



Inside:
Masks off at Ely Schools... See /3
2,000 point milestone... See /2B
Yes, it has been cold...See /4B
Snowmobile Hot Spots...See /5B

the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

VOL. 33, ISSUE 8 March 4, 2022

\$1⁰⁰

CITY OF COOK

Mayor accused of meddling in housing authority operations CHRA director alleges improper intervention in eviction proceedings

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

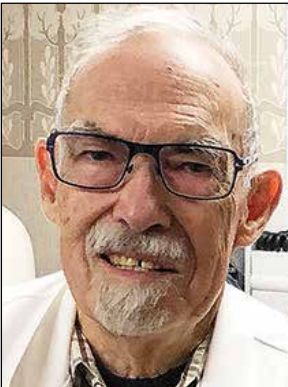
COOK- The oft-strained relationship between Cook Housing and Redevelopment Authority (CHRA) Executive Director Reed Erickson and Cook city officials soured further this past week when Erickson pub-

licly accused Cook Mayor Harold Johnston of seeking to block evictions of three residents at the apartments operated by CHRA. Erickson was on the agenda at his request to review the accuracy of past city council meeting minutes related to the CHRA, including how and when certain board

members were appointed. Mayor Johnston is on record that it is his responsibility as mayor to appoint members of the CHRA board, with council approval, and that neither he nor members of the council are to be involved in the day-to-day operations of the housing authority. Erickson asked for reconfirmation of

that position before raising an issue that he said came up at a Feb. 9 meeting of the CHRA board. Johnston, who appointed himself to the board in December to cover an unexpired term and again in January for a regular term, was present at the meeting. "And then I just had clarification, if the mayor

wants to talk about this, about a statement you made at the Feb. 9 HRA board meeting," Erickson said. "If you want to talk about it here or come into the office, it's up to you." "I have no idea what you're talking about," Johnston responded.



See...MAYOR pg. 10 Mayor Harold Johnston

NO BUSINESS LIKE SNOW BUSINESS



Ideal winter weather, post-COVID travel equals tourist surge

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— For tourism-related businesses in the North Country, this winter's cold temperatures, frequent snow, and the lingering post-COVID surge in outdoor recreation travel have combined for one of the best winter seasons in memory. Snowmobilers, in particular, have poured into the region over the past two months, taking advantage of the snow conditions and the most extensive trail system in the state.

The sun sets over Lake Vermilion last Friday at the Bayview Bar and Grill and a parking lot full of snowmobiles. photo by M. Hlmburger

“We’ve been having summer numbers.

Randy Semo, Good Ol’ Days Bar and Grill, Tower

“It’s the best winter I’ve ever had,” said Randy Semo, who operates Good Ol’ Days Bar and Grill in Tower. “We’ve been having summer numbers.” For business owners in the hospitality industry in the region, the rumble of snow machines has long been associated with wintertime sales, but this year is particularly good. “We’ve been

pretty busy,” said Rick Oveson, who operates Oveson’s Pelican Lake Resort and Inn, in Orr. “We’ve had good ice and good trails. Plenty of snow has helped and the cold has helped things firm up.” Brian Anderson, at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, concurred. “Snowmobile business, both small groups and larger ones, has been very steady for us,” he said. “The abundance of snow has

See...SNOW pg. 9

CITY OF TOWER

Gunderson Trust looks to move funds to foundation

Switch will mean more income generated for city and community projects

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- After more than a year of research, the Gunderson Trust Board unanimously approved a plan to shift the trust’s assets to the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation (DSACF) to manage. The decision, made at the board’s Feb. 23 meeting, could essentially put the board out of business, although the final details of that will need to be worked out by the city council and the court that oversees the trust. The board has struggled for years to effectively manage a trust that holds about a million dollars in assets but generates almost no proceeds for the city or the recreational opportunities the trust was originally designed to fund. The trust board has spent over a year researching options that would allow a better financial return from the trust’s balance. After reviewing proposals from three Minnesota-based community foundations, along with Frandsen Bank and Trust, the board opted to recommend the DSACF. “It was a unanimous recommend to the Tower Council,” said board treasurer Steve Wilson, who spearheaded the board’s research

See...TRUST pg. 11

OUTDOOR COMPETITION

Hat trick for WolfTrack Classic musher Bestgen makes it three in a row at Ely sled dog race

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Michael Bestgen “three-peated” as winner of the 2022 WolfTrack Classic eight-dog race, prevailing in the main event for the third year in a row. The veteran musher and his team

Veteran sled dog race competitor Michael Bestgen won his third consecutive 50-mile WolfTrack Classic race in Ely last weekend with a time of 4:17:45. photo by K. Vandervort

were the first ones out of the starting chute, by way of a random drawing of starting positions, on Sunday morning, and the fastest to finish the 50-mile course in 4:17:45.

Last year, Bestgen finished the race in 4:06:31, which was about 30 minutes faster than his own 2020

See...RACE pg. 12



30 - 40% off Men's & Women's Winter Clothing & Footwear
Select Patagonia & North Face included! (base layer, socks and accessories not included) Feb. 15 until out of stock.
Open Daily: Monday - Saturday 9 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm
You'll find it all at Piragis Northwoods Company 105 N Central Ave.
piragis.com 218 - 365 - 6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950
editor@timberjay.com



Community notices

Essentia Health-Babbitt Clinic has reopened

BABBITT - The Essentia Health-Babbitt Clinic reopened on March 3. The clinic had been closed since April 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The clinic, located at 71 South Dr., Suite 25, will be open from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Thursdays. Care offered includes family medicine, lab work, ancillary services and more. "Essentia is excited to once again offer medical services to the Babbitt community to make patients' health care experience more convenient by bringing care closer to home," said Greg Jonas, Operations Manager for the clinic. To schedule an appointment, please call 218-365-7900, or visit [EssentiaHealth.org](#).

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.

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.

Fortune Bay Resort Casino ends mask mandate

TOWER - With the continued drop in COVID cases, Fortune Bay Resort Casino will no longer require guests to wear masks effective March 1. "We have seen other businesses and school districts in the area go away from a mask mandate, so we are comfortable with our decision," said Fortune Bay General Manager Mayan Beltran. "We'll continue to monitor cases, but we are optimistic that the numbers will continue to go down." Employees at Fortune Bay who have received booster shots will not have to wear masks. However, those with religious or medical exemptions will still be required to mask up. Fortune Bay Resort Casino had brought back its mask mandate in the middle of November when cases were spiking across the state and country.

STEM workshop for girls on Saturday, March 19 in Ely

REGIONAL - Girls in grades five through eight from the Ely, Tower, and Babbitt areas are invited to participate in an upcoming STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) workshop day. The workshops, sponsored by the Ely branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) are scheduled for Saturday, March 19, from 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Vermilion Community College in Ely. The event includes lunch and is free to participants. Students will learn about the process of converting iron ore to taconite pellets, how electrical circuits work, and about drinking water safety. The workshops involve interactive and hands-on activities. The STEM workshops provide an opportunity for middle-school girls to explore science, technology, engineering, and math, in a fun, interactive environment to encourage them to think of these areas as a possible career path. The AAUW provides these workshops for only girls because women are very underrepresented in the STEM workforce. For more information or to register for the workshop, e-mail elystem@gmail.com or call/text Jeanne Tomlinson at 218-235-8470, to receive a registration-permission form. This should be done by Wednesday, March 16. Check-in will be in the VCC Classroom Building from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on March 19. A parent or guardian must accompany the participant to the workshop registration if the permission form is not completed in advance. The workshop is made possible by a collaboration between Vermilion Community College and the AAUW-Ely Branch with a grant from Lake Country Power's Operation Round-up®.

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

Gruben's Marina hosts VCS ice fishing day

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- Over a dozen students from Vermilion Country School got a chance to try out ice fishing, during a field trip to Gruben's Marina and Resort on Feb. 25.

The event was hosted by the marina's new owners, Chessica Reichert and Fred Brett, with the help of fishing guide Mike Lorenz, of Gravel Lizard Guide Service.

The resort provided fish houses, gear, and bait for the students, as well as serving up a shore lunch of walleye, hot dogs, chips, salad, and cookies for dessert.

"The kids had a lot of fun," said Reichert, "even though fishing was slow." "Some of the kids had never been out on the ice before," she said, "and we also took some of them for snowmobile rides, another new experience."

This winter, students at Vermilion Country School have had an especially large number of field trip opportunities, and many involved spending time in the outdoors, so ice fishing was a natural choice. School staff have been planning as many as two field trip days a week this quarter, making up for lost field trip opportunities the last two years.

Reichert and Brett bought the well-known Lake Vermilion marina and resort in December, moving up from their home just north of the Twin Cities, and have already had a busy winter hosting both snowmobilers in their resort cabins and fishermen in rental ice fishing houses. And reservations for the summer are already almost full, she said.

"We can't wait until it warms up more this spring so we can get ready for the summer season," she said. The family has no major changes planned for this summer but is looking at improvements that will be made next year.

The family also includes 15-year old Jace, now a student at Vermilion Country School.

"We love it up here," Chessica said. "Now when we go back down to the cities, we can't wait to get back home." "Jace told me he can't believe we live here now," she added.

The family also has four dogs, who are having a great time getting used to resort life, too.



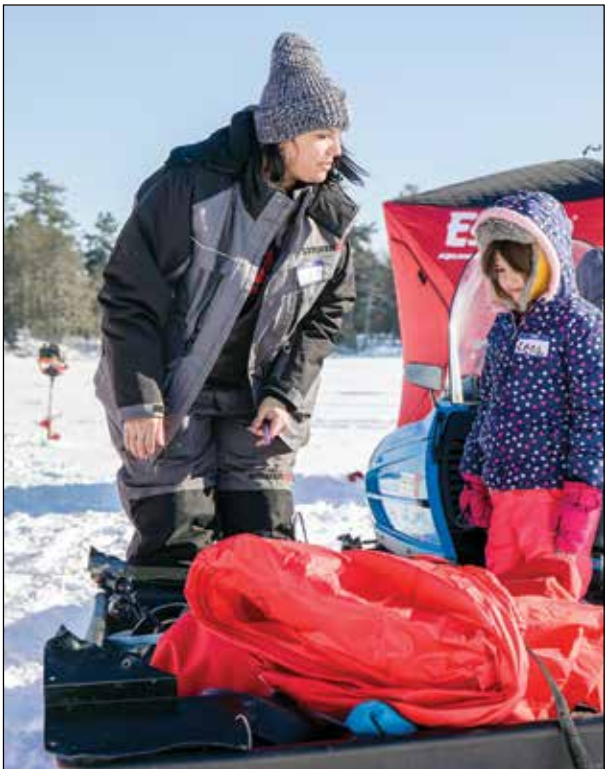
Above: Owen Stellmach patiently waits for a bite.

Right: Libbie Schaffer gets ready to check out a newly-drilled fishing hole.

Below right: Chessica Reichert helps Lena Lorenz, who was along for the day with her father, Mike, a fishing guide.

Below: Students help get the ice fishing gear ready.

photos by D. Colburn



ELY COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Pierogi master shares her secrets

ELY - With deep respect and love for her Polish heritage, Doris Kolgji shared her knowledge and taught Ely Community Education's Make Pierogis from Scratch class last Saturday to 21 students.

Kolgii intertwined the history of the Polish pierogi during the session. "Saint Hyacinth is thought to have brought pierogis to Poland from what is now modern-day Ukraine," she said. "One legend relates that in 1238, Hyacinth of Poland visited Kościelec and on his visit, a storm destroyed all crops. Hyacinth told everyone to pray and by the next day, crops rose back up. As a sign of gratitude, people made pierogis from those crops for Saint

Hyacinth."

Students enjoyed making the wonderful and tasty pillowy, chewy, crispy, Polish dumplings. They wrapped noodle dough around fillings into crescent-shaped dumplings using sauerkraut, homemade mashed potatoes, and prunes as fillings. In all, 563 pierogis were made at the Ely Senior Center. Students finished the class by enjoying a pierogi meal. They took two dozen pierogis home to enjoy. Kolgii will be offering her class again in the fall.

Right: Doris Kolgji shows the class how to mix the dough. submitted photo



We Buy Clean Used Vehicles!

2019 Buick Envision Premium II.....	GM Certified.....	\$34,990
2019 RAM 1500 Big Horn 4x4.....	Only 18K Miles!	\$42,990
2019 Jeep Renegade Sport 4x4.....	Only 27K Miles!	\$23,990
2019 Chevrolet Traverse LT AWD!.....	3rd Row.....	\$31,990
2019 RAM 1500 Big Horn 4x4.....	HEMI Power!	\$39,990
2018 Chevrolet Tahoe LT 4x4!.....	Luxury Package!	\$50,990
2018 Jeep Compass LTD 4x4.....	Only 23K Miles!	\$29,990
2018 Cadillac XT5.....	Only 25K Miles!	\$38,990
2018 GMC Sierra SLE 4x4.....	Nicely Equipped!	\$31,990
2017 GMC Sierra SLE 4x4.....	Clean One Owner!	\$32,990
2017 Chevrolet Suburban Premier 4x4!.....	Loaded!	\$44,990
2016 Chevrolet Colorado Z71 4x4!.....	73K Miles!	\$28,990
2013 Dodge Grand Caravan!.....	Stow-N-Go!	\$15,990

View Our Full Inventory at www.waschke.com

WASCHKE FAMILY
CHEVROLET • COOK

HRS: M-F 8am-6pm, Sat. 9am-2pm
126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, MN
218-666-5901 • 1-800-238-4545

THANK YOU

The Goodsky family would like to thank the members of our community for their assistance after the passing of our beloved father Gene Goodsky on Feb 9, 2022. We are grateful for the hands that pitched in to help with his memorial service. The outpouring of love and support our family received from our local community as well as friends from all over the world has been tremendous.

YOUR HOME-DECOR STORE

All furniture may not be as shown.

ANDERSON

FURNITURE & KITCHENS

AndersonFurnitureCompany.com
214 2nd Ave. S, Virginia, MN • 218-741-9356

INTEREST FREE FINANCING AND LAYAWAY AVAILABLE

ELY SCHOOLS

COVID-19 mask mandate lifted at ISD 696

Board appoints Chad Davis to fill vacancy left by the resignation of Darren Visser

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – In a brief meeting Monday night, and with little debate, Ely school board members voted to immediately lift the COVID-19 face mask requirement on campus, and welcomed an advocate for book banning into their ranks.

A recommendation came from the Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council last month to rescind the protective face mask mandate. The updated public health protocol continues to just recommend the wearing of face masks by students, staff and visitors on school campus, but does not require it. The new protocol took effect on Tuesday, March 1.

In addition, ISD 696 is following new CDC guidelines, effective Feb. 25, that no longer require the wearing of face masks

on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early child care programs.

All the metrics put in place by the Ely school district to dial back the coronavirus mitigation strategies were also stricken from the ISD 696 Safe Learning Plan, effective immediately.

School board members agreed to keep one exception in the COVID-19 plan: If a classroom or program shows an increase of positive (COVID-19) cases, district administration reserves the ability to require students and staff to wear face masks for a specified amount of time.

In addition, when students are in the school nurse’s office with COVID-19 symptoms, students will be provided with a mask to wear while screening for symptoms.

Interim Superintendent John

Klarich highlighted the changes to the Safe School Plan to four of six school board members at the study session and special board meeting, all of whom voted in favor of the new protocols.

Board chair Ray Marsnik continues to recover from injuries received in a vehicle accident and was absent from the meeting. Board member Darren Visser has moved out of the school district and is no longer eligible to serve on the Ely school board.

Temporary board chair Rochelle Sjoberg asked school board members for discussion on the Safe Learning Plan changes. No one spoke. At the special meeting, a motion to adopt the changes was made by Tony Colarich and supported by Tom Omerza. Sjoberg, Colarich and Omerza were joined by Holly Coombe in voting to adopt the updated Safe Learning Plan.

New board member

With Visser’s resignation, the board addressed the board vacancy, appointing Chad Davis to fill the seat until the upcoming November election.

Just two district residents, Scott Bunney and Davis, applied for the job. They were both interviewed by the board during Monday’s study session, prior to board members voting on their choice to fill the position in a special meeting.

Following the brief interviews, school board members tallied the candidate’s answers and identified their top selection. Given a chance to discuss the merits of each candidate, school board members declined to do so. Colarich made a motion to appoint Davis, which was supported by Coombe.

Davis was unanimously appointed to the temporary posi-

tion. He will take his seat in April.

Davis gained notoriety in the Ely school community last April when he voiced his objection to a book on the eleventh-grade English required reading list and requested the board remove the book from the curriculum. Davis, who has a son in the class, initially asked the board for clarification on how the book came to be included in the curriculum and pushed for its removal.

