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The **TIMBERJAY**



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ELECTION 2022

New political reps for some area residents



Rep. Rob Ecklund

Third District boundary changes impact several local townships

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Residents of several townships in northern St. Louis and Itasca counties have both a new state senator and a new representative following the announcement of the latest political boundaries on

Feb. 15. The revised boundaries, established by a panel of judges, are part of the redistricting that follows every once-a-decade census. The 2020 census provided the latest documentation of the gradual shift of the state's population toward the Twin

Cities metro region, and that trend has forced many rural legislative districts in northern and western Minnesota to expand geographically in order to include the required number of residents to equal the representation in other districts across the state.

The Third Senate

District encompasses a vast swath of northeastern and north-central Minnesota, stretching 230 miles east-to-west along the Canadian border, from Grand Portage nearly to Baudette on Lake of the Woods.

See...**REPS** pg. 9



Sen. Tom Bakk

GET OUTSIDE

Ready, set, race!

WolfTrack Classic is this weekend

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY—The 14th running of the WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race here will be held on Sunday, Feb. 27. The first race team leaves the starting gate at the Ely softball field complex at 9 a.m. sharp.

Organizers said as many as 50 teams, the most ever, are signed up for the two mid-distance race events. Following COVID-19 restrictions last year, spectators are welcome and encouraged this year at all the events.

“The weekend starts as the mushers roll into town on Saturday for the musher dinner at Vermilion Community College,” said Ellen Cashman, Ely Chamber of Commerce event organizer. The spaghetti dinner is sponsored by the VCC Wilderness Club and served in the VCC cafeteria from 4 to 6 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door.

For race day on Sunday, teams arrive at the Ely Softball Complex by 7 a.m. to prepare for the race. “The public is welcome,

See...**RACE** pg. 11



An energetic dog sled team, above, leaves the starting gate at last year's WolfTrack Classic Race in Ely. A team heads into the woods, above, near Highway 1. At least 50 teams are registered for this year's event. Timberjay file photos

THE LEGISLATURE

Bill would create relief program for borderland businesses

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Northland businesses affected by extended closures along the Canadian border as well as closures related to last summer's fires, could get financial relief under legislation authored by District 3A Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls.

The bill, known as HF 2811, would create a new Canadian Border Counties Economic Relief Program, which would provide financial help to businesses adversely affected by last year's fires in and around the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and the border closure between March 2020 and July 2021.

“In Minnesota, we have a long track record of helping out areas of our state when they experience hardship, and last year's fires and the prolonged border closure have devastated many businesses along the Canadian border,” Ecklund said in a statement announcing the measure.

While Ecklund said he originally drafted his bill with the thought of aiding outfitters impacted by the widespread fire-related closures in the Boundary Waters last summer, he heard from many business and community leaders in the district that the closures in the wilderness at the Canadian border had impacted many other businesses as well.

Ecklund's bill includes \$15 million worth of grants for businesses in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, or Kittson counties with a documented revenue decline of at least 10 percent between 2020 and 2021. The maximum grant award is \$50,000. Originally, the funding in the legislation was targeted to assist Boundary Waters area outfitters, but Ecklund worked with other business owners and civic leaders to expand the bill's scope.

Several northern Minnesota officials and business owners spoke of their support for the measure at a hearing of the House Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee, held Feb. 16. Video of the hearing is available on the House Public Information Services YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/MNHouseInfo.

At the hearing, Chairman Robert

See...**RELIEF** pg. 9

EDITORIAL
Ecklund's Aid Bill
Page 4

Ely centenarian earns 'mushing degree'

Celebrates 100th birthday with a dog sled ride

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY - Barbara Bliss Kollar turned 100 years old last week and she received her DDE “Doctorate in Dogsledding Experience” to celebrate.

The diploma was presented by Paul Schurke, world class explorer and owner of Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge, at Barbara's 100th birthday party on Wednesday, Feb. 16 at the Grand Ely Lodge. Schurke also took her for her official dogsledding ride.



Barbara had previously earned her “undergraduate” and “master's” degrees from Wintergreen Dogsled Lodge at the ages of 98 and

Barb Kollar turned 100 years old last week and celebrated the milestone by taking a dog sled ride with Paul Schurke at Wintergreen. submitted photos

99. “Barb takes the cake as our oldest musher ever,” Schurke said.

Barbara, originally from Massachusetts and a veteran of rugged winters, first retired to Englewood and Venice in Florida. She

See...**BARB** pg. 12



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Community notices

Pancake breakfast in Embarrass set for Saturday, March 5

EMBARRASS- Support the Embarrass Region Fair Association by coming for all-you-can-eat pancakes on Saturday, March 5 from 8 - 11 a.m. The meal also includes a choice of ham or sausage links, fruit cup, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee. Pancake breakfasts are held the first Saturday of each month through May at the Timber Hall. Adults \$6, children (6-10 years) \$3, and under 5 years free.

Junior/Cadette Girl Scout Troop 1807 will be at the pancake breakfast selling Girl Scout Cookies for \$5 per box.

Finnish Americans and Friends to meet March 1

HIBBING- Finnish Americans and Friends will meet at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1 at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th Ave. in Hibbing. This month's program will be provided by those in attendance who wish to share stories, pictures, memorabilia, recipes, or anything with a Finnish connection. Visiting and reminiscing will continue at the coffee social time after the program. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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.

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 House-barn. There will be time to socialize with fellow Sisu members over coffee and - 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.

LOCAL ARTISTS

Lyric hosts Range FiberArt Guild style show, March 3

VIRGINIA- The Lyric Center for the Arts in Virginia, an entity of the Laurentian Arts and Culture Alliance, is hosting a style show by the Range FiberArt Guild on Thursday, March 3 in the Lyric Annex at 6:30 p.m. The event is free to the public as part of the First Thursday Queen City Art Crawl.

"Members of the Range FiberArt Guild will be sharing their wearable fiber art creations with a style show. From scarves to sweaters, slippers to hats, accessories and everything in between," said Kristy Balder of the guild. "Learn about how they were made, what they're made of, and what makes them special. Items are knit, crocheted, woven, felted and sewn, to name a few techniques," Balder said.

"The monthly First

Thursday Art Crawls have been a creative addition to the city of Virginia over the past year. This style show is a great example of the unique offerings provided at First Thursday events," said Lyric Center executive director Paul M. Gregersen.

"Our members are so creative and talented. I'm sure many folks will want to know how things were made and try making them for themselves. The show is sure to inspire," Balder said.

During the style show, the Lyric Center gallery will be open to the public and feature a collabora-



tion of pieces by various visual artists. Their work will continue to be displayed through the month of March. Gallery hours are from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursdays through Saturdays.

COVID-19 protocols will be in effect for

the style show and can be found at lyriccenteronline.org.

ELY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Free marketing classes for businesses offered in Ely

ELY- The Ely Chamber of Commerce is offering free business development sessions on alternate Thursdays, March 3, 17 and 31. Each session will run from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge. Molly Solberg from MAS Marketing will lead the sessions.

The first session focuses on goal setting, creating a marketing plan, identifying marketing basics and the latest trends, and website basics. The second session is all about searches and using them to help

both residents and visitors quickly find your business. Information will include Google Business and other marketing tactics. The final session dives into social media marketing strategies, including new tips and trends, plus content ideas. While each session focuses on a different aspect of marketing, the classes do build on one another.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to prepare for our upcoming summer season. Molly's expertise is in marketing, so she is a wonderful

resource with all the latest information," said Eva Sebesta, Executive Director of the Ely Chamber of Commerce. "We hope area businesses and nonprofits will take advantage of this free opportunity to promote their organization."

Space is limited to 25 people, so preregistration is required. Contact 218-365-6213 or director@ely.org to reserve your space. Additional information is available at <https://www.ely.org/chamber/business-development/>.

ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM

Acrylic Painting Take-and-Crete Art Kits available

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) will be providing Acrylic Painting Take-and-Crete Art Kits to member public libraries to distribute from March 1 - 31. This art experience has been designed by 321 Art Studio in Chisholm and explores acrylic painting for beginners and more advanced participants. Take and Create Art Kits will include supplies to create two unique pictures - one for beginners and one for advanced painters - one 11 x 14 stretched canvas, one 9 x 12 canvas board, one sheet of mixed media paper, and one paint kit that contains a drawing pencil, two brushes, and 12 tubes of acrylic paint. A follow-along instructional video will be shared online for partici-



pants. It will include simple instructions and tips on using paint, canvas, and brushes. Each kit will include enough supplies for three paintings, so participants have multiple options to practice and/or create something of their own.

Kits will be distributed at the following public libraries and ALS

outreach locations: Aurora Public Library, Babbitt Public Library, Cook Public Library, Ely Public Library, International Falls Public Library, Virginia Public Library, Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile, and the Arrowhead Library System Mail-A-Book. (Patrons must qualify for Mail-A-Book services and the kit

may be modified in order to be delivered by mail.)

This program is geared towards tweens, teens and adults. Please note each location has a limited number of kits; feel free to contact your local library for more information.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see the calendar at www.alslib.info or like ALS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

Business Development Series

SESSION ONE

March 3, 2022 1-4 p.m. Grand Ely Lodge Conference Room

Goal Setting, Creating a Marketing Plan, Marketing Basics and New Trends in Marketing. Website Basics.

SESSION TWO

March 17, 2022 1-4 p.m. Grand Ely Lodge Conference Room

Local Search, get found by locals and tourists/visitors through local/mobile search results. Google Business and other marketing tactics.

SESSION THREE

March 31, 2022 1-4 p.m. Grand Ely Lodge Conference Room

Social Media Marketing strategies. New Trends and Tips. Content Ideas.

Leading the sessions is Molly Solberg, owner of MAS Marketing in Duluth. Molly has lead a number of workshops in the Ely area and always provides cutting edge information to help businesses improve their visibility and reach a broader clientele.

All sessions are offered free of charge by the Ely Chamber of Commerce. You do not need to be a Chamber member to attend. It is not necessary to attend all three sessions, however, each session does compliment and build on the previous one. Sessions are limited to 25 people. Preregistration is required. Please contact 218-365-6123 or director@ely.org to reserve your space.



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POLITICS

New Eighth District slightly friendlier to Dems?

Boundary changes on the western fringe tilt blue, but addition of northern suburbs likely to balance the score

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The new political boundaries in Minnesota’s Eighth District appear to have given the district a bit more of a purplish hue, now encompassing some of the most Democratic-leaning territory anywhere in Minnesota. At the same time, two of the state’s reddest counties, Morrison and Wadena, were dropped from the district as a result of the new political maps approved by a judicial panel earlier this month.

The new boundaries, established following the completion of the 2020 census, won’t make the Eighth District an easy win for Democrats — not by a long shot. The district, once a Democratic stronghold, has trended sharply rightward since 2010 and remains a likely GOP seat, currently held by Republican Rep. Pete Stauber.

Yet the new boundaries, designed to equalize the population between all eight of

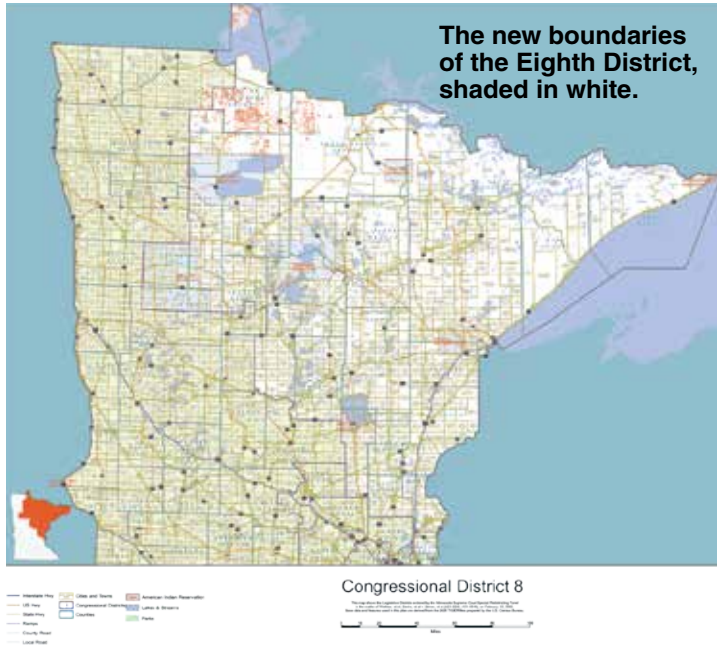
Minnesota’s congressional districts, could make the Eighth a bit more competitive with a well-chosen Democratic candidate, particularly in a mid-term election, when lower turnout can occasionally play to the advantage of a challenger.

While the boundaries of the Eighth remain

“The GOP advantage is strong in the northern metro.”

Prof. Larry Jacobs
University of Minnesota

unchanged in northeastern Minnesota, the new boundaries push the Eighth far to the west, to within 40 miles of the North Dakota border in some locations. While much of northwestern Minnesota is now GOP-leaning, that’s not universally true. The Red Lake and White Earth reservations encompass much of



the Eighth District’s new western frontier and they comprise much friendlier territory for Democrats than some of the surrounding townships off the reservation. Overall, the new Eighth District is home to a substantially larger native population than before — a total of 30,656 compared to

17,096 in the old Eighth District.

Red Lake, in particular, is one of the bluest places in Minnesota. In 2020, Democrat Collin Peterson, who then represented Minnesota’s Seventh District, beat his GOP challenger, Michelle Fischbach, on the Red Lake Reservation by an

overwhelming 1,264 to 99. Yet, while Red Lake’s blue tint is overwhelming, the number of voters found there is relatively small.

Mahnomen County, which includes most of the White Earth Reservation, is home to twice as many voters as Red Lake, although they are much more evenly divided than at Red Lake, a fact that reflects a more mixed population at White Earth.

In 2020, Peterson won the county 1,386 to 1,239 for Fischbach. It’s a similar story in the city of Bemidji, long a part of the Seventh District. It’s a new addition to the Eighth and it has a history of voting narrowly Democratic.

While the addition to two reservations and the city of Bemidji provide a modest advantage to the Democrats in the new Eighth, Democrats can expect an even bigger boost from the elimination of much of Morrison and Wadena counties from the new Eighth District. In the most recent general election,

See EIGHTH...pg. 5

Longtime advocate for working families diagnosed with ALS

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL — Accolades poured in this week in recognition of a longtime and courageous advocate for social and economic justice in the region.

Dennis Frazier, who spent decades as a St. Louis County social worker and activist with AFSCME Local 66, announced this week that he has been diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, otherwise known as ALS or “Lou Gehrig’s Disease,” and is stepping down from his union and county positions.

“Dennis’s fearless and outspoken representation of AFSCME members is a thing to behold,” said Sen. David Tomassoni, of Chisholm. Tomassoni, who is also suffering from ALS, said he understands the battle that Frazier will be



Dennis Frazier speaks during an AFSCME event. The longtime union activist and child protection worker is retiring after a recent diagnosis of ALS. photo courtesy AFSCME Council 5

facing as he fights a degenerative and ultimately fatal disease. “I know this is not what he planned for his well-deserved retirement but I know he will tackle this disease head-on just like he has approached his work with AFSCME,” said Tomassoni.

Frazier has been rec-

ognized with a number of awards over the years for his numerous contributions to the union movement in northeastern Minnesota. He has served on the AFSCME Council 5 executive board since 2008 and Local 66 President since 2010.

Julie Bleyhl, AFSCME Council 5 Executive

Director, said Frazier’s dedication to improving the lives of working class people had permeated throughout the union he worked to represent. “Dennis’s unyielding defense of vulnerable children as a child protection worker and fighting in the workplace and in the halls of power for significant reforms has led to positive structural change in the protection of vulnerable children across our state,” Bleyhl added.

