game for the record books. Junior Jason Kerntz was the fourth Ely player to hit double digits in scoring, with ten points.

“We jumped out to a big lead in the first half and cruised to the win,” said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald.

Playing in Aurora on Friday night, the Wolves edged the Giants in the biggest nail-biter of the season. With a second remaining in the game, and Ely down 58-57, Joey Bianco, after a Mesabi East foul, walked to the charity stripe and hit back-to-back free throws to hand Ely the 59-58 win, electrifying the

Ely fans.

“We trailed most of the game but played well defensively in the second half and shot the ball better also,” said McDonald. Bianco led Ely scorers with 16 points in the game, while Simons added 13 and Kerntz connected for 11 points. Bianco just missed a another triple-double, adding ten boards and nine assists to his 16 points.

The Wolves were set to head to Chisholm on Friday and will host Mt. Iron-Buhl on Tuesday.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Two more wins for Grizzlies

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

GREENWAY- A timely three by Kiana LaRoque and clutch free-throw shooting down the stretch propelled the North Woods girls to a 70-62 road win on Tuesday over Class AA Greenway.

Trailing by five late in the first half, the Grizzlies’ Lauren Burnett canned a trey and Helen Koch converted a steal into a fast-break bucket to knot the score 32-32 going into the locker room.

The Grizzlies turned up the defensive heat to open the second half, and threes on consecutive possessions by Tatum Barto, Koch, and Talise Goodsky suddenly had North Woods up by nine, 41-32.

But Greenway chipped away at the lead, and a basket by Talia Saville put the Raiders ahead 59-58 with 4:49 remaining.

Koch brought the ball across midcourt and flipped a pass to LaRoque on the right wing. The Grizzlies’ junior didn’t hesitate, putting up a shot from beyond the

**Right: The Grizzlies’ Lauren Burnett runs into trouble as she goes in for a layup attempt.**

photo by D. Colburn

arc that banked home to regain the lead 61-59. After a Greenway turnover, Goodsky took a pass from Hannah Kinsey and drove in for two on what would be the Grizzlies’ last field goal of the game.

Goodsky knocked down one of two with 3:17 to play, making

*See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B*





GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ely tops Floodwood in slow-mo affair

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY — It was a slog, but the Timberwolves got the job done here in the end on Saturday as they beat Floodwood 39-31, in one of the lowest-scoring games in weeks for Ely.

“Floodwood likes to play a slower pace than we are used to,”

said Ely Head Coach Max Gantt. “It wasn’t the prettiest of wins, but we got the win!” Gantt added. Ely played solid defense throughout, particularly in the first half, when they held Floodwood to just 13 points.

Madeline Perry again led the Timberwolves, with 15 points, while Grace LaTourell added ten and Maddie Rohr tallied eight

points.

Saturday’s win came on the heels of the Wolves’ 65-52 loss to Mesabi East. “They’re a good double-A team,” said Gantt. “They have size and they don’t hand it over.”

The Wolves kept it close for much of the game, and went into the break down by just four point, 30-26. But the Giants

pulled away later in the second half to cinch the win. Perry led Ely scorers once again, with 19 points, while LaTourell notched a double-double with 14 points and ten rebounds. Sarah Visser added six points, eight boards, and six assists in a good all-around effort.

The Wolves head to North Woods on Thursday, in what is both an evenly-matched and

important game as girls hoops heads into the final two weeks of the regular season. “It’s a big game for us seeding-wise,” said Gantt. The Wolves are set to host Northeast Range next Thursday, Feb. 24, and they’ll wrap up the regular season on Friday, Feb. 25, at South Ridge.

HOCKEY

Ely skaters close season with a tie and a loss

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

B A B B I T T — The Timberwolves hockey team closed out their regular season last weekend with a 8-4 loss to Mora, following a tie game at Moose Lake the day before.

At the Ron Castellano Ice Arena here on Saturday, the Ely skaters fell behind in the opening 30 seconds with a quick Mora/Milaca score, and went down 2-0 less than a minute later on another score by the Wolves.

Ely sophomore forward Kayden Zupanchich put the home team on the scoreboard with a power play goal at 11:42 in the first period. He was assisted by

Logan Loe and Kole Macho. Sophomore forward Drew Marolt scored an even strength goal, assisted by Deegan Richards, at 16:15 in the first frame to tie the score 2-2.

Mora came out in the second period to score at 2:10 and take a brief 3-2 lead. The Timberwolves answered just 10 seconds later on Marolt’s second goal of the day, with an assist by Jace Huntbatch, to knot the score at 3-3. Mora took a 4-3 lead on a power play effort at 11:43 in the period for a 4-3 lead, and again Ely answered with a power play goal by Loe at 14:58, assisted by Richards, to tie the score at 4-4. Mora had their own answer just about 30 seconds later to score a short-handed goal for a 5-4 lead at the end of two

periods.

Mora kept Ely away from the net in the third period and scored three more goals, an even strength goal at 2:20, a power play score at 9:15 and another even strength goal 11:59 for the 8-4 victory.

Mora had 54 shots on goal for the game, and Ely had 24 scoring chances. Both teams were two for three on power play opportunities.

**Tie in Moose Lake**

The Timberwolves traveled to Moose Lake last Friday night and came back with a 2-2 tie. Senior goalie Chase Sandberg continued his stellar season, turning away 45 of 47 shots in the game. The Ely offense peppered the Rebels’ goalie with 45 shots

to the goal.

Macho put Ely on the scoreboard with a power play shot at the 5:13 mark with an assist by Loe.