The book in question, “I Am Still Here, Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness,” by Austin Channing Brown, was published in 2018 by Crown Publishing Group.

In raising his objections at the time, Davis said, “I read the book. (It is) a book filled with hate speech, racial division, anti-white rhetoric and cancel

See **SCHOOLS...**pg. 5

ARCHEOLOGICAL FIND

BWCAW ceramic sherds test at over 1,600 years old

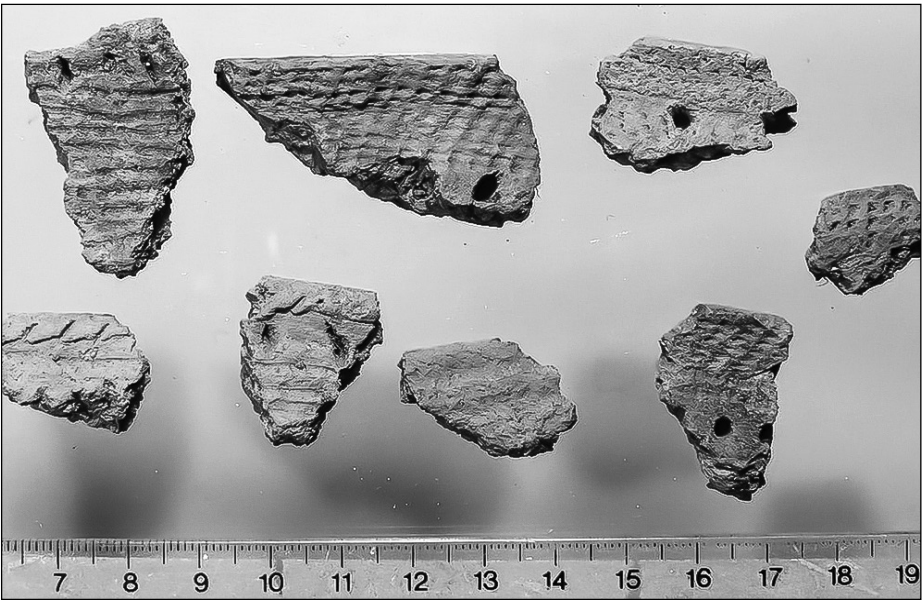
by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- When something is over 16 centuries old, sitting in storage for 19 years, waiting to be dated, is a mere blink of an eye.

After years of waiting for sufficient funding to conduct the necessary testing, Superior National Forest archeologists recently received lab results revealing that an ancient Native American cooking vessel discovered in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness dates back to 1,750 – 1,600 years ago (254-403 Common Era).

Staff from the USFS Northern Research Station in Houghton, Mich., helped prepare samples of broken pieces of ceramic material, or sherds, which were analyzed by a lab at University of California-Irving. They used the Carbon 14 dating technique to analyze carbonized food residue found on the inside of the sherds to determine their time period.

The sherds’ decorative



These pieces of a broken cooking vessel discovered at a site in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area have been dated to be over 1,600 years old.
submitted photo

elements are associated with the Laurel Cultural Tradition, which was prevalent in the Upper Midwest and Canada approximately 2,100-1,200 years ago.

“The Laurel world was so vast, extending from Lake Superior up into Manitoba and Ontario,” said David Mather, archaeologist for the Minnesota

State Historic Preservation Office. “Laurel people were the earliest in this area to adopt mound building and continental trade networks. Out of that large area, the BWCAW has perhaps the best representation and preservation of all that history. It is powerful to connect an artifact, in this case, a meal that was

cooked, to a specific point in time.”

Superior National Forest Archaeologist Lee Johnson noted the significance of pinning down a date for the artifacts.

“We are fairly confident we have sites on the Forest that are as old as 9,000 or 10,000 years ago, but it is really rare for us to

get a good radiocarbon date to confirm precise dates of human use,” Johnson said. “The site location and artifacts suggested a long history of ancestral Native American use of the site during the summer months for both fishing and manoomin (wild rice) processing; however, the radiocarbon date gives a really specific point of time to contextualize that use.”

Dating the ceramic cooking vessel may also provide a time context for other artifacts discovered at the BWCAW site. In 2008, an obsidian flake discovered from the site was sourced to Bear Gulch, Idaho. The flake’s origin indicates that trade networks extended there from present-day Minnesota. Researchers from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, also identified maize and manoomin remains on ceramic sherds and in soil samples at this site in 2010, pointing to available food sources at the time.

“It is important to get accurate dating along

with utilization, to demonstrate the sophistication of the people and their land uses here for thousands of years,” said Jaylen Strong, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. “Artifacts like this help to improve the knowledge of people who used this land that can often be misrepresented.”

Strong works with the Superior National Forest to ensure that archaeological and historic sites are managed according to federal regulation and that present-day tribes have a voice in the process.

The now-dated vessel is a significant addition to an extensive number of Laurel Culture artifacts discovered in the BWCAW and across northern Minnesota, which include chipped stone items such as projectile points, scrapers, and knives, bone, antler, and shell artifacts, ground stone items such as pipes, copper artifacts, worked mammal claws and

See **SHARDS...**pg. 5

Vote Tim “Woody” O’Leary for Bois Forte District II Representative • Election April 5 •



Boohoo, Ahneen, and hello. I would like to touch real quick on our New Moon assisted living/ supportive housing. I have heard complaints about there being no rides to the grocery store, Y-store, or the bank in town for those who have no vehicle. A simple set time for a ride twice a month would be more than sufficient. This is something our current Representative can handle almost immediately I believe. Now, to the meat and potatoes. I have spoken with the owner of GRIFFETH Construction Company LLC. He is in dire need of laborers, truck drivers, and heavy equipment operators. We as band members have the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO). Now TERO has the capability of opening doors into the union to train our young women and men to fill many positions in the Laborers and Allied Craftsman world. Warren Villebrun I believe is our new TERO officer, call him, let him help. Parents, encourage your children to make this jump. A leap of faith if you will. Yes it means leaving the reservation, but great opportunities await them. As they say, Fortune Favors the Bold. I worked for both the Laborers Local 1091 for years, along with the Brick Layers Local 1. While in the Brick Layers, I laid up the foundations and walls on our elementary school, clinic and Government Center in Nett Lake. There is great pride buying everything with hard earned dollars. I will leave it there for this week. Thank you for taking your time to read this article. Sincerely, Tim O’Leary.

Tim O’Leary

Paid by the candidate on his own behalf.

Vote Robert “Rick” Stoehr GREENWOOD SUPERVISOR

TAXES- Don’t let anybody fool you when it comes to the facts as to why Greenwood enjoys lower taxes than the surrounding communities. Greenwood Township simply doesn’t have the expenses that our neighbors incur by maintaining many miles of aging township roads, municipally-owned water and sewer systems, or other forms of infrastructure. Greenwood has the cost of maintenance of the town hall and the recreational attractions there. The Birch Point extension is the closest the township comes to owning any roads. The remaining paved and dirt roads in the township are maintained by St. Louis County. Establishing a levy that is sufficient to adequately cover the yearly needs of the township is what has allowed us to keep our property taxes down.

FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT- I support giving ALL the taxpayers in the township the opportunity to participate in township governance as much as possible, especially in the decision-making process. Seasonal residents can’t vote in township elections, yet they are responsible for approximately two-thirds of the tax dollars paid to the county from Greenwood Township. Let’s encourage their participation.

FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE- The township needs to establish the practice of presenting a proposed budget to the citizens well BEFORE the Annual Meeting when seeking support for a levy increase. Folks need to have the opportunity to discuss the levy increase request and then pass a reasonable property tax levy to run the township.

The township faces serious challenges in the near future. The Town Board bears the responsibility to provide all the information needed for Greenwood taxpayers to make educated decisions on how best to deal with those challenges. I will work toward making our township work again, restore the citizens’ trust and encourage active participation. If elected I will welcome input from Greenwood folks at meetings, by phone, letters or email.



PLEASE VOTE STOEHR ON MARCH 8

Paid by candidate

Subscribe Today • 753-2950

OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Do we need bigger ATVs?

Will Minnesota’s woods hold up to ever more and bigger off-road vehicles?

New legislation that would allow for significantly larger all-terrain vehicles on our region’s motorized trails should be the impetus for everyone to take a step back and ponder.

The new bill, authored by Rep. Rob Ecklund, would change the definition of an all-terrain vehicle from a maximum weight of 2,000 pounds up to 3,000 pounds. It would also eliminate the current requirement that the vehicles have low-pressure tires.

Under this definition, many small cars, depending on their trim packages, would qualify as ATVs. We don’t imagine that many people will opt to take their Ford Focus or Toyota Corolla off-roading. We point this out to note that the heavier the vehicle, the greater the impact.

We build up roads designed for cars with layers of gravel or pavement because we know that heavier vehicles cause damage unless they’re driven on these improved surfaces.

ATVs were supposed to be lighter on the land because they were lighter in general and had wide, low pressure tires that helped to further spread out their weight. In those early days, ATVs were sold as workhorses, a job to which they were well-suited. But work machines eventually evolved into recreational vehicles and, over time, morphed into the multi-passenger, alien-looking machines that we see today. Who knows what “ATVs” will be like 20 years from now, but it’s safe to say that there will be more of them.

Building ATVs is big business here in Minnesota, where some of the major manufacturers are located. It’s an industry with significant political clout in St. Paul, and we suspect the industry is behind the push for bigger and heavier machines. It’s also why the Department of Natural Resources has been so eager to promote putting many more ATVs out on the land, including right here in the North Country. We’re expecting the groundbreaking later this year on a new state ATV campground to be built just east of Soudan, as part of the Lake Vermilion State Park, a facility that is expected to attract large numbers of out-of-town off-roaders to our area for the first time.

The DNR and many ATV advocates in our region are working to make our region a national destination for off-roaders. Which would mean many more, and poten-

tially much larger, ATVs in our woods than we see today.

Building up the hundreds of miles of ATV trails that already crisscross our region would be a significant financial investment by the state of Minnesota, in part because the trails will need to be built more like roads to facilitate vehicles that can weigh as much as a car.

We recognize that anything that attracts new visitors to our region brings economic pluses, which is one reason we’ve been supportive of the creation of new trails in our area. But like anything, there’s a point where it’s too much of a good thing. ATV advocates here point to the U.S. southwest, where vast numbers of off-roaders descend every year, as an example of the potential that off-roading could have in our region. Never mind that those throngs of off-roaders have many local residents in places like Colorado and Utah up in arms over the sheer numbers of vehicles and their impact on the local environment. Northeastern Minnesota is entirely different terrain, with thin and often saturated soils. Trails here can generally handle the usually light local traffic with a little hardening in places, and the occasional bridge over wetlands, but will that be enough for the levels of traffic, and the size of the vehicles, that some are hoping to see here?

Perhaps before the Legislature opts to authorize ever larger and faster machines on the state’s increasingly sprawling network of off-road trails, we should spend a little time thinking about the ultimate aim of the legislation. We suspect most of our local ATVers don’t want to see their trails overrun, either, with users from outside the area who may not understand the sensitive nature of our terrain or even care about the damage their bigger and heavier machines might cause. ATVs can be hard on the land even at relatively low numbers, which is why trails need to be hardened to prevent erosion. Bigger machines, and more of them, could well make what is now a manageable issue a much more serious concern, and could give the off-road community— even the responsible ones— a bad name.

One way to help limit those impacts is to keep the allowable size of an ATV right where it is today. The Legislature can do that, by taking no action on this legislation.



Letters from Readers

Looking for something to complain about?

Shame! Shame! Shame! This is what Gomer Pyle would have said to parent Fred Udovich when he started smarting off about mask mandates at the school board meeting in Ely. Then Surprise! Surprise! Surprise! When this mask mandate is settled, he and other like-minded parents can once again stir up trouble about Critical Race Theory.

**Barbara Nesbitt
Lake Vermilion
and Maplewood**

Greenwood needs new leadership

After having read the Meet the Candidates story in the *Tower News*, it seemed to have quite a bit of DeLuca patting himself on the back.

DeLuca did nothing with the arsenic problem in the residential water. He did, however, put in an unnecessary (seen as unnecessary by many residents) Culligan soft water system.

DeLuca was assigned to be a liaison to the TAAS (Tower Area Ambulance Service) meetings. He went to a few of the meetings, but not all, and gave very few reports to the board.

DeLuca had nothing to do with the broadband procurement. This work was started by Drs. John and JoAnn Bassing. Then, Supervisors Sue Drobac and Barb Lofquist went with a committee for all the legwork for broadband. Seems the survey results did confirm that most Greenwood residents DO want broadband service.

I hope the public remembers a few of DeLuca’s faux paus—such as giving “a middle finger” gesture to a resident at a board meeting. Also, his constant intimidation of the previous clerk. Is this the type of behavior an elected board member should have?

Current township clerk Deb Spicer, meanwhile, insists at board meetings that she will only do the clerk’s statutory duties. Of course, no one has seen a list of what those duties are, so does this

mean she can pick and choose what she wants to do? She has asked for extra pay to do clerical work, which includes picking up the mail, opening it and distributing it. Seems the mail would be part of the regular duties for a clerk. She also said she cannot get the normal clerk duties completed in her allotted time, yet now says she is changing the filing system in the office. Why is she spending time changing a filing system, if she cannot get regular work done? She says she loves serving the Greenwood community. Then why did she keep the outside door locked until the board passed a motion to keep it open? Now the inner door is closed and locked.

Spicer has been known to wear pepper spray on her belt while at work. Is this a friendly atmosphere for the public? Seems she is scared to work with the public at the Greenwood Town Hall. Not the type of behavior for an elected official.

In conclusion, the township needs new faces to represent the residents.

Rick Stoehr will be a new face for Greenwood as a supervisor!

Also, a new face as clerk would be JoAnn Bassing!

JoAnn is a write-in candidate for the position of clerk.

These are two people who would be better faces for Greenwood Township.

I also encourage full-time residents and seasonal residents to become involved in what is happening in your township.

**Pam Lundstrom
Greenwood Twp.**

We endorse Rick Stoehr for supervisor

Just a note to say that we endorse Rick Stoehr for election to the supervisor position on the Greenwood Town Board.

Rick will work diligently to help the township move forward. Please vote on March 8, 2022. Polls are open at Greenwood Town Hall from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for 8:15 p.m. on the same day. Hope to see everyone attending this very important meeting. This is the only time residents can

voice their opinion and vote for the township levy, which affects everyone’s taxes. Thank you.

**Barb Lofquist
Greenwood Twp.
Sue Drobac
Greenwood Twp.**

Success in business takes a village

The *Timberjay* called me this week to get a few sound bites for a story on the exceptional snow-mobiling season we are having. A key indicator of course is evident on the west side of Tower – the number of snowmobiles and trailers in the MarJo Motel parking lot - and of course, Marit and I have those answers.

Five years ago, after we reopened the MarJo Motel, I gathered our financial and occupancy numbers and had a meeting with an analyst with the Minnesota Department of Tourism. After calculating occupancy for a year, I was told that the economic benefit to Tower and the immediate region because of the MarJo Motel, was likely to be as high as \$300K-\$400K per year.

Our revenues are nowhere near that, of course, but the actual economic benefits are shared among all the local businesses and ultimately the entire community. But would the MarJo Motel have so many guests if the other local businesses were not there to provide services? I think not. When taking reservations, we are often asked if there are restaurants, bars, service stations, etc. in the immediate area. We can say yes, of course, and note that there are menus, brochures, and area maps and magazines listing these services in the rooms at the MarJo.

Perhaps the questions asked most often are about fishing, the trail(s), snow (weather) conditions, etc. And this is my point! Where would we be without the volunteer organizations that bring people to us? We have an open water channel during spring, summer, fall, and in the winter an ice trail, to Lake Vermilion. We have hiking, biking, XC ski

See **LETTER...pg. 5**

What to write about? So many troubling options

There are times when it seems there are far too many choices when it comes to picking a subject for a column, and this has surely been one of those weeks.

At the forefront was, of course, something related to the horrible state of affairs in Ukraine with Vladimir Putin’s unconscionable military invasion



DAVID COLBURN

Biden among a significant swath

of Republicans, an ominous sign.

I’m not at all surprised at Biden’s overall unfavorable ratings, but having grown up in and lived through the Cold War, the fact that a former KGB agent who has just militarily invaded a sovereign nation without cause and without regard for the safety of noncombatants could be viewed more favorably than a sitting President of the United States of any political party is a stunning indicator of how far radical elements of the Republican Party have fallen.

Another dumbfounding possibility for a topic cropped up in an article I read about the convoy of U.S. truckers headed toward the nation’s capital to protest for a return to “Constitutional freedoms” and an end to COVID-related mandates. If they want to drive across the country to protest, fine. That’s their right as Americans. But what I found dumbfounding was the assertion by one trucker that the invasion of Ukraine was actually a conspiracy to undermine the convoy. I just have to let that one sit there,

because it simply defies any attempt I might make to try to explain it.