St. Louis County Administrator Kevin Gray said Frazier has stood out over the years. “Dennis has dedicated his life to helping others, working throughout his career, even beyond normal retirement age, because of his commitment to protect children and help families.”

Frazier, who spent nearly 40 years in child

protection with St. Louis County, was a person who wasn’t afraid to speak up when he saw injustice, or policies, even in his own department, that he felt weren’t in the best interests of those he served. “I put Dennis’s name in my Rolodex when I first met him 30 years ago because I recognized someone who had the courage to put his name behind his words and his beliefs,” said Timberjay Publisher Marshall Helmlinger. “We talked many times over the years and he helped me immensely in trying to report on some of the important issues he was dealing with every day. And he, invariably, ended our conversations saying, ‘And you can quote me!’ You don’t hear that very often.”

State Rep. Julie Sandstede, of Hibbing, said

she recognized the strength of purpose that Frazier brought to any task he undertook. “His wisdom, kindness, and passion for the people he advocated for serve as an inspiration and model for me,” she said. “I’m heartbroken to learn of his ALS diagnosis but this much I know: Dennis is a fighter!”

Even in his retirement, Frazier continued to make the case for the value of union organizing. “While there are often many down feelings with this disease, it is clear that I would not be receiving the outstanding medical care and therapy I have been, without my union-negotiated health insurance and other benefits that we can secured over the years,” he said. “To my union brothers and sisters — solidarity is our only path forward.”

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OPINION

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Editorial

Ecklund's aid bill

Legislation would provide much-needed help for border and fire-impacted businesses

As if the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic haven't been strain enough for many North Country businesses, the impact of last year's fire-related closures in the Boundary Waters, as well as the effective closure of the U.S.-Canadian border going on nearly two years now, has piled the misery even higher.

Several economic development officials, a tribal chairman, and North Country business owners testified in a state House committee on Feb. 16 in support of legislation that would create the Canadian Border Counties Economic Relief Program. If passed by the Legislature, it could provide a much-needed shot in the arm for area outfitters, hotels, shops, and other businesses that have been impacted by recent closures.

The legislation (HF 2811), authored by Rep. Rob Ecklund of International Falls would provide up to \$15 million in funding to help businesses in the region that can demonstrate significant losses as a result of the closures. Local wilderness outfitters, who saw what had looked to be an excellent summer whither in the face of widespread Boundary Waters closures, would be among the potential beneficiaries with both loans and grants.

While some businesses in the region have done fine, even thrived, during the pandemic, certain businesses, particularly those that rely on cross-border traffic, have been severely impacted. Among the hardest hit is the Grand Portage Band, located at the very tip of the Arrowhead. The band had just completed an expensive renovation of their hotel resort and casino when COVID hit. Given their location, about 45 miles southwest of Thunder Bay, Canadian guests have traditionally made up about 80-85 percent of the band's customer base. When COVID arrived and the border shut down, their business dropped 90 percent, according to tribal chairman Robert Deschampe. It has yet to recover. While the border is technically open, the restrictions in place are onerous enough, particularly for discretionary crossings, that Canadian visitors are staying away.

It's much the same at

International Falls, where border crossings fell from nearly 400,000 in 2019, to barely 80,000 in 2020. Many retailers in that border city rely on Canadians for most of their sales, so the disappearance of Canadian shoppers has devastated retail stores, gas stations, medical providers, and restaurants. The fall-off in American-based traffic coming through town on the way to the border has also hit businesses hard. That undoubtedly contributed to the closure of the community's long-time newspaper, *The Journal*, among nearly a dozen other businesses.

Imagine the impact, as well, at Ryden's Border Store, a gas station and duty-free shop located about a quarter-mile from the border crossing near Grand Portage. The Ryden family has owned and operated the store since 1947, but they've never experienced the kind of impact the border closure had on their business, which went from a busy and thriving enterprise to nearly a ghost town when the border closed. They, like many of the businesses that would potentially benefit from this bill, have been devastated by events that have clearly been beyond their control.

It's hardly unusual for the state to pitch in with financial assistance under such circumstances. In 2016, for example, when the walleye fishery on Mille Lacs Lake collapsed, the Legislature approved a \$3.6 million aid package, including grants and loans, to help resort owners and other businesses in that area, who were severely affected by the steep decline in anglers. Ecklund's bill is modeled on that earlier relief package.

For those businesses truly affected by these closures, Ecklund's bill would be a godsend. At the same time, the closures last year didn't affect every business in the region. In fact, some did very well and, quite frankly, don't need additional support from taxpayers. Fortunately, the measure would require that businesses document a financial decline from 2019 of at least ten percent. Businesses that have truly been hurt by the closures will have no difficulty documenting that harm. Which is why we urge the Legislature to adopt Ecklund's measure.



"THEY BOTH SAY THEY WANT TO GET BACK TO NORMAL. THE PROBLEM IS, THIS IS NORMAL."

Letters from Readers

Vote Rick Stoehr for Greenwood board

Greenwood Township residents will go the polls on March 8 to elect one supervisor to the township board. I am writing to you concerning the candidate, Rick Stoehr. I have known Rick for 20 years-plus. He is an honest guy, hardworking, and will do what he can to help, however he can.

He follows through on what he says. Rick attends most of the township meetings. He sees what is happening. He does not just spout off. He does his homework before he speaks.

Greenwood needs a change. I encourage you to vote for Rick Stoehr.

George Stefanich
Greenwood Township

Thanks for the great coverage of Ely's Winter Festival

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Ely Winter Festival, I want to thank the *Timberjay* for Keith Vandervort's comprehensive stories in the run-up to the festival and for his pictures throughout the festival. This is an important public service.

The Ely Winter Festival is a nonprofit organization that couldn't mount this festival each year without support from our sponsors; the snow carvers; sponsors of events; the Ely Chamber of Commerce; in-kind donations from local businesses; grants, including from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, the Donald G. Gardner Trust, the Minnesota State Arts Board; and many dedicated volunteers. We give special thanks to the Ely Public Works Department.

We're happy that the festival coincides with the Ely Artwalk. Those volunteers have created a wonderland in the windows of Ely's businesses. It's not too late to walk up and down Sheridan and Chapman Streets and see the beautiful pieces created by local artists and craftspersons.

The displays will be up until the end of the month.

The EWF Board and our coordinator, Shauna Vega, work year-round to bring this beautiful festival to Ely every year.

Carol Orban
Ely

Why I think Camp Atsokan is so important

I recently finished a grant interview, the board chair asked, "Wow, where did you get your passion?" That got me thinking. Metacognition is my pastime. Yes, indeed, yes indeed, where does that passion to support young women come from? Meta, meta, meta. Where does that passion for the sharing of stories come from? Where does that need to be heard come from?

So, during my COVID-induced Writing Sabbatical (thank you, VCC) here is what I came up with. I am the product of the Vietnam War. (Technically, not a war. I know.) The words and pictures of that era, etched in my brain. Little Kim Phuc Phan Thi running naked down the street, arms outstretched like Christ on a cross. Napalmed in Error the headline etched in my ten-year-old brain. She could be me. I could be she. I could be her. Being raised on a military base wasn't easy, it was during a war pretending to be a military exercise, and these stateside disappointments were considered "the sissy" brigade (gotta love the patriarchal use of that word), weren't the easiest men to be around, this was before we understood the effects of trauma on the brain. (Note to self: That last sentence was way too Faulkner.) Let's just say, a military base wasn't a safe place to be a kid. But it is the culture I grew up in and it's my tribe, a tribe which I am still very protective of. It was a tribe but it was also a caste system. Rank and file, pecking order. Yes, it still bothers me. The privileged children of pilots lived in brick houses, while the others, the merely enlisted, lived in cul de sacs of cruelty and criticism, tough times, everyone was stressed, but I understand it

now, those subconscious choices we make that appear to the outside world as our "core values".

I like Camp Atsokan because it supports young women. I helped create Camp Atsokan because young people need a place to be heard. And stories can be shared. And stories can be cared for and honored in the right space by adults who know how. I support Camp Atsokan because I believe that young people need a safe space to find a sacred place in their hearts. There is no "Other," there is no "Us" and "Them," there is only WE.

Camp Atsokan is also a place where young women hold a sacred space to listen to other people's stories. I support that. I have heard the criticism of the gender bias in Camp Atsokan design. That is true. I own that. That is just laziness on my part and part of the reason I sat down to write this. I am willing, and Story Portage is more than willing, to support any parent or teacher who wishes to create an equal camp for boys. And I will support you in the exact same manner I currently support Heather Cavalier. Whatever you would like us to co-create with you, we will. Because the most important thing is that we are sharing our stories, in sacred places of beauty and respect.

You can support Camp Atsokan and/or Story Portage by sending a check to Story Portage, PO Box 286, Ely, MN 55731. Yes, the rumor is true, Camp Atsokan is transferring to a bigger organization in 2023. I totally support the move because children are children, no matter where they grew up or where they were born. She could be me and I could be she. This is not about my ego—yes, I know I have a super ego, I own that as well—and in this case, rest assured I fully understand irony—but this writing sabbatical has taught me a great deal, that there is only WE. And WE are "oneness."

Jeanette Marie Cox
Ely

War and Peace: The choice is ours

I've hung out a lot with peace-loving people, so I've been aware for a long time of efforts to create a Department of Peace at the cabinet level. It makes total sense. We NEED one.

However, I haven't helped to get one created nor even dug very deeply to find out what has been happening with the idea, so, here's



BETTY FIRTH

a little digging, and I'll share that info with you, because you probably don't know much about it either. As often happens, my intention to cover the topic in depth is not supported by the space available to me, but I can offer a beginning.

I have heard it said that one difficulty with promoting the concept

of peace is that it doesn't come with hard-hitting images, so it is often defined by what it is not, as in "not at war," rather than by what it really means, such as living in safe neighborhoods, working cooperatively with others, enjoying a country where people have food, shelter, and health care as basic human rights. Although I use the word "peace" here, it must be understood that unless you automatically think "peace and justice," the term is quite meaningless.

I'm going to pause here

just to clarify that I am not completely naive about this. I recognize that we live in the military-industrial complex that President Eisenhower warned us about in the '50s. His nightmare vision has come true in spades. Our country is addicted to war, and we have seldom been free of conflicts throughout our history, often manipulating the politics and economies of other countries for our benefit. Remember the bumper sticker from the Iraq War: "What's our oil doing under your sand?"

The war machine keeps the factories humming, the miners mining, the research labs producing, and the power and money flowing to the owners of capital without benefitting the rest of us quite so much. That's not to mention the 1,305,000 American deaths and an exponentially larger number of mental and physical injuries from 1775 to 2022.

Those who benefit from the status quo are not likely the ones who will support a Department

See **PEACE...** pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Time to end the unfair tax on Social Security

Dear friends and neighbors: The legislative session began on Jan. 31, and we are working hard to address the many pressing concerns facing our region and our entire state. The COVID-19 pandemic has been an undeniable challenge for all of us. People in Northern Minnesota have demonstrated their trusted and true resilience in navigating these difficult times, and many signs point to an economic recovery. The bad news is costs continue to skyrocket in our everyday lives, with working families and seniors facing too much of the brunt.

The good news is Minnesota has a \$7.7 billion budget surplus, giving us an opportunity to help more Minnesotans keep more money in their pockets, address skyrocketing costs, and better afford their lives. We frequently, consistently, and loudly hear from both seniors and those approaching retirement about the state tax on Social Security income. Both of us believe that now is the time to finally eliminate this unfair tax and we have recently introduced companion bills in the House and Senate to do just that.

Minnesota is one of only twelve states that currently taxes Social Security income and the tax impacts roughly 352,000 Minnesota seniors. This tax encourages our seniors to leave

Minnesota in their retirement years which costs our state potential revenue, volunteerism, charitable giving, and economic development. Seniors already paid tax on this income in their working years, and it is unfair they be asked to pay again.

Not one dime of Social Security income was taxed by either the state or federal government prior to 1984 when Congress made 50 percent of Social Security income federally taxable and the State Legislature conformed by making the same amount subject to Minnesota taxes. In 1994, Congress increased the taxable portion of income to 85 percent with the Legislature following suit for state taxes.

In recent years, lawmakers have made some incremental changes, including an income tax subtraction phasing out based on income. While minor, these changes highlight how lawmakers recognize—nearly universally—just how unpopular the Social Security income tax is among Minnesotans. So why has this problem been so hard to solve? The short answer is, it would be expensive; a full elimination of the Social Security income tax would be a hit to the state general fund nearing \$1 billion over a two-year budget period. While there may be a cost—and yes, we acknowledge it's a significant one—our public policy decisions should be based on our values as Minnesotans, not on what's easy.

Senior citizens, and the income on which they already paid taxes, should have never been made to serve as a cash cow for the general fund in the first place. Just because we've always done something (or since 1985 anyway), isn't a reason by itself to keep doing something.

We have a golden opportunity at our doorstep to protect the economic security of Minnesotans living in their golden years. Our state has a forecasted \$7.7 billion surplus and is in a good fiscal position to end this double tax once and for all. Giving historic relief to our seniors should be a top priority for the legislature this session. We are steadfast in our determination to eliminate the tax on Social Security income and are working across the aisle to get this done.

We appreciate hearing from you. Please let us know your thoughts by contacting our offices at senate.mn/senator-bakkemail and at rep.dave.lislegard@house.mn.

Sen. Tom Bakk
Rep. Dave Lislegard

A pulmonologist, a timber wolf, and a Sami boy

My pulmonologist, who has been in practice over forty years, was checking on my recovery from Valley Fever. Knowing he was a veteran of ER's, that the office we

were sitting in was connected to a large San Diego hospital, I was sure he had seen plenty of COVID deaths.

I said something like, "Boy, I bet this is hard to do." He looked at me, very tired. "Yes. SO many unvaccinated. And it doesn't let up."

Then his phone rang and he headed over to the hospital side.

The timber wolf lives like my pulmonologist, managing to do two things at once, year after year after year: To remain distinct and exemplary as an individual, while still serving the tribe.

One famous timber wolf in Yellowstone, identified by researchers as 302, was a teenage renegade for the longest time—a philanderer and a lay-about. Handsome, but not much more. Somehow though, because the world is a most mysterious teacher, he grew to become the alpha male of his pack.

Years later, as an old-timer, he became separated from the rest of the pack while on a hunt, left alone with the pups. That was 302's last day. Fighting for his tribe, he faced an invading wolf pack tooth to tooth while the pups escaped, then dragged himself away to die of his wounds. The battle-scarred 302 remained distinct and exemplary right to the very end, yet served the tribe.

In the Nils Gaup film, "Pathfinder," a young Sami boy, Algin, witnesses the

murder of his family by a rmarauding band of Tchudes. These pillagers track Algin to the next Sami village, where he takes cover in a tent with the village shaman. The shaman whispers fiercely he is "connected to all his people, all Sami, even these villagers who have just escaped and who you do not yet know. All are connected!"

To prove it, and to keep Algin from bursting out to avenge his family, the shaman puts one hand behind Algin's neck, the other over his mouth. After moments struggling, unable to breathe, Algin gets it: the air withheld—like those suffocated to death by COVID—is the invisible connection between all who breathe.

Algin is captured later, forced to lead the Tchudes to his tribe. During this cold and icy journey he grows a well-muscled, conscious rage, focused on bravery and cunning. It is this deep connection with others, along with his skills as an individual, that make him an adult and save the tribe.

A Sami boy, a timber wolf, a pulmonologist, and all those vaccinated against COVID, each are able to do these two things at once: Remain distinct and exemplary as individuals, yet serve the tribe.

