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Inside: Not for sale... See /3 Playoffs underway... See /1B Snowshoe hares...See /4B Snowmobile Hot Spots...See /5B

RUSSIN INVASION

Direct from Ukraine: Here's how you can help

Former exchange student says nation's hardest days are likely still to come

IMBERIAY

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine has stunned the world and left many Americans wondering what they can do to help the Ukrainians protect and defend themselves.

The *Timberjay* reached out to Roman Polishchuk, who lives in Lviv, Ukraine, for help in identifying organizations that are providing

More on Ukraine

SORRY, NO GAS

Editorial: Putins aggression. Page 4 Invasion part of global changes? Page 9

direct assistance to the victims of the Russian aggression.

Former Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad provided the connection to Polishchuk, who studied in Minnesota as a foreign exchange student before returning to Ukraine. Polishchuk currently works in the tech field, primarily in sales, and is also the founder and CEO of ValueSpot and Polishchuk Life Coaching, based in Lviv.

March 11, 2022

While Lviv, located in far western Ukraine, has yet to be a major target of Russian shell-

See...UKRAINE pg. 9

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\$1∞

Roman Polishchuk

FUEL PUMP FIASCO

Logging truck demolishes gasoline facility at Orr store

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

ORR-An entire row of eight fuel pumps at Pelican Bay Foods in Orr was severely damaged on Friday in a freak accident involving a loaded logging trailer, forcing a temporary shutdown of fueling operations here. A logging tractor-trailer loaded with treelength logs that extended well beyond the end of the trailer turned off Hwy. 53 at about 1:30 p.m. and pulled up along the north side of the uncovered fueling island farthest from the store. Big rigs in that position typically turn left onto Johnson Parkway and follow it behind Pelican Bay Foods and back to the highway. However, according



A snowmobile surveys the damage at the fuel pumps at Pelican Bay Foods in Orr last Friday after a logging truck wiped out the facility. photos by D. Colburn



Rick Stoehr wins seat on Greenwood Town Board

Ousts incumbent Carmen DeLuca

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- In a hotly-contested election here, Robert "Rick" Stoehr defeated longtime Greenwood Supervisor Carmen DeLuca, 162-104, to fill the open supervisor seat on the five-member town board. Incumbent Clerk Debby Spicer, running unopposed, kept her seat with 145 votes, though write-in candidate JoAnn Bassing received 94 votes. There were 268 votes cast, including 56 absentee votes, by the unofficial vote count. The election of Stoehr will shift the balance of power on the board, which also saw two incumbents ousted in last year's election when Barb Lofquist defeated incumbent Larry Tahija by seven votes, and Sue Drobac defeated incumbent Byron Beihoffer by 40 votes. On many issues this past year, board votes have split along a 3-2 line, with Drobac and Lofquist in the minority. Stoehr campaigned on providing positive change for the township, for simplifying the township's tedious data practices policy, and for having supervisors who "actually perform the work" they were elected to do.

to reports at the scene and store surveillance video viewed by St. Louis County Sheriff's deputies, the logging rig's driver instead turned right to go behind the RE/MAX Lake Country office and T Pattenn Café. As the trailer pivoted, the timbers extending beyond the end of the trailer began striking the pumps, inflicting greater and greater damage down the row as the turn progressed. The three pumps closest to the highway appeared to have

while the remaining five pumps were demolished by the timbers.

According to the sheriff deputy's report, the truck continued northbound on Hwy. 53 and was stopped a few miles north of Orr by the Minnesota State Patrol. The driver indicated that he was unaware that he'd struck anything.

Shortly after the incident occurred, Orr firefighters arrived on scene to assess the situation

suffered light damage, See...ORR pg. 10

Bassing had run for the one-year clerk

See...GREENWOOD pg. 12

COLD CURRICULUM

CAUTION: No ice is ever safe

VCC students learn safety, rescue awareness

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

ELY – A gaggle of Vermilion Community College students spent a recent Saturday on thin ice.

Well, not really.

VCC instructor Alyssa Nelson said the students gathered to gain a greater sense

of competency in dealing with ice rescues as part of the Technical Rescue II course offered at VCC.

"The Ice Safety and Rescue Awareness course is typically full at 20 students for the semester, and in most cases this class is overfilled at 22 because of the inter-

See...ICE pg. 11



Students in the Technical Rescue II class at Vermilion Community College recently participated in ice rescue training on an Ely-area lake. submitted



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Community notices

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[®].

LCP announces one candidate for 2022 director elections

COHASSET – Only one Lake Country Power (LCP) member has met the filing requirements for nomination as a candidate for the cooperative's director elections this spring. Director ballots for District 2 will be mailed to co-op members between March 31 and April 5.

Members in District 4 and District 8 will not receive a director ballot in 2022 since no members petitioned to run for the Board of Directors by the filing deadline, which was 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 9, 2022. The Lake Country Power Board of Directors is considering its options for these two districts. An announcement will be made at the annual meeting.