A story closer to home that was tugging at my thoughts was yet the latest example that racism is alive and well and living in Minnesota. St. Louis Park and Robbinsdale school districts said last week they would no longer play against New Prague because of racists taunts hurled at some of their players by New Prague students, something

See **OPTIONS...pg. 5**

Letters from Readers

Only fools see “genius” in Putin’s invasion of Ukraine

With that Russian punk Putin invading the neighboring country of Ukraine, do we really need to recon-

sider the lack of morality of such leaders as Putin and Hitler? During his Feb. 22 Fox News show, looking like a constipated parrot, Tucker Carlson said, “It may be worth asking yourself, why do I hate Putin?” That

same day on another radio show Trump said, “I went in yesterday and there was a television screen, and I said, ‘This is genius.’ Putin declares a big portion of the Ukraine — of Ukraine — Putin declares it as independent. Oh, that’s wonderful.”

Republicans either want no government, or a Trump dictatorship like Putin’s. Minnesota Republican Reps. Tom Emmer (Sixth District), Michelle Fischbach (Seventh District) and Pete Stauber in the Eighth

District, supported Trump in his Jan. 6, 2021, attempt to overthrow our elected government. It failed only by Trump’s lack of “genius.” But Trump suck-ups have since taken away basic rights to vote in key states to give Trump a

second chance. Any person who supports any of this is an immoral damned fool! **Erwin R. Rud Fosston**

LETTER...Continued from page 4

trails, snowmobile, and ATV trails. All of these are maintained by volunteers, who do an incredible job of maintaining, prepping, ensuring safety, and properly marking them. Without these city amenities that bring people to Tower, would the MarJo have

guests, would we have a thriving grocery store, bars, and restaurants, service stations and convenience stores that do so well? Again, likely not. I use the terms “civic engagement”, “vision”, “focus” and “impact” often. The Penguins Snowmobile

Club, The Prospector ATV Club, Howard Wagoner Ski Trails Club, the City Council, TEDA, and the many other city of Tower clubs and organizations, that have the vision, are civically engaged, and provide real economic impact, are the “village that it takes”

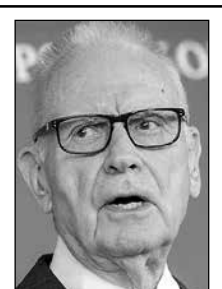
and to whom we must give kudos and thanks! Thank you to the *Timberjay* for unintentionally nudging me to speak out on something often on my mind. It inspired me to write a letter to our citizen volunteers thanking those who really make us the

successful city and surrounding townships that we are. There are just over 200 households in Tower and slightly more in Soudan/Breitung and surrounding townships that provide the volunteers for our success as a community. I encourage all to help in whichever

way they can to continue making us a mecca for outdoor activities for our outstate and out-of-state guests. It “takes a village” to bring us a thriving economy and together we all reap the rewards! **Orlyn Kringstad Tower**

China and Russia creating a challenge for the west

The 2022 Winter Olympics, which wrapped up last month in Beijing, again focused the world’s attention on China. The games have provided China with



LEE HAMILTON

an opportunity to impress a worldwide audience and to distract attention from criticism over human rights violations and other issues. But there is rarely a time when China is not in the spotlight. With the world’s largest population and its second largest economy, China commands our attention whether we like it or not. It occupies a unique place in the world, with other nations watching what it does. For a period of decades in the last century, the People’s Republic of China was marked

by government mismanagement, environmental disaster and vast social problems. The failure of Mao Zedong’s Great Leap Forward and the disruption of the Cultural Revolution left the country poor and struggling. The Chinese people suffered through times of chaos, turmoil and hardship. More recently, China has had periods of remarkable economic growth and social transformation. China rebuilt its infrastructure and made massive improvements in the economy, lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. There’s no question it has become a power to be reckoned with under a series of leaders, including Xi Jinping, who has exercised authoritarian

rule since 2012. China has mixed a command economy with the entrepreneurship and energy of capitalism, and its leaders have never doubted their one-party system of government. China’s focus has been on developing industry and defense, with a real emphasis on science and technology. Its goal is to build a modern, prosperous socialist economy by 2035 and to become the world’s dominant power by 2050. Its system includes a lot of restrictions on economic and political activity. Freedoms are curtailed, including freedom of speech, the press and assembly, reflecting a fear of disorder that is a feature of Chinese history. The centrality of the Communist Party is unquestioned. There is no such thing as democracy in China, at least in our sense of the word. The world’s view of China is largely negative. Surveys con-

ducted in 2021 across advanced economies in North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region found disapproval of China and its policies had increased significantly. Eight in 10 people in those nations faulted China for not respecting the personal freedom of its people. The Olympics are unlikely to change that. In the United States, 90 percent of the public views China as a competitor or an adversary. Americans don’t like Xi’s iron-fisted control of China’s economy, the repression of China’s Uyghur minority, or the penchant for unfair trade policies and theft of intellectual property. But China has a friend in Russian President Vladimir Putin. With the U.S. and its allies worried that Russia was poised to invade Ukraine, Putin met with Xi at the Olympics, and the two leaders showed a united front

and a shared sense of grievance against America and the West. It was Xi’s first meeting with another foreign leader in nearly two years, underscoring the importance of the relationship and evoking the time when Communist China and the Soviet Union stood against the capitalist West. In the future of China and its role in the world, we can expect competition between authoritarian rule with a single-party system and a more democratic system emphasizing choice. For now, China is sticking with the former. It believes American global leadership has eroded and sees an opportunity. The Chinese people are resilient and determined, traits they have developed through hard experience. It would be a grave mistake to underestimate them.

OPTIONS...Continued from page 4

New Prague district officials have confirmed. New Prague’s district website proclaims, “The rules that guide our culture are: Doing What’s Right, Committing to Excellence, and Showing People You Care. This is called ‘The New Prague Way.’” That would’ve made a dandy expectations-vs.-reality column, with some sort of side comment to the effect that the fix for such things isn’t going to be found in the schools. A more personal possibility would have been a commentary about a friend back in Kansas who recent-

ly died of COVID complications, Marion County Sheriff Rob Craft. Because COVID was running rampant in a county that had among the lowest vaccination rates in the state, there’s no way to know if Rob contracted COVID in the line of duty or not, and therefore he’ll likely not be added to the list of hundreds of COVID-related deaths on the Officers Down Memorial Page on the internet, which I think is a darned shame. We had a great professional relationship— me as the small-town editor and he as the county sheriff— and that

extended to our personal interactions as well. But while I could’ve found a way to memorialize him that linked to the similar hazards our own officers and emergency responders here have faced for the past two years, it didn’t quite fit. And that’s OK. The fact that they had to hold Rob’s memorial service in the high school gymnasium because no church in town could have accommodated the hundreds who showed up to pay their respects says more about the man than I ever could. So, so many choices,

numerous others unmentioned. All worthy of comment, yet none stepping to the fore. It’s one of those times when I’d rather have had responsibility for writing the week’s editorial instead of a commentary. That would’ve narrowed the field of possibilities significantly. But we *Timberjay* columnists are given free rein to write whatever we find compelling when our turn rolls around in the rotation. That’s why you find such a diverse mix, from serious and thought-provoking to comical and inconsequential. I find it to

be a delightful and engaging mix, albeit sometimes challenging when my time comes up to contribute. However, after much thought, I’m very pleased to report that I’ve finally settled on a smash bang topic for this week’s column, potentially one of the best I’ve ever written, and sure to be an award-winner in next year’s Minnesota Newspaper Association contest. It’s that good.

Alas, though, there’s a serious problem at hand. With all of the musing above, I’ve completely run out of space to write it. Disappointing to me, and I’m sure to you as well. It would’ve been perfect. I’ll hold on to the thought for the next one, but there’s always a chance it will never see the light of day, for when the next time rolls around, there will be oh, so many, many choices.

SCHOOLS...Continued from page 3

culture all rooted in critical race theory. This book isn’t written well, nor has it any literary value. It is one person’s jaded perspective about a specific race.” Following an extensive appeal process and review of the reading material, the book remains part of the curriculum at ISD 696. When asked why he was interested in being a member of the Ely school board, Davis said, “I’m looking to be more involved not only in the community but into the school itself. To be completely transparent, we’ve always been involved with our kids, academically and athletically. It really was an eye-opening experience to start taking a deeper dive into what is going on (in the school district).” Davis’s spouse,

Tiffany, is an elementary school teacher in the Ely district. He read a prepared statement to describe the role of a school board. “Behind every school district is a successful visionary, an effective school board committed to student achievement and the environment they are learning in. Without the burden of daily administrative tasks, school boards are uniquely poised to access academic performance, establish a vision for progress, collaborate on strategies for goal attainment, and maintain a clear commitment to what is required for success.” He said the strengths he can bring to the school board include “offering a perspective based on diversity that was built over time.”

He has lived in Illinois, California, Minnesota and North Carolina. He has had involvement in “multiple businesses” and has owned his own business for 12 years. Educationally, Davis said he has background in architecture, and holds licenses in life insurance and health insurance and real estate. “I think all those things, at some point, have some sort of impact on schools and the school district itself,” he said. When given a hypothetical scenario on how he would handle a parent calling him to complain about too much homework, Davis responded, “I would most definitely defer back to the teacher and advise that they talk to the teacher.” In an apparent reference to his recent book-ban-

ning efforts, Davis added, “One thing that I learned through this process in the last year-and-a-half is that there is a process that you follow when communicating to the teacher, to the principal, to the board, to the superintendent. There is a reason why that process is there and why it should be followed.” Davis’s opinion of ISD 696 remaining an independent school district focuses on “what’s best” for students. “If that means a discussion needs to be had about consolidation, then that discussion needs to be had,” he said. “There is a lot of value in being an independent school district, but at the same time, I see the benefits of consolidation, and that may not necessarily be in the best interests of our school.”

Johnson said. “The dating techniques help us in interpreting the long history of human-landscape interaction, the wide-ranging trade networks, and Native American land tenure in the Superior National Forest and the wider Border Lakes region.”

SHERDS...Continued from page 3

teeth, and birch bark. According to information from the Ontario Archaeological Society, the Laurel Culture is the first Middle Woodlands period group to use pottery. Ceramic items were decorated using stamping techniques to form impressions in the material.

A familiar structural remnant of Laurel Culture are burial mounds, including the 25-foot high Grand Mound on the Rainy River just west of International Falls. Artifacts connected to the mounds indicate the Laurel Culture had some connection with ancestral Native cultures in the Ohio

Valley. The dated vessel from the BWCAW site adds another piece to the archaeological puzzle. “It is exciting for us to get a good radiocarbon date from the Forest, as the soils are shallow and there is a history of contamination from wildfires,”

Johnson said. “The dating techniques help us in interpreting the long history of human-landscape interaction, the wide-ranging trade networks, and Native American land tenure in the Superior National Forest and the wider Border Lakes region.”

Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details and payment at www.timberjay.com.

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



the
TIMBERJAY

Copyright © 2022 by *The Timberjay*.
The Timberjay (PN 16025) is published weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

This award-winning community newspaper published each week serves the communities of Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook/Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Office Manager	M. M. White
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports	Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:
City of Tower, Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, Kabetogama, ISD 707.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:
St. Louis County: \$39 year Elsewhere: \$54 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/AmEx. NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.
Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details and payment at www.timberjay.com.

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

Week of March 7

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

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

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

Township Annual Meeting Day

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.

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 be a skating party on Saturday, March 5 from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The following week, March 7 - 12, there will be skating parties every day from 3 - 6 p.m.

This latest batch of parties is sponsored thanks to donations from Paul and Judi Pishler, Dick Johnson, Dan and Debbie Wiire, Scott and Terry Vagle, and the Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board.

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

Annual township meetings, election

Minnesota townships hold their annual meetings on Tuesday, March 8.

Breitung Township: Polls open 1 - 8 p.m., annual meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Vermilion Lake: Polls open 1 - 8 p.m., Annual Meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Greenwood: Polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m., annual meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Embarrass: Annual meeting at 7 p.m.

Eagles Nest: Annual meeting at 7 p.m.

Kugler: Annual meeting at 6 p.m.

BREITUNG

Tower takes annual Hockey Day title again



Above: Participants in the Tower vs. Soudan hockey game on Feb. 25 posed for a photo. Below right: Youth hockey players got a game in before the adult action. Below center: Breitung Supervisor Dusty Dostert dropped the puck to begin the game. photos by T. Trucano Majerle

SOUDAN- The annual Tower vs. Soudan hockey game was held Feb. 25 at the Soudan Hockey Rink. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon, and the day started with a youth hockey game at 11 a.m.

A raffle for tickets to a UMD game was also held, and all proceeds are going to purchase jerseys for Team Tower and Team Soudan for future Hockey Days. Jim Gerber won the raffle for two tickets for three days of NCHA tournament hockey, donated by Jerry and Susie Chiabotti.

The main event started out with the National Anthem, sung by local favorite Steve Solkela.

The Tower team outscored Soudan in all three periods to win 8-3. Tower led 2-0 at the end of the first, but the Soudan team



picked up its defensive attitude in the second, and also scored its first goal. At the end of the second period, Tower led 4-1. The play was messy at times, and the umpires levied penalties on both sides. In the final period, Tower scored four additional points, including a penalty shot. Soudan's



two goals in the third quarter brought the final score to 8-3.

This was the second year in a row that Tower claimed the hockey title, which they have

earned five of the last six years. The event was well attended.

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

Who wants to sleep in an ice cave at -38°?

Sleeping in a quinzee in -38 degree weather? Five Vermilion Country School high school students did just that last week. Not only did they build their own



shelters on Moose Lake during a recent winter camping experience, they chose to sleep in the quinzees versus their sleeper cabins. The three-day trip involved sledding, skiing, snowshoeing, orienteering and more. From an ice fishing



trip guided by the new owners of Gruben's Resort on Lake Vermilion to participating in cooking and pottery classes at the Ely Folk School, VCS students have enjoyed getting out to learn new things in past weeks.

As the new Vermilion Country School Director, our students impress me the most. The last two years of COVID impact have been hard on many, especially our children. Yet, VCS students have shown resiliency. We are immersing them in field

trips and hands-on activities this semester because they have spent two years without very many experiences to explore the world and more fully interact with others. Children benefit from learning in all forms, not just class-

room lectures and online content.

Our team thanks those partnering with us to provide VCS students with relevant, hands-on learning experiences: CAST Outdoors, Gruben's Resort, Northern Tier Boy Scout Base, OUT Mobile Escape Room, Bois Forte, MN DNR, Duluth Zoo, Defy Trampoline Park, Mike Joint, Ely Folk School, and the Ely State Theater.

Most of all, thank you to our students for coming to school with great attitudes and a willingness to learn, no matter what happened in the last two years. They have learned to adapt and move forward...two skills that will take them far.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Support your local food shelf during the March Campaign

TOWER-SOUDAN- The Minnesota Food Share March Campaign runs through April 10. The donations received locally are used by the Tower Area Food Shelf to purchase food and household items for families in our area. We always like to remind folks that cash donations can buy many more items through our Food Bank than can be purchased by an individual at the grocery store.

Donations can be mailed to the Tower Area Food Shelf, PO Box 533, Tower, MN 55790 or dropped off at the Timberjay office.

The Tower Area Food Shelf is located in the basement/lower level of the Timberjay building on Main Street, and is open the third Tuesday of the month from 2:30 - 5 p.m. or by appointment. For questions, please contact Marge McPeak at 218-753-3503.

Jazmin Portz named to Dean's List at South Central College

MANKATO- Jazmin Portz, of Embarrass, has been named to the South Central College (SCC) Dean's List for students who have shown exceptional academic performance in the 2021 Fall Semester. The Dean's List includes students who have

achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher and completed at least 12 credits that semester.

Little Church Committee annual meeting set for March 12

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 12 at 10 a.m. All are welcome to attend and the committee is looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The church hosts a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. All are welcome. The Little Church is located on Cty. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Questions, contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

VPI hosting dinner with Rachel Frankel

SOUDAN- The Vermilion Park Inn is hosting a dinner and talk with Rachel Frankel on Saturday, March 12. Rachel Frankel is principal of the firm Rachel Frankel Architecture. Her practice is located in NYC and is best known for designing contextual new buildings, sustainable alterations, and historic restorations. Frankel is co-author with Aviva Ben-Ur of "Remnant Stones: The Jewish Cemeteries of Suriname". Rachel served in the Peace Corps in Togo, West Africa. Her Masters in Architecture is from

Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and her Bachelor of Arts is from Duke University.