The Rebels answered with two goals in the second period, at 7:42 and 14:39, to take a 2-1 lead. Macho scored his second goal of the game at 3:30 in the third period on a power play advantage with an assist by Chase Anderson to tie the score at 2-2.

Ely had 45 shots on goal, including four scoring chances in the overtime period. The Rebels took 47 shots at Sandberg, including seven in the overtime period. The Timberwolves had 10 penalties for the night and Moose Lake had six infractions.

Macho led the Timberwolves this season with 18 goals and 25

points. Marolt was right behind him with 17 goals and 21 points. Loe had eight goals and 20 points for the season. Richards scored eight times and had 19 total points. Huntbatch scored four goals and seven points. In 23 games, Sandberg endured 1,051 shots to goal for the year and had 943 saves for a save percentage of .897.

The Timberwolves posted a season record of 4-18-1. Ely will travel to either International Falls or North Shore for the first round of the playoffs on Saturday. Seeding was to be announced after the *Timberjay’s* deadline.

SKIERS...Continued from page 1B

fourth-place finisher in the competition. Fellow junior Phoebe Helms was not far behind, in ninth place, with a combined time of 38:32.

“Phoebe ramped it up and ended up putting together two of the best races of her career,” said Ely Head Coach Paula Anderson. “She knew she was on the cusp for qualifying individually and was pretty nervous about it knowing that the number of individuals was reduced by two this year. In the end it didn’t matter since the team qualified, but if it had mattered her finish would have qualified her as an individual as well.”

Ely sophomore Ava Skustad had a big day as well, finishing in 12th place



**Left: Gabriel Pointer and Jon Hakala were all smiles after qualifying for the state Nordic ski meet during sectional competition held Feb. 9 at Giants Ridge.**

photo courtesy G. Pointer

with a time of 39:53.

Gracie Pointer and Sydney Durkin finished in fourth place in the spring relays. “They did a fantastic job and their results really made a difference,” said Anderson.

The scoring in Nordic competition has been evolving in recent years and has become increasingly complicated, with placing determined by a combination of scoring in the pursuit competition (which combines the classic and

skate times) combined with sprint relays, which now determine 40 percent of a team’s score.

The new scoring is likely one reason that the boys team missed the qualifying cut for state. The Ely squad posted exceptional times in the classic contest, with Ely senior Micah Larson finishing second with a time of 16:51. “Micah popped a stellar classic race, he was quite surprised to finish second,” said Anderson. “He definitely had a target on his back in the second race and it ended up being really difficult.”

Fellow Ely seniors Gabriel Pointer and Jon Hakala posted strong classic times as well, with Pointer finishing third in

the 45-racer field with a time of 17:03, while Hakala finished seventh with a time of 17:21.

In the pursuit, Pointer finished fourth overall, with a combined time of 33:18, while Hakala was close behind in eighth place with a time of 34:08. Larson finished in 12th place with a combined time of 35:09, which put him just short of qualifying for state.

In the sprint relays, up-and-coming Ely skiers Otto Devine, an eighth-grader, and Silas Solum, a freshman, finished fifth with a combined time of 17:14.

NW BOYS...Continued from page 1B

on the court against Fond du Lac scored, led by Sean Morrison’s 17 points. T.J. Chiabotti scored 16 and Jared Chiabotti added 10.

Eleven players tallied points against LBF, with six notching double figures. T.J. Chiabotti led the way with 19, followed by Jonah Burnett with 16, Morrison with 13, Brenden Chiabotti and Jared Chiabotti with 11 each, and Alex Hartway with 10.

The Grizzlies were particularly amped up for Tuesday’s Senior Night tilt against I-Falls. Senior players T.J. Chiabotti, Davis Kleppe, Eric Aune,

Bryce Chosa, Jake Panichi, Alex Hartway, Ty Fabish, Sean Morrison and Ethan Byram and managers Abby Koch, Haley Bogdan, and Lillian Voges were all honored before the start of the game.

“A legendary coach told me one time that if you have more than three seniors on the roster you are doing something wrong,” Kleppe said. “Well, we have nine this season which is the largest number our team has maintained. They are great teammates, play their roles without complaint and support the underclassmen, so I’m proud to

have them all. They are all great student-athletes and great representatives of our program and our school community. Their practice energy is unmatched and there are a couple of them that haven’t missed a practice in their career. That kind of dedication is what drives the program. On top of that we have the three best managers in the state of Minnesota and likely beyond. Abby, Lilly, and Haley are truly the most helpful and organized managers. They get compliments for their hard work wherever we go and the question always comes

up, ‘How do you find such good managers?’ We are truly fortunate to have them and are going to miss them when they graduate.”

I-Falls answered T.J. Chiabotti’s opening trey with a basket of their own, and that’s the closest the Broncos would get all evening. By the time the Grizzlies held a 17-4 edge, all five starters had scored. Kleppe nailed a trey to put the Grizzlies up by 20, at 33-13, with less than eight minutes elapsed in the half. North Woods led by 36 at the break, 64-28. The only mercy available to the Broncos in the second half

was the running clock, the one thing that slowed the Grizzlies’ scoring output.

Davis Kleppe stepped to the fore in this one, hitting for 20 points. Alex Hartway and Sean Morrison each scored 17, and T.J. Chiabotti scored 16.

Kleppe said he’s pleased with what he’s seen from his team in their current winning streak.