The candidate running for the LCP Board for District 2 is Michael Forsman (incumbent), Ely.

Lake Country Power will use a hybrid election process for members, offering the opportunity to vote online, by mail, or in person at the annual meeting before polls close. Voting instructions will be included with the mailed ballots. The election will fill a three-year term.

The LCP annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20, at the Lake Country Power Cohasset service center, located at 26039 Bear Ridge Drive. Registration and dinner begin at 4 p.m. The business meeting starts at 5:30 p.m.

Election results will be announced during the business meeting along with co-op business updates from Lake Country Power and Great River Energy.

Essentia Health relaxes visitor policy

REGIONAL - As COVID-19 transmission decreases, Essentia Health is moving to less-restrictive visitation guidelines. Generally, two visitors are allowed per patient per day in the hospitals, including emergency departments. In most settings, visiting hours remain between 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Exceptions to visitor hours exist, including for pediatric patients, end-of-life patients, and care partners. For complete details of the updated policy, visit www.essentiahealth.org. Patients hospitalized with COVID-19 are still unable to have visitors except in special circumstances including pediatric patients, OB patients, patients in end-of-life situations, or patients for whom the presence of a care partner is essential. The decision was made based on the reduced number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients, a reduction in community transmission and other factors. Throughout this pandemic, visitor restrictions are continually re-evaluated which are in place to protect patients and staff from the transmission of COVID. The policy will be updated as necessary either because of an increase in new cases or a continued decrease in community spread. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has relaxed masking guidelines for much of the country, as a health care system Essentia will still require visitors to wear a well-fitting mask that covers their entire mouth and nose while in any of their facilities. All approved visitors will be screened for COVID and will not be permitted if symptomatic.

Irish Dance at Ely Senior Center on March 19

ELY - It's time to dance and celebrate Saint Patrick's Day again. On Saturday, March 19, there will be a traditional Irish dance at the Senior Center, 27 S First Ave. E in Ely at 7 p.m. Admission for adults is \$10 at the door. Children accompanied by an adult will be admitted free of charge. More information is available by calling 218-666-5990.

Live music and dance instruction will be provided by FriendsonTheRange with Carol Booth on piano, Jim Ganahl on accordion, and Susan Hoppe on fiddle. Traditional dances will include jigs, reels and hornpipes plus waltzes and polkas. Comfortable shoes are recommended. All dances are taught. No experience is necessary. Singles are welcome. Refreshments are potluck.



TOWER BUSINESS EXPANSIONS



Harbor View Health and Wellness and Little Green Pantry both expanding

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Beth Debeltz knew she was dreaming big when she planned on opening a spa/boutique business in the newly remodeled 615 Main Street building. But even as she was getting ready to open for regular business hours, she realized she had outgrown her space. So she has expanded, moving her boutique into a mainstreet-facing space which had hosted a gift shop over the Christmas season, and turned her original space into a dedicated massage and spa room. At the same time, Lisa Smith's Little Green Pantry has traded spaces with Flexspace, the shared workspace business operated by her daughter Miranda Kishel, and moved into the other main-streetfacing spot in the building, almost doubling her retail area. This has allowed her to expand her grocery and kitchenware offerings. She is planning to also expand her cooler space so she can offer more refrigerated and frozen foods. Debeltz is already seeing some happy customers browsing her collection of new and consignment clothing, in sizes from small to 3XL, along with accessories, purses and totes, home goods, and cabin décor. 'We have plenty of great gift ideas," she said.

Above: Lisa Smith's Little Green Pantry has expanded its retail space. Right: Beth Debeltz's Harbor View Health and Wellness includes a boutique and a spa room.

photos by J. Summit

"Especially with Mother's Day coming up."

Her consignment racks are already full, but she hopes to be accepting more spring and summer items in the future. The clothing selection ranges from casual and athletic to more designer quality. Massage therapist Marcie McGleno offers a variety of therapeutic massage techniques, and bookings are available online. The business offers a discount for local customers







"We are still recruiting someone to do manicures and pedicures and facials," Debeltz said. They are hoping to have someone hired in May.

Right now, the business is open Fridays from from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., and by appointment (check for expanded spring hours on Facebook). Massage therapy is offered weekday afternoons and weekends.

"I really have a passion for health and wellness," said Debeltz, who has been working on opening the business since



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2014.

"I plan to expand into more health and wellness products also," she said, and she will focus on products that she has been using for many years, such as Shaklee skin care and nutritional supplements.

"They are clinically-based and tested," she said. "I will stick with what I know."

Debeltz's goal is to bring health and wellness, as well as fun and joy, into people's lives.

While she has a regular day job overseeing five locations of the radiology department for Essentia Health, her long-term goal is to turn the new business into a full-time job.

"My day-to-day job can be stressful," she said. "This is fun. It doesn't feel like work."

Little Green Pantry

Lisa Smith said she originally had been offered the larger front space in the building, but thought it was best to highlight her daughter's Flexspace in the front of the building.