Steve Larson
Ely

PEACE...Continued from page 1B

of Peace. Is it pie in the sky to think it's possible? Perhaps, but many things we have accomplished were once considered impossible and change usually comes when the will of the people gathers as an unstoppable force to make things happen, like the nationalization of same-sex marriage. I think it took most of us by surprise that it happened when it did, but behind the scenes many determined people were taking lots of small actions on a grassroots level.

What will it take for us to have enough of the violence in the streets or the bullying in the schools, some by parents aimed at teachers and board members these days? When will we realize that we could actually live with civility and even kindness with our neighbors?

I'm sure most of you are aware that an obscene percentage of our national budget is spent on the mil-

itary with current active military, debt on previous expenses, pensions, and health care for retired military personnel. It's over 50 percent and that doesn't include additional costs hidden in many other parts of the budget. Between 2001 and 2015, 2,788,000 people served in the military, and that's a lot of paychecks and pensions. (In pointing out this very expensive operation, I mean no dishonor to those who have served in the military.)

A suggestion has been made to take one percent of the military budget to fund a Department of Peace. Just one percent. Many politicians have supported the suggestion. More have not.

When did this idea come about? The first reference I found was in 1793. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, wrote an essay titled "A plan for a Peace-Office for the

United States," calling for equal footing with the Department of War "to promote and preserve perpetual peace in the United States." The provisions included maintaining free schools to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic as well as "to cultivate peace and how to forgive, even to love our very enemies."

He advocated, "To inspire a veneration for human life, and a horror at the shedding of human blood, let all those laws be repealed which authorize juries, judges, sheriffs, or hangmen to assume the resentments of individuals, and to commit murder in cold blood in any case whatever." He added that "to subdue that passion for war... militia laws should everywhere be repealed, and military dresses and military titles should be laid aside." Mr. Rush leaned heavily on religion, particularly Christianity, to accomplish the right atti-

tude, but a core message of his essay was clear, that we're better off if we make love, not war, as professed by most religions.

Since 1793 over 100 bills have been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate in support of a Department of Peace. In 2001, Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) introduced a bill and a version of it was introduced in each session of Congress until 2011, cosponsored by 76 members of Congress in 2007. Representative Barbara Lee (D-California) has introduced a similar bill in every session of Congress since 2013. She introduced H.R. 1111 to the House on Feb. 18, 2021, which is currently supported by 19 cosponsors.

Isn't it odd we don't hear more about it? Here are some key points of the mission statement of the Department of Peace proposed in H.R. 1111:

► Cultivate peace and peacebuilding as a strategic

national policy objective;

► Reduce and prevent violence in the United States and internationally through peacebuilding and effective nonviolent conflict resolution;

► Develop best practices and policies that promote local, national and international conflict prevention, nonviolent intervention, mediation, peaceful resolution of conflict, and structured mediation of conflict;

► Address the interconnection of all life and the intersectionality of peace and justice, equality, health, healing, national security, education, the economy, rule of law, democracy, planetary survival, and other aspects of civil rights, civil liberties, and human rights;

► Invest in nongovernmental organizations that have implemented successful initiatives to reduce and prevent violence, both internationally

and domestically; and

► Consult with other federal agencies to apply and practice the science of peacebuilding in their respective fields of responsibility.

Another tidbit that may surprise you is that Ronald Reagan and Congress created the still-functioning United States Institute of Peace in 1984, a national nonpartisan, independent institute in D.C. "dedicated to the proposition that a world without violent conflict is possible." More about that in the future.

If you're now wanting more than a glimpse, there are many excellent resources, but the Peace Alliance is a good place to start, and you can sign a petition of support and find out how to lobby your representatives. go to <https://peacealliance.org/issues-advocacy/departments-of-peace/>.

EIGHTH...Continued from page 4

those counties went for the Republican congressional candidate by a better than three-to-one margin. Those counties, which are now part of Minnesota's Seventh District, helping to turn that former swing district a deeper shade of red.

Those changes could make the difference in a close race in the Eighth, such as in the 2018 contest between Stauber and DFLer Joe Radinovich, which Stauber won by just over 17,000 votes. The changes wouldn't have made a difference, however, in 2020, when Stauber beat DFLer Quinn Nystrom by 76,000 votes.

Besides, notes Larry Jacobs, Director of the Center for the Study of Politics and Government at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School, the potential upside for Democrats in the northwestern corner of the Eighth will almost certainly be offset by a slight change in boundaries in the district's far southeast. Northern Washington County, including St. Paul exurbs like Hugo and Scandia, encompasses a tiny portion of the Eighth District, but it has one thing

most of the Eighth District lacks—a relatively dense population, with considerable numbers of reliably Republican voters. "The GOP advantage is strong in the northern metro," Jacobs told the *Timberjay*, which is why he calls it a safe seat for Stauber.

Even so, redistricting has given the Eighth a slightly bluer tinge than it had before. 2020 election data showed that the GOP margin in northern Washington County wasn't as overwhelming as other parts of the district. Overall, the GOP congressional candidate enjoyed a roughly 5,000 vote advantage in that portion of the county, which means it only partially compensates for the loss of approximately 13,000 GOP votes in Morrison and Wadena counties, and the modest gains that Democrats can expect in places like Red Lake and Bemidji.

Yet, barring a strong Democratic candidate, this former Democratic stronghold appears likely to remain in GOP hands for the foreseeable future.



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Week of Feb. 28

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.

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

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 invited 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.

There will not be a skating party on Saturday, Feb. 26 because it is Hockey Day in Soudan starting at 11 a.m. A youth hockey game will begin at 11 a.m.

If you are interested in donating to help purchase the food for these events, contact Chimp at Zup's Grocery in Tower (people can make donations directly at Zup's into the dedicated account).

The Soudan skating rink is open for skaters of all ages on weekdays from 4 to 8 p.m., and weekends from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. On holidays or other days that school is closed the rink is open from 11 a.m. to closing. The rink may close for inclement weather.

A separate skating rink for small children is now open. Loaner skates are available.

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Two vying for supervisor seat in Greenwood

Township annual meetings and elections set for Tuesday, March 8

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- Voters in Greenwood Township are the only ones in our area with a contested race in the upcoming township elections set for Tuesday, March 8.

Robert "Rick" Stoehr, who ran unsuccessfully for supervisor in 2019, is running against incumbent Carmen DeLuca, a four-term supervisor most recently re-elected in 2019.

Stoehr has lived in Greenwood Township since 1995. He moved up to the Iron Range in 1977, and worked at Minntac until 2009, when he retired. Stoehr is perhaps best known for his volunteer work with the Eighth District VFW, where he most recently served as District Commander, overseeing the 20 posts in the Eighth District. He is a Navy veteran and served during the Vietnam War.

"My three brothers also served in the Navy," Stoehr said. Stoehr's stepfather served on the USS Ward, the ship credited with firing the first shot in America's war against Japan. The majority of the ship's 125-member crew were from St. Paul, Stoehr said. His mother worked at Holman Field, in St. Paul, where they manufactured planes used in the war effort. "She was a real-life Rosie Riveter," he said.

Stoehr lost by a handful of votes to former incumbent Byron Beihoffer in 2019. Stoehr is a frequent audience member at Greenwood Township meetings.

"Greenwood Township is seeing significant and serious issues that need to be dealt with now," Stoehr said. "It needs to start moving forward and end its



Above: Rick Stoehr Right: Carmen DeLuca (far right) at this month's town board meeting.

current non-productive performance, with the supervisors actually performing the work they were elected to do."

Stoehr said, "I think I can provide positive change for the township."

Stoehr would like to see the township change its data practices policy to make it easier for citizens to acquire public documents.

"The current system requires multiple steps and can only be interpreted as an attempt to hide or discourage the gathering of public information by citizens," he said.

Two other main issues for the township, he said, are working on securing broadband internet service and looking at ways of bringing a higher level of ambulance service (Advanced Life Support/ALS) to the area.

Both of these issues, he notes, are issues facing many rural areas.



"Many, if not most, rural medical emergency services in Minnesota are struggling right now," he said. "In my opinion the best thing we can do for ourselves at this point is to do an overall feasibility study and move forward from there...We may need an interim remedy but not one made in haste."

Stoehr sees broadband as an important issue for the growth of the township.

"As the population of Greenwood continues to grow, I think we will certainly see an increase in usage of this now vital piece of infrastructure...It's a sound investment."

Stoehr would also like to see the board reconsider its cutting of hours and pay for the elected clerk position.

"Let a new board evaluate what needs to be done to get back on track with an efficient clerk's office," he said.

Rick is a widower. He has two grown sons and one grandson.

DeLuca was first elected to the board in 2008, won reelection in 2011, but then lost in a three-way race in 2014. DeLuca successfully ran again in 2016 in a three-way race and was reelected in 2019. As of press time, DeLuca had not responded to the *Timberjay's* request for an interview.

Clerk seat

Clerk Debby Spicer is running unopposed for the two-year clerk seat. She was elected in a close race one year ago to fill the remaining term of former clerk Sue Drobac, who resigned and was then elected to a supervisor seat in 2021. Spicer has clashed with the board over the scope of the expected duties of the clerk versus what is required under state statute. The board cut the pay and hours for the clerk position in the summer of 2020, and in response to that move, Drobac resigned from her seat. The board then appointed Spicer as interim clerk.

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Matt Tuchel running for open supervisor seat in Breitung

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- Matt Tuchel is the only candidate on the ballot for the seat currently held by Breitung supervisor and board chairman Tim Tomsich, who has been on the township board for close to 40 years. Tomsich is retiring from the town board.

Incumbent Clerk Dianna Sundahl, first elected two years ago, is running unopposed for the clerk's seat.

Tuchel is the plant manager for the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board. As an employee of the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board, Tuchel is not a direct employee of the township, so holding the position is not a conflict of interest, he noted. It would mean that the other two Breitung Supervisors hold a seat on the TBWWB, because



Tuchel would not be eligible to sit on that board. The TBWWB oversees the joint infrastructure that provides water and sewer service for Tower and Soudan.

Tuchel has been working for the TBWWB since 1998, after his graduation from Vermilion Community College. He worked for the Babbitt sewer and water system while he was a student at VCC.

Tuchel is used to being busy. In addition to

his duties at the wastewater board, he is an active volunteer, serving on both the Breitung Fire Department and on the Tower Area Ambulance Service. He joined the fire department back in 2000, and the ambulance service the year after. He served as the ambulance director for five years, and he is currently the department's training officer.

He estimates he responded to over 50 ambulance calls last year, and between 20 and 30 fire calls. In previous years he logged over 100 ambulance calls, but the new on-call system spreads out the calls among department members.

"We are not seeing people step up for these kinds of jobs anymore," he said referring to the opening on the town board. He had considered putting his name up for Breitung Fire Chief but decided he could best

serve the community as a supervisor. "You can't be chief and run for supervisor," he noted.

"I know that I don't know nearly as much as Tim Tomsich," he said, "but I plan on learning as much as I can from both Tim and Treasurer Jorgine Gornick, if I am elected."

Tuchel has some financial and budgeting experience with his current job but understands there would be a lot to learn about township finances. He noted that there are plenty of resources and trainings available for township officials.

Tuchel said he does not see any real changes ahead for the township, with the exception of possible retirements of some long-time employees. He noted the workload on township employees has been steadily increasing.

"We don't have a full-time clerk-treasurer like in Tower," he said, "and we have two full-time maintenance workers, plus a full-time police chief."

The current staff are true assets for the community, he said. "We have really good employees."

Tuchel said the fire department has gained six new members in the past six months, bringing membership to a very healthy level, and the department is currently sponsoring a firefighter training class.

Tuchel lives in Soudan with his wife, Mindy and children, Julia and Isaac.

Other township races

Vermilion Township	Lake
Clerk- Crystal Alaspa	Incumbent
Supervisor- Tim Hughes (seat currently held by Sarah Schmidt who did not file for reelection)	Tim

Kugler, Eagles Nest Embarrass, and the city of Tower all hold their elections in November (even number years).

Tower-Soudan-Embarrass Bookmobile Schedule

Every **third Wednesday:**

March 2 and 23; April 13; May 4 and 25; June 15; July 6 and 27; Aug. 17; Sept. 7 and 28; Oct. 19; Nov. 9 and 30; Dec. 21

Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m.

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

Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 - 1 p.m.

Soudan (Post Office Vicinity): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.

Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 - 6 p.m.

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



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ELY YOUTH HOCKEY



ELY HOWLER 2022

The Ely Howler Jamboree hosted 14 mini-mite and mite youth hockey teams at the Ely Ice Arena for two full days of hockey action earlier this month. More than 30 raffle prizes, including a three-person Eskimo ice shelter, autographed UMD hockey jersey, and a full-day pontoon rental, were given away, according to organizer Janine Lamontagne. The Ely Mini-Mites, top, and Ely Mites teams gathered for team photos. Blaze Halbakken, above left, earned the "Hustle" award. Coach Mike Lund, bottom left, giving a pep talk to Gus "Goose" Lund. submitted photos

Tuesday Group schedule

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

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

►March 8: Evaluating the contribution of local sources to the dust reaching high mountains in the southwestern United States, with Elsa Soderstrom and Jeff Munroe.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



recent wind attack ground blizzard gale turbulence

white-out wonderful

ISD 696

Ely leaders celebrated for Minnesota School Board Recognition week

ELY - The Minnesota School Boards Association celebrated Feb. 21-25 as Minnesota School Board Recognition Week to build awareness and understanding of the vital function elected school board members play in our society.

Ely Public Schools joined other public school districts from across the state to celebrate School Board Recognition Week to honor local board members for their commitment to Ely and its students.

"Strong schools help build strong communities, and the Ely School Board devotes countless hours to making sure our schools are helping every child learn at a higher level," Interim Superintendent John Klarich said. "School board members make the difficult decisions every month, and spend many hours studying education issues and regulations in order to provide the kind of accountability our citizens expect."

Klarich said the key work of boards is to raise student achievement by:

►Creating a vision for what the community wants the school district to be and for making student achievement the top priority;

►Establishing standards for what students will be expected to learn and be able to do;

►Ensuring progress is measured to be sure the district's goals are achieved and students are learning at expected levels;

►Being accountable for their decisions and actions by continually tracking and reporting results;

►Creating a safe, orderly climate where students can learn and teachers can teach;

►Forming partnerships with others in the community to solve common problems; and

►Focusing attention on the need for continuous improvement by questioning, refining and revising issues related to student

achievement.

"Even though we're making a special effort to show our appreciation this month, school board members' work is a year-round commitment," Klarich said.

The members serving ISD 696 include: Ray Marsnik, chair; Rochelle Sjoberg, clerk; Tom Omerza, treasurer; and directors Tony Colarich, Hollee Coombe, and Darren Visser.

ELY PUBLIC LIBRARY

'Read the 100s' part of Ely library's 100th anniversary celebration

ELY - As part of the Ely Public Library's 100th anniversary celebration this year, the library staff is challenging patrons to "Read the 100s."

No, they aren't saying that you need to read 100 books (unless you want to). Instead, read one book from each of the "100s" sections in the Dewey Decimal system. That's just ten books total.

Let the staff know when you've completed it, and they will reward you with a small prize. In addition, all finishers will

be eligible for a drawing for a larger prize if all of the sections are completed by the library's anniversary date of Oct. 7.

The 100s sections are:
000-099: Computer Science, Information, and General Works

100-199: Philosophy and Psychology

200-299: Religion

300-399: Social Sciences

400-499: Languages

500-599: Natural Sciences

600-699: Technology and Applied Science

700-799: Arts and Recreation

800-899: Literature

900-999: History and Geography

History of the Ely Public Library

Oct. 7, 1922: The library opens, with Miss Mabel Franklin as city librarian. She was the school librarian and volunteered to open a public library in the city. The library was housed in the former Central School.

February 1923: Ruth King is hired as public

librarian. She held the position for the next 25 years.