Frankel is coming to Tower-Soudan to visit her eldest son, Emanuel, who is a youth worker at the Boys and Girls Club at Bois Forte.

The Vermilion Park Inn is hosting a dinner in honor of Rachel at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 12. She will speak on her book and her interest in Jewish history past and present. Her family is from Lithuania and Ukraine. Most of the Jewish people on the Mesabi Iron Range were descendants of Lithuanian Jews.

The dinner is open to the public but reservations must be made by emailing Mary Batinich at malexbat@gmail.com or calling 218-753-2333. Space is limited.

Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board already planning for Fourth of July

TOWER-SOUDAN- The volunteers from the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board (TSLVEB) are ready for warmer weather and longer days. And planning is already underway for the area Fourth of July celebrations.

The Fourth of July falls on a Monday this year, and the events board is looking at a new sched-

ule to make sure everyone has a chance to enjoy the fun. The schedule, at this time, is to have fireworks on Saturday evening, July 2, and they are looking at ideas for events earlier in the day. Sunday, July 3, will be the Breitung Community picnic. Monday, July 4, will host the parade and children's games. The board is hoping to make this a fun-filled three-day celebration.

Start planning your float, your schedule, and drop the board an e-mail at tsevents-board@gmail.com or attend our next meeting on Thursday, March 17 at 4:30 p.m. at the Breitung Community Room. Contributions to support this celebration, and others, can be mailed to TSLVEB, P.O. Box 461, Tower, MN 55790. The board is a 501c3 organization so all monetary contributions are tax deductible.

In January, the events board hosted the Finlander Bocce Ball Tournament. The board would like to thank all participants, and a huge thank you to Eddie Udovich, Kenny Folstad, Ben Velcheff, and Rolando Noyes for their help in making this event a success. This event is not a fundraiser, but a day to bring people and winter fun together. We do appreciate the contributions given that day, but again, it was just one more way the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board brings the community together.

OUR COMMUNITY



The city of Ely public works department removed snow from Second Avenue late last week. This season’s snow has been piling up quicker than usual on city streets, keeping city employees busy. photo by K. Vandervort

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

➤ March 15: Meet New Elyites.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



busy city guys filling big trucks with street snow efficiently gone

BABBIT FIGURE SKATING CLUB



The Babbitt Figure Skating Club presented Magic Kingdom 2022 last weekend at the Ron Castellano Ice Arena. Thirteen performances were presented Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Peyton Huntington, above, performed a high freestyle solo to “Immortal.” Just the “Bear Necessities,” below left, included Kaitlyn Schoonover, Jace Nyman, Adrian Houtkooper-Meyer and Emily Schanlaub. “A Spoonful of Sugar,” below right, was performed by Theta Field, Caroline Comstock, Emma Leider-Bilda and Freya Bissonette. photos by K. Vandervort



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

AROUND TOWN

Ely Police Department Activity Report Feb. 1-15, 2022

Complaints:

Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.

Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

Parking Complaint- Officers were contacted about a vehicle parked blocking a driveway. The vehicle was moved.

Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.

Parking Complaint- Officers located a vehicle that was stuck in the ditch. Officers located the owner and assisted them by contacting a towing company.

Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted

about a dog that was outside barking. Owners were contacted and the dog was brought back inside.

Public Assist- Letter of good standing was sent.

Public Assist- Individual fingerprinted for employment.

DOA- Officers responded to a deceased individual.

Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.

Disturbance- Officers were informed about a person that was yelling at vehicles earlier in the day.

Security Alarm- Officers were contacted about a security alarm at a local business. Officers

determined this to be a false alarm.

Hit and Run- Officers were contacted about a vehicle hitting another vehicle and driving away. Officers located the other vehicle and information was exchanged.

Intoxicated Person- Officers were called about an intoxicated person that was requesting a ride to another residence after an argument. Officers made arrangements for a ride.

Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.

Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a security alarm.

Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a vehicle crash.

Mental Health- Officers were contacted by an individual having a mental health issue. Officers determined the individual was not a harm to themselves or others.

Vehicle Crash- Officers responded to a vehicle crash with minor vehicle damage and no injuries.

Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with an intoxicated person.

Vehicle Crash- Officers responded to a vehicle crash with minor vehicle damage and no injuries.

Public Assist- Application for a permit to purchase.

Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with a domestic assault.

Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a dog running around. Officers brought the dog back home.

Loud Music- Officers were called about loud music. The person agreed to turn the music down for the night.

Security Alarm- Officers were contacted about a security alarm at a local business. Officers determined this to be a false alarm.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Gone fishin' instead of just a wishin'

Fifth and sixth graders mix learning and fun on day at Lake Vermilion



Top left: Laurin Glass gets a good look at the fish she just caught.

Top middle: Although the snow was soft and slushy in the ice fishing area, Kahlil Lightfeather-Spears kneels down to keep close watch for a bite.

Top right: Guide Joe Panichi provides assistance and a watchful eye as Josie Gibson tries her hand at ice fishing.

Bottom right: While snowshoeing and other games were offered, football on a snowy unmarked field was a big attraction for many. Here, Sophia Bangs tries to catch up to Memphis Goodsky.

Bottom left: Active kids are hungry kids, and with all the activity taking place just offshore, The Landing at Lake Vermilion opened its doors to serve the kids lunch. Cyrus Johnson tries to get his mouth around one of the monstrous hamburgers that were served. Photos by D. Colburn

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP – Fifth and sixth graders from North Woods school enjoyed a fun and educational day on Lake Vermilion on Tuesday, just offshore from The Landing.

Fifth-grade teacher Rachel Johnson said the activities included learning the basics about ice

fishing, trying their feet at snowshoeing, and learning about winter outdoor survival.

The Lake Vermilion Guides League helped sponsor the event and enlisted the help of other Lake Vermilion guides to shepherd the kids as they learned about both regular rod and tip-up fishing. Some were kept busy drilling new holes as the

first area they chose to set up in became slushy. Many of the kids had success, although the trophies they hauled in resembled baitfish more than lunkers.

Denny Van de Linde, of Denny’s Guide Service, said that they received a number of donations to cover the costs of the event. In addition to the Guides League donation of \$200, Burris Landing

contributed \$100, and Van de Linde said that Spring Bay Resort would chip in to cover whatever remaining balance was needed. Fish bait was donated by the Lucky Seven in Cook.

Games were also available, the most popular of which appeared to be tag football on the snow-covered ice. The soft cushion for landing prompted numerous wild

leaps by would-be pass receivers who more often wound up with a face full of snow than a football in their hands, which appeared to be just fine and dandy to them.

With activities scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., lunch was a necessity, and rather than have the kids tote along bag lunches, staff at The Landing opened up the restaurant

specially for the event. The kids weren’t about to go hungry with the huge burgers and thick-cut fries they were served.

Everyone gathered on the arch bridge by the restaurant for a group picture before they headed back to the school, with some a bit more soggy or cold than others, but all carrying loads of fond memories.

Principal shares more about the importance of growth

by JOHN VUKMANICH
North Woods Principal

FIELD TWP - In my last article, I spoke about the importance of positive influences. Most of us are able to reflect on those who helped us, guided us, and advised us. It isn’t just something that educators have experienced. Important influences cross all boundaries and professions.

This past weekend, I had a conversation with a friend about some of the influences he experienced, and also some of the opportunities that he has had in his non-education

career to be an influencer. One of those opportunities revolved around working with a young man who had recently entered the workforce after several run-ins with the law and some substance issues.

This is where the subject circled back to what educators and administrators do every day. We work hard to repair the damage done by poor behaviors, coach students in how to make better choices, and hope that by using flexibility and accountability hand-in-hand, we can get our kids to the finish line to become functional adults. Everyone has the opportunity for growth,

and the influences on me that I wrote about last time definitely helped me to become a better teacher and person.

We don’t win ‘em all though, and some kids are way more challenging than others. But we don’t give up. Sometimes adults, myself included, look back on how school discipline worked when they were in school. My own perception was that discipline was absolute and that kids were frequently “kicked out” of school for poor behavior.

The reality is that in my childhood world, discipline was perceived as absolute, but I am re-

ally not sure if kids were kicked out. I knew several kids who committed serious acts of discipline and they still graduated, although I know there were consequences for them. How these consequences were administered are unknown to me, as are consequences now – data privacy, folks.

What I am trying to say is that there are many parts of this discussion that are far different from when I was a kid, but many that are also still similar. The best educators still use their influence to affect positive behavior. I don’t feel that this was different back in

the day. Some of my favorite teachers were the ones who held us accountable by having the tough conversations.

Back to my childhood experiences. I feel like I was a good student, and I didn’t become that student because 100 percent of my teachers were great. I didn’t toe the line in terms of behavior because I was afraid of the principal. I did it because it was the expectation from my parents, period. Many kids who struggle lack the needed resources outside of school to ensure their success, and that is where we try to step in.

With that being said,

I am often expected to use authority at a time when authority is scrutinized more than ever, and at a time when influence is more likely to have a positive effect on the situation and the student. As our kids navigate through an increasingly complex world, let’s keep in mind that how we work with them as teachers, parents, grandparents, elders, bosses, etc., helps us to mold and influence our kids into who we hope they can become. If they feel supported, they will do better.

Local farmer tabbed for state union committee secretary

REGIONAL – Missy Bakker Roach, who operates Bear River Farm and helped found the Cook Area Farmers Market, has been elected as secretary of the executive committee of the Minnesota Farmers Union.

County presidents from across the state gathered in St. Paul recently for their biannual full board meeting, conducted in-person and via Zoom, during which time Roach was elected. Roach replaces Anne Schwagerl, who was elected MFU’s vice president in November.

“I always knew that I wanted to be involved in farming. For a kid that grew up in South Min-



Missy Bakker Roach

neapolis, it was hard to imagine what farming would look like for me, or even how I could do that,” Roach said. “I had the opportunity to live in Fairbanks, Alaska, and

work at a greenhouse. It was there I discovered a thriving farmers market and local food network. That was how I discovered a path for my own farm dreams.”

“Moving back to Minnesota, I wanted to continue to be involved in farming and local food,” Roach continued. “I joined Minnesota Farmers Union and it has been the farm advocacy home I was looking for. I am excited to learn more about our diverse Minnesota farms and serve the Minnesota Farmers Union, lending my voice in shaping the landscape of agriculture in Minnesota.”

Theatre group preps new play for debut in March

COOK- The Bleak Mid-Winter Players are back with a new upcoming production featuring a cast and crew that, while not in the thousands, is quite large and very enthusiastic about performing.

This year’s drama, “Into the Mountains,” tells the story of the life of Gladys Aylward, an English woman who selflessly served as a missionary to China. With over 70 cast and crew members, this promises to be an enjoyable, entertaining event. Join them and be transported to China along with a delicious Chinese-style meal.

Three showings are being offered in Cook at the First Baptist Church,

COMMUNITY NEWS

with dinner theaters at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26, and a dessert theater at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 27. In addition, a dinner theater will be performed at North Star Church in Virginia on Saturday, April 2.

Limited tickets are on sale now for this year’s production. Dinner theater productions cost \$15 per person and \$7 each for matinee dessert theater. Tickets are available on the Bleak Mid-Winter Players Facebook page or by email at BMWtheater@gmail.com.

This is the fourth annual production for the Bleak Mid-Winter Players, a church and community-driven theater with a shared goal to bring lightness to the community during the long days of winter.

Empty Bowl event is today at school

FIELD TWP- The ninth annual Empty Bowl event will be held in the North Woods School Commons from 4:30 to 7 p.m. today, March 4. Students have created more than 120 ceramic bowls that will be sold for \$10 each. A bowl purchase comes with the option of having 10 different kinds of soup, as well as dessert.

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

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

Proceeds will go to food shelves in Cook and Orr.

Board to propose no levy increase at annual meeting

Planning and Zoning Commission adopts RV park ordinance recommendation

SNOW...Continued from page 1

2019 STEM * Workshops

Saturday, March 19
9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Vermilion Community College

FOR ALL GIRLS IN GRADES 5-8

Free Event~Lunch will be provided
You will have workshops/activities on
Geology/Physics, Electricity and Water Safety

Registration 9:30-10 a.m.
in VCC Classroom Bldg.

Please let us know if you
are attending by **Wednesday, March 16.**
RSVP by email to elystem@gmail.com
or call/text Jeanne Tomlinson at 218-235-8470.

*** Science-Technology-Engineering-Math**

Sponsored by AAUW-Ely, Vermilion Community College
and Lake Country Power's Round-Up

ATTENTION:
Greenwood Township
Residents

**Looking For a Change
of Direction For
Representation of
Greenwood Township?**

ON MARCH 8, 2022

FILL IN THE CIRCLE AND VOTE...

☐ **RICK STOEHR**
For SUPERVISOR

FILL IN THE CIRCLE AND WRITE-IN...

☐ **JOANN BASSING**
For CLERK-Write-In

Paid for by friends of Rick and JoAnn

Call the Timberjay / 218-753-2950

COVID-19

Diminishing cases bring new perspectives to pandemic

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- New COVID cases are down dramatically from the record highs of the Omicron surge in January and February in Minnesota and across the nation. The Centers for Disease Control has significantly scaled back its masking guidance. The Biden administration was set to announce a new strategy on Wednesday geared toward abandoning “crisis mode” and learning to live with the coronavirus in the months ahead.

Have we arrived at the doorstep of a “new normal?”

COVID indicators in Minnesota have improved to the point where they are around the levels seen back in August in the initial weeks of the Delta variant surge. In a statement, the Minnesota Department of Health expressed cautious optimism that things are getting better: “We all hope

we are approaching the end of the most disruptive phase of COVID-19 and that the decrease in positivity rate as well as hospitalizations will continue. It is encouraging to see a reduced rate of transmission, but we also must keep in mind that the amount of virus in our communities remains elevated, and we are not in the clear yet.”

That statement is borne out by the numbers released on Tuesday by MDH, which reported 2,142 new cases, far fewer than the days of the Omicron peak where daily numbers eclipsed 10,000 repeatedly, but still evidence of active coronavirus transmission in the state.

MDH further cautioned that the virus will continue to mutate, and infection-preventing immunity doesn’t appear to last a lifetime, so Minnesotans need to be prepared for potential future waves.

Masking

The CDC’s new

masking recommendations released last Friday appear to be somewhat of a compromise between its goal of restricting COVID spread and the reality that states, municipalities, school districts, businesses, and more have been doing away with masking requirements altogether as case counts have plummeted. The most recent local example is ISD 696 in Ely, which switched from requiring masks in all school buildings to a mask-optional policy on Monday.

And as of Wednesday morning, the CDC’s guidance appeared to be out of step with the reality of case counts in St. Louis County and many other areas across the country, although the disconnect may be short-lived.

The conflict comes when comparing the CDC’s new guidance, which recommends continued masking in indoor public place for locations they rate as “high risk,” with

their own national map of counties that meet that classification, which hasn’t been updated since Feb. 24.

St. Louis County is still rated as “high risk” by the CDC, so indoor masking by that measure is still recommended.

But Mayo Clinic’s COVID map, populated with data from Feb. 28, shows St. Louis County in the bottom 25 percent of its ranking system, which strongly suggests that the county should be considered low risk at this time, not high risk.

The Mayo Clinic also has good news in its COVID forecast, which projects that case counts are headed even lower in the next two weeks, dropping by 46 percent.

Given that the CDC guidance is only advisory unless it is formally adopted by government bodies or voluntarily imposed in businesses and other environments, the revisions will have little impact in places that

have already gone beyond what the new rules recommend.

Vaccinations

Weekly vaccinations in Minnesota have dropped to their lowest level since December 2020, when vaccinations to restricted populations were first introduced. For the week beginning Feb. 20, just over 32,000 doses were administered. That compares with 80,000 for the comparable week in January, and 133,400 for the same period in December.

Gov. Tim Walz announced on Tuesday that the “Kids Deserve a Shot” vaccine incentive program has opened registration for college scholarships for children five-to-11-years-old who have received both vaccination doses. Those children have been eligible to receive \$200 gift cards for getting vaccinated, but that portion of the program ended on Monday.

It’s unclear what effect new research about below

expected effectiveness of vaccines in that age group will have on future vaccinations. According to data collected by New York state health officials, the Pfizer vaccine, the only one approved for ages five to 11, offers virtually no protection against infection by the coronavirus. When initially administered, the vaccine was 68 percent effective in preventing infection, but during the month and a half for which data was collected, it plummeted to only being 12 percent effective. Moderate declines were also identified in children ages 12 to 17.

Regional data

Data for new cases in zip codes monitored by the *Timberjay* showed marked declines last Thursday from the week prior. Soudan had one new case, two were reported for Cook and Tower, Embarrass had three, Orr tallied five, and Ely had 16.

GET OUTSIDE

Ely Field Naturalists plans activities, field trips in March

ELY - The month of March marks the change from winter to spring as daylight hours get longer and temperatures rise above freezing.