"But we've been really busy already this winter," she said, "and I realized it would be best to be up in the front with more room." The new space has allowed Smith to expand her selection of healthy and organic foods, snacks, and add selections of kitchenware, gifts, and cutlery.

She offers a nice selection of pantry staples, canned foods, easy-toprepare meals and soups, healthy snacks, baking supplies, juices and drinks, frozen fruits and vegetables, and frozen locally-raised meats. Many foods are suitable for those with food allergies or on special diets, such as paleo. The refrigerator cases offer lots of healthy snack and lunch items. The shop also offers organic coffees and teas, spices, bath and body care items, and naturally-based cleaning supplies.

Moving the store just down the hallway was quite a job, she said, and took a few more days than she had figured, but the shop is now fully-stocked and open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The store will be offering online shopping soon on their website at littlegreenpantry.com.

MISINFORMATION

Orr restaurateur finds her building "for sale"

Pattenn upset over online listing, which falsely claims her restaurant is in foreclosure

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

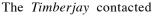
ORR- With the house-flipping craze sending would-be real estate barons flocking to the internet in search of great deals, there must have been some eyes popping out of their sockets if they recently came across an Orr property, valued at over \$100,000, that could be yours for just \$11,569.

It's a great deal because, according to the listing on HomeFinder.com and multiple other real estate sites, the "single family home" is an REO (real estate owned) foreclosure.

"The property was foreclosed and repossessed by a lender when the owner failed to make payments. A bank is now the owner," the HomeFinder listing says.

In fact, there's no such great deal to be had. The "single family home" is, according to the Google Street View picture posted with the listing, an Orr mainstay, the T. Pattenn Café, and owner Tara Pattenn took to social media last week to strenuously proclaim that the listing is a total fraud.

SCAM ALEART. I AM BEYOND PISSED," Pattenn's note began. "Another reason to not believe everything you see in the internet. (They are) running my family name and business through the mud to scam you! If some of you want to know something, just ask me or my family and we will tell you."





The T. Pattenn Cafe in Orr. Despite an online listing claiming otherwise, the building is not for sale and is not in foreclosure. file photo

Pattenn, who said she owns the property outright and that there is no bank mortgage on it. She also confirmed that the property was not involved in any other lending agreements.

A check of the public St. Louis County Property Details Report accessed by the Timberjay through the county Land Explorer site lends credence to that. T Pattenn Café is listed as both the owner and taxpayer for the property. A subsequent call to the St. Louis County Recorder's Office confirmed that there are no outstanding liens on the property.

Conversely, the Property

ing to a press release.

The 911 caller reported

finding the man, who

they believed to be dead.

Pecha was located next

to the snowmobile Pecha

was confirmed deceased

at the scene by first

responders. The incident

remains under investi-

Anthony "Tony"

Details Report for 12745 Sethers Rd., in Orr, a property listed as an REO foreclosure on ColdwellBanker.com, lists a Texas-based financial company, Cascade Funding Mortgage Trust HB7, as both the seller and taxpayer.

The T Pattenn Café property is not listed for sale on any North Country realtor website checked by the Timberjay, while some do list the Sethers Rd. property. It's also not on RealtyTrac.com, which bills itself as the "nation's #1 foreclosure listing service," nor Zillow.com, considered to be the nation's largest online real-estate marketplace. Is it a scam?

The Timberjay found T Pattenn Café listed for sale as a foreclosure on at least six different websites, including HousingList. com, GetRentToOwn.com, RealtyStore.com, HomeFinder. com, iRentToOwn.com, and Ultraforeclosures.com.

Some or all of these sites share multiple characteristics:

► All six require fee-based registration or membership to view full details of listings.

 Trial periods of 30 days for a nominal fee linked to automatic recurring monthly billing of a

member's credit card for fees ranging from \$49.99 to \$69.99.

► A three-month membership option that is billed only once, does not include a trial period, and does not automatically renew. Listed prices discovered for this option were \$99.

► An agreement to consent to being contacted by the web vendor and third parties they contract with about various products and services such as credit repair and credit services, property alerts and marketing messages, and others. HousingList.com lists three of the aforementioned websites as third parties that may receive a member's information.

► Cancellations typically must be done by either sending an email or calling a toll-free number, rather than providing a cancellation option on a member's account page.

► Required and detailed Terms of Service and Privacy Policy statements.

► All used the same Google Street View photo taken in 2015 for their T Pattenn Café listings, with no other photos accessible without registration. A number of other listings for REO foreclosures checked by the Timberiav used Google Street View photos.

However, it's likely the detailed information they provide can be obtained through numerous free online realty sources. The Timberjay conducted searches for area REO foreclosure properties on Zillow.com and Realtor.com

See CAFE...pg. 5

FATALITY

Tony Pecha, former bank president, dies while snowmobiling

EAGLES NEST TWP - A block of Mud Creek Road, located 70-year-old Ely man was found in Eagles Nest Township, accord-

lying deceased near his snowmobile last Thursday afternoon, March 3, near Mud Creek Road, south of Ely, according to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department.