1937: The library joins the Rural Library Extension Service, with services provided to 10 stations.

1938: The library moves into the new community center on 1st Avenue East.

1967: The library joined the Arrowhead Library System, opening up the possibility of inter-library loans among the member libraries.

1991: Friends of the Ely Public Library group is created.

1996: The library begins switching to an on-line catalog and circulation system, a transition that was completed in 1998. The library also begins to expand its physical space, adding a children's room, a computer lab, and more.

2013: The city begins planning for a new library building to address problems with limited access and an aging facility. Construction of the new library begins in June, with the new library open to the public in November.

Source: Ely Public

AROUND TOWN

Residents at the Carefree Living facility in Ely got in on the fun of the recent Ely Winter Festival's Great Nordic Beardfest event by participating in their own facial hair show, including, from left, Shirley Hartleben, Gayle Carlson and Rosemary Vesel. The officially sanctioned event was held at the Boathouse Brewpub and Restaurant and Ely's Historic State Theater. submitted photos



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

License bureau services could disappear from Cook

Owner still hopeful of finding a buyer before summer retirement

COOK- The Cook Area License Bureau may be entering its final months of existence if owner Ruth Schley can't find someone to purchase the business before her planned retirement this summer.

Typically open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, Schley provides area motorists with a convenient local option for vehicle registration renewals and title transactions, duplicate driver's licenses, fish and game licenses, and DNR regis-

trations. Should the Cook office close, the nearest offices offering that combination of services would be in Virginia, Hibbing, and Ely.

Schley confirmed her future plans for her customers in a social media post last week.

"I've been thinking of retirement for some time. I have finally made a decision and decided on a projected time," Schley said. "The last few years have been difficult, and COVID has not helped, but I have worked around those things as best I

could. Now, I need time with my family. I have decided that if no one is interested in taking over, then I will be closing this office in June of 2022. I do not have a specific day at this time but I'm thinking before the middle of June so I can be out by the end of the fiscal year, which is July 1. That is my plan."

Seeing the local bureau close would be a big adjustment for long-time customers, as the office has been a successful member of the Cook business community since 1984, Schley said. She's

been doing the work for "25 plus years," she noted elsewhere.

She said there has been some interest since she put the business up for sale, but at this point no one has come forward with an offer.

"I still have hope someone may be interested in running this office," she said. "It is a job that takes training and a dedicated desire to invest time to learn and make this business thrive. I really wanted to keep it here and to see it gone is sad to me."

A clue to Schley's success over the years could be seen in the comments attached to her post. For every person who expressed appreciation, offered congratulations, and said she'd be missed, Schley took the time to write a heartfelt personal response. In her post, Schley acknowledged her success but gave the credit for it to everyone else.

"My time and success is not just what I have accomplished. It's the customers and help from other offices, along with phone support and the

hard workers at the state. A team effort," she wrote.

And she closed with a final appeal for people to help in the search for a replacement.

"Let people know that they may be the right fit to keep the office in Cook," she said.

The Cook Area License Bureau is located at 221 Highway 53, Suite C in Cook. The phone number is 218-666-6199, and the email address is cookdep159@gmail.com.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY, EMPTY BOWL, AND HOOPS



Top left: Nine North Woods high school students were inducted into the school's National Honor Society chapter last week, including Annabelle Calavera, Autumn Swanson, Helen Koch, Evelyn Brodeen, Sean Morrison, Jonah Burnett, Madison Taylor, Tiauna Peltier, and Addy Hartway. The induction ceremonies and a congratulatory reception were held in the school's commons area.

Top right: Third-graders Elizabeth Trip, Charlie Holter, Connor Anderson, and Cora Goodbird hope the ceramic bowls they glazed will sell at the annual Empty Bowl fundraiser to be held at North Woods on Friday, March 4 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the school's commons area prior to the North Woods boys basketball game.

Bottom left: North Woods third-graders took over center court at halftime of last Friday's boys home game against Mesabi East, giving fans a sneak peak at the future of Grizzlies basketball. Here, Hudson Sheffer, Ryker Nurmi, Connor Anderson, and Everett Crain race downcourt.

Bottom right: Landon Nuthak and Silas Nurmi battle for control of the basketball. D. Colburn photos

Archers rack up wins for North Woods

FIELD TWP - North Woods archers have had two strong showings at Greenway on Feb. 5 and Grand Rapids on Feb. 19, taking first in the elementary division and second and first in the middle school division at both meets, as well as piling up individual top-five finishes.

At Greenway, first place in three of the elementary groups went to North Woods archers. Kaidence Scofield won the fourth-grade girls group, Michaela Brunner placed first among fifth-grade girls, and Brady Swanson took top honors for fifth-grade boys. Clark Danielson, fourth in fourth-grade boys, and Buckley LeForte, third in fifth-grade boys, rounded out the top placers for the victorious elementary crew.

In the middle school division, second-place girl Merilee Scofield was

the only Grizzly to score a top-five finish. The Grizzlies were shut out of the top five spots in both high school groups.

In elementary individual competition at Grand Rapids, Scofield and Brunner again claimed first-place finishes. Danielson improved his position from fourth to second. Swanson and LeForte finished second and third, respectively.

Khloe Holland placed second to pace Grizzlies middle school archers, with Scofield just one point behind in third.

Two North Woods high school archers broke into the top five at Grand Rapids. Lillian Voges placed third and Cadence Nelson finished fourth. However, as a team, the Grizzlies failed to place in the high school division.

Heiam Foundation begins new support program with first award to aspiring RN

COOK- The W.C. Heiam Medical Foundation has made the first award in its new Continuing Education support program, which has been initiated this year to offer financial assistance to employees of Cook Hospital and EMTs and EMRs of emergency response departments in the Cook/Orr hospital district. Cook Care Center LPN Memory Malone was selected to receive the first award. She's been an LPN for 12 years and completed her bachelor's coursework to become an RN at Lake Superior College. Malone will be using her grant for a refresher course and testing for certification as an RN.

"We thank Memory for her dedicated employment to the Cook Hospital and future commitment to help us provide quality, local healthcare," foundation officials said in a press release.



Memory Malone is the first recipient of an award from the W.C. Heiam Medical Foundation for their new continuing education program. Awards are intended to provide support for frontline healthcare workers.

Malone expressed her appreciation to the Heiam Foundation for the award and noted that she intends to keep putting her skills to work here in the Cook area.

"I am a mother to one daughter that moved to

the Cook area to be closer to family," she said. "I plan to stay in the Cook area as it is now home and I love living and working in such a small tight-knit town."

Hospital chief operating officer Julie Lesemann also paid tribute to the foundation.

"We deeply appreciate all of their support and thank them for all that they have done for the hospital," Lesemann said.

ISD 696

Will Ely schools change COVID-19 protocols?

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Advisory council sends facemask option to school board

ELY — A recommendation to relax the COVID-19 protective face mask mandate in Ely's schools to an option-only protocol could be considered by the ISD 696 school board as soon as next week.

The ISD 696 Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council (ELSPAC) held a special meeting this week that resulted in the recommendation.

School board members will likely consider the proposed revision as early as Monday, Feb. 28, if a special meeting is held before or after their monthly study session. The face mask mandate could be lifted by March 1.

In calling for the emergency ELSPAC meeting, Interim Superintendent John Klarich told the *Timberjay* last Friday, "I want to talk about voluntary masking. When we had our board meeting on Monday

(Feb. 14), had I known that Virginia (Rock Ridge school district) and Cloquet schools were going to go to voluntary masking, that would have switched me. I think it's time to move on. I've been doing further study and the numbers are dropping. There is a big movement now."

On Tuesday, ELSPAC members gathered to review the current COVID-19 data in the Ely area and to voice their opinions on changing the ISD 696 Safe Learning Plan.

Klarich talked about the numerous schools in northern Minnesota that are moving toward an optional face mask protocol or are considering such a move.

"I have been receiving all kinds of information, both pro and con, for masking and have been able to sort through that," he said. "I think it is time that we bring this to a head. I

have a masking recommendation with some changes I want to run by everyone on this advisory committee."

Megan Anderson, Ely school 6-12 principal, reviewed the most recent area coronavirus data.

"Looking at the case rate for the last four weeks, for Jan. 27 we were at 885.1 cases, on Feb. 3 it was at 579.8 cases, down to 418.75 last week, and at 483.17 this week," she said. "We are (mostly) seeing a decline across the board and across the country."

According to Aubrie Hoover, of St. Louis County Department of Health, confirmed cases in the county are at 970 this past week. Hospitalizations are at 91. Ten deaths were reported.

"There is no doubt that the trend is going down," Klarich said. "We are one of the last schools with the masking policy in place. I think it is time that our

school board gets a chance to vote on that."

ISD 696 Athletic Director and parent Tom Coombe repeated his pleas to rescind the face mask mandate.

"It is no secret how I feel about this. I sent an email last week requesting that we expedite this group meeting again and meet sooner rather than later. I think we have reached a point now that we can agree to move forward in (a mask optional) direction," he said.

Amy Kromer, a substitute school nurse and parent, asked what changed to prompt the sudden change in the school's face masking policy.

"The numbers have significantly gone down, however, we are nowhere near what our goal is to get to masks recommended," she said. "We are still way beyond where we were

when we were in distance learning last year. I'm wondering what the rush is, being that the medical professionals in this community have not recommended this change."

Kromer noted that the point was recently made that places in the community such as grocery stores, bars and restaurants, are not requiring masks.

"Those places you are not required to go to, and when you do go there, it is for limited periods of time. We are a community in itself at the school. We are there every day. Kids and staff have to be there for five days a week, seven-plus hours a day. There is a difference," she said. "I want to get rid of the masks as much as anyone else, I just don't know what the rush is."

Klarich stressed that the school board will ultimately make the decision to

change the school district's safe learning plan.

"I'm lucky that we have a solid school board that has been getting regular information on this. I personally feel that it is time to open up, and that's my opinion. The numbers are coming down significantly," he said. "Sooner or later we have to make a decision. Things are changing."

Any changes to the learning plan will not apply to school busing, as that is federally mandated.

"We have no control over that," he said. "We are already opened up for athletics. I think it is time that we are opened up 24/7."

As of Monday, there were three active coronavirus cases in the Ely school community, according to Anderson, with 220 total cases reported so far for the school year. There were 48 total COVID-19 cases in the school community in the 2020-21 school year.

RELIEF...Continued from page 1

Deschampe from the Grand Portage Band testified via Zoom about the impact the border closure has had on the band's business operations, including its hotel and casino at Grand Portage, where 80-85 percent of their customer base has typically come from Canada. Deschampe estimated their gaming and hotel revenues are down about 90 percent over the past two years.

Paul Nevanen, Director of the Koochiching County Economic Development Authority, noted that a significant portion of his region's customer base resides across the border in Canada, which

has resulted in a steep decline in traffic at shops in International Falls. He cited the impact on border crossings, which fell from 398,300 in 2019 to just 80,533 in 2020. Nevanen noted that many of those who formerly crossed the border at the Falls were headed to Canada and frequently spent a night or two in the border city along the way, utilizing hotels and restaurants, which have also been significantly affected.

Eric Johnson, an International Falls business owner who delivers propane and gasoline to water-access cabin owners on Rainy Lake testified that his busi-

ness has dropped over 50 percent as a result of the border closures, which have prevented many of his customers, who are Americans with cabins on the Canadian side of Rainy Lake, from accessing their properties and utilizing his services.

Ecklund's bill appeared to have strong support in the committee, which laid it over for consideration in a future Workforce and Business Development finance bill.

Bipartisan support for the measure was expressed by District 17B Rep. Dave Baker, R-Willmar.

"We didn't do anything like this before, but I get it. It is different when

you're bordering another country, and they have been extremely limiting on opening up to traveling," Baker said. "When a business closes up there, you lose jobs, you lose people in the school districts, you lose housing, you lose so many other things that don't get made up like in other communities. It is a very unique situation up there and I want to support this."

Baker's lone concern was whether or not 2020 was the right year to use as a baseline for determining losses. As someone in the hospitality business, Baker said his own experience was that 2021 was better than 2020. He sug-

gested that Ecklund and his staff take a deeper look at the numbers to see if using pre-pandemic receipts as a baseline would better provide for the needs that should be addressed, and Ecklund agreed to do so.

Whether the measure attracts support in the state Senate remains to be seen. Third District Sen. Tom Bakk, I-Cook, said he thinks changes to the measure, which broadened its initial focus on wilderness outfitters, should improve its chances. At the same time, Bakk said many resorts and tourist-related businesses have done extremely well during the pandemic. He noted that wilderness outfitters

had a banner year in 2020 and were doing very well in 2021, at least until the wilderness closures. "For the outfitting community, they may have a tough sell at the Legislature," said Bakk. "The competition for state general fund dollars is always pretty intense."

If ultimately enacted, the bill would go into effect on July 1, but a period of time would be necessary to develop the operational capacity and guidelines for the program within the Department of Employment and Economic Development before they would be ready to start accepting applications for assistance.

REPS...Continued from page 1

It's the most sparsely-populated senate district in the state and it's been represented in the state Senate by Tom Bakk, I-Cook, for more than two decades, and — with the exception of a small portion in the Duluth area — by Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls, in the Minnesota House.

Both their districts have grown larger in area as a result of the latest redistricting, and now include Vermilion Lake, Kugler, and Waasa townships, along with Hoyt Lakes, all in St. Louis County, and Bearville and Carpenter townships, both in Itasca County. Several other large townships in northern Itasca County are now included in the Third District as well.

Both Ecklund and Bakk expressed some relief that their district boundaries remain largely intact. "I think it will be okay for me," said Ecklund, who is planning to seek re-election. "The district is changing and the politics are changing and I'll still have to work like heck to win." Ecklund said he'll have to get to know voters in a few new places, such as Hoyt Lakes, but he expects

to get help there from his fellow DFL lawmaker David Lislegard. He said he's already been in contact with former Rep. Tom Anzels, who has offered to help introduce Ecklund to voters in far northern Itasca County, which Anzels used to represent. Ecklund also has family connections in that portion of Itasca County, which could help. "I think it will be all right," he said. "I'll have to hit the ground running as soon as session is out."

While Sen. Tom Bakk told the *Timberjay* this past week that he still is undecided about a re-election bid, he offered many more reasons to seek another term than to retire. "I don't know what I would do with myself, frankly," he said. "You can't golf and fish everyday." He said

he'll need to have more discussions with family, legislative colleagues and others before making a final decision. "I should decide by around late March," he said.

Changes for other Iron Range districts

Meanwhile, the Sixth Senate District, which used to encompass the East Range has shifted far to the southwest, replaced by

the new Seventh District, which now encompasses the portions of the East Range formerly included in the Sixth.

Area townships now part of the new Seventh District include Angora,

Alango, Embarrass, Pike, Sandy, Morcom, Sturgeon, and Wuori. Residents there are also likely to have a new senator, given that current Sen. David Tomassoni isn't expected to seek re-election.



Vote Robert "Rick" Stoehr GREENWOOD SUPERVISOR

OPEN AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT- The Town Board has created an overly complicated and administratively time consuming 7-step process for accessing public records, perhaps as a result of being found in violation of the MN Open Meeting Law TWICE, which only erodes trust in the Town Board and leaves the lingering feeling that they have something to hide.

FINANCIALS- There has been continuing difficulty in reconciling monthly claims and payroll; even the recent Board of Audit had to note a lack of balance in the books. Further, we need to construct a budget and present it to the citizens well BEFORE the Annual Meeting to support a levy request.

AMBULANCE SERVICE- I think it is important, due to our Township's demographic of the increase in mean age, that we investigate the feasibility of improving our ambulance service to ALS (Advanced Life Support). We need to solicit grant monies, possibly from the IRRRB and St. Louis County, to conduct a feasibility study. My goal is an improved ambulance service for the Township.