March is also when the Ely Field Naturalists return to regular programs and field trips.

The beginning of weekly activities occurs Saturday, March 5 and each Nature in the Northland Saturday will provide outdoor and indoor adventures from spring through fall. Saturday activities are open to the public at

no charge and include the following:

► For wildlife watching in the woods and wetlands from 7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., meet at Spirit of the Wilderness Outfitters, 2030 E. Sheridan Street in Ely, prepared to carpool/caravan a short distance for a short hike to observe morning bird activity and explore local natural areas. Bring binoculars if you have them. There will be binoculars and a spotting scope available for use. These trips will be in locations easy to access in Ely

and nearby.

► Stop by the Ely Field Naturalists location above the NAPA store at 41 East Chapman Street in Ely. The staircase next to the main entrance of NAPA provides access to the upper level which houses the Ely Field Naturalists library, equipment storage, lab and field study resources. The Ely Field Naturalists Resource Center is open 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

► Drop in for brunch at Northern Grounds, 4 West Sheridan Street in Ely and meet others with an interest

in northeastern Minnesota wildlands from 10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Although not formal presentations, they are an opportunity to meet and share interests, experiences and resources to build a stronger naturalist community.

► From noon to 3 p.m. or later, participate in field trips throughout the season. Meet at Spirit of the Wilderness Outfitters, 2030 E. Sheridan Street in Ely prepared to carpool/caravan on a longer field trip to areas in the region outside of Ely. This is an

opportunity to experience “a sense of place” with seasonal events, physical and biological features, and management areas across northern forests, wetlands, and waters. Bring binoculars if you have them. There will be binoculars and a spotting scope available for use. More details will be announced before each trip. Suggestions are welcome, as well as destination ideas.

March and April field trips will focus on sites that have evidence of past, recent, or future forest fire related activities or

management. This is the ten-year anniversary of the Pagami Fire and a palate of community events have been planned for these two months to engage in absorbing the role and presence of fires in the northeastern Minnesota environment.

Check the Ely Field Naturalists google group, website or Facebook page on the internet.

To join the Ely Field Naturalists google group, call Bill Tefft at 218-235-8078 or email btefft65@gmail.com.

MAYOR...Continued from page 1

“The statement that you made in the meeting, it was about the Sellman law firm,” Erickson said. Sellman Borland Simon, of Hibbing, is the CHRA’s law firm. “The question to you in the minutes, because we taped them, was if you ever contacted the Sellman law firm. And what was your response?” “That I hadn’t,” Johnston said.

“Then we invited you into the office and you said the same thing over and over again,” Erickson continued.

Then Erickson pulled out a piece of paper and levied his allegation that Johnston, indeed, had con-

tacted the Sellman law firm.

“If I showed you a screen shot of your phone call and caller ID from the Sellman law firm, a statement from our attorney that says it was you who called – I have it,” Erickson said. “If that isn’t interference, trying to stop evictions of three of your friends, which you stated in a previous city council meeting as mayor you won’t interfere, this is documented evidence that you did it.”

Johnston asked to see the document Erickson was referring to, and Erickson distributed copies to council members and the press as well.

The header of the

document was the email address and name of Jaclyn Corradi Simon, one of the Sellman Borland Simon partners. Apparently sent Feb. 10 to Erickson, the accompanying text, signed “Jackie,” stated in part, “I believe it was definitely the Mayor who called me. Here is the proof of the incoming phone call on 12-17-21. The person I spoke to spoke slow and deliberate and the caller ID was Harold Johnston.”

At that point, CHRA Housing Manager Paula Erickson spoke up.

“We even have a phone call in the voicemail from the attorney stating that she spoke to you. You identified yourself and it’s your home phone number that showed up on her phone,” she said. “This phone call was made less than 24 hours after you appointed your-

self to the HRA board.”

Johnston was firm in his response.

“Well, I’ll chase it down, but I didn’t make that call,” he said.

Both Ericksons commented that interference in various matters, including this one, is making it harder for them to do their jobs. “We have no good working relationship, it seems, with the city or sometimes our own HRA board because of the constant interference, and it’s only getting worse,” Paula Erickson said.

Council member Jody Bixby, who also serves as the council’s representative on the CHRA board, attempted to reframe the discussion to focus on communication issues.

“So, Reed, what are you proposing for better relationships between us

and the HRA, from yourself and from the city?” she asked. “What’s your plan on your end and what would you like to see from the city? I guess that’s where we start, on communication.”

Erickson responded

“The point I’m trying to make here is that you don’t follow protocol,” he said. “You don’t let people within the city know that there’s openings (on the CHRA board). Let people have an opportunity to get on our board instead of self-appointing people or appointing friends. It isn’t working. I’ve asked for a mediator. I’ve asked for people to resign because of their actions, board members to resign and start the process over. It falls on the board, but it’s going to go much further than this. It’s pretty hard to deny some of this stuff, and this is just the tip of the iceberg.”

“So, I’m hearing you say that it’s all put on the board’s behavior and none of your own,” Bixby said. “So, you’re not taking any accountability and it’s all on the board.”

“I never said that,” Erickson said.

But Bixby was quick to answer.

“We get tired of you sitting here and saying the board, the board (unintelligible),” Bixby said. “These are people who are giving of their time free. We are there to make improvements in our city, and then we end up justifying our actions, plus we’re taped. I think to myself, ‘I hope I stated that right, did I say that right? Will it be

twisted?’ I’m on a board to do well, freely giving my time, and now I’m being taped? I feel like I’m on trial, like I need a lawyer standing behind me with all these rules and regulations. If you’re in charge of that business and you’re the leader of that board, part of the responsibility is the way people are treated. That’s where it starts. It’s like having a good boss.”

Erickson repeated his request to bring in a mediator to look at the actions of both sides, ended his presentation, and was preparing to leave as conversation continued.

Johnston said he had “no recollection of making that call.” He reaffirmed his position that he did not make the call, while also acknowledging that the Sellman attorney said he did.

The suggestion that the call could have been a telemarketer, using Johnston’s phone number, was quickly shot down by Erickson.

“It’s caller ID, and not only that, here’s what’s really ironic. You questioned three evictions. One of them we hadn’t started the process yet. So, you were told this other individual was going to be evicted. Again, I didn’t cause this. This was brought to our attention by our attorney in a phone call after the mayor called her. I didn’t search for this.”

And with that, the Ericksons left the meeting and the council moved on to its next agenda item.

WRITE IN

JOANN BASSING

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

CLERK

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022

Due to the urging of citizens because of the dysfunctional, inaccurate, lack of completing statutory service of the present Clerk to the Town Board and community, I have decided to run as a write-in candidate for Clerk.

I Support:

• Open and transparent government

• Completing all statutory duties of the Clerk and much beyond

Paid for by friends of JoAnn

Donald G. Gardner

Humanities Trust

We are now accepting

2022 Arts Grant Applications

for Individual Artists, Project & Youth Grants, Scholarships & Operational Funding

Updated grant applications and guidelines are available online at www.gardnertrust.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: 12:00 noon on Mon., March 21

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Keiko Williams, Executive Director, by early March, for help and review of their applications.

Call 365-2639 or email info@gardnertrust.org

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

Subscribe today for North Country news • www.timberjay.com

LAW ENFORCEMENT

City of Ely police force gains two new officers

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Department veteran honored for life-saving efforts

ELY – Two new Ely Police Department officers were sworn in at the city council meeting this week, and another member of the department was honored for recent life-saving efforts.

Police Chief Chad Houde welcomed assistant chief Mike Lorenz and Police Officer Zachary Ward to the department. Mayor Roger Skraba read the oath of office to the two new employees at the beginning of the meeting Tuesday night, with their families and other police officers in attendance.

Lorenz grew up in Hibbing and comes from a law enforcement family. After graduating from Hibbing High School, he attended Hibbing Community College and earned a law enforcement degree. He worked for the city of Chisholm and city of Eveleth before joining the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Department, where he served for the past decade. “His primary duty station was in the Ely office and he is very familiar with our area and our department,” Houde said.

“Mike is an avid outdoorsman, and when he’s not working he is often seen on the lake fishing and spending time with his family. He is looking forward to using the 15



Above, Ely Police Chief Chad Houde, center, introduces Assistant Chief Mike Lorenz, left, and Officer Zachary Ward to the Ely City Council Tuesday night. At left, Houde, congratulates Officer Christian Deinhammer for his recent emergency life-saving efforts. photos by K. Vandervort

years of his law enforcement knowledge and experience with our police department,” Houde said.

Ward grew up in southern Minnesota and attended Vermilion Community College, majoring in Wildland/Wildlife Law Enforcement and graduating in 2019.

“Zach was drawn to Ely for its endless recreational activities and is also an avid outdoorsman,” Houde said. “He enjoys hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and golfing. Zach wanted to return to Ely ever since he graduated from VCC and is excited to be working in our community.”

Following the oath of office, the two officers were “pinned” with their law enforcement badges by their families.

In a surprise move, Houde called out Ely police officer Christian Deinhammer for his recent life-saving efforts last fall when he responded to a 911

dispatch for an overdose situation.

On Oct. 30, 2021, Officer Deinhammer was dispatched to a medical emergency at a residence in Ely where a 30-year-old man was unconscious and not breathing.

“With little information to go on, Officer Deinhammer responded and quickly assessed the scene, determining that the patient was suffering from an opiate overdose,” Houde said.

He administered Narcan and performed CPR techniques until medical personnel arrived.

“Officer Deinhammer administered a second dose of Narcan and simultaneously updated dispatch officers,” Houde related. “After the second dose, the patient regained a pulse. At this time more emergency responders arrived, and Officer Deinhammer remained directly involved in treating the patient. A third dose of Narcan was administered and still there was no response from the patient. He administered a fourth dose and the patient finally regained consciousness.”

Fighting back his emotions in relating the story, Houde added, “Throughout this entire incident, Officer Deinhammer remained cool and calm under pressure. Because of his quick response, recognition of the medical emergency and life-saving efforts administered without question, this person is alive today. Officer Deinhammer exemplifies the finest qualities and attributes of what a peace officer stands for and he is one of the finest officers I have ever had the honor to work with. Officer Deinhammer is a true hero and I am proud to have him as a member of our department.”

Chief Houde thanked Deinhammer and requested the council to add a letter of commendation to his personal employment file. Officer Deinhammer was presented with a plaque of recognition and received a special uniform pin recognizing the honor.

Other responders, including the Ely Area Ambulance Service, first responders, Ely Fire Chief and the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Department were also recognized for their contributions to the medical emergency.

“We had more than one here that night,” Houde said.

Deinhammer, clearly taken aback by all the attention, simply said, “Thank you to the city of Ely for giving me the opportunity to work here. The training I received helped me to perform my duty.”

TRUST...Continued from page 1

effort. “Their fees are 0.65 percent, the lowest of the three we looked at, and there is some flexibility that the other funds didn’t offer.”

The DSACF would provide an annual payout of 4.75-percent of the funds balance each year, with the real possibility the fund’s balance would still be able to grow. The trust board will seek to keep the parameters of the income

distribution basically the same, with 75 percent going to the city’s general fund, while providing more flexibility to fund a wider range of nonprofits. Current guidelines specify that the 25-percent remainder each year go to fund recreation on city forest lands and community education.

The process to change the trust will involve several steps. First, the city council needs to approve the plan,

and then a final agreement needs to be negotiated with the DSACF. Then the city needs to go to court to have the Gundersen Trust dissolved and the funds transferred to the community foundation, which will then manage the funds as a permanent endowment for the city.

The DSACF was formed in 1983, and now manages over 440 charitable funds with assets

of \$100 million in their investment portfolio.

The move would eliminate the need for the city to incur ongoing legal and audit fees for the trust. The trust board has been trying to unravel a host of complicating factors due to inconsistent legal and audit oversight, and lingering questions about the trust’s legal status as a nonprofit. In addition, members of the trust board have realized

they do not have the financial knowledge or expertise to oversee the investment of that amount of public money.

Wilson said he hopes the council will act on the trust board’s recommendation at their next meeting in March.

Left unanswered, for now, is how the potentially significant new revenue stream will be distributed. The switch to the DSACF,

if ultimately approved, is expected to generate at least \$40,000 annually to start, and possibly grow from there. Whether city council members would review funding requests themselves, or leave recommendations to a reconstituted trust board, is an issue that city officials will still need to determine.

REAL ESTATE



Orr-\$69,900 Ash River lots in Bear Ridge on Ash River CIC. Each lot comes with shared community septic, shared water from central pumphouse and electric. These utilities already run to each site. Ownership also gives you access to private docks on 155 ft of shared shoreline, a personal slip, gazebo near lake with grill and 1/10 share of all common areas.

Orr-\$79,900 8 wooded acres on the Vermilion River with 324 ft of shoreline. **MLS#141328**

Elbow Lake-\$69,000 2.3 acre boat-access lot on Elbow Lake with 228 ft of lakeshore. **MLS#141517**

Ban Lake, Orr-\$260,000 2,940 ft of shoreline and 57 wooded acres. Remote! **MLS#140881**



#1 NOBODY IN THE WORLD SELLS MORE REAL ESTATE THAN RE/MAX



As measured by residential transaction sides.



Looking To Buy Or Sell? Give Us A Call!

www.vermilionland.com
info@vermilionland.com
Tower: 218-753-8985





Sales are great! WE NEED NEW LISTINGS!
Contact us for a free property evaluation.

218-666-5352 info@bicrealty.com www.bicrealty.com

LAKE VERMILION 24 acres w/ 600 ft lks on Pine Island. Privacy, southern exposure, borders public land. Located near public access and marinas. **\$225,000 MLS# 142409**

PENDING Spacious 3 BR, 1.75 BA manufactured home 10 minutes from Virginia. 2.8 acres, 2 garages, storage bldg, well and compliant septic! **\$125,000 MLS#142647**

NEAR LAKE VERMILION 1.3 acre back lot near Frazer Bay would be ideal for recreational cabin or storage bldg. Electric at road. **\$32,500 MLS# 142012**

It is still a good time to SELL! We are looking for listings!! Properties are still selling. If you've thought about selling we are here to help you make the right decisions and guide you through every step of the process! Free market analysis available. No obligation contact. **Contact us today and let us help you with your property**



We sell the North!





218-780-6644



Let's Make Sold Happen For You Too!

RACE...Continued from page 1

WolfTrack Classic record of 4:36:26. Prior to winning three WolfTrack races in a row, Bestgen missed a couple of years of the Ely event following a knee replacement. He came to Ely fresh off second-place runs in both the Beargrease 120 and the Minnetonka Klondike Dog Derby earlier this season.

“I want to thank everyone here again for the great race event,” Bestgen said. “The trail was really nice, except for a little bit of water on the lake. I have to thank my dog handler for doing a great job again this year, and also my wife, back home, for putting up with me.”

Tower musher Ashley Thaemert, competing in her third WolfTrack Classic, finished first in the six-dog 30-mile race with a time of 2:21:32.

Organizers said as many as 50 teams, the most ever, signed up for the two mid-distance races and 45 teams made it to Ely to compete.

The course was the same as past years and followed the Taconite Trail out of Ely, crossing Highway 1 and Highway 21 outbound and inbound. The eight-dog course went through Bear



Clayton Schneider, of Ontario, Canada, crosses Highway 21 outside of Ely Sunday morning on his way to a fifth-place finish in the 30-mile, six-dog WolfTrack Classic race. photos by K. Vandervort

Head Lake State Park and crossed Bear Head State Park Road.

Thaemert previously ran both the eight-dog and six-dog WolfTracks. This year, she said she is having fun with puppies and the six-dog race was a great way to end the year.

“I want to thank all those who participated and those who put on a great race, my family, Ryan’s family and all of our sponsors. It was great to run with everybody and great to

see all those familiar faces again,” she said.

Thaemert was impressed with her team’s performance, since four of her dogs were one-year-olds and this was their first season racing.

“They were a bit tired for the last five to ten miles,” she said. “There are tough hills once you get close to the finish line. It takes a lot of stamina for the dogs.”

This was Thaemert’s second first-place win of

the year. She also took first in the Beargrease 40, and took fifth in the “very competitive” Klondike Derby in Minnetonka.

Eleven eight-dog teams competed on Sunday. Bestgen was followed by Buckey Tippet, who was second out of the starting chute, with a time of 4:32:08. Erin Leitzring was third with a time of 4:40:35. The rest of the eight-dog field finishers, from fourth to eleventh place, included: Nick Vigilante, Christina

Gibson, Kevin Mathis, Eliza Vistica, Ero Wallin, Sam Louters, Rob Louters, and Jody Reineccius.