Area first responders and law enforcement were dispatched Tony Pecha

for a possible personal injury snowmobile accident around 4:15 p.m. in the 3800



gation by the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office and St. Louis County Sheriff's office.

"It appears the male was attempting to re-attach a sled he'd been pulling with his snowmobile prior to collapsing. There was no indication of the snowmobile being involved in any type of accident; however, it did appear to have been stuck in deep snow prior to being moved to its current location, a short distance away," officials said.

received his Associate of Arts degree from Vermilion State Junior College in 1971. While at there, Tony was a two-year starter for the Ironmen basketball team, earning All-State Team and All-State Tournament Team honors.

He attended St. John's University in Collegeville, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry with minors in math and secondary education in 1973 before entering the banking business.

His banking career spanned 40 years. He led Boundary Waters Bank in Ely as its president for almost 12 years, retiring in 2016. Pecha also served as vice president of American Bank North in

Cook, president of State Bank of Tower, and manager of the Babbitt Steel Workers Credit Union.

The VCC Foundation Board selected Pecha as the recipient of the 2018 award for his outstanding accomplishments and exceptional commitment to the business field.

The Midwest Medical Examiner's Office will release Pecha's cause of death at a later date.

Pecha grew up in Tower and

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Orr-\$155,000 61 wooded acres on the Crane Lake Rd with mowed trails throughout the land. MLS#142631

Pickerel Lake, Effie-\$69,900 4.13 acres with 422 ft of shoreline on Pickerel Lake near Deer Lake. MLS#141001

Daniels Pond, Buyck-\$198,999 46.5 acres, 1,650 ft airstrip with 3,487 ft of shoreline on a pond. MLS#141325

Elbow Lake-\$159,000 530 ft of shoreline on 3.83 acres with towering pines. Road-access! MLS#136256





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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Putin's aggression

The Russian dictator is threatening a world war with his brutal assault on Ukraine

It's become rare in the 21st century for the world to witness the kind of naked aggression and disdain for innocent civilian lives as we've seen the past two weeks as a result of Vladimir's Putin's brutal invasion of Ukraine. Equally rare, and inspirational, is the response of the Ukrainians themselves, who have stood up impressively in the clearest possible demonstration that they are, indeed, a nation and a people deserving of sovereignty, democracy, and the full support of the American people.

While the war is incredibly tragic in its impacts on innocents, it has come as a valuable reminder that what we often take for granted in Western nations, such things as freedom of thought, freedom of speech, free and fair elections, the rule of law, and the freedom to live without fear of foreign aggression, are truly priceless.

VladimirPutinhasdemonstrated that he cares nothing for these values. He's not a "genius," as former President Donald Trump claimed last week. He's a monster willing to kill countless thousands of civilians for his own vanity and lust for power.

He's a reminder of what it is that the West, imperfect as it is, must stand against. While some here in the U.S. see Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping, or even Kim Jong Un, of North Korea, as strong leaders, such people mistake sociopathy for strength. Putin's actions should remind us that those in the West who have flirted in recent years with authoritarian beliefs and foreign strongmen, have, in effect, given aid and comfort to the enemy.

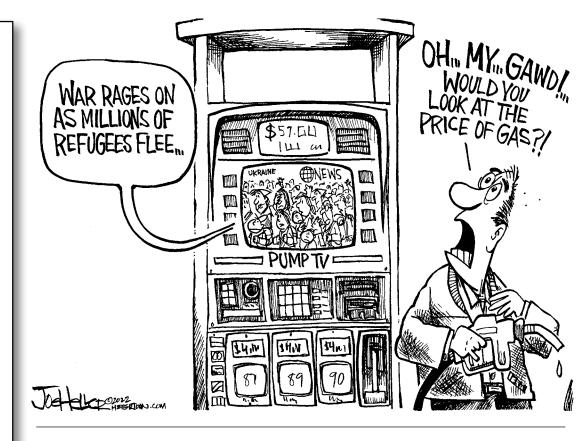
Let's not mince words here. Vladimir Putin is our enemy and he is part of an increasingly-aligned axis of authoritarian nations, including China, that now presents

authoritarian dictator, much in the mold of Putin himself, and, ultimately, left the country and its resources in the hands of the Iraqi people themselves. Putin has made it clear he has no more respect for the principles of democracy and self-determination in Ukraine as he has demonstrated in his own country, where political opponents and independent journalists are jailed or murdered and where the Russian people, many of whom oppose Putin's brutality in Ukraine, face arrest and prison sentences for expressing such views.

Putin has created an incredibly dangerous moment for the world. The war in Ukraine risks a new period of major power instability and has the potential to create a wider conflict, even a world war. His attacks on Ukrainian nuclear plants, and his threatened use of nuclear weapons, risks devastating consequences for the planet at a time when we should be focused on common threats, such as the risks posed by climate change.