BROADBAND- Previously, our Town Board exhibited a lack of enthusiasm for the development of broadband in the Township, but with the election of Supervisors Drobac and Lofquist a new commitment has risen to bring this important infrastructure to the Township and I intend to help them.

This Township government has become dysfunctional even with the most basic procedures required to govern. I will work toward making our Township work again and restore the citizens' trust.

PLEASE VOTE STOEHR ON MARCH 8



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CITY OF ELY

Ely Community Center redevelopment moving forward

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The redevelopment of the historic Community Center building here is moving forward and city council members approved paying the \$5,500 hazardous material assessment bill this week as the potential buyer of the property and city officials review the purchase.

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski updated council members Tuesday night on the hazardous materials abatement required for the purchase and redevelopment of the landmark to move forward.

The potential buyer of the property, Matt Stupnik, is looking at developing some sort of lodging facility for the property, according to Langowski. Minutes from the Feb. 14 meeting of the city projects committee indicate that Stupnik “would like to purchase the building from the city for one dollar with the understanding that the city will work with him

to get assistance on the demolition work needed, parking and other licensing he will need.”

Council member Paul Kess asked about the potential owner’s concept for the building.

“He is getting very close,” Langowski said, “We have a conference call scheduled prior to the next council meeting. The city clerk, mayor and city attorney will be participating in the meeting, and Langowski asked if any other council members would like to join the meeting.

“I had a discussion with him on Monday,” he said. “One issue that came up was parking and how he is going to resolve that issue.”

Kess also asked if the buyer had financing in place.

“He does have a plan,” Langowski said. “He is looking at going after tax credits, both federal and

state, and is working with the state’s historic preservation office. There are some deadlines with that this summer that need to be met, so he is on a fast track, in a way, to meet those deadlines.”

Mayor Roger Skraba pushed for more information on the project. “We need to go a little deeper here,” he said.

Langowski assured the council that the buyer “has put the effort in so far, and hired the right people to do the right tasks.”

“From what I’ve seen, he understands the process,” Skraba said. “I think we are being responsible by asking these questions. That’s important.”

“As soon as he had the hazardous materials assessment information, he had contractors looking at it and was putting quotes together,” Langowski said. “We talked about what kind of programs are out there regarding demolition (to remove hazardous materials).”

According to the projects committee, two con-

tractors provided quotes, \$124,900, and \$84,000, for abatement of hazardous materials in the building.

“The building is zoned R/T (residential/transition) right now and it will be a lodging-type project,” Langowski said. The Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation will be able to help with certain aspects of the redevelopment of this commercial property.

The city’s Community Center was built in the 1930s and closed several years ago when the new library was built. A plan to reuse the landmark as a Korean cultural center fell through at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Estimates of upwards of \$1 million would be needed to rehabilitate the building with a new heating plant, electrical and plumbing upgrades, along with installing an elevator.

Police activity

The Ely Police Department 2021 incidence statistics, as compiled by St. Louis County 911 emer-

gency dispatch, showed 2,392 response calls last year, compared to 2,347 in 2020, and 2,370 in 2019.

Assistant Chief Mike Lorenz presented the statistics to council members and said, “Nothing really jumped out at me as far as a big difference in any type of call.”

Traffic stops were the most frequent type of call last year, with 311 incidents, followed by 210 medical emergency calls. There were 128 calls for paper service, and the same number of public assistance responses. A total of 111 disturbance dispatches were responded to in the city last year. There were 89 animal disturbance calls in 2021. Complaints of loud music brought a police response 18 times. Neighbor troubles led to 17 police visits.

Other business

In other business, the city council took the following action:

➤ Approved council and staff to attend the League of Minnesota Cities

2022 Safety and Loss Control workshops.

➤ Approved a memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME Local #1490 regarding the equipment operator trainee position’s starting wage at \$23.89 per hour.

➤ Approved a recommendation from the Projects Committee to apply to the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust for funding assistance for the foundations needed in Whiteside Park for two bronze canoe sculptures.

➤ Approved the low bid of \$158,400 from Kovall Construction for the demolition work needed for the rehabilitation of the former Zup’s store by Eagle Wolf Development. The work will be paid through a grant from IRRR.

➤ Approved a maple syrup tapping permit for Cody Perkins for the spring for nine maple trees on Conan Street and 2nd Ave East.

➤ Approved a raffle permit for the Rotary Club on July 31 in Whiteside Park.

DEVELOPMENT

Broadband high-speed internet expanded in Morse Township and Ely area

MORSE TWP - Approximately 350 underserved homes and several resorts here recently

received access to high-speed broadband internet through next generation fixed wireless and millime-

ter wave technology.

As highlighted in a recent issue of the Department of Iron

Range Resources and Rehabilitation’s online newsletter, The Ranger, the homes and resorts

are located in a coverage area surrounding Ely that includes the shoreline areas of Burntside Lake, Little

Long Lake and Wolf Lake.

IRRR supported the project with a \$150,000 Community Infrastructure grant to Morse Township. Morse Township invested \$100,000, and total project investment was \$450,000.

The area geology is very rocky with challenging bedrock that drives up the cost of burying fiber. Instead fixed wireless deployments were used which reduces costs by approximately 90 percent and drastically reduces project timelines.

The work was completed by Treehouse Broadband, an Ely-based internet service provider founded by local resident Isaac Olson. Treehouse uses fixed wireless technology to beam internet service from towers to homes and businesses, using directional antennas and receiver dishes. The company also installs whole-home WiFi, ensuring high-speed coverage even in the corners of homes and businesses.

“A traditional fiber project to cover these 350 homes would likely cost over \$4 million and take years to deploy. We completed the project for a tenth of that price,” said Olson. “Fiber requires a huge labor and equipment investment. Fixed wireless can provide similar levels of service in a much shorter period of time.”

When fully completed, customers will have access to internet speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, according to Olson. “Their previous access was real speeds below 10 Mbps,” he said.

“The new coverage and broadband service will allow a wave of remote workers to spend more time at vacation cabins and resorts, which in turn stimulates the local economy,” said Nick Wognum, Morse Township clerk. “The project served resorts and homes that were in desperate need of speed and connectivity improvements.”

For IRRR Broadband grant information, email Whitney Ridlon or call her at 218-735-3004.

The Ranger is a publication of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. Their mission is to invest resources to foster growth and economic prosperity in northeastern Minnesota.



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Robotic-assisted surgery is at EBCH in Ely!

Advanced technology is now available right here in Ely with the da Vinci surgical system. Our highly-experienced experts can provide robotic-assisted surgery for hernias, gallbladders, and appendectomies, giving surgeons greater control – so our patients have better outcomes.

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COVID-19

Minnesota's Osterholm stresses need for booster shots

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- With the Omicron wave of the coronavirus pandemic now in rapid decline, health professionals and common folk alike are wondering what comes next. New variants that are anticipated to show up may or may not behave the same as prior ones.

But nationally-recognized infectious disease expert Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, or CIDRAP, at the University of Minnesota, has a strong recommendation regardless of what the future holds: Get vaccinated and boosted. In his weekly podcast last Friday, Osterholm said boosters should no longer be considered an extra, optional item, but a standard part of a three-dose regimen that provides much greater protection than an initial vaccination series alone.

"Please, if I can implore you all, if you have a grandma or grandpa, a father, a mother, a brother, a sister, a son or a daughter, a friend, somebody who might not be your friend but you still don't want anything bad to happen to them, please help them get that third dose. It's important," Osterholm said. "The data are surely confirming

that this benefit of the third dose against severe illness, hospitalizations and deaths extends all the way down to 20-year-olds. We have to start thinking about a three-dose vaccine as the primary series. Skip that term booster."

Osterholm expressed concern that while COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are now in decline, current levels are still running as high or higher than at any time during the two-year pandemic, and that the push to lift mitigation practices is happening without any agreed-upon health standards to guide those actions.

"Here we are celebrating what appears to be a real victory, and yet we are experiencing peaks in cases at this moment that exceed that of previous peaks when the house was on fire," he said. "It kind of reminds me of those Minnesota winter days that after having five consecutive days of 20-below weather, it gets to 25 degrees Fahrenheit, and all of a sudden we are outside practically in short sleeves because it's so much warmer. But if that same 25-degree day occurred in June, we would be freezing. And that's what we're experiencing right now."

The relaxation of mitigation efforts is happening at a time when only 64

percent of Americans are fully vaccinated, using the two-dose definition, Osterholm said, and with research confirming a significant reduction in vaccine effectiveness with only two doses, COVID strains still threaten a wide swath of the population if they don't get vaccinated and boosted.

"Because only 42.9 percent of those (fully vaccinated) have actually received that third dose, that means overall, only about 27 percent of Americans right now really have the adequate protection from vaccination that they should have," Osterholm said. "And unfortunately, the rate of new vaccine doses being administered daily is also decreasing, with the majority of doses administered recently being those third doses. Good news, but we are still far, far short of what we need to do."

Osterholm said that while talk and research has been ongoing about having a fourth vaccine shot, and perhaps more, public health officials must adapt somehow to a public that appears to have little appetite right now for such recommendations.

However, recent studies reported Monday in the *New York Times* suggest that additional boosters may only be necessary for select segments of the population, such

as those over age 65 or those with compromised immune systems.

Most research on the efficacy of vaccines has focused on the production of antibodies, which surges and then declines over time. A third dose of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines appears to produce a wider range of antibodies that could protect people from new variants.

And antibodies are only part of the body's immune system. Four studies referenced by the *Times* article focused on T cells, which have long-lasting memory responses that could provide a level of protection from COVID variants for months, and perhaps years. A 2003 outbreak in China exposed people to a different form of coronavirus than that which has caused the COVID pandemic, and T cell response to that virus has lasted for more than 17 years.

B cells are another

component of the immune system that can boost production of antibodies within days of being exposed to a virus, which can prevent or limit the seriousness of an illness.

These effects have been demonstrated with a three-dose COVID vaccine regimen, reinforcing Osterholm's overall message from three days prior to the report.

"Please understand you may not prevent an Omicron-related infection right now with your third dose," he said. "But the chances you have of avoiding a very severe illness, a hospitalization and even a death is absolutely one of the benefits of being vaccinated with that third dose. So, I can't urge you any more strongly than that to get vaccinated with that third dose."

Regional data

The seven-day case rate in St. Louis County as of Feb. 18, 64.7, is identical

to the rate during the peak of the spring 2021 wave in early April, and similar to that in mid-September when the Delta-driven wave was on the rise. That represents a decline of nearly 85 percent in just one month.

Overall, the trend in ICU bed availability in northeast Minnesota has been positive. In the past week, as many as 14 staffed ICU beds have been available, although only six were available on Tuesday.

Soudan was the only zip code monitored by the *Timberjay* that did not have any new cases reported by the Minnesota Department of Health in its weekly zip report last Thursday. Elsewhere, the decline in new cases compared to the prior week was uneven. Ely had 30 new cases, four more than were reported the week before. Cook had 13 new cases, Embarrass and Tower each had seven, and Orr had three.

RACE...Continued from page 1

but there is limited spectator parking," Cashman said. "Please leave pets at home."

Spectators are welcome to line the start area this year to cheer on the race teams.

The 50-mile race features the eight-dog teams. The first team leaves the start line at 9 a.m. Each team leaves at two-minute intervals. The six-dog teams running the 30 mile course follow. The race course is the same as past years and follows the Taconite Trail out of Ely, crossing Highway 1, and Highway 21 outbound and inbound. The eight-dog course goes through Bear Head State Park and crosses Bear Head State Park Road.

Who's running this year?

Defending his WolfTrack Classic title in the eight-dog race will be Mike Bestgen, fresh off a second-place run in both the Beargrease 120 and the Minnetonka Klondike Dog Derby. "Will he be able to hold off Nick Turman 'The Terminator,' and Ero Wallin who came in fourth in the Beargrease Marathon?" Cashman asked.

The six-dog race will field more than 35 teams. "This will be a competitive race, with returning teams like Dusty Klaven, Ashley Thamer, Ryan Miller, Clayton Schneider, and Erin Schouweiler," she said.

The WolfTrack Classic is a family friendly race featuring numerous junior mushers. "This year 11-year-old Elena Freking will run her team of beautiful Siberian Huskies," Cashman said. "This will be Elena's second race. She just completed the Minnetonka Dog Derby with her dad, Blake Freking, and looked spectacular. She won the sportsmanship award in that competition. Elana will be running the WolfTrack Classic with her mom, Ely veterinarian Dr. Jennifer Freking. "

Maddoux Erickson is 14 and will be running a team out of his stepdad Nathan Schroeder's kennel. Kara Granroth, also 14 years old, is running her first WolfTrack Classic. Dixie Crawford is running a team out of her grandfather William Sima's kennel.

"This brings us to our veteran junior mushers, Elena Morgan and Taylor DeBoer, who are completing for the third and fourth times in the WolfTrack Classic," Cashman said. "This will be Taylor's last race before she heads off to college. Good luck to all these young up and coming mushers."

Look for teams to start crossing the finish line any time after noon, depending on trail conditions, weather, and race time temperatures. "Who will be first in? Clayton Schneider from Dryden, Ontario, is noted for his incredibly fast team and race times," Cashman said. "When all the teams have crossed the finish line we will head to the Grand Ely Lodge, one of our long time major sponsors for the award presentation."

If you can't make it to the race in person you can tune in to iFan Sports Network, channel 6, for live streaming coverage from start to finish. Local radio station, WELY, will be announcing the race live from the start line.

"We would like to thank our major sponsors, Grand Ely Lodge, Bear Island Land Surveying, MIDCO, iFan and Nutri Source pet foods," Cashman added.

"Thank you to all the Ely businesses who sponsor the race. We are proud of you all. We could not do it without you. We also would like to thank the Ely Chamber of Commerce for putting on the race, the city of Ely for helping with many of the preparation details at the start and finish area, the Igloo Snowmobile Club for grooming the start area, VCC for use of their space and the students and

clubs for volunteering, and the Minnesota DNR and USFS for granting us the permits to run on the trail system," she said.

"Last, but not least, thank you to the hundreds of volunteers from Ely and across the United States who pitch in and get it done," Cashman said.

For complete details, musher bios, and more cae information, visit www.wolftrackclassic.com.

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SUPPORTING THE ARTS

MSO continues their 2022 'Return to Harmony' tour

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Ely performance highlights two young artists

ELY- The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra filled the fine arts theater at Vermilion Community College with the sound of music last Saturday afternoon as the 2021-2022 season, Return to Harmony, continued.

Two concerts were held in the North Country last weekend, here and at Goodman Auditorium in Virginia, featuring the Young Artist Competition winners, Natalie Sandor on violin, and Rufina Robbins, soprano.

Robbins 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 Musicale Scholarship and a winner of the 2018 Schmidt Vocal Competition. As a winner of PBS's talent show Celebration of Music in 2018, she was featured on live TV.

"As we continue this season after an unthinkable 18-month hiatus, I want to thank you for your continued support of this organization," said Ben Nilles,



MSO artistic director.

"Now more than ever, the MSO wouldn't be able to reunite to provide the Iron Range with amazing musical experiences without the support and dedication of the community. On behalf of the musicians and of the Board of Directors, I thank you for helping the MSO thrive and remain a cultural pillar of our communities," he said.

Due to public health precautions of the coronavirus pandemic, the MSO was on a virtual lockdown from public performances for the past year and a half. "The past 18 months have been unprecedented in a multitude of ways, but it's hard to overstate the impact it has had on performing arts organizations," Nilles said.

"Thankfully, the MSO has been able to weather

much of the storm, but not without enduring hardships. That's why we are beyond excited to bring the full orchestra back to the stage. Our season theme, Return to Harmony, is meant to encapsulate all of the feelings I, and the orchestra, have about this season as we work toward an end to the pandemic."