In the six-dog event, 34 teams competed. Thaemert was followed by Dusty Klaven, 2:30:35, in second place, and Ryan Miller in third with a time of 2:37:59. The top ten finishers included: Alex Laplante, 2:38:16, Clayton Schneider, 2:38:58, Neal Seeger, 2:41:42, Ann Stead, 2:42:24, Linus Meyer, 2:42:25, Derek Nechuta,

2:43:03, and Andre Duval, 2:43:26.

The Classic featured numerous junior mushers. Elena Freking, 11, guided her team of Siberian Huskies to a 20th-place finish, right behind mom and Ely veterinarian Jen Freking, who finished 19th. This was Elena’s second race, according to race organizer Ellen Cashman. “Elena just completed the Minnetonka Dog Derby with her dad, Blake Freking, and looked spectacular,” she said. “She won the sportsmanship award in that competition.”

“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 could not do it without them.”

For complete race results and musher bios, visit www.wolftrackclassic.com.

The next WolfTrack Classic is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023.

Timberjay Tower/Soudan Editor Jodi Summit contributed to this report.



Ashley Thaemert, of Tower, gains ground on another team in the six-dog, 30-mile WolfTrack Classic Sunday. She finished with first-place time of 2:21:32.



Michael Bestgen, above, is a three-time winner of the 50-mile, eight-dog WolfTrack Classic. Below, volunteers at every road crossing on the race course kept the road filled with snow and helped escort the teams across the divide.



Tongues were hanging on this team of sled dogs on Sunday in Ely.



COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Available

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

Cook Medical
Vaccine Scheduling
20 5th St SE
(218) 361-3297



Tower Medical
Vaccine Scheduling
415 N 2nd St, Suite 2
(218) 753-2405



1-877-541-2817
www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

24 Hour Emergency Care
Available Through
Cook Hospital



SPORTS

Serving northern
St. Louis County
since 1989

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mixed week for Ely girls hoops

South Ridge gives T-Wolves a potential post-season glimpse; NER falls hard

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — The Timberwolves were set to host their opening round game in the Section 7A playoffs on Wednesday against Hill City/Northland as the *Timberjay* went to press. They head into the post-season as the sixth seed after losing their final regular season contest 61-39 last Friday against a powerful South Ridge team now 15-1 in section play.

“South Ridge is really

good,” said Ely Head Coach Max Gantt. “They play good man defense and we had a bit of a scoring drought to start the second half that did not help us.”

Ely’s Grace LaTourell led the way offensively for Ely, with 16 points and nine rebounds. Sarah Visser added eight points, five boards and four steals in a good all-around effort. Madeline Kallberg added ten points as well.

The Wolves had more success when they hosted 5-15

Northeast Range last Thursday. “We got up big early and never looked back,” said Gantt, describing their 56-19 rout of the Nighthawks. LaTourell led the way with 15 points and five steals, while Madeline Perry added ten points and three steals. A total of nine Ely players managed to score in the outing. “We took care of business against a team we should have,” said Gantt.

The *Timberjay* will post game results from Ely’s Wednesday night playoff tilt

Right: The Nighthawks’ Maizy Sundblad tries to work around Ely’s Grace LaTourell during their contest last Thursday. Ely went on to rout the Nighthawks 56-19. They were set to host Hill City/Northland in Section 7A playoff action on Wednesday as the Timberjay went to press.

photo by J. Greeney

on its website at timberjay.com, and will have a full story in next week’s print edition.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies falter in OT loss

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods girls wanted to win Friday’s home tilt against Floodwood in the worst way, as a victory would give them not only a winning record in the regular season but also the seventh seed in this week’s sectional tournament. Instead, the game ended in the worst way possible, a heartbreaking 44-40 overtime loss.

Senior guard Brianna Whiteman got the start in her career regular-season finale and got North Woods off on the right foot with a three-ball. With Kiana LaRoque, Hannah Cheney, and Talise Goodsky knocking down buckets, a Grizzlies run was capped by a Tatum Barto trey to give North Woods a 13-5 lead.

But the Grizzlies’ offense stalled down the stretch in the first half, and North Woods went to the locker room trailing 22-18.

Hannah Kinsey knocked down the Grizzlies’ first bucket of the second half, and another Kinsey score tied the game at 26-26. Cheney scored to put North Woods back in front, and later dropped in a trey to put the Grizzlies up by five, 33-28.

Floodwood responded, and with only 43 seconds remaining, North Woods was on the short side of a 37-36 score. After a time out, Helen Koch received the inbound pass and drove the length of the court for a clutch score that put North Woods back in the lead. Floodwood sank a free throw with 25 seconds left for a 38-38 tie, and neither team scored on their final possessions, sending the game to overtime.

Floodwood struck first in the extra period, but Koch responded with a score for a 40-40 tie. The teams traded possessions, and after the Grizzlies missed a shot to take the lead, Floodwood’s Hailey Bergin raced down the floor for a fast break score and a 42-40 lead with only nine seconds left. North Woods squeezed in two possessions, but both resulted in turnovers, and Floodwood hit two free throws to seal the 44-40 win.

The slow pace of the game worked to Floodwood’s advantage, Grizzlies Head Coach Liz Cheney said.

“Their coach was yelling, ‘Walk the ball up,’ and I knew



BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies’ streak at 11

Chiabotti hits 2,000, Grizzlies win thriller against 14-4 Chisholm

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- In the midst of a win streak that now stands at 11, the North Woods boys finally got a stern test of their mettle at Chisholm last Friday and passed with flying colors.

The Grizzlies stepped onto the court at Chisholm having beaten their previous eight opponents by an average of 45 points per game. But 14-4 Bluestreaks presented a formidable challenge, and they wasted little time proving so, racing out to an 18-6 lead in the game’s first eight minutes.

But the jubilation among Chisholm fans was short-lived. With a 12-footer by T.J. Chiabotti and a trey from Jonah Burnett, the Grizzlies were off and running, once again keyed by their defense. Alex Hartway made a steal and bucket, then Jared Chiabotti did the same. T.J. Chiabotti stole the ball on third consecutive possession, was fouled going up for a shot, and dropped in two charities, and suddenly North Woods

Above: The Grizzlies’ T.J. Chiabotti converts a steal into an easy layup against Carlton on Monday on the way to 2,000 career points.

Right: The Grizzlies’ Sean Morrison knocks down a bunny against Carlton.

photos by D. Colburn

was on top 19-18. The battle was on. Tied 33-33 at the half, neither team could hold more than a four-point edge as the lead changed hands six times through the first ten minutes of play in the final stanza. But when the Bluestreaks’ Philip Barnard hit a bucket to break a 54-54 tie, Chisholm had the upper hand going into the game’s final minutes, leading 62-58 with about four minutes remaining.

Jared Chiabotti nailed a three to get the Grizzlies within one, and after Chisholm’s July Abernathy dropped a two, T.J. Chiabotti launched a trey for a 61-61 tie with less than two minutes to go.



Coming out of a timeout at the 1:37 mark, Chisholm inbounded the ball near center court, and Jared Chiabotti came up with a spectacular steal and breakaway bucket to give the Grizzlies the lead. Chisholm missed its next shot, then fouled Brenden Chiabotti with one minute left. He hit the front end of a one-and-one, and when he missed the second charity shot, T.J. Chiabotti came up with the loose ball. After a timeout, T.J.

See GRIZZ ...pg. 2B



Ely junior forward Gunnar Hart comes down with a rebound against Silver Bay.

photo by J. Greeney

BOYS BASKETBALL

Wolves overpower Mariners

Junior Bianco hits his 1,000th point

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — Timberwolves shooters were as cold as ice at times here on Tuesday, but that didn’t keep them from overpowering Silver Bay in a 60-27 rout to improve their record to 14-11 with just one game remaining in the regular season.

“We jumped out to a 24-1 lead and never looked back,” said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. “We played well defensively all night and fought through some bad shooting to get the win.”

Junior guard Joey Bianco was on target, as usual, pouring in 28 points to outpace the entire Silver Bay team. Bianco, who surpassed the 1,000-point mark last week in a game against South Ridge, has led Ely consistently all season. He added nine rebounds and seven assists in Tuesday night’s contest, while senior guard Harry Simons added 13 points and junior forward Erron Anderson posted nine boards.

But other Ely shooters struggled much of the night. “We were three for 28 on three-pointers and will need to shoot much better than that to finish the season,” said McDonald.

Bianco had another big game on Saturday, scoring 30 points and grabbing six rebounds as Ely hosted Mt. Iron-Buhl, now 14-2 in the section. Ely put up a battle, but the Rangers came away with a 78-70 win. Even so, McDonald saw plenty that he liked. “It was nice to see us compete with one of the better teams in the section,” he said. Simons also had a strong night, posting 23 points and six rebounds,

See WOLVES ...pg. 2B

MILESTONES

Chiabotti surpasses 2,000 career points

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- If North Woods guard T.J. Chiabotti could’ve had it his way, he likely would have preferred to keep right on playing rather than have Monday’s home game against Carlton come to a halt because of him. The team was on a roll, and the Grizzlies’ senior has always been about the team.

But he had no choice in the matter, because he hit a personal scoring milestone that no other Grizzly has attained. With his fifth bucket of the game, and already his third

three-pointer of the night, Chiabotti joined an elite group of Minnesota players who have scored at least 2,000 career points.

When the milestone shot swished through the net, the ball was retrieved and awarded to Chiabotti as he accepted loud and hearty congratulations from his coaches, teammates, family, friends, and fans. He wore a smile throughout but appeared more than ready to get back on the floor and get after it again.

When asked after the game what he found more fun, scoring his 2,000th point or throwing an unbelievable half-

court bounce pass between two Carlton defenders to hit Sean Morrison in stride for a layup, Chiabotti’s big smile said it all.

“Definitely that half-court pass,” he said.

And Chiabotti was quick to give his teammates credit for his achievement.

“All of them have been really trying to get me the ball, even though it really doesn’t matter to me if I score,” he said. “They’re always helpful to me, they’re always there for me, so I like to get them the ball, too. I think this is the most fun team I’ve played on.”

Head Coach Will Kleppe had plenty to say about

Chiabotti’s career and accomplishments.

“He did it in T.J. style,” Kleppe said. “He just found those open shots and knocked them down with as little fanfare as possible, as little excitement as possible, that’s just T.J. If he could have deflected that to anyone else he would have, but he got it done.”

“He was the last kid that started on our 2019 state team that’s still in the game here, so it’s bittersweet for me, but I’m very proud of him and the hard work he’s put in. What a great career, and what a great milestone,” Kleppe said.



T.J. Chiabotti and his sister Presley pose after he scored his 2,000th career point this past week. D. Colburn

NW GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

that was going to be the case because that’s what they do. That’s not our style of play. We like to run the floor.”

Senior Shyla Adams started alongside Whiteman, and both played significant minutes with good contributions during the game. While the pair hasn’t seen much playing time this season, Cheney praised their leadership throughout the season.

“They’re leaders in a different way for the team,” she said. “They’re good examples of accepting the roles that they have been given. Our girls definitely respect the two of them and they will be missed.”

With the loss, the Grizzlies finished the regular season with a record of 12-12. Their eight seed is four spots better than last season and earned an opening home game against Deer River that was sched-

uled for Wednesday. If the Grizzlies prevailed in that one, then a Friday matchup against the top team in Class A, Mt. Iron-Buhl, was up next.

Check timberjay.com and the *Timberjay’s* Facebook page for Section 7A tournament updates prior to next week’s print edition.

Right: The Grizzlies’ Brianna Whiteman, left, and Kiana LaRoque box in a very expressive Floodwood ballhandler. The Polar Bears defeated the Grizzlies, who wrapped up their regular season at 12-12. The Grizzlies were set to host Deer River in the opening round of the Section 7A playoffs on Wednesday, as the Timberjay went to press.

photo by D. Colburn



GRIZZ...Continued from page 1B

fouled and made both charities to put North Woods up 69-64.

But the Bluestreaks weren’t finished yet. Noah Sundquist scored a triple to get Chisholm within two, and after Brenden Chiabotti missed the second of two free throws, Chisholm had one final chance to tie. But this time Sundquist’s three-point attempt caromed off the rim, and the Grizzlies came away with the hard-earned 70-67 win.

The Grizzlies shot just 36 percent from the field to Chisholm’s 51 percent, but won this one from the free throw line. North Woods knocked down 11 of 15 charities, while Chisholm went to the line only four times and made just one.

Jared Chiabotti led the Grizzlies with 25 points on ten-of-23 shooting from the field. T.J. Chiabotti dropped in 16, and Jonah Burnett hit double figures with 11.

Three more wins

WOLVES...

Continued from page 1B

while Anderson grabbed his usual seven boards.

On the road last Friday, Ely struggled with South Ridge’s inside height, falling 64-49 to the Panthers. The score belied a game that was actually close until the final minutes. “They pulled away in the middle of the second half,” said McDonald. “We just couldn’t handle their size as they have two 6’-9” players inside.”

Bianco led the way for Ely, scoring 20 points, including his 1,000th, which came early in the second half. He posted seven rebounds as well.

The Wolves will host Fond du Lac Friday night in what looks to be their final home game of the season. McDonald said he expects Ely will be seeded tenth in the Section 7A playoffs, which start next Thursday, so they’ll likely be on the road. Most likely opening round opponents include either Northland-Remer, Chisholm, or South Ridge.

Memories of the Early Days

A fascinating look back at the early history of the Lake Vermilion area

Written by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay

Don't miss your chance to own Lake Vermilion's most definitive history!

Pick up book(s) at Timberjay office in Tower or have book(s) mailed, for \$39.95 each.

The Timberjay
P.O. Box 636, 414 Main St
Tower, MN 55790 • 218-753-2950

BOOK ORDER FORM

Quantity of Books _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____ Tel. # _____

Credit Card Information VISA MC DISCOVER

Exp. Date ____/____/____ CVV _____

Billing address if different from above _____

Book Total - Pick Up \$29.95 + tax (\$32.16)

Total charged to credit card \$ _____ Paid by check \$ _____ Check # _____

☐ Pick Up ☐ Mail

Book Total - Mail \$39.95

ROOT BEER LADY

Ely museum celebrates north woods legend

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY- Supporters and fans of the Dorothy Molter Museum here gathered last month for a lesson in root beer, and to celebrate another year of foundation and museum activities. The event this year was again held online in the form of a webinar due to public health concerns over the continuing coronavirus pandemic.

Executive Director Jess Edberg hosted the program and updated the dozens of virtual participants on the museum’s silent auction and canoe raffle fundraising events held in conjunction with the foundation’s annual meeting. “We gather the best way we can right now to honor and remember this beloved north woods icon,” she said.

“This year was leaps and bounds better than 2020,” Edberg said about the activities at the local museum. “Our visitation was the second highest on record, just behind our 25th anniversary in 2018, with 6,100 people visiting us from May to October. It seems that people were really itching to get out, and we are thankful they chose to visit us.”

For the uninitiated, Dorothy Molter was the last non-indigenous resident of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). After her passing in 1986, her homestead was dismantled in 1987 and transported by dogsled and snowmobile to Moose Lake, and then on to Ely where volunteers restored two of

Molter Museum holds virtual gathering



her cabins at the current site of the Dorothy Molter Museum.

Dorothy lived on the Isle of Pines on Knife Lake for more than 56 years where she paddled, hiked, fished, skied and snowshoed the pristine area, until her death in 1986. She was visited by as many as 7,000 people a year.

At her paddle-in resort, Molter provided her visitors with her favorite fizzy drinks shipped in by the caseload. By the time her supply ran out, she had amassed a large supply of crates and glass bottles. Her solution was simple. Instead of lugging cases of soda back from town, she began brewing her own root beer, using water straight from Knife Lake.

After she sold her resort to the government, she couldn’t legally sell root beer, so she gave it away for a suggested donation. At her peak, Molt-

er was hand-bottling between 11,000 and 12,000 bottles of root beer each summer, which she would distribute to more than 200 visitors a day.

The webinar’s main event featured a brief history of root beer and Dorothy’s connection with the popular soft drink. “This is the most famous part of her story,” Edberg said. “For many visitors and fans, they are drawn by the allure of tasting a small batch of craft root beer with an obscure story.”

She talked about the recent explosion of craft breweries across the United States. “A good chunk of the breweries also produce a non-alcoholic beverage for their patrons, and more often than not, it is root beer,” Edberg said. “There seems to be an underground culture of root beer enthusiasts, with clubs, subscription packages, specific root beer



stores, even a root beer podcast that discusses all things controversial in the world of root beer. I had no idea.”

She noted that the only public root beer museum in the world opened last summer in Wisconsin Dells, Wis. “Collectors will pay top dollar to get their hands on collector

bottles and crates of root beer,” Edberg said.

Root beer is a uniquely American beverage, and she presented a brief, not-too-technical history of root beer.