“We are really happy with the way we are moving the ball and pushing the tempo, albeit against some teams that are down this year,” Kleppe said. “Our positives are evident by having multiple players in

double figures and lots of guys getting in the game, defending, and getting chances to score. I’m most impressed with some of our passing during this stretch. Brenden (Chiabotti) has had some of the nicest assists I’ve seen this season and his teammates are benefitting from it. As the section tournament picture starts to emerge we’ll start to clean up the little things and reinforce the principles we’ve been working on all season.”

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

the lead 64-61. A Greenway charity bucket at 2:26 narrowed the gap to 64-62, and the Raiders had a chance to tie or take the lead after LaRoque missed the front end of a one-and-one.

But Goodsky deflected a Greenway pass out of bounds at the 1:27 mark, then batted the inbound pass up in the air and came down with the loose ball. With the Grizzlies playing keep away, the Raiders fouled Hannah Cheney with 53 seconds remaining, and she hit both. She was back at the line 20 seconds later and converted one of two for a 67-62 lead. A free throw by LaRoque and two by Koch sealed the 70-62 win.

Kinsey led North Woods with 21 points,

and Koch tallied 16. Five Grizzlies popped in three-pointers.

**Mesabi East**

The win was a complete turnaround from the night before, when Class AA Mesabi East breezed past the Grizzlies 62-29.

North Woods was in the thick of things early, trailing 15-12 after a Barto trey, but went the next five minutes without scoring as the Giants built a 26-12 lead. A LaRoque triple ended the drought, but the Grizzlies mustered only two Burnett free throws the rest of the half, trailing 34-17 at the break.

It took over five minutes before Cheney notched the Grizzlies’ first two points of the second half on a pair of charities, and with the Giants up

46-19 the only thing in doubt was the final score.

The blowout loss was tough, Head Coach Liz Cheney said, because the Grizzlies had the talent to make it a close contest. An uncharacteristic lack of focus is what gave this one away.

“I don’t even know where to start,” Cheney said. “I haven’t seen this kind of play in a long time from these girls. One of the girls pointed out at halftime that, ‘This is in our head. It doesn’t matter that they’re bigger than us, it doesn’t matter they’re a AA school.’ So they recognized that, too.”

LaRoque led North Woods in scoring with eight points, all in the first half.

**Fond du Lac**

The Feb. 10 home

contest against Fond du Lac was a mismatch favoring the Grizzlies from the opening tip. The Grizzlies were taller, faster, and more athletic than the Ogichida, who suited up only six players for the game.

With the Grizzlies’ full-court press and man defense overwhelming the visitors from the get-go, Koch went on an absolute tear, scoring 16 of the Grizzlies’ first 23 points. North Woods held Fond du Lac to just five points in the final 11 minutes of the half to take an overwhelming 48-12 lead into the break. With North Woods substituting freely in the second half and Fond du Lac finding more success against the reserves, the Ogichida outscored the Grizzlies 26-24 in the

second frame, but still went home on the short end of a 72-38 pasting.

Koch led all scorers with 23 points.

The Grizzlies were

scheduled to host rival Ely on Thursday before hitting the road to take on Littlefork-Big Falls next Tuesday.

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PANDEMIC AND PETS

Some area pet owners concerned their dogs may have COVID-19

by JODI SUMMIT  
 Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- Some area residents are concerned that their dogs may be infected with the COVID-19 virus. But since there are not currently any readily available tests for dogs, at this point it is just a guess. “We are suspicious that some dogs may have COVID,” said Ely Vet Clinic owner Dr. Chip Hanson DVM. Symptoms in dogs are similar to those in humans: fever, coughing, difficulty breathing, sneezing, runny nose, vomiting, eye discharge, and diarrhea. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said that dogs infected with COVID-19 may or may not get sick, but that when pets have gotten sick they mostly had mild illness and fully recovered, and

that serious illness in pets is extremely rare. “The American Veterinary Medicine Association is currently advising us not to try to test dogs that we are suspicious of,” said Hanson. “They aren’t sure they have good testing worked out and so far they do not believe that they have documented dog-to person transmission.” Sc-entists believe that pets are catching the disease from infected family members. The CDC said that pets worldwide, including cats and dogs, have been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, mostly after close contact with people with COVID-19. But they also say the risk of pets spreading COVID-19 to people is low. The CDC said there is no evidence that the virus can spread to people from the skin,



fur, or hair of pets, and warnS pet owners not to wipe or bathe their pets with chemical disinfectants, alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, or other products such as hand sanitizer, counter-cleaning wipes, or other industrial or surface cleaners.

“The risk of animals spreading the COVID-19 virus to people is considered low. Animals don’t appear to play a major role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19,” writes Dr. Daniel DeSimone, on the Mayo Clinic website.

If you have COVID-19 and have a pet, the Mayo Clinic recommends: ➤ Isolate yourself from everyone else, including your pet, except to provide basic care. If possible, have another person in your household care for your pet. ➤ Avoid petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food or bedding with your pet. ➤ If you care for your pet or are around animals while you’re sick, wear a face mask. Wash your hands before and after handling animals and their food, waste and supplies. Also, make sure you clean up after your pet. If you have questions or concerns about your pet’s health and COVID-19, the CDC recommends that you contact your veterinarian.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Nancy L. Ernst

Nancy L. Ernst, 79, of Lincoln, Neb., passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022. A celebration of life was held on Monday, Feb. 14 at First Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln with Jim Keck officiating. Memorial donations may be made to Delta Gamma Foundation, 3250 Riverside Drive, Columbus, OH 43221 or Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, PO Box 659, Tower, MN 55790. Arrangements are with Roper and Sons Funeral Home of Lincoln. Nancy was born on

May 8, 1942, in Omaha. She graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and was a member of Delta Gamma Sorority. She held various Delta Gamma leadership roles at both the local and national levels and made lifelong friends. A beloved wife and mother, Nancy cherished her Lake Vermilion summers in Minnesota and was an active member of First Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln. Survivors include her children, Doug (Teri) Ernst, Jeff (Michele) Ernst and Kim Hoover; grandchildren, Carly (Ben), Hilary (Joe), Dylan, Lida, Flynn (Rachel), Miley (Geoff), Owen and Ian; great-grandson, Tommy; and brother, Bob Rosenberger.