This moment is eerily similar to the late 1930s, when another sociopath, this one in Germany, used the same false stories as Putin's today, to justify invading neighboring countries. Fortunately, Western leaders appear to have learned the lessons of Hitler. The Biden administration, to its credit, has spent months warning of this invasion and working closely with our NATO allies to rebuild that organization and mount the kind of sanctions regime that will ultimately contain Putin. NATO has proven its relevance and is now more united than ever in both recognizing what Putin really is, and in the need for strong action to oppose him.

The sanctions against Russia will mean some sacrifice here at home. Oil prices have spiked globally even ahead of the imposition of sanctions on Russian oil and those increases are already being felt at the pump. But that's a small price to pay to stand in solidarity with Ukrainians who are watching in horror as Putin's madness is leveling their major cities. We know that many residents of our region would like to do even more to help. Which is why we are providing links to Ukrainian organizations that are assisting in both humanitarian relief and military support. You'll find that story on today's front page and we encourage readers to consider a contribution. This could be a turning point in world history, and we all have much at stake in ensuring that the values of liberty aren't extinguished under the heavy boots of a dictator and his war machine.



Letters from Readers

In war, the only winner is the Military-Industrial complex

OPINION

I enjoyed David Colburn's column about all the choices he had for writing and I thought about writing a letter to the editor with all the issues that concerned me but then he mentioned Ukraine and that brought back memories of Vietnam and I was focused on war.

There are no good wars. We'll stand with Ukraine because that's the stage this war has reached but we helped bring it to this stage with the 2014 coup we helped engineer.

Our media criticized the Russians for using cluster bombs without mentioning that America has used cluster bombs, napalm, and white phosphorous with reckless abandon. Some of my fellow members of Veterans for Peace are still going back to clean up bomblets we dropped on Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos over 50 years ago.

I found an old notebook I used in Vietnam in 1965 to take ammo counts before we went on operations. One of them listed a total of 499 artillery rounds and 126 of them were WP, white phosphorous. No country that uses white phosphorous in populated areas can call itself civilized.

The Ukrainian mess appears to be an American created witches brew of NATO, Nazis, and Communists with the CIA and KGB mixed in for seasoning.

Maybe I should be a little more appreciative of people who thank me for my service but I suspect that the glorification of veterans is a promotion of the Military-Industrial complex that wants to sell more military hardware to our NATO allies. Modern militaries with massive firepower and PR specialists are good at creating heroes but a lot of our heroism is created on the shattered bodies of children.

Bob Tammen Soudan

Not my party, so why should I pay for it?

I have a question, and I would like your opinion. Here's my example:

I live in town along a street. The neighbors on each side of me decide to have a party. Both houses are open to the party and invite friends and neighbors, even far away friends. They enjoy their party. That's fine. But then the neighbors decide that instead of walking out on the street and over direct. In doing so, they bring the party into my backyard. I don't want the party, not my thing. But they go to the town council and get an ordinance that allows them to build a sidewalk through my backyard......

What do you think? Is this right? Is it fair? I am losing my backyard to strangers and partiers. I want to know how you feel about this.

You see, this is how the Eagles Nest Township community at large feels about the desire of the ATV community wanting to put a major corridor trail through our 'backyard'. There are other choices that won't disrupt our way of life. It's fine if Tower, Babbitt and Ely want to have the trails and ATVs, but we, as a community in Eagles Nest, don't want or need the trail just hundreds of feet from our camps and homes. There are better alternatives, and we would support them. Many of our camps are 100-years-old. Ely, Babbitt and Tower families have been coming here for peace, quiet, and lake life for decades. Good people have chosen to live here for the same reason. So, why should the commercial ATV enterprise take that away? I'd like to hear what people have to say!

Bud Van Deusen

a fundamental challenge to the Western ideals of personal liberty emblazoned in the U.S. Constitution.

Russia and China have made it clear they will work together to advance an alternative vision of governance based on authoritarian, even totalitarian, principles, with no fealty whatsoever to the rights of individuals. It's an approach to governance that relies on violence and elevates raw state power over human dignity.

America has certainly had its failings as a major power, the invasion of Iraq being the most recent example. Yet, whatever the motivations of the Bush administration for that ill-conceived action, the U.S. did not intentionally bomb apartment complexes, schools, hospitals, or nuclear plants. The U.S. removed an to the other house to party, they feel they want to walk through my backyard. It's easier, more Eagles Nest Twp.

We can do more to fight poverty

American policymakers have a very full plate. They've got to grapple with health care, education, the environment, economic growth and more. The list goes on and on.

Along with these priorities, I have argued for some time that the policy community

needs to do more to address poverty. How much time and resources should we devote to



the issue? In short, a lot more than we do. It's one of the most serious problems Americans face, and there's a lot to be done.

There is a great deal of disagreement, of course, about this. At one extreme, some people argue that poverty isn't society's problem to fix. They say there are plenty of jobs, if only people

weren't too lazy to work. It may be that some people struggle with poverty because of choices they make; but that's not the whole picture.

For one thing, it ignores the fact that one-third of poor people in America are children. Among the 37 advanced economies that make up the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the U.S. consistently ranks as one of the worst in child poverty rates.