Back to Dorothy’s root beer story. “Once the flight ban into the wilderness took effect in the early 1950s, Dorothy could no longer import crates of soda pop to her resort, so repurposing the hundreds of empty glass pop bottles she already had to homemade root beer seemed like a no brainer,” she said. “Like the evolution of root beer itself, Dorothy’s recipe changed over time with the availability of ingredients, particularly the root beer flavoring.”

The easiest recipe Dorothy used included root beer syrup from the local A&W restaurant that contained both the flavoring and sweetener. “She simply added yeast and lake water,” Edberg said, and she had a beverage that just had to ferment for carbonation.”

She noted that the brand of root beer extract Dorothy used didn’t seem too important. “She would send a grocery list back to town with someone and the grocer would pick whatever they had on the shelf at the time, and another of Dorothy’s angels would deliver the stores to her,” she said.

The fermentation process was spelled success or failure. “Not enough and you would have a flat, yeasty drink, and too much would result in a drink best consumed by adults,” Edberg said. In her eight years at the museum, Edberg said she

heard hundreds of reviews of Dorothy’s root beer, from “delicious to absolutely atrocious.”

She estimated that Dorothy brewed as many as 12,000 bottles of root bear every year. “The anticipation of an ice cold root beer (kept cold on blocks of ice from the lake) was invigorating after paddling over miles of water, and slapping black flies and mosquitos over the portages. It was the cherry on top for many making a trip into the Boundary Waters.”

Today, Dorothy Molter Root Beer is brewed at Gray Brewery in Janesville, Wis. “They use only cane sugar for sweetener in our root beer,” Edberg said. “You may not realize it, but the cane sugar industry is incredibly volatile.”

Dorothy’s Isle of Pines Root Beer is the biggest revenue generator for the Dorothy Molter Museum and provides the funds for general operations such as utilities, maintenance and payroll. “It is also the most effective vehicle to transport Dorothy’s story to the masses,” she said. “Our root beer is distributed throughout the Ely area, the Iron Range, North Shore, Twin Cities, and around Minnesota. It is considered a season beverage and not always available year round outside of Ely,” she said.

“Root beer specialty shops around the country always love to get their hands not only on our root beer, but also to spread the incredible story of the Root Beer Lady,” Edberg said.

Planning meeting set for North Country Trail route in Tower area

SOUDAN- ARDC Planning and the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) are asking for comments on possible new routes for the North Country National Scenic Trail in Northeast Minnesota. ARDC Planning and the North Country Trail Association have been working together to nar-

row down possible trail routes for the realignment of the trail in the “Big Gap” area near Grand Rapids and Ely.

The public is invited to a meeting on Thursday, March 10, starting at 4 p.m. at the Breitung Community Center located at 31 1st Ave. in Soudan.

ARDC Planning will

present an overview of the project and possible trail corridors in the area around Tower. Participants will be invited to share their ideas on the potential corridors. Project information and maps can be viewed at www.ardcplanning.org/nct.

The NCTA is looking for local volunteers to help develop the NCT in the immediate area. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the trail as they build, maintain, promote, and protect the trail across eight states. More information on volunteering will be available at the

meeting.

Please RSVP to Josh Bergstad at jbergstad@ardc.org.

Obituaries and Death Notices

William Koski Jr.

William “Bill” Koski Jr., formerly of Embarrass, passed away on Monday, Feb. 28, 2022, at Water-view Woods in Eveleth. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

March 1 at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her son, Brad (Wendy) of Alexandria; daughter, Sarah (Joe) Mattson of Britt; grandchildren, Megan, Nick (Lucy) and Tony Olson, Annikka, Maija and Wyatt Mattson; sister, Betty; and two AFS daughters, Beatrice Schaer of Switzerland and Monika Vachlavova of Slovakia.

Phyllis Olson

Phyllis Koschak Olson, 77, of Ely, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022, at Carefree Assisted Living in Ely. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday,

BIRD SEED

HIBBING
FEED and SEED
262-3049

Cook VFW

Great Food!
Snowmobiler Favorites

THURS: NOON-7 PM
Burgers & Fried Food
Fried: Chicken, Onion Rings, Cream Cheese Wontons, Hammies, Mozzarella Sticks, with Misc. Sauces

FRI: NOON-7 PM
Burgers, Chili

SAT/SUN: NOON-6 PM
Burgers, Chili

Take-Out 666-0500

206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

A Tradition of Trust

- Traditional Funerals
- Graveside Services
- Cremation
- Pre-Need Planning
- Monuments by Warren Mlaker

Mlaker FUNERAL HOME

www.mlakerfuneralhome.com

218.666.5298
Cell-218.240.5395

Cook, MN
24 Hours A Day

Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

Ash River Trail Canister Site 11391 Ash River Trail Winter Hours Sat: 12:30pm–4:30pm	Kabetogama Lake Canister Site 10150 Gamma Rd Winter Hours Wed: noon–4pm Sat: 8am–noon	Sturgeon Canister Site 8380 Hwy 73 Hours Sun: 8am–Noon
Onn Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Winter Hours Tue, Thu: 9am–noon Sat: 8am–noon	Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Winter Hours Tue, Sat: 1pm–4:30pm	County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon–5pm
Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am–6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am–3:30pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon–Fri: 8am–4:30pm Sat: 8am–3:30pm	St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

Household Hazardous Waste Facilities

5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am–1pm	3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am–1pm
---	---

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

Your local source for news, music and entertainment!

91.7fm - Grand Rapids
90.5fm - Bemidji
89.9fm - Brainerd
kaxe.org

Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am–3pm Tue: 9:30am–3pm Wed: 11am–5pm	Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am–6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am–3:30pm
County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon–5pm	Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat; Sun 8am–5pm
Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30–4:30pm Thu: 10am–5pm	Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am–4pm Tue, Wed: 10am–4pm Sat: 8am–noon
Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am–1pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon–Fri: 8am–4:30pm Sat: 8am–3:30pm

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department
1-800-450-9278
Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday
www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

Fishing reports

Ely area

Lake trout fishing has been up and down for anglers this past week. One day trout are on the graph all day. Next day, same spot, it's the Dead Sea. When trout are on the graphs, anglers are catching them with 1/2 to 3/4 oz bucktails and tubes. Best colors have been red/white, blue and pink.

Interestingly, when anglers fishing humps and points are struggling, anglers fishing deep water are making lots of trout. Seems to be little rhyme or reason to when this happens, but it's happening. If you're not marking at your usual spots, try deeper.

Eelpout activity has slowed as we have passed the February full moon. Eelpout continue to be caught, but the bite has largely been at night or very early in the morning or late in the day. Heavy jigs and spoons loaded with minnow chunks have been the go-to bait.

Rainbow trout have been active on area stream trout lakes. Best times have been very early in the morning. Small flies tipped with wax worms have been very effective on these trout. Anglers have been finding trout very close to downed trees.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely

Outdoors briefly

Spring turkey hunting licenses now available

REGIONAL— With wild turkeys increasingly established in much of the North Country, hunters may want to try their hand at this challenging sport.

Licenses for the spring turkey season are now available for purchase, with several short seasons beginning as early as April 13 and running until May 31.

To help understand hunter distribution, license agents will be asking hunters which permit area they plan to hunt. The information is useful to the DNR in managing the state's turkey population. Hunters who identify their permit area are not restricted to hunting in only that area.

Season dates and hunt rules can be found on the DNR's turkey hunting page at mndnr.gov/hunting/turkey.

DNR webinars a great way to learn new outdoor skills

REGIONAL— Anyone interested in fishing, hunting, habitat, and the outdoors can learn about activities like sturgeon and steelhead fishing, native plants and pollinators, creating sharp-tailed grouse habitat, wild rice management, and more during webinars hosted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources this spring.

The DNR started the Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series in March 2021 to share how-to knowledge relevant to outdoor seasons and activities. Webinars are at noon on Wednesdays, last less than an hour, and are recorded and made available online (mndnr.gov/fishwild-life/outreach).

The webinars are free, but participants must pre-register. Find out more at mndnr.gov/discover.



WINTER WEATHER

A top ten cold February

The North Country was also much snowier than average for the month

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— If you thought this past February was a chilly one, it's not your imagination. In fact, the North Country has just experienced one of its top ten coldest Februaries on record, based on data from International Falls, which maintains the longest period of record north of Duluth. That's according to state climatologist Pete Boulay.

For the month, the average temperature in the border city was minus-1.3 degrees F., or 10.4 degrees colder than average for the month. Only six other Februaries, most recently in 2015, were colder.

And the Falls wasn't the coldest place in the region in February. Based on climate data for the month, that honor went to Kabetogama, where the month averaged minus-4.7 degrees F., a whopping 12.6-degree departure from its average. That was also the coldest monthly average reported at any weather station in the state for the month. Kabetogama also reported the coldest official overnight low in the state in February, at minus-44 degrees.

"Your February cold up there has been impressive," said Boulay, who said the increasing snow depth likely has something to do with the cold temperatures so typical in February. Official thermometers are typically set at or about five feet above the ground in order to obtain an air temperature, rather than a ground temperature which can be several degrees colder. But as the snow piles up, the cold air settles at the top of the snowpack, which essentially puts the "ground" closer to official thermometers.

Yet January was cold as well, even with less snow on the ground. Kabetogama, again, proved the chilliest location in the region, with an average January temperature of minus-5.5 degrees F. But Celina, a few miles west of Cook, set the record for the lowest January temperature in the region, with minus-41. January was also without a thaw, as none of the

Above: Unbroken snow among stunted black spruce in the Lost Lake Swamp and a recent bitter cold morning.

Lower right: A Taylor thermometer in the Lost Lake Swamp reads minus-46 F one morning earlier this month.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

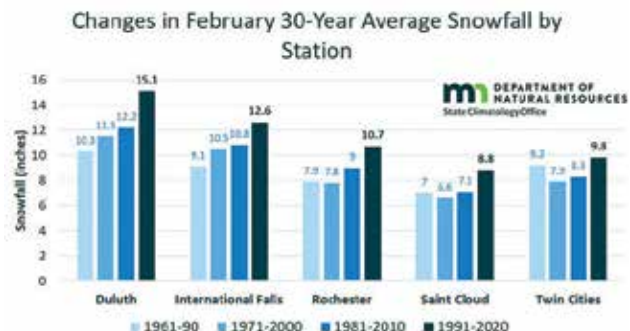
reporting stations north of the Iron Range reported a temperature above the 32-degree mark in the month.

For the calendar winter season, which runs Dec. 1-Feb. 28, the temperatures were somewhat milder (yet still below average), thanks to an exceptionally mild December. Kabetogama was the coldest for the winter season, with a three-month average of 0.8 degrees F., which was 6.9 degrees colder than average. Other area stations ranged from a three-month average of 1.9 degrees in Orr to 5.0 degrees in Ely, with departures from average of between five and six degrees.

So far in 2022, however, temperatures are running close to record cold, as the January-February period finished as the coldest since 1982, and in seventh place overall in the 92 years of records at the Falls, with an average temperature of minus-1.7 degrees.

Snowfall for the season is running much closer to average, in part because snowfall was limited in November and December. But the area has been in a remarkably active weather pattern since the first of the year, with an almost endless stream of weather systems, known as Alberta Clippers, that have passed through the area over the past two months. "I can't ever remember this many clippers," said Boulay. "We're at 20 so far this season."

While not every clipper dropped snow on northeastern Minnesota, frequent, if modest, snow events proved a hallmark of the month and made this past February considerably snowier than average, according to Boulay, ranking as the eighth snowiest



at International Falls, with a total of 19 inches.

For the winter season, the Falls is now running slightly ahead of average for snowfall, thanks to the snow in February, a month that has now become one of Minnesota's most reliable snow-producing months.

Traditionally, February has been considered the driest month of the winter. But that trend has been changing, notes Boulay, pointing to a recent analysis by another of the state's climatologists (see accompanying chart). March, which for years was considered the state's snowiest month, has in more recent years been relegated to third- or fourth-place among the snowiest months, depending on the location.

Climatologists say they don't know what's caused the change or how long the trend will last, but it's clear that February, particularly here in northeastern Minnesota, is making its wintry mark.

Overnight lows in Tower in February '22	
Feb. 1	+10
Feb. 2	-18
Feb. 3	-41
Feb. 4	-41
Feb. 5	-24
Feb. 6	+1
Feb. 7	-3
Feb. 8	-1
Feb. 9	+11
Feb. 10	+6
Feb. 11	+7
Feb. 12	-37
Feb. 13	-40
Feb. 14	-40
Feb. 15	-29
Feb. 16	-18
Feb. 17	-19
Feb. 18	-34
Feb. 19	-20
Feb. 20	-23
Feb. 21	-3
Feb. 22	-7
Feb. 23	-15
Feb. 24	-42
Feb. 25	-41
Feb. 26	-39
Feb. 27	0
Feb. 28	0
Avg. low — 17.86 F	

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

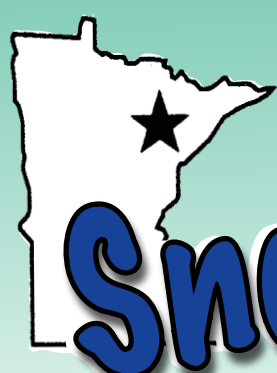
from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
25 11					27 15					28 6					24 3					28 9				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
02/21	26	0	0.01		02/21	26	-1	0.00		02/21	23	-2	0.07	1.2"	02/21	3	-6	0.00		02/21	24	-3	0.00	
02/22	1	-5	0.08	3.8"	02/22	0	-6	0.22	4.0"	02/22	-2	-7	0.05	1.0"	02/22	3	-8	0.18	2.2"	02/22	-1	-7	0.35	4.5"
02/23	3	-9	0.03	0.7"	02/23	2	-11	0.12	1.8"	02/23	1	-12	0.04	0.7"	02/23	5	-24	0.00		02/23	-2	-15	0.14	2.0"
02/24	8	-39	0.00		02/24	5	-42	0.00		02/24	3	-34	0.00		02/24	7	-36	0.00		02/24	6	-42	0.00	
02/25	11	-37	0.00		02/25	8	-43	0.00		02/25	4	-36	0.00		02/25	16	-35	0.00		02/25	8	-41	0.00	
02/26	15	-34	0.00		02/26	13	-41	0.00		02/26	14	-34	0.00		02/26	30	-2	0.00		02/26	6	-39	0.00	
02/27	31	-1	0.00		02/27	31	-1	0.00		02/27	30	0	0.00		02/27	21	7	0.00		02/27	32	0	0.00	
YTD Total			1.14	67.9"	YTD Total			1.63	44.9"	YTD Total			1.84	72.6"				NA	NA	YTD Total			1.90	55.4"

PETERSEN DRILLING
Since 1948
Wells
Water Systems

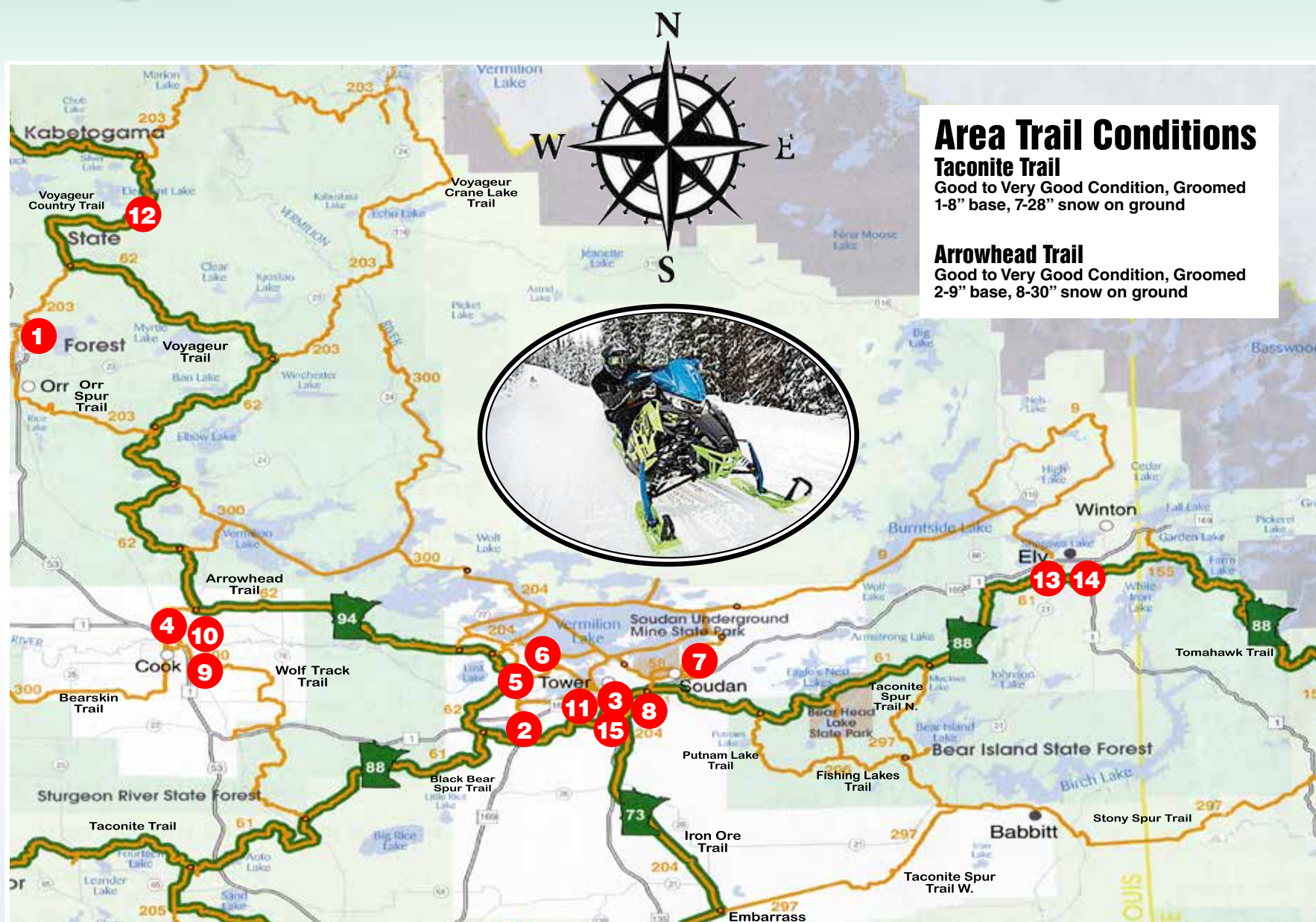
- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700
Spring Park Rd.
Mt. Iron, MN 55768



Check Out These...