She was predeceased by her parents, Gerald and Marion (Edmond) Rosenberger; brother, Jim Rosenberger; and beloved husband of 52 years, Tom Ernst, all of Lincoln.

Eugene Goodsky

Eugene “Gene” Goodsky, 80, of Nett Lake, Spiritual Advisor for Bois Forte and Medicinal Healer for many, took his last breath surrounded by family and wrapped in love from people around the world on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022. A Traditional Wake was held on Saturday, Feb. 12 and the Traditional Service was held on Sunday, Feb. 13, both at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center in Nett Lake. Military honors were accorded by the Marine Honor Guard, Bois Forte Honor Guard, Cook VFW Post 1757 Honor Guard and Orr American Legion Post 480 Honor Guard. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his children, Dianna, Lela (Fred), Curt (Mel) and Tom, 14 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; brother, Henry; sister, Ellen; numerous nieces and nephews; students who

became like his children; friends who were family; and his “most beautiful woman ever”, PJ.

Michael Lammi

Michael Lammi, 59, of Tower, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, at Essentia Health St. Mary’s in Duluth. Private family services will be held at a later date

He is survived by his daughter, Amber Lammi of Virginia; grandson, Clinton Seguin of Virginia; sister, Jill Lammi McGuire of Aurora; and brother, Greg Lammi of Tower.

Marvin W. Norha

Marvin Wayne Norha, 85, of Brunswick, Maine, originally of Embarrass, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, due to complications from Parkinson’s. A special thank you to Russell Park Living Center in Lewiston for the wonderful care they provided. A private service will be held in late

June at Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Augusta. Memorial donations may be made to the Parkinson’s Foundation or Midcoast Humane in Brunswick. Arrangements are with Stetson’s Funeral Home in Brunswick.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Janice Moreau Norha of Brunswick; children, Mark (Darcy) Norha of Virginia, Kelly (Billy) Wilson of Durham, N.C., and Kim (Roland) Rios of San Antonio, Texas; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister, Delores Clark of Virginia; and countless family and friends.

Joseph Krtinich

Joseph “Joe” Krtinich, 90, of Pengilly, passed away on Friday, Feb. 11, 2022. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until the noon funeral service on Saturday, Feb. 19 in the Peterson Funeral Chapel of Coleraine. Interment will be in Lakeview Cemetery in Coleraine with

military honors. Donations may be directed to the Range Regional Animal Rescue in Hibbing or the Pengilly Community Center. Arrangements are by Peterson Funeral Chapel and Cremation Services of Coleraine.

He is survived by his sister, Mary Ann (Fred Wells) Elfering of Crystal; sister-in-law, Bernadine Krtinich of Babbitt; nephews, Dan (Connie) Krtinich of Embarrass, Steve Krtinich of Babbitt and Gary (Dana) Elfering of Golden Valley; niece, Sue (Dan) Thomson of Dayton; five great-nephews; three great-nieces; and a great-great niece.

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 online  
 24/7

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

SECOND  
 AMENDED SUMMONS

Darren K. Lilja, Plaintiff,  
 vs.  
 Lorraine B. Hanela f/k/a Lorraine B. Meden; the 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; Melissa 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 Scoffidi; the unknown heirs of Liborio Scoffidi a/k/a Liborio Scoffidi a/k/a Lobarlo Scoffidi; 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 L. Spacagna; Raymond O. Spacagna, Jr.; Joseph F. Spacagna; Daniel J. Spacagna; Katherine E. Woods; the unknown heirs of Ronald J. Spacagna; Christopher A. Young; Randolph M. Young; Roberta L. Brofman; all other persons who are deceased; John Doe; Mary Roe; ABC Corporation; and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate interest, or lien in the real estate described in the complaint herein. Defendants.

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

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Plaintiff’s attorneys 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. You must mail or deliver a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this Second Amended Summons located at Olson, Redford & Wahlberg, P.A., One Corporate Center I, 7401 Metro Blvd., Suite 575, Edina, MN 55439.

THIS ACTION AFFECTS REAL PROPERTY located in St. Louis County, Minnesota, legally described as follows: South one-half of the Southeast Quarter (S ½ of SE ¼), Section Two (2), Township Sixty-two (62), Range Thirteen (13). EXCEPT: the South one-half (S ½). EXCEPT: the West half (W ½) 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 as provided 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 processes and about resources available in your area.

DATED: November 8, 2021

OLSON, 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

LEIDING TOWNSHIP  
 BOARD OF AUDIT

The Leiding Town Board will hold their Annual Board of Audit on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Leiding Town Hall.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 18, 2022

KABETOGRAMA TOWNSHIP  
 NOTICE OF ANNUAL ELECTION AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Kabetogama Township, County of Saint Louis, State of Minnesota that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March (March 15, 2022).

The election poll hours will be open from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, at which time the votes will elect: One Supervisor and one Clerk.

The Annual meeting will commence at 8:15 pm to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Board of Canvass will commence immediately following the Annual meeting.