Also, it ignores the fact the millions of poor adults are, in fact, working, but for low wages. Roughly half of all poor families in the United States

See POVERTY....pg. 5

The enduring legend of The Polyester Quilt

In July 1776, the United States signed the Declaration of Independence, which began the Revolutionary War between Great Britain and the thirteen colonies. In 1976, two hundred years later, Steve Jobs formed the Apple Computer Company, the film Rocky was released, and Jimmy Carter



was elected president. It was also in 1976 when my mother answered her patriotic calling and decided to make The Polyester Quilt. She must have made a pact that it would, of its own polyester-born resilience, last another two hundred years comforting and humoring the family. It is doing a fine job keeping the pact. It was a patchwork quilt with four-inch squares of red, white and blue solids or prints with brief appearances of tan (to ease the eyes). Her goal was practical and three-fold: she celebrated American independence, and the independence found by female school teachers when authorities decided they didn't have to show their legs on a daily basis, freeze on car rides to work or on playground duty and they, like their male counterparts, could wear pants to work. She also wanted to use her polyester sewing scraps in a functional way.

All of the teachers at Gertrude Boase Elementary in Hoyt Lakes where mother taught first grade went wild over polyester. Memories of mom, dressed in her pantsuits, getting ready for work in the mornings in the era when Engelbert Humperdinck ruled supreme with his records spinning from the hi-fi stereo console flash through my head. The teachers were either buying or sewing pantsuits in brilliant rainbow shades that were even visible through the heavy cloud of smoke that filled the small teachers' lounge. I saw the brilliance as I walked to the office...seeking a ride home on a day when pretending to be sick and the comfort of eating a Mrs. Swanson's pot pie and watching the Price Is Right overwhelmed me. I recall grass green, robin's egg blue, red, polka dots, stripes and floral polyes-

See THE QUILT...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

It takes a village (of volunteers) Part II

In my letter to the editor about volunteers last week, one of our local friends who I had in mind was Dan Broten. I had just interacted with Dan about assisting a MarJo Motel guest (paraplegic snowmobiler) who I felt could use some assistance from the Penguins Snowmobile Club because of safety concerns. Dan immediately, and characteristically, helped with contacts. Marit and I still remember the first time that we met Dan and Brenda - they stopped by our

home on N Second St. and asked if it would be okay to "tap" our big maple tree in the spring (of 2016). We talked for a few minutes, got acquainted, and then, of course, said, "yes, absolutely!" Except for one season, Dan had done so every year since. We will always savor the delicious maple syrup that he brought us each year in return. I could add story after story about Dan but so could nearly everyone in Tower and the greater Lake Vermilion area, especially regarding the terrific recreational trail system for which Dan was such a passionate advocate.

Dan was (one of) the post-

POVERTY...Continued from page 4

are headed by adults who are employed or actively seeking work. More than six million Americans are among the "working poor," according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

About one in seven children in the U.S. are poor, which should be unimaginable in such a wealthy nation. Children are especially vulnerable to poverty's worst effects, such as hunger and homelessness. In schools, poverty can lead to low academic achievement, with chronic stress, unstable housing and other factors making learning difficult.

of school than children in higher-income families.

hoods with concentrated poverty are more likely to face physical, emotional and behavioral health risks. They are more likely to be exposed to environmental contaminants like lead paint and toxic waste dumps, to have chronic diseases such as asthma, and to experience violence and trauma.

Fixing poverty won't be easy, but there are poler-citizens who have made our community great and such a magnet for outdoor sports. Sadly, Tower lost Dan as a steadfast volunteer last week, but I am convinced that others will step up and fill the void (it may take several).

I had originally intended to focus this letter on the need for expanding and strengthening the Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce and engaging the Main Street business community in a more constructive way. We need a more active business community to support the many community volunteer organizations like the Events Committee, the development work that TEDA already does, the Tower-Soudan Historical Society, the Main Street Committee, the various trail committees, the Tower/ Soudan Civic Club, etc.

Response from business owners to establish a business chamber of commerce for organizing support for Main Street and beyond has so far been very positive. Businesses, after all, are primary beneficiaries of these groups, and who in turn provide services (shopping, restaurants, lodging, fuel, etc.) to local citizens and out of town guests. Civically engaged communities are successful communities, and

volunteers are the driving force behind that cycle of success.

It occurred to me while preparing to write about a more active local Chamber of Commerce, that Dan Broten has been, and will continue to be, an inspiration to volunteerism and civic engagement. I believe that Dan's love for his community, spirited enthusiasm, and gift for helping others will strengthen our community for the long-term and inspire new volunteers to take his place, if not actually filling his formidable hunting boots! Thank you, Dan!

Orlyn Kringstad Tower

Recent data showed that children in low-income families were four times more likely to drop out

Children in neighbor-

icies that work. Decades of investment in Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, unemployment insurance and other government programs have made the poverty rate much lower than it would otherwise be. But the safety net has frayed; benefits, in many cases, haven't kept up with the rising cost of supporting a family. Until recently, wages had stagnated and economic inequality has widened.