The 2022 MSO season closes in April:

►Saturday, April 23 - A Musical Jubilee, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Goodman Auditorium at Virginia Secondary School.

►Sunday, April 24 - A Musical Jubilee 2-4 p.m., Moose Lake Community School.

For ticket information, go to <https://www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org/>.



The MSO performed in Ely last weekend under the direction of Ben Nilles, above, and featured young artists, violinist Natalie Sandor, left, and soprano Rufina Robbins, below. photos by K. Vandervort



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BARB...Continued from page 1

came to Ely five years ago to live near her daughter, Cynthia Miller, and to enjoy the natural beauty of the north country.

When Barbara retired in the 1970's she was the Supervisor of Health, Safety and Physical Education in the public schools of Springfield, Mass. "After retirement she still went alpine skiing into her 80's and played tennis many times a week, competing in leagues, until her eyesight forced her to stop at the age of 93," Cynthia said.

Always game to try a new sport, Barb decided, at age 98, that dogsledding sounded like fun. When asked about the secret of a long life she included the importance of "staying active and eating healthy."

She also enjoys the quote of George Burns who said that the way to live to be 100 is: "Get to 99 and then be very, very careful."

Barbara, a resident of Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely, overcame many obstacles to reach her dogsledding achievement. Due to a broken hip last May, she had to do rehab and train particularly hard to be strong enough to reach her goal of doing more dogsledding, her daughter said, and her enthusiasm and hard work prevailed.

Now that she has reached the pinnacle of mushing academia, will Barbara rest on her laurels and take a sabbatical next year? "No way," she said.

Next up: Dogsledding at 101!

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• Election April 5 •

Boozhoo, Ahneen, and Hello, my name is **Tim "Woody" O'Leary** and I am asking for the votes to represent the people of the Vermilion community as the new District II Representative. There are a large number of issues at hand, so for the next few weeks I will be addressing some of the issues that I believe need addressing. In the above picture I am installing a water line for an elder that had no money to have it done. It has always been a concern to me that our elders sometimes get overlooked, and need more kinds of assistance from us as a people. I had the knowledge how to do this and was more than happy to do this for no more than a thank you. More often than not I have talked with elders that have to cut their own wood to stay warm in the winter. As your Representative I will have elder assistance as one of the top issues that will be solved. Thank you for your reading.

Tim O'Leary
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SPORTS

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NORDIC SKIING

Devine powers to sixth place at state



Leads Ely girls to ninth-place team finish; freak accident injures Pointer

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

GIANTS RIDGE— An exceptional performance by Ely junior Zoe Devine at the state Nordic ski meet held here this past Wednesday and Thursday, helped the Ely ski

Left: Ely junior Zoe Devine competes in the classic portion of the state meet last Wednesday, at Giants Ridge.

photo by M. Larson

team finish in ninth place in a field of 16 much larger schools.

It was windy and cold, with temperatures running just a few degrees above the state high school league's cutoff of minus-4 degrees for Nordic skiers. But the temperatures didn't seem to phase Ely skiers, who had been training under similar conditions for weeks.

Devine, who has been a regular in the state Nordic competition the past few years, finished in sixth place

overall in a field of 111 of the best female Nordic skiers in the state, besting her overall sectional time in the pursuit by nearly a minute and a half. Devine took eighth in the classic competition on the first day of the tournament, with a time of 17:29.81, but used her freestyle strength to finish fifth the following day, with a time of 17:23.56.

"Her uphill stride technique may be the best in the entire field so this course really

suits her," said Head Coach Paula Anderson, referring to the hilly terrain at Giants Ridge. "Zoe had the race of her life Thursday. She moved up two places but didn't pass the girls ahead of her until the very last uphill. Normally, no one passes on that uphill. It's too difficult. It was truly impressive, and coaches were telling me all about it afterwards."

Meanwhile, fellow junior

See **SKIERS...** pg. 2B



GIRLS BASKETBALL

Above: As Hannah Kinsey looks on, Grizzlies teammate Kiana LaRoque tries to steal the ball from Ely's Madeline Kallberg.

Below: Ely's Grace LaTourell puts up a jumper in the paint.

photos by D. Colburn

Big win for Ely

Full court pressure, hot shooting mix in 76-55 win over rival Grizzlies

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP— The Ely girls basketball team solidified its position for an opening home sectional tournament game with a convincing 76-55 road win against rival North Woods.

The Timberwolves never trailed, jumping out to a 6-0 lead and using a 12-2 run minutes later to go up 22-10, punctuated with a three-ball by Madison Rohr.

Harassing North Woods ball handlers and shooters with tenacious full-court pressure, the Wolves led 33-20 when Grizzlies Head Coach Liz Cheney called a timeout to regroup with six minutes left in the half.

The move was a momentum

changer, as Ely's shooting touch disappeared in a 13-2 Grizzlies run led by Hannah Kinsey and Tatum Barto that put North Woods right back in the game, trailing by only two at the half, 35-33.

Sarah Visser got the Wolves back on track with a three-pointer to open the second stanza, and Ely quickly went up 44-33 on six unanswered points by Madeline Kallberg. After the Grizzlies closed the gap to seven, Kallberg drained a trey and a two and Visser connected on another trifecta to put the Wolves up by 15, 52-37. With just under six minutes to go, a three-pointer by the Grizzlies' Talise Goodsky got North Woods to within 62-52, but the Wolves turned on the jets with a 14-3 blitz to close

See **GIRLS...** pg. 2B



HOCKEY

Ely bows out of playoffs after 7-1 loss to North Shore

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

TWO HARBORS— The ninth-seeded Ely high school hockey team ended their season Saturday with a 7-1 loss to eighth-seeded North Shore in a Section 7A quarter-final playoff game. The Timberwolves finished their season at 4-19-1

under first-year coach Jake Myers.

The Timberwolves gave up just one goal in the first period, but managed just three scoring chances to the Storm's 13 shots on goal.

North Shore scored at the 6:26 mark in the second period, and Ely's Logan Loe answered at 12:34, assisted by Brady

Eaton and Kole Macho, to make the score 2-1. The Storm closed out the period to score at 16:27 and increase their lead to 3-1. The Timberwolves had seven scoring chances in the second period. North Shore took 12 shots to Ely goalie Chase Sandberg.

North Shore opened the third period with a goal in just

30 seconds for a 4-1 advantage, and added three more goals, at 7:40, 9:49, and 11:13, for the 7-1 victory. The Storm took 17 more shots to the net for a game total of 42. Ely added five scoring chances in the last period for a game total of 15.

Ely was called for three penalties and North Shore had five penalties for the day.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies' win streak hits seven

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP— The North Woods boys continued on a roll last week, running their current win streak to seven games with a 94-43 road win at Virginia and a 113-63 home blowout of Mesabi East.

At Virginia on Feb. 17, the Grizzlies already had enough points to win going into the half with a 52-42 lead. Defense generated offense, as the Grizzlies converted 26 Virginia turnovers into 41 points.

Three-balls were good for the Grizzlies this time around, with Jared Chiabotti's four treys leading a group of five Grizzlies who connected from long range at a 42-percent shooting clip.

Jared Chiabotti's trifectas gave him the edge in points scored with 22, followed by T.J. Chiabotti with 18, Sean Morrison with 17, and Jonah Burnett with 13.

Mesabi East led twice in the early going on Friday until Jared Chiabotti, T.J. Chiabotti, and Morrison fueled a 17-2 Grizzlies' run, and North Woods led by as many as 25 before heading to the locker room with a 53-33 edge.

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

Wolves slip to Chisholm

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

CHISHOLM— Ely junior Joey Bianco posted another double-double here last Friday, but it wasn't enough to overcome a tough first half for Ely. The Timberwolves lost to the Bluestreaks 84-65.

The Wolves struggled with an aggressive Chisholm press at times, allowing a whopping 17 turnovers in the first half alone. The 'Streaks took advantage and built a 16-point lead by the break. Ely showed more composure in the second half and closed the gap at one point to seven, but they faded down the stretch.

Bianco dominated offensively for Ely, pouring in 27 points, grabbing 16 rebounds and notching seven assists. Senior Harry Simons added 13 points and six assists, while fellow senior Mason Davis added ten points.

Ely's scheduled Tuesday night home contest with Mt. Iron-Buhl was postponed due to weather. That game has been rescheduled to this Saturday night, Feb. 26. The Timberwolves will wrap up their regular season at home next week, hosting Silver Bay on Tuesday night, with Fond du Lac coming to town on Friday.

WOOD PRODUCTS

Cook site still in the mix for new siding plant

Louisiana-Pacific officials hope to make a decision on new SmartSide capacity by end of 2022

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Out of sight, out of mind is an apt descriptor for the former Ainsworth OSB mill about three-and-a-half miles south of Cook, that's been shuttered now for nearly 15 years.

Visible only for a second or two through a gap in the trees to passing motorists on Hwy. 53, few area residents give it a thought these days, and many have forgotten the hopes raised in 2016, when Louisiana-Pacific bought the former mill for a possible new siding mill.

But it's not completely out of the minds of top officials at LP Solutions, the current owner, which still has the property in the mix for possible future development, according to comments made Tuesday during the company's fourth-quarter earnings teleconference.

A key growth segment for LP Solutions has been siding, and to respond to strong demand CEO Brad Southern has expanded production capacity in recent years by focusing on conversions of currently operating mills and acquisitions of others. Bringing the long-idled Cook plant back on line is a more costly and cumbersome project, which has kept the option sidelined for the past several years.

The strategy paid divi-

dends for LP Solutions in 2021, as net sales of the company's SmartSide Trim & Siding, SmartSide ExpertFinish Trim & Siding, BuilderSeries Lap Siding, and Outdoor Building Solutions products grew by \$243 million, a 27-percent increase over the prior year. For the first time in company history, two plant conversions are happening simultaneously in 2022, with scheduled completion of a project in Houlton, Maine, and startup of a conversion in Sagola, Mich. LP Solutions is investing around \$400 million in capital expansion this year, about half of which is going into these two conversions, according to chief financial officer Alan Haughe.

Growth projections are strong for the siding segment, and planning for future production expansion is underway, Southern said. While a complex mix of factors is involved, the Cook site is still being analyzed for possible use in a manner different from originally envisioned six years ago.

Southern outlined three possible avenues for expanding production capacity. One option would be to add capacity at an existing siding mill. A second would be to convert one of the company's two remaining aspen-reliant OSB mills over to siding, he said. A third possibility would be to build an entirely new



Left: An aerial view of the former Ainsworth OSB mill site. The former plant location remains under consideration for a new Louisiana-Pacific siding mill.

facility specifically designed for siding production, referred to in the industry as a greenfield project.

"Each of those have different capital efficiency parameters, and then each of them has different ramp-up parameters," Southern said. "There's pluses and minuses for each of those three scenarios, and that's exactly what we're working through in order to get to a decision on the capacity expansion after Sagola."

How the Cook site might factor into the deliberations was made clear by Southern when Ketan Mamtora, of BMO Capital Markets Equity Research, asked him specifically about the facility.

"When I speak about possible greenfield, that obviously would include Cook," Southern

said. "The Cook land would be a really ideal place for us to build a greenfield siding mill."

Adding capacity at an existing siding mill has an advantage from the standpoint of immediate production quality, Southern said, but would depend on wood and land availability. Existing OSB mill conversions benefit from already having labor in place, but the two remaining facilities available to convert are both larger than any previous conversion and would involve greater complexity, he said.

A greenfield facility, possibly at Cook, designed specifically for siding production is something Southern said he is "intrigued by," but he also noted that such a project would be, "probably the least capital efficient means

of securing new siding capacity."

The company already owns the Cook site, situated for ready access to the raw timber needed for its aspen-based siding products. But the announcement in December of a brand-new siding pre-finishing facility to be built in Bath, New York, is an indication that LP Solutions is open to acquiring new property for development when conditions warrant.

With numerous factors and options to consider and planning at an early stage, Southern was not in a position on Tuesday to indicate what direction the company might go, but he did offer a possible timeline for a decision on next steps.

"I could see us talking publicly about that decision later this year, probably late this year, because we are looking at needing that production ramping up in 2024," Southern said. "We're all hands-on-deck working those scenarios and we expect to be able to talk with a little more certainty about what we've chosen to do as we get in the second half of this year."

GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

out the game and the win.

"We've been waiting to win a game sort of like this, where we came in and took care of business," Ely Head Coach Max Gantt said. "When we didn't turn over the ball and took care of it we got what we wanted on offense. Sarah Visser played really well tonight. She knocked down a couple three pointers, which is something she's been adding to her game. Madeline Perry's a constant with the speed she plays at on the offensive end, and Madeline Kallberg played really well also, just

picking off a lot of passes on defense and then getting easy transition points to get us a lead."

Coming off one of the Grizzlies' best games of the season, a 70-62 road win at Greenway, the home court loss was doubly tough for Cheney because of its implications for tournament seeding.

"It was a game that we needed to set ourselves higher than we are in the section, and we came up short," Cheney said. "Coming out in the second half is one of our issues. At Greenway, we came out and

hit three three-pointers in a row, and that was the game changer. Here, we just came out flat again, still passed the ball the way we're not supposed to (to give up turnovers)."

Gantt echoed Cheney in giving Ely's defense credit for the Grizzlies' offensive woes.

"Our man defense from the beginning of the year has really improved," Gantt said. "We switch a lot of screens, which means you're going to have to work really hard because you might be undersized in some matchups, but we

do it well. The defense has been really nice."

Cheney found a bright spot, however, in the play of Hannah Kinsey, who led the Grizzlies with 20 points.

"She has really stepped into her leadership role on the floor," Cheney said. "That's not something I've seen from her until recently. Her play has been more passion-filled, and her court awareness has come full circle. And she was on tonight on the basket making moves and shooting. She's really, really coming along."

Ely's Madeline Perry

was the game's leading scorer with 24 points, 16 in the second half. The Wolves also picked up 15 points each from Grace LaTourell and Sarah Visser and 11 from Madison Rohr. Other Grizzlies who scored in double digits included Talise Goodsky with 12 and Hannah Cheney with 10.

With two regular season games remaining after last week's win, Ely stood sixth in the Section 7A standings and has a virtual lock for a first-round home game. North Woods was right behind in seventh position and would have to

slip to ninth to open the sectional tourney on the road.

The bottom four seeds will begin postseason tourney action on Monday, with a full slate of eight games on tap for March 2 to narrow the field to eight. All of those games will be played on the home court of the higher-seeded team. The Section 7A semifinals on March 9 and final on March 11 will be played in Duluth. Check timberjay.com and the Timberjay's Facebook page for the sectional bracket, game times and updated results.

NW BOYS...Continued from page 1B

The Giants made a good attempt at a comeback in the second half, pulling to within 10 at 57-47. The Grizzlies didn't take kindly to that, punishing the Giants by allowing them only 10 points in the final 11 minutes of the game while continuing their offensive dominance to log their highest game score of the

season.

"We just needed to score the basketball," Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe said, talking about the Giants' run to close to within ten. "In the half court, we were a little stale and weren't really getting the ball moved very well. So, we got in the press and created some turnovers,

and once we got a little bit of a rhythm where we're scoring and then get right back in our press, that pretty much took care of it."

T.J. Chiabotti was on fire in the first half and finished with 32 points for the game, and Kleppe complimented not only his efforts but how his play opened up other opportunities.

"I thought T.J. did a fantastic job of finding open spots," Kleppe said. "We were able to attack the lane, and kids knew he was hot and got the ball to him. Then that opened up some nice drop passes to our bigs, and Shawn got into it early, so our ball movement there in spurts was outstanding."