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at the following location: Kabetogama Town Hall, 9707 Gamma Road, Kabetogama, MN 56669

Mary Manninen, Clerk, Town of Kabetogama

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 18, 2022

MORCOM TOWNSHIP  
 NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is here by given to the qualified voters of Morcom Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. In case of inclement weather; the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March, which is March 15, 2022.

The Election Poll hours will be open from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm, at which time the voters will elect:

- 1 Supervisor for a 3 year term
- 1 Supervisor for a 2 year term
- 1 Clerk for a 2 year term

The Board of Canvas will meet on Wednesday, March 9, at 5:30 pm to certify the election results.

The Annual Meeting of Morcom Township will commence at 8:00 pm following the closing of the Township Elections on Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

The Morcom Township Annual Meeting will be held at the Bear River School.

Sasha Lehto, Clerk, Morcom Township

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 18, 2022

BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP  
 Annual Town Meeting  
 Tuesday, March 8, 2022

The Annual Town Meeting for Bearville Township will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Bearville Town Hall, to set the levies, and to conduct any and all other business proper to be conducted when the Annual Meeting is convened. Residents of Bearville Township that are eligible to vote in Bearville Township may vote at the Annual Meeting. All meetings are open to the public.

In case of inclement weather, the Annual Town Meeting will be held one week later on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at the time and place stated.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk  
 bearvilletownship@gmail.com  
 218-376-4495

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 18 & 25, 2022

LEIDING TOWNSHIP  
 NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Leiding Township, County of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at the Leiding Town Hall.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

The election poll hours will be open from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot:

One Supervisor for a term of 3 years  
 One Clerk for a term of 2 years

The Board of Canvass will follow the election.

The Annual Meeting will commence following the Board of Canvass to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 18 & 25, 2022





# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
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## LEGAL BATTLE



## Judge orders gray wolf back on the endangered species list

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The on-again, off-saga of the gray wolf and its federal status under the Endangered Species Act appears to be on-again. A federal district in the Northern District of California, ruled late last week that the Trump administration erred when the Fish and Wildlife Service removed the wolf from threatened or endangered status in the lower 48 states.

While the FWS cited the wolf’s successful recovery in the Great Lakes states, including Minnesota, and the northern Rockies, the judge found that federal officials failed to consider the impact of the delisting on wolves in other parts of the lower 48 states.

The Biden administration had argued in court in favor of the Trump era decision to delist the wolf, but the court disagreed anyway.

The decision, once again, takes management of the gray wolf out of the hands of state governments, including Minnesota’s. It’s likely to head off pending legislation that would have required the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to hold a wolf hunt later this year.

The DNR had held off on a hunt last year, after the FWS announced the wolf’s delisting, but that DNR decision had rankled some northern Minnesota lawmakers who want to see at least a limited harvest of the state’s wolf population. Minnesota has, by far, the largest wolf population in the lower 48 states, with an estimated population of about 2,700 animals.

## Fishing reports

### Ely area

Lake trout fishing was slow for many anglers this last week. Anglers reportedly saw lots of trout on the graph and cameras, but often the trout wouldn’t chase or bite. Anglers that caught trout were often using jigging spoons and anglers fished the trout more like a walleye than a lake trout. This means they kept the spoons moving but didn’t reel the spoon away from the trout. Sharper breaks seemed to produce more trout than deep flats, points and sunken islands.

Anglers continued to have good luck catching stream trout this last week. Anglers have been finding Splake and Brook trout shallow, in ten feet of water or less, close to downed trees or weedbeds. Here, small spoons and tungsten jigs tipped with a wax worm or salmon egg has been very effective.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely

## ADVENTURE WITH A PURPOSE



# A woman, her dog, and the wild

Duluth woman, Emily Ford, to trek 210 miles across the frozen Boundary Waters

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

THE BOUNDARY WATERS— A young woman from Duluth is pitting her tenacity and desire for outdoor adventure against whatever Mother Nature serves up over the next month here, along the U.S.-Canadian border. With the help of her canine companion, named Diggins, Emily Ford left Crane Lake last Friday at the start of a 210-mile trek through the wilderness to Grand Portage.

She headed into the wilderness just ahead of some of the coldest temperatures of the winter. Thermometers around the area dropped to the mid-40s below zero on Sunday, with daytime highs struggling to reach above zero. But Ford, who spoke to the *Timberjay* just hours before embarking on her adventure, was confident she had the ability to meet the challenge.

Ford has spent much of the winter working at the Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge, near Ely, where she started as an intern. “But she was so competent, we just put her on staff,” said Wintergreen owner and operator Paul Schurke. She helped lead dogsled trips into the wilderness, where she learned winter survival methods from some of the most experienced polar explorers anywhere.

“It was awesome,” said Ford of the experience.

She’s road-tested her gear in the weeks leading up to her adventure and she’ll get some assistance from Diggins, who has learned to skijor, so he’ll be providing an assist as Ford propels herself and about 145 pounds of gear she’ll pull in a sled, known as a pulk, behind her. Ford couldn’t really predict what the trail conditions will be like over the next

**Above: Emily Ford and her dog Diggins on a test run just ahead of her trek across the Boundary Waters.**

**Right: Diggins peers out of Ford’s new four-season tent purchased for their adventure.**

photos by Jesse Roesler/  
Credo Nonfiction

month. She expects to be able to follow snowmobile tracks for a portion of the route that’s outside the Boundary Waters wilderness boundary. She also expects to find trails broken by mushers in other locations. But she’ll likely be breaking trail at points along the way. On large lakes, where the wind helps to pack the snow, the going may be relatively smooth. But with about two feet of snow on the ground, the going is likely to be challenging on untracked portages or smaller lakes. She expects to average about seven miles a day.