One way to reduce poverty is to invest in education, including high-quality schools that serve all children and affordable college that doesn't saddle students with debt. Job training is key, especially when it is tied to the creation of high-wage jobs that can support families. The 2021 expansion of the child tax credit, part of the American Rescue Plan, lifted nearly four million children out of poverty, but the provision expired this year. Extending it would benefit countless families and their communities.

Two of the biggest expenses for poor families are housing and childcare. We can support programs that provide more housing and make it easier for families to avoid eviction. Federal, state and local funding can help make childcare and preschool available and affordable. Paid family and medical leave and access to health care – benefits that are taken for granted in most advanced democracies would make families less vulnerable.

These are just a few areas where we can do more to overcome poverty. We know how to do it, and we have the necessary reserves. The task is formidable but not impossible. There's a lot we can do if we set our will to it.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government;Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 vears.

THE QUILT...Continued from page 4

ter moving in the lounge haze. You name it, those teachers wore it....even their husbands were into polyester with their shiny collared shirts, slacks and the quintessential leisure suits that were so popular then. Often these suits were sewn in bold solid colors too, with plastic or metal buttons down the fronts and used for pocket flap decoration. Never let it be said that the classic detailing of these leisure garments went unnoticed. The quarter-inch topstitching occurred wherever it could make an appearance... running on every pocket flap edge, down the fronts, across the sleeve cuffs, pant bottoms, anywhere...to the point of ... ad nauseum.

The polyester quilt has no quarter-inch topstitching and I am very grateful. When I look at the quilt, I see patches of fabrics from a few dresses I sewed for myself in high school. One of the dress patterns I had used was the iconic Diane von Furstenberg's wrap dress (DVF wrap) that was a huge sensation and flattering as-all-get-out to any figure! My dress was navy with tiny blue polka dots and boasted white trim. I wore it on the bus to school and to speech meet competitions throughout northern Minnesota...never giving thought to a wrinkle. It served me well as I confidently competed, winning first place in many, many speech meets. Hail to the DVS wrap dress! There is another blue multi-color striped fabric that is sewn into the quilt. I found it when mother and I were planning to

sew caftans and drove north from Hoyt Lakes to Ping's department store on Tower's main street looking for fabric. Today the *Timberjay* is in the same building. I distinctly remember walking toward the back of the store, past moccasins, rugs and clothing and seeing the striped fabric among scads of polyester bolts hoping to be chosen. It was on a table that was located right where my current desk is at work today. What an amazing overlap of time and space. At Ping's that day, mom chose a shiny blue and gold poppy-shaped floral on a red background that still speaks loudly to the era of its creation. It too is in the quilt.

I remember mother had taken several machine embroidery classes, and she knew how to use the decorative stitch CAMS that snapped into the back of her new Viking machine. She entered into a rigorous power-sewing frenzy adding borders to blouses, jackets and other tasteful applications...meaning she didn't trim dad's briefs or anything like that. In the middle of the quilt, on a solid white square, she machine embroidered the dates 1776 and 1976. Like a historical marker outside a building in Boston, it is noted for all of time. For the quilt backing she used a blue polyester-blend bed sheet that she would have purchased new.... a worn bed sheet with a history of its own had no place in mother's quilt. In the decades since its creation, the polyester quilt has never faded, it is unable to rip or fray, and it is incapable of wrinkling...even under massive force. For me personally, polyester was difficult to deal with at times and I haven't worked with it for decades. Like a big Ford LTD from the 70s. it did not corner well. You got "ester" resistance when sewing corners that ended up resembling rounded pencil erasers. You could not press it into a crisp edge no matter how hard you tried, so you got lazy, soft edges. This always disturbed me and to this day I suffer from post-polyester-sewing trauma (PPST). So the miracle of using polyester was that even if a scrap had been shoved into a storage box or waded in a clump you could basically lay it flat and cut your patchwork squares without ever having to iron it. This ease was the amazing of polyester:

► 1950s: Invented by DuPont and called Dacron (we called it a kissin' cousin to polyester).

► 1970s: The Leisure Suit bolted onto the fashion scene, hot, smelly and shiny.

> 1990s: Performance polyester was developed with new fiber shape and capabilities.

▶ 1996: Dri-fit made its debut in the US Olympic uniforms.