Jonah Burnett had the

hot hand in the second half and scored 19 for the game. Jared Chiabotti connected for 14, Morrison popped in 12, and Brenden Chiabotti scored 10.

Inclement weather forced the Grizzlies to cancel a Tuesday night road trip to Eveleth-Gilbert, but the game was rescheduled for Thursday. The Grizzlies

stamina will be tested with a road game scheduled at Chisholm on Friday, and home games Monday and Tuesday against Carlton and Lakeview Christian. North Woods will wrap up the regular season at home on Friday, March 4 against Deer River.

SKIERS...Continued from page 1B

Phoebe Helms finished in the middle of the pack, in

53rd place, with a combined pursuit time of 38:35.8.

Sophomore Ava Skustad finished in 67th place with a pursuit time of 39:52.0.

On the boys side, a freak accident clearly impacted the final results for Ely's top boy skier, senior Gabriel Pointer, who was hit by a downhill skier after Pointer had completed the opening day classic race. Pointer was sitting in 33rd place after opening day, but he finished 78th in the freestyle event after the skier's impact injured his shoulder, leaving him in considerable pain. The

pursuit scores left Pointer in 56th place, with a combined time of 32:35.2, still the top finish among Ely boys and in the top five among Section 7 skiers competing at state.

Fellow Ely senior Jon Hakala wasn't far behind, finishing in 60th overall with a time of 32:38.0.

In the girls sprint relay competition, Ely sprinters Gracie Pointer and Sydney Durkin finished in 11th place among the 24 teams in the competition. "That was a great result," said

Anderson.

For some of the first-time Ely skiers, the state meet is an entirely new experience and it can be intimidating, noted Anderson. "It's very intense and you're skiing with lots of really fast skiers, which can be a shocker the first time."

Looking ahead to next season, the Ely girls should maintain, if not build, on the strength they demonstrated this year. While Ely's Gracie Pointer is a senior who competed in her

last race at the high school level, Devine and Helms should both be returning next year as seniors, while a promising crop of freshmen and sophomores should continue to improve.

The senior-heavy boys' team, by contrast, will lose its top three racers, seniors Pointer and Hakala, along with Micah Larson, who narrowly missed his own trip to state, which should make the 2022-23 season a rebuilding year for the Ely boys.



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LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday						
Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Sn.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Sn.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Sn.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Sn.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Sn.		
12	-4				24	-4				14	-8				18	3				25	9					
Ely	6	-8	0.01	0.2"	Emb.	6	-41	0.01	0.1"	Cook	-5	-34	0.00			Orr	10	-26	0.00			Tower	6	-40	tr	0.2"
02/15	12	-25	0.00		02/15	11	-30	0.00		02/15	11	-27	0.00			02/15	18	-22	0.00			02/15	17	-29	0.00	
02/16	21	-20	0.09	1.4"	02/16	19	-23	0.10	1.0"	02/16	19	-19	0.00			02/16	18	0	0.00			02/16	19	-18	0.08	1.2"
02/17	19	-10	0.00		02/17	17	-17	0.00		02/17	19	-16	0.03	0.5"	02/17	1	-26	0.00	0.5"	02/17	18	-19	0.00			
02/18	4	-32	0.04	1.3"	02/18	0	-36	0.01		02/18	0	-30	0.01	0.2"	02/18	10	-20	0.00	0.2"	02/18	2	-34	0.00			
02/19	11	-14	0.02	0.3"	02/19	10	-21	0.19	1.5"	02/19	12	-18	0.18	3.5"	02/19	19	-18	0.00	3.5"	02/19	9	-20	0.08	1.4"		
02/20	25	-17	0.01	0.3"	02/20	25	-15	0.01	0.2"	02/20	20	-22	0.02	0.4"	02/20	27	3	0.00	0.4"	02/20	25	-23	tr	0.2"		
YTD Total			1.02	63.4"	YTD Total			1.29	39.1"	YTD Total			1.68	69.7"				NA	NA	YTD Total			1.41	48.9"		

UNITED WAY

Iron Range schools receive donations

REGIONAL – The pandemic, coupled with this winter's frigid temperatures, has exacerbated needs across the region. And, when it comes to children, schools are often the first line of defense in providing aid.

The United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) is doing its part to support schools in these efforts, delivering snow pants, coats, hats, mittens, socks, underwear, and menstrual products to schools across the Iron Range for children in need.

UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay called the delivery a shining example of the organization's work, combining community partnerships, local donations, and UWNEMN programs to make an impact on its focus areas, in this case, "Helping Children Succeed."

"We put a lot of planning and research in place to make long-term impacts in our region, but we also have a proven record of being able to make things



happen quickly when necessary," Shay said. "So, when our community sees a need, they know they can call us to get it met."

UWNEMN had heard from school staff and others of an increasing demand for winter gear for students this winter. They reached out to all schools to determine how best to help.

"Our service area covers multiple communities, and we know each community is different, so we wanted to find out what was most needed where," Shay said.

The needs were far-ranging and extended

beyond hats and mittens. While UWNEMN had some funding available for unexpected circumstances like these, thanks to local donors, and socks and underwear through its Comforts of Home program, it was clear collaboration was needed to be able to properly assist every Iron Range school in need.

Remaining funding for snow pants, coats, hats, and mittens came from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation and the Family Services Collaborative. Menstrual products were donated by Period Kits MN, an initiative with a mission to pro-

vide period kits to those in extreme poverty.

"After getting to know about all the amazing things [UWNEMN] does, we knew without a doubt we wanted to partner with [UWNEMN] and support the communities of northern Minnesota," said Period Kits MN co-founder Brandon Biernat. "I believe [UWNEMN]'s efforts in distributing these supply packs are incredible, and we are very grateful for the opportunity to assist in reaching those in need."

Gratitude was central to this week's delivery, Shay noted.

"Our local schools are facing extraordinary challenges this school year, and we are so grateful for all the ways schools go above and beyond for our local children," she said. "We are proud to support them any way we can, and we are incredibly grateful to IRRR, the Family Services Collaborative, and Period Kits MN for helping us do so in this way!"

Healthy meals available to ship to older Minnesotans

REGIONAL— Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) offers frozen, shipped meals to older adults statewide through its LSS Meals to Go service. LSS Meals equip older adults to live healthier, more active and independent lives and make eating fun and easy. They also serve individuals experiencing food insecurities or who need assistance with nutrition or nutrition requirements.

The meals are designed by a licensed, registered dietitian to ensure that they are healthy and nutritious. Nutritionally-modified meals are available for individuals with special dietary needs, such as those who

have diabetes or require a controlled sodium, low fat or low cholesterol diet. This service also provides healthy meal options to older adults in rural areas who may not have access to regular, nutritious meals.

"We are grateful to be able to offer these healthy and delicious meals for older adults," said Kristin Quenzer, Senior Director of LSS Meals. "It's a service that's rapidly growing in popularity to address many different needs for older adults — especially at this time during our cold winters and an ongoing pandemic that make it more difficult to visit the grocery store."

Luann is an older

adult who utilizes the LSS Meals to Go service. It's hard for her to stand for long periods of time, which then makes cooking a challenge. "These meals enhance my life so much. Without them, I know I would have to resort to eating more convenience foods that are fast to prepare, but not very healthy," Luann said. "The meals are absolutely marvelous for older adults who have difficulty shopping for groceries or cooking healthy meals."

Since the start of the pandemic, LSS Meals has experienced a dramatic increase in meals requested. In 2020, they shipped 8,082 total meals, and in 2021 they shipped

21,623 meals. Currently, 750 meals are shipped out weekly.

Meals are covered for Minnesotans who use any of the following waiver programs: Alternative Care (AC), Brain Injury (BI), Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI), Developmental

Disabilities (DD) and Elderly Waiver (EW). These waiver programs provide support to individuals in their home or community, rather than in an institutional setting. Meals are also available to anyone in Minnesota who could benefit from healthy meals shipped directly to their

homes. Each shipment includes 14 frozen meals and the cost is about \$9 per meal, which includes the shipping cost. To order meals, please visit lssmn.org/mealstogo or call 800-488-4146.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Teresa Beaudry

Teresa "Terry" Harvat Beaudry, 70, of Maui, Hawaii, passed away on Monday, Feb. 7, 2002. A ceremony celebrating her life was held on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at her favorite beach near her home.

Terry was born on May 14, 1951, to Albert James Harvat and Joan Dragacon Harvat, in Ely. She was an English teacher at Maui High School. She will be dearly missed by her family, friends, and all the students who have walked in and out of her classroom.

Terry is survived by her children, Rose Beaudry Delgado and Danielle Beaudry; sisters, Merrie, Alberta, Jojo and Liesl; and brother, John.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Joan; and sister, Katy Harvat.

Rosemary K. Byron

Rosemary Katherine Spolar Byron, 78, of Orr, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, at Fairview Range Medical Center in Hibbing with her family at her side. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 25 at the Servicemen's Club in Virginia. Arrange-

ments are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Robert of Orr; daughter, Rhonda (Jared Miller) of Palo; son, Ronald (Beverly Smith) of Louisiana; and grandson, Dylan Prebonich of Eveleth.

Verneal M. Kolstad

Verneal M. Elsenpeter Kolstad, 94, of Tower, formerly of Virginia, died on Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, at Vermilion Senior Living in Tower. Verneal's family wishes to thank the staff at Vermilion Senior Living for their compassionate care and concern. A funeral service was held on Saturday, Feb. 19 at Bauman's Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower with Deacon Dan Schultz officiating. Interment was in Greenwood Cemetery in Virginia. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to Vermilion Senior Living, 1232 North Birch Street, Tower, MN 55790. Family services were provided by Bauman Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

She is survived by her children, Ron (Diane) Kolstad of Hardeeville, S.C., Linda Borowick of

Beatty, Nev., and Janet (Dan) Schultz of Tower; sister, Glorine Kearns of Rhineland, Wis.; step-sister, Ethel Allardyce of Richfield; grandchildren, David (Melissa) Schultz, Michael (Allycia) Schultz, Emily Schultz and Sarah Schultz; great-grandchildren, Brielle, Brayden, Roman, Evelyn and Kinley; extended family and friends.

Dorothy Caron

Dorothy Froehlingsdorf Caron, 95, of Virginia, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022, at Edgewood Vista in Virginia. Dorothy enjoyed her last few years at Edgewood and her family would like to thank the staff there. A Funeral Mass was held on Saturday, Feb. 19 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia and internment was at Greenwood Cemetery. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her brother, Joseph Froehlingsdorf (Susan) of (Zim); and children, Renee (Robert) Pearson of Tower, Thomas of Irving, Texas, and Elizabeth (Gary) Wetzell of Parrish, Fla.

Community notices

Essentia Health holding virtual advance care planning classes

REGIONAL— Essentia Health is hosting free advance care planning (ACP) classes online on Thursday, March 3 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; Wednesday, April 13 from 1 - 2 p.m.; and Tuesday, May 3 from 9 - 10 a.m.

Advance care planning is a process that helps you think and talk about your choices for health care in the future. It's important for every adult to have an advance directive, also known as a living will or health care directive.

Everyone is invited to join in thought-provoking conversation to discover the value of ACP, reflect on your values, choose a health care agent, explore goals for treatment and take steps toward completing a health care directive for yourself. By having these conversations proactively, you can ensure that your preferences are understood if you become unable to make medical decisions for yourself due to an accident, injury or sudden illness.

For the safety of our communities, these classes are currently being offered virtually. Visit www.essentiahealth.org/patients-visitors/advance-care-planning/ to register and for more information on advance care planning. If you are unable to attend a virtual class but are interested in learning about advance care planning, our pre-recorded webinar, "It's about the conversation," is available at the above link, as well.

Read us online at www.timberjay.com

Navigating Your First Year in Retirement

Like most Americans, you've probably spent years working to achieve the retirement of your dreams. Then there comes a point when this career milestone changes from a distant goal to an imminent reality. You can make your first year away from work more rewarding and less stressful when you take the time to anticipate potential challenges and prepare for how you will handle this important life change.

Your state of mind: In your first weeks as a new retiree, it's normal to feel both excitement and trepidation. You're eager for more time to connect with friends and family, and to do the activities you love. Stepping away from your career can also reduce your stress level and free you from the burden of having competing priorities. However, saying goodbye to your workplace, business associates, day-to-day responsibilities and regular paycheck may trigger anxiety and sadness. This is especially true for those who've enjoyed their professional status and fulfilling career.

If your spouse or significant other is already at home, either as a homemaker or first retiree, recognize that your new lifestyle may cause similar emotions for this person. Imagine your reaction if he or she were retiring to your "office." The change would mean a departure from your schedule and habits, even if it means more time together.

For those experiencing mixed feelings, it's helpful to acknowledge them, both to yourself and a partner or trusted friend. Remind yourself why you chose to retire and remember all that you accomplished to reach this point.

Your purpose: With your calendar clear of work obligations, it's important to identify a few ways to fill your time. To start, keep the promises you've made to yourself, your spouse or others about what your retirement will include. For example, if you've promised distant relatives that you'll reconnect, then organize a reunion. Set a date to fulfill your dream of visiting France's wine country or find an instructor who can teach you to play the piano. Alternatively, you may decide to pursue an encore career, part-time job or an opportunity to open your own business.

With all your new possibilities, it's important to avoid overcommitting yourself. Give yourself some breathing room in each day and ease into volunteer organizations or activities. Now that you have the freedom to do so, be sure that you're choosing to spend your time in ways that are most gratifying to you.

Your finances: Adjusting your mindset from building your nest egg to spending it can be challenging. To make your initiation to retiree life easier, create a plan for how you will pay yourself in retirement. Start by tallying your income sources before determining which ones you'll tap into first. Next, estimate your cash flow for year one. Planning this in advance can help ease worries and reduce your risk of overspending. As a benchmark, have enough cash to cover three years of potential unexpected expenses. Once you're in retirement, monitor your cash reserves regularly to gauge your spending and make adjustments as needed.

If you're uneasy or need reassurance that your income and cash flow plans are sufficient, meet with a financial advisor. Together you can look at the impact of taxes, evaluate your portfolio diversification and prepare for the legacy you'd like to leave your community and family.

Becoming a retiree means enduring a lot of change. Although you can't prepare for every challenge and opportunity you might face in your first year, planning for what you can control allows you to move into this new life stage with confidence.

Adam Maki, CFS, is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Cook, MN. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 22 years. Contact him at 218-666-5329 / 219 S River Street, Cook MN 55723 / email adam.r.maki@ampf.com / website www.ameripriseadvisors.com/adam.r.maki.

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Outdoors

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WHITETAILS



Deer WSI on the rise

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— After an exceptionally mild start, the region's winter severity index, or WSI, for whitetail deer is rising quickly and could be headed for a moderate-to-somewhat severe rating depending on the weather over the next several weeks.

As of Wednesday, the WSI stood at anywhere from 85-to-110 across the region, with the variation depending mostly on snow depth. The WSI, which wildlife managers use as a guide to winter deer mortality, adds a point for every day with a below zero temperature and another for every day with a snow depth of 15 inches or greater.

With weeks of subzero temperatures and snow depths around the area now in excess of 24 inches across most the region, the index has added points most quickly in February, as snow depths in most locations reached the 15-inch threshold. And with several days of subzero temperatures in the forecast through next Monday, WSI readings could reach the 95-125 range by this time next week. At this time last year, the WSI stood well below 50, in one of the mildest winters in years. Winters with a total WSI value of 50 or lower are considered mild, according to the DNR. Winters with readings of 51 to 119 are considered moderate, while winters topping a reading of 120 are considered severe, although readings that high are not unusual in northern St. Louis County.

DNR wildlife managers acknowledge that the WSI is only one of a number of factors that impact deer survival. The overall duration of winter and the timing of spring green-up, along with the quantity and quality of habitat and forage, are other factors that affect survival. Wolf density and food competition from other deer can make a difference as well.