Ford will be traveling without a heated tent. Her new four-season tent includes a vestibule, where she’ll be able to cook meals, which is likely to provide a least a little break from the winter’s chill. Overnight, she’ll rely on a zero-degree-rated sleeping bag, a heavy quilt and the warmth provided by Diggins, who will sleep under the quilt, to stay warm.

Ford, who works summers as a gardener at Glensheen Mansion, is no stranger to physical challenges. Last winter, she made a name for herself, and Diggins, in the world of explorers when the two of them through-hiked the 1,200-mile Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin, becoming only the second person to do so. Diggins, an Alaskan huskie from Minnesota, joined Ford during her Wisconsin adventure last winter and the two have been inseparable



ever since. While this winter’s trek is shorter in distance than her Wisconsin adventure, it’s bound to be far more challenging. And, at times, she will be many, many miles from potential rescue. Ford, however, will have some help along the way. Sled dog teams from YMCA’s Camp Menogyn and the Voyageur Outward Bound School will provide supply drops at two locations along her route.

**Spreading the message** For Ford, the trip is not just a lark. She’s encouraging her more than 15,000 followers on Instagram to donate to the Friends of the Boundary Waters “No Boundaries to the Boundary Waters” program, designed to facilitate wilderness trips for underprivileged youth, particularly people of color. As a black woman, Ford hopes to use her status to encourage more people of color to venture into the outdoors. “It’s about reaching people who feels like the outdoors isn’t for them,” she said.

She said it costs about \$800 to send one young person on a

wilderness trip and she’s hoping to raise enough to make that experience possible for at least five kids.

Anyone wanting to donate to her cause can do so through the app Venmo by texting @emilyontrail or by going to her website at emilyontrail.com.

You can also search Emily Ford on Instagram, where she hopes to post updates and photos from her journey when cell phone service is available.

**Update:** On her fourth day on the trail, Ford reported slow going, with two days with snow and some open water on rivers. But, as of Tuesday, she had made it to Lac La Croix and was making good progress.

She reports that Diggins “got into something,” and wouldn’t eat for a day or so.” Diggins is feeling better now and is eating again but she’s taking a break from helping to pull Ford and her gear. “I’m not having her pull until she’s back and ready.”

## LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
15 -12					20 7					21 -7					9 -7					10 -15				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
02/07	13	0	0.00		02/07	11	0	0.00		02/07	12	2	0.03	0.5"	02/07	14	-6	0.00		02/07	11	-3	0.00	
02/08	15	-2	0.00		02/08	14	-2	0.00		02/08	14	0	0.00		02/08	39	9	0.00		02/08	14	-1	0.00	
02/09	35	14	0.06	1.3"	02/09	34	14	0.04	0.5"	02/09	34	10	0.09	1.8"	02/09	28	10	0.00		02/09	35	11	0.03	0.3"
02/10	22	9	0.02	0.5"	02/10	22	9	0.00		02/10	21	7	0.01	0.2"	02/10	21	9	0.00		02/10	21	6	0.00	
02/11	22	8	0.07	3.6"	02/11	23	8	0.20	1.8"	02/11	21	7	0.16	3.0"	02/11	21	-13	0.00		02/11	21	7	0.25	3.4"
02/12	18	-32	0.00		02/12	19	-32	0.00		02/12	16	-29	0.01	0.2"	02/12	-2	-29	0.00		02/12	10	-37	0.00	0.2"
02/13	1	-37	0.00		02/13	-1	-37	0.00		02/13	-1	-34	0.00		02/13	5	-36	0.00		02/13	-2	-40	0.00	
YTD Total			0.85	59.9"	YTD Total			0.97	36.3"	YTD Total			1.44	65.1"	YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			1.25	45.9"

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2/25



## Work at the TIMBERJAY!

**The Timberjay** has an opening for a part-time staffer to work in our Tower office. Duties include general office work, local reporting, editing of community notices, page layout, photography, and more. Lots of variety, flexible hours as long as work gets done by our deadline. Job would be about 12 hours a week (Tuesday through Thursday), with more hours available if desired. Looking for someone who enjoys working in a fast-paced environment, has good attention to detail, and enjoys dealing with the public. Job requires office computer skills (typing, email, familiarity with basic software programs). We will train the right candidate on graphics/page layout software.

For more information, call Jodi at 218-753-2950 (office), 218-750-3513 (cell), or email [editor@timberjay.com](mailto:editor@timberjay.com).

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### TOWER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTH. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Per the requirements of Minn. Stat. 469.105, Subd. 2, the Tower Economic Development Authority will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 3, at 5:00 p.m. to take public comment on the proposed sale of the following parcels currently owned by TEDA.

1) Gov't Lots 1 and 2, Section 6, Twp. 62-14, PID# 270-0010-00900

2) NW ¼ of SE ¼, Section 6, Twp. 62-14, PID# 270-0010-01030

3) SW ¼ of NE ¼, Section 6, Twp. 62-14, PID# 270-0010-00920

4) Lot 5, Block 22, Plat of Tower, PID# 080-0010-02630

The Tower Economic Development Authority has determined that the sale of properties #1-3, all of which are recreational lands located well outside the city, will generate revenues to further TEDA's economic development mission within the city of Tower. TEDA has further determined that the sale of the property #4 will further TEDA's mission by creating opportunity for new residential development.