Snowmobile HOT Spots



Area Trail Conditions

Taconite Trail

Good to Very Good Condition, Groomed 1-8" base, 7-28" snow on ground

Arrowhead Trail

Good to Very Good Condition, Groomed 2-9" base, 8-30" snow on ground

1

Snowmobiles Welcome!
Fireside Lobby
Bar & Restaurant
FREE Wi-Fi
Swimming Pool & Hot Tub

4675 Hwy. 53, Orr MN
www.ovesonpelicanovepelicanlakeresortandinn.com
1-800-860-3613 • 218-757-3613

2

Gas, Groceries, Pizza, Convenience Foods, Gifts, The Ledge Liquor Store
24-Hour Pay At The Pump
SUN - THU: 5AM - 10PM
FRI & SAT: 5AM - 12AM

6368 Highway 169
Tower, MN 55790
218.753.3868

3

The TIMBERJAY
SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
The Northland's Best Newspaper

414 Main St, Tower 55790
218.753.2950
www.timberjay.com

4

FREE Market Analysis
Barb Hegg
Associate Broker, GRI
barb@vermilionland.com

Office: 218-666-6183
Home Office: 218-666-0144
Mobile: 218-742-2369

PO Box 518, 210 S. Highway 53, Cook

5

SLED RENTALS

DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.vermilionhouseboats.com
218-753-3548
9482 Angus Rd, Tower
info@vermilionhouseboats.com

6

✓ FOOD
✓ LODGING
✓ NORTH STAR BAR
✓ PREMIUM GAS

800.555.1714
FORTUNEBAY.COM

7

OPEN Year-Round!
Right off the Taconite Trail between Tower & Ely... next to Soudan's Only Store!

- Comfy, cozy rooms
- Great rates • Wifi
- Continental breakfast

PROJECT/CLASSROOM PARTY ROOM
BOOK THE ENTIRE INN!
218-753-2333
30 Center Street, Soudan

8

GOOD OL' DAYS
OPEN DAILY
Mon-Sat 6 a.m.
Sun 8 a.m.

Featuring Minnesota's Best Bloody Mary!

- 6 am breakfast Mon.-Sat. and 8 am breakfast on Sun.
- 5-7 pm happy hour Mon.-Fri.
- Daily meal specials
- Home made soups & chill
- Friday fish fry

316 Main St, Tower
218-753-6097
www.goodolddaystower.com

9

The Vermilion Hotel
SNOWMOBILES WELCOME
COMFORTABLE ROOMS
AFFORDABLE RATES

Cable & WiFi

320 S Hwy 53
Cook • MN
(218) 666-2272
vermilionhotel.com

10

Great Food!
THURS: NOON-7 PM
Burgers & Fried Food

FRI: NOON-7 PM
Burgers, Chili

SAT/SUN: NOON-6 PM
Burgers, Chili
Take-Out 666-0500
206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

11

Don't Let Winter Pass You By!

Get Outside & Exploring with Your Boat Club x Polaris Adventures!

Downtown Ely & Tower, MN

YOUR BOAT CLUB
612-208-1806 | WWW.YOURBOATCLUB.COM
"Reserve Online Today!"

12

MELGEORGE'S
Elephant Lake Lodge and Resort
Centrally located on Arrowhead Trail
RESTAURANT & BAR
Cabins & Lodge Rooms
Satellite TV
Plenty of trailer parking!

FOOD • LIQUOR • GAS • OIL

www.melgeorges.com
Box 185, Orr, MN 55771
800-205-9001 • 218-374-3621

13

INSULA
restaurant

Serving
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Beer & Wine
(sled parking out back)

HOURS:
Tues thru Thurs: 8 to 8
Fri & Sat: 8 to 9
Closed Sun/Mon
NOW SERVING BREAKFAST

145 E Sheridan St, Ely, MN
www.insularestaurant.com
218-365-4855

14

ZUP'S WAREHOUSE LIQUOR

Hours: Mon-Sat: 8-8
Sun: 11-6

Huge selection of Beer, Wine & Liquor
Conveniently located next to Zup's Grocery

1500 E. Sheridan St, Ely
218-365-3188

15

JANISCH REALTY

See Virtual Tours & Every Property On The Market On Our Easy Map Search!

(218) 780-6644
JanischRealty.com

EMPLOYMENT

POSITION OPENING
Ely Public Schools
Full-Time Custodian

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a full-time Custodian. A background check is required. Complete job posting and application is available at www.ely.k12.mn.us.

Benefits include:
➤ Paid sick leave, personal days and vacation
➤ Health and life insurance
➤ Health care savings plan
➤ Flexible spending account
➤ PERA retirement

A complete application must include the following:

- 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.

Starting Rate of Pay: \$20.02/hour

Hours: 8 hours per day/40 hours per week

Deadline to apply: March 11, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, March 4, 2022

HELP WANTED
RECEPTIONIST

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

CAMP VOYAGEUR
NOW HIRING FOR THE SUMMER

Work on beautiful Farm Lake. These positions are ideal for those who enjoy the outdoors and working with youth.

- Cooks/bakers: quantity cooking preferred, though we will train
- Kitchen assistants/cleaners: assist cooks with food preparation, post-meal clean up and occasional cabin cleaning
- RN: oversee the health and safety of the camp community

Email for more information
cvsprit@campvoyageur.com
or apply online at
<https://voyageur.campintouch.com/ui/forms/application/staff/App>. ttn

PUBLIC NOTICES

KUGLER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold the Opening of their Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 6 p.m.

In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The regular monthly town board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16 at 6 p.m.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, March 4, 2022

CITY OF TOWER
Call For Bids

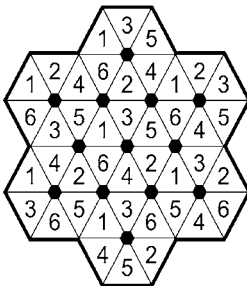
1973 Caterpillar No. 12F
Motor Grader

Minimum Bid \$5,000

Contact 218-410-6285
Bid closing date 3/17/22

*Published in the Timberjay,
March 4 & 11, 2020*

SNOWFLAKES
solution



Call about our
affordable
Display Classified
& Real Estate Rates
218-753-2950



OPEN POSITIONS

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 & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PERA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

The Cook Hospital is an equal opportunity provider and employer

PUBLIC NOTICES

VERMILION LAKE TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

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

The election poll hours will be open from 1:00 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 Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15 p.m.
to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at the following location:

VERMILION LAKE TOWN HALL, 6703 WAHLSTEN ROAD

NOTE: Board of Canvass will meet following the Annual Meeting.

Crystal Alaspa, Vermilion Lake Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 25 & March 4, 2022

Answers

W	I	S	E	O	F	F	B	A	S	T	I	L	L	E	A	G	A	R			
E	T	E	R	N	A	L	O	B	S	I	D	I	A	N	R	E	L	O			
R	E	A	R	E	D	A	L	Y	A	N	K	O	V	I	C	F	R	A	T		
E	M	S			N	O	D	S					N	Y	M	A	T	O			
	L	A	M	E	N	T	S		R	H	I	N	E	C	O	O	L	E	R		
S	A	U	S	A	G	E	S		M	O	A	N	A		N	U	D	E	S		
R	I	G	H	T	G	L	O	V	E		I	N	S	P	E	C	T	I	O	N	
A	S	S	E	Z			F	A	T					M	E	A					
			O	C	T			R	A	T	E	A	L	O	N	G	T		M	E	
I	N	S	C	H	O	O	L			I	A	M	A		T	E	A	S	E	R	
G	E	T	A		R	A	I	L	B	L	U	B	B	E	R		R	E	N	O	
O	B	I	S	P	O		M	O	O	D			S	N	A	P	P	E	A	S	
R	O	C	K	I	N	G	P	A	P	E	R	S		O	L	E					
			G	A	R					A	E	C			I	M	A	C	S		
	R	O	T	T	E	R		U	N	D	E	R	T	H	E	B	R	I	D	G	E
K	O	R	E	A			M	E	E	S	E		E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C	
R	A	I	D	I	N	G	P	O	O	L			D	R	O	V	E	T	O		
A	N	O		L	O	L				S	O	U	P			I	M	P			
M	O	L	E		R	U	T		C	O	U	L	D	B	E	B	E	T	T	E	R
E	K	E	S		G	E	O	M	E	T	R	O		R	O	N	A	L	D	O	
R	E	S	T		E	D	G	I	N	E	S	S		S	A	D	E	E	Y	E	S

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Hole
ARRECT
Annul
CINDERS
Assign
FREER
Regard
ETONIC

TODAY'S WORD



"I'm losing weight, but I'm so cranky
I'm also losing _____."

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Closet accessory | ___ A ___ _ _ _ _ | Need for food | ___ U ___ _ _ _ _ |
| 2. Car stopper | ___ _ A ___ _ | Without funds | ___ _ O ___ _ |
| 3. Greek capital | ___ _ _ _ _ S | Goddess of wisdom | ___ _ _ _ _ A |
| 4. Chastise | ___ _ O ___ _ | Burn with water | ___ _ A ___ _ |
| 5. Bet money on | ___ _ M ___ _ _ | Muddle | ___ _ R ___ _ _ |
| 6. Patron | ___ A ___ _ _ | Tour of duty | ___ T ___ _ _ |
| 7. Barnyard baby | ___ _ I ___ _ | Chess maneuver | ___ _ E ___ _ |
| 8. Flag | B ___ _ _ _ _ | Method | M ___ _ _ _ _ |
| 9. Selena | ___ _ _ _ _ Z | Pyle of Mayberry | ___ _ _ _ _ R |
| 10. Spain's capital | _ _ _ _ B ___ _ | Boxer Sonny | ___ _ _ T ___ _ |

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	×		+		19
×		÷		-	
	+		+		16
-		+		×	
	+		-		12
10		11		15	

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!



HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE





**VERMILLION
ROOFING**

*Serving Cook,
Tower and
Ely Areas*

Your Source For Roofing

- METAL ROOFING
- ARCHITECTURAL SHINGLES

Bryan (218) 269-1039
Karl (612) 418-8953

Licensed • Insured BC# 785662
VermillionRoofing.com | VermillionRoofing@gmail.com



Northeast Title Company
has competitive rates and professional services assuring peace of mind for our customers before and after closing. We take pride in our service and have a proven history of being a leader in the industry. Customers can expect quality services and products along with a professional staff that takes pride in every closing. Our warm, friendly, and professional approach in all of our transactions ensures our customers a level of comfort that is unmatched in the industry.

**Real Estate
Closing Services,
Title Insurance
& Abstracting**

ELY OFFICE
545 E Sheridan St • Ely, MN 55731
Phone (218) 365-5256
Angie Mikulich
Licensed Closing Agent

VIRGINIA OFFICE
612 13 St S • Virginia MN 55792
Phone (218) 741-1515
Jodee Micheletti
Owner/Licensed Closing Agent

COOK/SURROUNDING AREAS
Phone (218) 666-3174
Sharon Maronick
Licensed Closing Agent

www.netitle.com



**Licensed Septic Design
& Installation**

- ◆ Complete Site & Building Preparation
- ◆ Road Building, Land Clearing, Basement, Demolition
- ◆ Digging, Dozing, Hauling
- ◆ Sand, Gravel, Crushed Rock, Black Dirt

Call for an estimate • 218-365-4220
2408 Hwy. 169, PO Box 608, Ely, MN 55731
jschulze.excavating2@gmail.com

Check Out Our Savory New Items

See Our **NEW LINE** of Croix Valley

- BBQ SAUCES

PLUS • TRAEGER RUBS
• TRAEGER GRILLS

We are a UPS Shipping Drop-Off



VERMILION LUMBER

HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS
218-753-2230
302 Main St., Tower, MN
M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; Sat: 8 AM-Noon


 

WE'VE GOT PELLETS!

Premium Wood Pellets

40 lb. bag
\$7.37 a bag

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST



Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344
Hours: Mon. Fri: 7-5, Sat: 8-12
eric@cookbuildingcenter.com



THE FINISHED LOOK

BUILDING | ROOFING
REMODELING

John Thomas Almeida
Owner & Designer
Pingajt@gmail.com
(218) 235-7305

KITCHENS • BATHROOMS • FIREPLACES • BARS
Licensed & Insured - License #BC674311

Let these experts help
with your next project

ROOFS

The FINISHED LOOK



**REPAIR
& INSTALLATION**

218-235-7305

Licensed and Insured
License# BC674311

For all your
**HEATING,
PLUMBING**
and
AIR CONDITIONING needs...



We're the Professionals!

Heisel Bros.

PLUMBING & HEATING
Northgate Plaza • Virginia
218-741-8381 • www.heiselbros.com

HOURS:
M-F 8 AM-5 PM
Sat 8 AM-Noon

Master Plumber
PC644131

YOU CALL, WE HAUL!

Cement Trucks, Building Materials
Septic-pumping Trucks, Dirt
Well-drilling Equipment
Propane Delivery

Carl Anderson
Anderson Barging, Inc.
Cell 218-780-4955
www.andersonbarging.com

Covering all of Lake Vermilion



inogen



**FREEDOM.
TO BE YOU.**

If you think oxygen therapy means slowing down, it's time for a welcome breath of fresh air.

1-844-741-0381 MKT-P0253

Even Exchange answers

1. Hanger, Hunger	6. Saint, Stint
2. Brake, Broke	7. Chick, Check
3. Athens, Athena	8. Banner, Manner
4. Scold, Scald	9. Gomez, Gomer
5. Gamble, Garble	10. Lisbon, Liston

Go Figure!
answers

2	x	6	+	7	19
x		÷		-	
9	+	3	+	4	16
-		+		x	
8	+	9	-	5	12
10		11		15	

SCRAMBLERS
solution

1. Crater 2. Rescind
3. Refer; 4. Notice

Today's Word
FRIENDS

Time for Home & Cabin Refreshers

*Our friendly, knowledgeable staff will help
you find what you're looking for!*

We Are Your Complete Remodeling Headquarters!

We've Got It All!

- ✓ **Sauna Stoves & Accessories**
- ✓ **Tile**
- ✓ **Flooring**
- ✓ **Carpet & Rugs**
- ✓ **Storage Systems**
- ✓ **Countertops**
- ✓ **Bathrooms**
- ✓ **Cabinets**
- ✓ **Window Treatments**
- ✓ **AND More!**

Sauna Accessories



Cabinets



Remnants Galore!



TAKE TIME TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.floortoceilingvirginia.com

BIG Enough to Serve you; small Enough to Know You

FLOOR to CEILING
INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWROOM

 8401 Enterprise Drive N., Virginia/Mt. Iron
(1/2 Mile West on Highway 169) • 741-6690



**HOURS:
8-5:30 M-F**

 Find us on **facebook.**

Advertise Here

**One Low Price
Great Coverage**

Call Today 218-753-2950
Online at timberjay.com

Subscribe Today • 218-753-2950

or online at www.timberjay.com