Time to buy 2022 licenses

REGIONAL—It's the time of year when anglers and hunters need to buy new fishing and hunting licenses. Minnesota fishing, hunting and trapping licenses for 2021 expire Monday, Feb. 28. Licenses for 2022 are now available wherever fishing and hunting licenses are sold. Mobile buyers receive a text or email that serves as proof of a valid fish or game license to state conservation officers.

All 2022 fishing licenses become effective Tuesday, March 1. New licenses are required for 2022 hunting and fishing seasons that continue past Feb. 28.



THE LOST LAKE SWAMP

Ten miles of trudging

Exploring the depths of the swamp in winter is always a test of endurance

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

I always have a slight sense of trepidation when my wife Jodi drops me off on the far side of the Lost Lake Swamp, with miles of remote, unbroken bush-whacking ahead of me. Earlier this month, it was myself and a friend who Jodi was waving to as we headed into the thick woods from the dead end on the Little Fork River Rd.

My friend, once an elite Division I collegiate runner, was the only person who had ever agreed to join me (Jodi, oddly, has never been tempted) on my annual snowshoe slog through the swamp. This was her second time so she knew what she was getting into on this slightly overcast morning, with the temperature hovering just above zero.

We hit the trail about 10 a.m., with my log cabin, perched high on the ridge on the far side of the swamp, as our ultimate destination.

As the crow flies, it was seven miles. Winding through the alder thickets, the dense cedar groves, and the miles of scattered, stunted spruce and tamarack, it was easily ten miles, maybe more. The snow was deep and powdery and, where the wind hadn't packed it, we sunk in, at times, to our knees.

I've done this trek many times before, but this time I had a slightly different route in mind. There's a small hill in the swamp, about a mile from where we started. On a U.S. Geological Survey map, it marks what appears to be the origins of the Little Fork River, with little lines of winding blue that wrap around both sides of the hill. I had passed by there a few times in the past, on skis once the crust was hard, and had always passed south of the hill, into an extensive thicket of alder and dwarf birch. I was hoping to avoid that by passing north of the hill. For me, it was uncharted territory, but the risks associated with exploring new territory have certainly diminished in an age of smartphones with their GPS capabilities. In the past, I had always used a map and compass, which can have limitations in a landscape with very few recognizable landmarks. Google Earth had indicated that a series of beaver ponds awaited us on the north side of the hill and we found the snow windblown enough to make for a bit easier going. We slogged through a narrow patch

Above: Out in the open swamp, with about four miles yet to go in a recent ten-mile snowshoe trek.

Right: A massive yellow birch on an upland island far out in the swamp.

Lower right: Collapsed on the snowmobile trail near the end of the trek.

photos by V. Thistle and M. Helmberger

of brush before reaching somewhat higher ground, where the alder transitioned to cedar. By then, we were a couple of miles into the trek. It has been slower going than we had expected and it was after noon by then so we knew that daylight could become a limiting factor.

But we continued on, and finally reached the largest of the upland islands in the Lost Lake Swamp, a place where few humans ever wander.

Along the way, I chopped several chunks of chaga from old paper birch. I don't know whether the chaga from these old trees is any more potent than what I find closer to the house, but as I sip a little chaga tea in the mornings, it always brings me back

to my explorations in the swamp, which is its own palliative in a world that sometimes seems to have gone insane.

A portion of this island also contains the most extensive stand of yellow birch that I've ever found in these parts. I wasn't sure if we could locate my favorite yellow birch as we trudged across about a mile of upland forest. It's a massive tree with a huge spreading crown, but after nearly an hour of trekking through very old woods, I recognized a rock outcrop and, from there, was able to navigate to my tree. It had been years since I had made a visit and I, of course, had to give it a hug.

It was at that point that my trepidation lifted. We had reached the midway point of our trek and we were now back on familiar ground... in my own somewhat expansive backyard you might say. No need for the occasional check of the GPS after that. The thickets of alder, cedar, and the deep woods of the big island were behind us. From here on, it was open, stunted spruce and weathered tamarack, until we would reach the Arrowhead snowmobile trail for the final mile or so.

The trepidation was gone, but the work was only half over. Before reaching the more open swamp, where we suspected the wind would have packed the snow



for us, we had to pass through the most dreaded area of all, a stretch of sedges and cattails. If you haven't tried to snowshoe through tall sedges or cattails before, try to avoid it at all costs. The structure of the grass-like plants hold the snow up, which means once you break through you sink much further than usual. At times, we were wallowing in nearly waist-deep snow, while the sedges and cattails tangled our snowshoes. The stretch was only a couple hundred feet but it seemed like a mile and it strained our already tired muscles.

We finally made it through and reached the open swamp, where the going was considerably easier. By then it was mid-afternoon, so we needed the break, both from physical exhaustion as well as the progress of the soon-to-be-setting sun.

From there, we shot as close to a straight line as we could muster, through two miles of what peatland experts refer to as "featureless water track," which could have easily passed on this day as frozen Arctic tundra. My poor friend, who was a distance runner back in the day, was definitely flagging as we made our

way, one increasingly painful step at a time, across a seemingly endless expanse of snow drifts interspersed with the gnarled bones of stunted tamarack. I promised that relief would come once we hit the snowmobile trail. "It's really just up ahead," I told her several times before she finally stopped believing me.

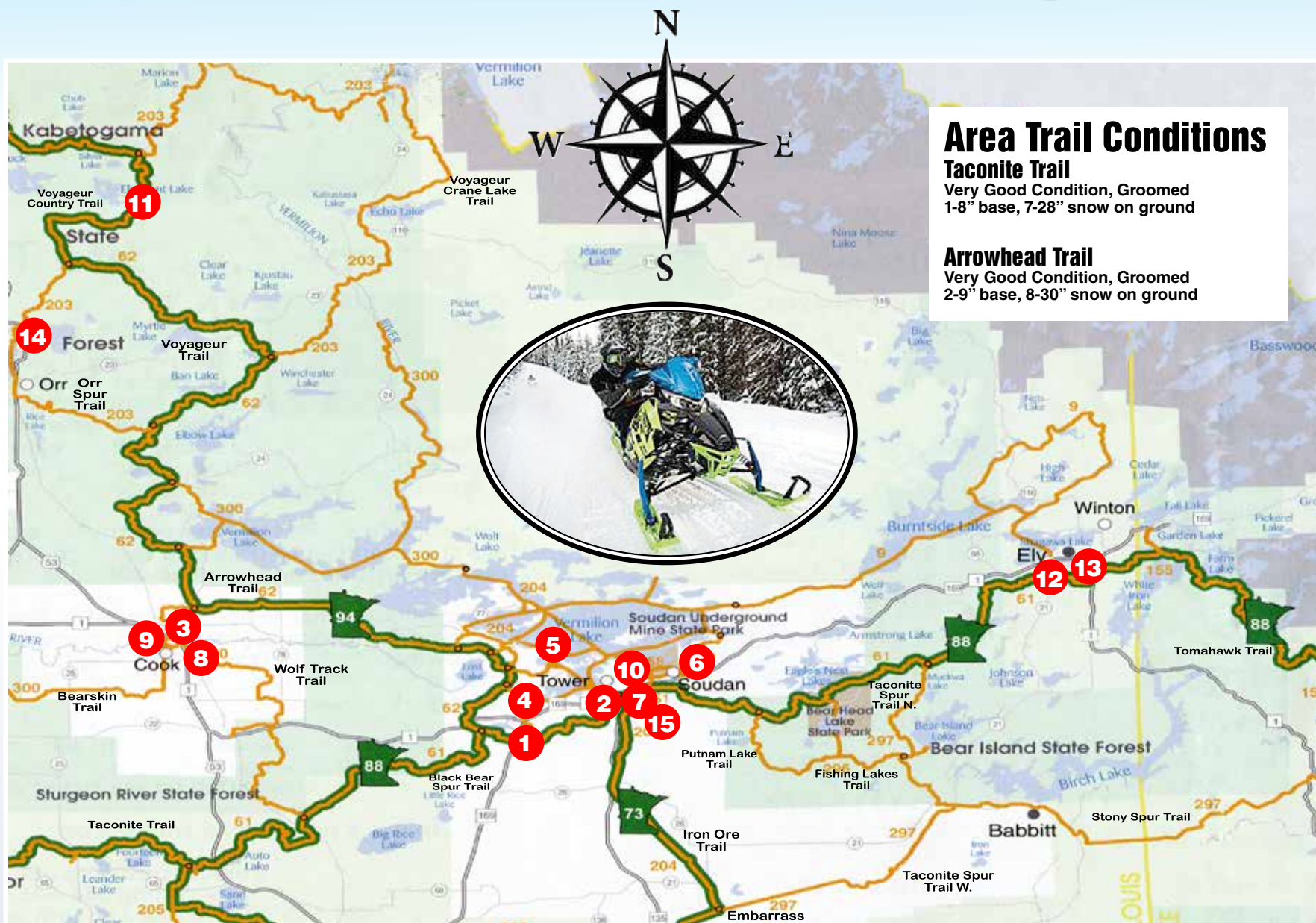
"No really," I finally said and, this time, it was true. It was the sight of a couple snowmobiles whizzing by, that finally convinced her. We reached the trail, took off our snowshoes, and she collapsed right on the trail. After a brief rest, we started walking the final mile. To go straight home would have required putting our snowshoes back on (which neither of us wanted to do), so we opted to walk the trail instead to its intersection with our road. We called Jodi and asked her to pick us up there, figuring either way we had made it across the swamp.

"Are you crazy?" is the usual response when I tell people about my slogs across the swamp. But I don't think it's crazy to challenge yourself on occasion. And, it's the only way to see all that's truly out there, beyond the limit of our comfort.



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

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



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10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Nursing
FT RN House Supervisor
Hospital/ER
Casual Unit Clerk/HUC, EMT certification or Nursing Assistant required, Wage starting at \$17.36/hr
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/
More Info? Contact Human Resources
218-666-6220
humanresources@cookhospital.org

The Cook Hospital is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Embarrass • Annual Meeting Notice

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

The Annual Meeting will commence at 7:00 pm to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. This meeting will be held at: Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Rd., Embarrass, MN 55732

Jennifer Boese, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 25, 2022

International Wolf Center

The International Wolf Center is hiring! Education Outreach Lead

The Education Outreach Lead will develop, implement and deliver innovative on and off-site educational programs.
40 hours/week
\$16.80- \$18.25/hr. Benefits eligible.

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

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.



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.

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

2021.16.25.3711.25

PUBLIC NOTICES

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Eagles Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Eagles Nest Town Hall. In case of inclement weather, the Meeting may be postponed until Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

Keely Drange, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 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

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

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools American Indian Education Liaison

Ely Public Schools is looking for an American Indian Education Liaison. A background check is required.

Qualifications include:
➢ AA Degree or 2 years of college preferred
➢ Indian preference
➢ Preferred experience working with school age children
➢ Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

A complete application must include the following:
➢ Non-Licensed District Application
➢ Resume
➢ 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us

Rate of Pay: \$17.00/hour

Hours: 6 hours/day

Deadline to apply: Wednesday, March 2, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 25, 2022

FUNERAL SERVICES

Range Funeral Home



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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	6		7				3		
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

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HAIR CARE

DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA- Open Monday-Friday 8:30 - 6:30. 218-666-5594. tfn

HOSPICE

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

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PAY RANGE: \$97,968 - \$127,795/ANNUALLY
Hours: 40 hours/week
Closing Date: Open until filled with preference given to applications received by February 25, 2022. For information on how to apply, visit www.swiftcounty.com/jobs or call 320-314-8321.

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HELP WANTED

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

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Sat/Sun: Closed

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.

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

Super Crossword

PROGRAM FINALES

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| ACROSS
1 Sci-fi zapper
10 "Flashdance" star Jennifer
15 1,152, to Caesar
20 Stateside
21 U-shaped bend in a river
22 Protest shout
23 Gave spirit to
24 Chicago airport
25 See 42-Across
26 Bad grade
27 Causes wonder in
28 Subcompact car of the 1980s
30 Naughty kid
31 Saroyan's "My Name Is —"
32 Mex. miss
33 Abate
34 HarperCollins or Simon & Schuster
40 — Antonio
41 Suffix with Brooklyn
42 With 25-Across, Czech tennis great
43 Crude dude
44 Gallery stuff
46 Film director Preminger
47 Holiday song
49 Optimistic attitude
55 Give and take
57 False appearances
58 Flaky dessert
59 Restricted entry
62 USMC rank
63 Frat dude
66 Soon-to-be adolescents
67 Inquire into
69 One of 100 in D.C.
70 Monk's title
71 Stuff applied to the wall of a room
76 School org.
77 Certain Ukrainian
78 Fine riverbed sand
79 Athlete's advantage
84 1836 Texas siege site
87 Abbr. on a phone dial
88 Sgt., e.g.
89 Must-have
91 In a bit, to bards
92 "— a snap!"
93 Took a chair
95 Features of many limos
100 Sue Grafton's "— for Noose" | 101 Movie-rating org.
103 Defendant's opponent
104 Part of LAPD
105 "Necktie," "bathrobe" or "jumpsuit"
108 College bigwig
110 Furry foot
113 Taken together
114 Great values
115 Subsequent stage
117 Coup —
118 Omit, as a syllable
119 Balsam or turpentine
120 Blissful spots
121 Doles (out)
122 Maker of the eight programs that are the theme of this puzzle | 9 Ticked off
10 "Awright!"
11 Dig out from the ground
12 Impose — on (outlaw)
13 Some nobles
14 Affirms solemnly
15 Suburb of D.C. in Virginia
16 Wheat — (cereal)
17 Judge of the O.J. Simpson trial
18 Owing
19 "Don't worry, things are going to work out!"
28 60-min. periods
29 "Give — whirl"
30 "You're preaching to the choir!"
31 Lung cell
34 Pen maker
35 Egg cells
36 Boat-rowing guys
37 Style of jazz
38 Bath tub sponges
39 Great reviews
45 Scale notes after dos
46 Bullring cheer | 48 Library penalty
50 Old railroad watchdog agcy.
51 — Bo (exercise system)
52 Age-verifying cards
53 Top dentures
54 Food fish from Africa
56 Eye squintingly
59 A DJ might spin them
60 Furiousness
61 Gene stuff
62 Co. big shot
63 Gold-winning figure skater Brian
64 Hotfoot it
65 Slugger Mel
67 Burned a bit
68 Sentimental pop songs
71 Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"
72 Ida, neighbor
73 China's Lao- —
74 Suffix with Brooklyn
75 Comedian Gilda
76 "Ask Me Another" ainer
77 Available without an Rx | 79 Occur at the same time
80 Acquired the film rights to
81 Army meal companion
82 As a team
83 "So yucky!"
85 Do some lawn work
86 Add- — (peripherals)
90 Pupil-widening drug, e.g.
93 Young salmon and sea trout
94 Clerk on "The Simpsons"
96 Tristan's love
97 Surgery assistants
98 TV magnate Turner
99 Olympic athlete, e.g.
102 She sang "Hello"
106 Strategize
107 Stand by
108 Sub shop
109 Part of 62-Down: Abbr.
110 El —, Texas
111 Almost like
112 Departed
115 — de plume
116 "— So Shy" |
|---|---|---|--|---|

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆
◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

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120									121											
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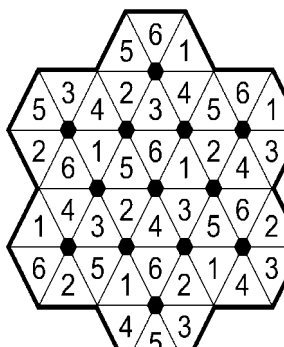
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PUBLIC NOTICES

KABETOGAMA 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 & 25, 2022

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