The hearing will provide the public the opportunity to weigh in on the advisability of the proposed sale of the above-named properties. The TEDA board may make a decision on the advisability of the sale of the above-named properties at its March 3 regular meeting, which will immediately follow the public hearing.

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 18, 2022

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The application can be found at

<https://www.nettlakeschool.org/Job-Postings>

#### Please mail to:

Peter Hardy, Superintendent  
13090 Westley Drive  
Nett Lake, MN 55772

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2022



Is seeking a dynamic and experienced leader to serve as its **Executive Director** to advance the mission of the organization as it enriches life and the arts in the Ely community.

The Trust is seeking an Executive Director who will be responsible for managing and growing the grants program and endowment. The Executive Director will be the face of the organization, building on established relationships with artists, arts organizations, arts supporters, City of Ely, and Ely Chamber of Commerce. The Executive Director reports to the Trust's Board of Directors.

**Minimum Qualifications:** College graduate with experience in nonprofit organizations or the arts. Experience building and managing budgets or working with an endowment. Outstanding written, oral and interpersonal skills. Strong planning, organizational and analytical skills.

Position is 20-22 hours/week. First year may require ¼ time. Great opportunity with job flexibility in an arts-rich, beautiful northern Minnesota community.

The full job description is posted on the Trust's website at [www.gardnertrust.org](http://www.gardnertrust.org).

Application Deadline: Friday, April 1, 2022  
Position begins June 1, 2022.

2/11, 18, 25, 3/11, 25

### POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools School Board Director

Due to the resignation of a school board member, a position exits. The term expires December 2022. Interviews will be held on Monday, February 28, 2022 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room, 2nd floor of the Memorial Building. All applicants will be required to appear in person.

#### Qualifications include:

- One must be eligible to vote
- Will be 21 years old on assuming office
- Will have been a resident of the school district for 30 days before taking office
- Must pass a criminal background check

A complete application must include the following:

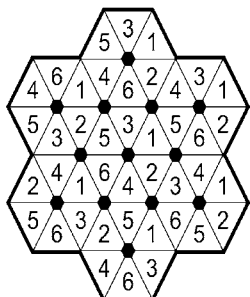
- Non-Licensed District Application (Application can be found at <https://www.ely.k12.mn.us/job-openings>)
- Resume
- Brief letter outlining the reasons they desire a seat on the board

Make application to: Chairman of the Board  
ISD #696 – Ely Public Schools  
600 Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731

Materials can be mailed, emailed to [mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us) or dropped off at the District Office.

Deadline to apply: Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in the district Office, 2nd floor of the Memorial Building.

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 18, 2022



### Super Crossword

#### Answers

B	O	W	L	E	S		A	C	C	E	P	T	E	D		W	H	I	S	K	
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### OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

#### Nursing

FT RN House Supervisor

#### Radiology

FT Radiologic Technologist

#### Care Center

FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.36/hr - \$1,500 Sign-On Bonus)  
PT RN/LPN (\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus)

#### Activities

PT & Casual Activities Assistant

#### Environmental Services

Casual Laundry Aide  
Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

#### Dietary

FT Dietary Aide/Cook  
FT Head Cook

#### TO APPLY:

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

More Info? Contact Human Resources

**218-666-6220**  
[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF VACANCY Board of Commissioners Opioid Remediation Subcommittee

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners will be making appointments to the Opioid Remediation subcommittee. As a result of the national settlement of a class action lawsuit involving several prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors, the state of Minnesota is estimated to receive \$300 million over the next 18 years, and of that, St. Louis County will be receiving the fifth largest local share. To determine how to prioritize use of these funds for the most meaningful long-term impact, the County is establishing an advisory committee and is seeking community expert involvement.

The Committee will meet virtually and jointly determine the day and time to meet. Particularly welcome are representatives from diverse backgrounds including people with knowledge of prevention, treatment and recovery, harm reduction, and criminal justice.

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

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

NANCY NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER  
BY: Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board

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

### STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Court File No. 69VI-PR-22-15

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Mark Edward Miklaucic, aka Mark E. Miklaucic, aka "Mico" Miklaucic, aka M.E. Miklaucic, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 9, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 300 5th Ave. South, Virginia, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent,

and for the appointment of James A. Miklaucic, whose address is 6907 14th Ave. S, Richfield, Minnesota, 55423, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of

this Notice or the claims will be barred.

If you have an objection to this case, please contact Court Administration at 218-221-7560 option#8 for further instructions as these hearings are currently held remotely due to the pandemic.

Dated: January 26, 2022

BY THE COURT  
Robert Friday  
Judge of District Court  
Amy Turnquist  
Court Administrator  
Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner  
Angela E. Sipila  
Sipila Law Office LLC  
412 1st Street S, Suite 1  
Virginia, MN, 55792  
Attorney License No.: 024501X  
Telephone: 218-741-5000  
Fax: 218-741-5000  
Email: [ange@sipilaw.com](mailto:ange@sipilaw.com)

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

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### HOSPICE

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

### SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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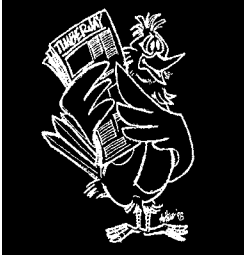
### WANTED

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

### HELP WANTED

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

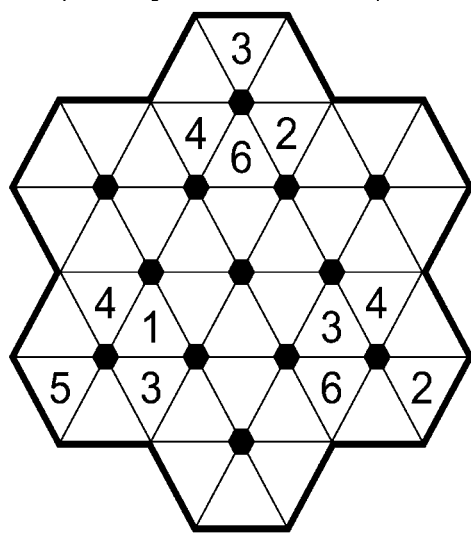
Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!



SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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### SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS- East Range meetings and information, call 218-749-3387 or [www.district8online.org](http://www.district8online.org).


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


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## Super Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 “Cabaret” performer Sally  
7 Allowable  
15 Egg-beating utensil  
20 Carey of pop  
21 Red wine, in Rouen  
22 Sonja on ice skates  
23 Start of a riddle  
25 Western flick, in old slang  
26 Like arias and anthems  
27 “Go back to zero” button  
28 Halloween's mo.  
29 Titan orbits it  
30 Other, to Juanita  
32 Bible book before Jeremiah  
34 Kingly title  
35 Perp pursuer  
38 Riddle, part 2  
43 Giraffe's kin  
45 Writer — Hubbard  
46 1998 Disney musical set in China  
47 Riddle, part 3  
52 Rubber-stamping item  
56 No, to Nabokov  
57 Worn-down pencils, e.g.  
58 Raise, as a building  
61 Pie — mode  
62 Maestro Kurt  
64 Actress Debra  
66 Second-rate flick  
68 Riddle, part 4  
73 Within easy reach  
74 Sports facilities  
75 Rudely brief  
76 Chomp on  
77 Begin  
78 “Der —” (Konrad Adenauer's nickname)  
80 General — chicken  
83 Canonized Italian theologian  
86 Riddle, part 5  
90 Composer John Philip —  
93 John Candy's old skit show  
94 Bath sponge  
95 End of the riddle  
102 — -Ops (CIA tactics)  
103 QED part  
104 Nobel-winning “Mother”  
105 Sleep furniture  
107 Paid a visit  
109 Feline cry  
110 Credit card draw  
113 Beef quality grader: Abbr.  
117 Old arcade company  
118 Riddle's answer  
121 Like a well-pitched game  
122 Audits, as a course  
123 Actress Fawcett  
124 Vestige  
125 Mini-dictionary  
126 Having soft, loose flesh

**DOWN**

1 Sporty German cars  
2 Honolulu's island  
3 Dark brown songbird  
4 Insider talk  
5 Unit of corn  
6 Shepherd formerly of “The View”  
7 Giant in car rental  
8 Funny — (racehorse)  
9 Tech news website  
10 Suffix with west  
11 San Luis —, Mexico  
12 Florence native, e.g.  
13 Self-obsession  
14 Rock's — Leppard  
15 Horse halter?  
16 Circuit-cooling device  
17 Get a gut feeling about  
18 With 39-Down, John Muir was its first president  
19 Unit of corn  
24 Briny bodies  
29 Movie critic Gene  
31 Taunt in good humor  
32 “Money — object”  
33 Lead-in to puncture  
35 McCarthy lawyer Roy  
36 Allowable  
37 Sidewalk materials  
39 See 18-Down  
40 Meal scraps  
41 Phone book listings: Abbr.  
42 Skillet or wok  
44 Wall-breaching bomb  
48 “Movin’ —” (“The Jeffersons” theme)  
49 Most chaste  
50 Group of brainiacs  
51 Therefore  
53 Store selling latex  
54 “That is — ask”  
55 “— Yankees”  
59 Conger, e.g.  
60 Like pizza  
63 Articulate  
64 Girth  
65 Here, in Arles  
66 Life story, in brief  
67 Table — (pair's seating)  
68 “— -Team” (2010 movie)  
69 Cole — (footwear brand)  
70 Tony winner Hagen  
71 Citrusy  
72 Amish “you”  
77 Like prurient material  
78 Joking Johnson  
79 Tax  
81 Clumsy sorts  
82 Hotel visit  
84 Mysterious  
85 Hulk player Ferrigno  
87 This, to Juan  
88 I, to Merkel  
89 Inuit vehicle  
91 Cow or hen  
92 Letters sent by plane  
95 Pour, as wine from a bottle  
96 Speechifier  
97 Steinway rival  
98 Really must  
99 Sneaker brand  
100 Lyft rival  
101 Accompany to the airport, perhaps  
106 Old Toyota  
108 Chomp on  
110 Penta- plus four  
111 — about (roughly)  
112 Big Apple blaze-control org.  
114 Balkan native  
115 Lacking color  
116 Lacking color  
118 Chinese menu abbr.  
119 Family gal  
120 Comrade

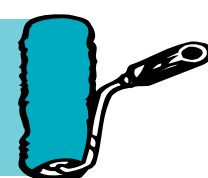
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Jodee Micheletti  
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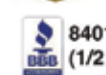
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### FIELD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Field Township, County of St. Louis, and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

The election poll hours will be from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot: One Supervisor for a term of 3 years One Clerk for a term of 2 years

The Board of Canvass will meet following the Election.

The Annual Meeting will commence following the Board of Canvass to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Election and Meetings will be held at the Field Town Hall.

The Reorganization Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17 at 7 p.m. at the clerk's home. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on March 29.

Any questions, contact the clerk at [clerk@fieldtownship.com](mailto:clerk@fieldtownship.com).

Pat Chapman, Town Clerk, Field Township

Published in the Timberjay, February 18, 2021

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