➤ Today: Go ahead, make fun of your dad's leisure suit from days gone by but...Polyester is again "all the go" with redesign and moisture management reducing microbial growth. It's softer, cotton-like feel and light refraction qualities knock out the glare to give it a matte appearance. The fabrics are so light that a bolt of fabric often weighs less than the cardboard roll it's delivered on. Polyester and other plastic-based fabrics are used throughout the high-end fashion, sporting and outdoors worlds and referred to as "techno fabrics". There is nothing sporty or techno about our beloved polyester quilt however. It spent most of its time at our family cabin over the years and has now come to roost with me in Soudan to live out its perpetual golden years. The quilt was wonderful in May and October on those chilly nights when you wanted that extra layer that weighted you down a bit. It absolutely would not breathe...holding every ounce of heat in your body until you got kind of sticky and odorous and had to fling it off before succumbing

to dehydration before the of each square causing day had begun. When one cups or cans to tip over, of us was sick or pouting, so it only makes seasonal we just wrapped up in the appearances each winter. I polyester quilt or when the will always enjoy seeing hide-a-bed couch flopped the different squares and open to receive a tired body, remembering what clothing they were first covered in item they came over the polyester. We joked about course of the past decades. the polyester quilt, we So, now you have heard adored the polyester quilt, the legend of the polyester and I still adore it today. I quilt. Most likely it will don't pull it out of the cupoutlast me and my siblings, board very often because it and that is okay. Like many doesn't match my furnishfamily quilts, I know it will ings at all and would get on bring comfort and humormy nerves. It could easily ous stories to whomever it make an appearance on the gets passed along to in our Fourth of July but profuse family. sweating is already often History Source: the case in high summer, so why aggravate that sit-

blog.ministryofsupply. com, "The Evolution of uation. It wouldn't work Polyester? as a tablecloth either, with



CAFE...Continued from page 3

and came up with detailed property information for many of the same properties that other sites charged a hefty fee to obtain.

While an internet search turned up numerous customer complaints about fee-based real estate websites, including some mentioned above, the Timberjay did not discover any third-party evaluation specifically categorizing the above-listed

about polyester s uning grand entrance into our lives. Regardless of the variation or the decade, polyester fabrics always have been strong, resistant to stretching and shrinking, easy to clean, quick drying, and resistant to wrinkles, mildew and abrasions ... a perfect combination for clothing.

What is polyester fabric? It is basically plastic....an unnatural fabric to be sure. To make polyester into fibers, the plastic is melt-spun or heated and forced through spinnerets (a plate with small holes) into fibers. The fibers are stretched to five times their length, combined into yarn, and then machine-woven or knitted into polyester fabrics. I now offer...a brief history

> as a substitute for, nor does it replace, professional advice and information from a real estate profes-

The Timberjay contacted one of the sites listed above through their website for specific information about how they obtain their foreclosure listings, but the company did not respond prior to press time.

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sites as being a scam, likely because they all have their membership fees, billing

and cancellation policies, terms of service and privacy policies clearly spelled out. Given the amount of free information about real estate properties for sale online, would-be buyers may be well-advised to consider another thing

common to fee-based real estate listing sites, their disclaimer statements, such as

this one from HousingList. com:

"The information contained on HousingList. com (the "Service") is for general information purposes only. Although HousingList.com has made reasonable efforts to place accurate info on the site, HousingList.com assumes

no responsibility for errors

or omissions in the contents

of the service. You should

not rely on this information

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sional."

Week of March 14

Monday

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

Tower City Council-5:30 p.m. on March 14

Tuesday

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

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

Thursday

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

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

Breitung Township election results

SOUDAN- Matt Tuchel won the open supervisor seat on the Breitung Town Board. Retiring long-time Chairman Tim Tomsich received 15 writein votes. Incument Clerk Dianna Sunsdahl received 59 votes. There were a total of 63 voters.

The Timberjay will publish the results of the annual meeting in next week's paper.

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

New ski trail groomed for skate-skiing

TOWER- The City of Tower/Howard Wagoner Cross-Country Ski trails system is trying out a new 10 km round-trip ski trail groomed just for skate skiers. The club is looking for skaters to ski the trail and provide feedback. Would you use this skate trail? Why or why not? Is the terrain too hilly or just right? Is the grooming good enough to keep you coming back? The club doesn't have a state-of-the-art groomer for skate skiing, but thinks the trail packer does a good job. What signage should we install? If the club does add to this trail system, they will add new maps and more signs. If this trail proves popular, the club may add it as a permanent trail to the existing 12 km classic ski system.

To get to the new skate trail, start at the south (main) ski trails parking lot, about one mile south of Tower on Hwy. 135. Then follow the arrows. For most of its length the new skate trail follows a segment of the Prospector ATV trail and has been developed through partnership with the Wagoner Trails Club, City of Tower, St. Louis County Lands and Minerals Department, and the local Prospector ATV Club. This hilly trail winds through beautiful large pine and mixed forest. For more information or to provide feedback, contact Mary at sheddmshedd@ gmail.com.



VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL



Taco day!



Adrienne Whiteman (above) came to Vermilion Country School during February's Spirit Week and with the help of students prepared traditional fry bread tacos for lunch. submitted photos

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Skating party...

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.

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.

Tower-Soudan Elementary students spent the afternoon at the Soudan Skating Rink on Feb. 24. It took quite a few adult volunteers to get skates on all the students, but once they were equipped, a great time was had out on the ice. photos by T. Trucano Majerle



VPI hosting dinner with guest speaker on Saturday

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



Rachel Frankel

for designing contextual new buildings, sustain-

COMMUNITY NOTICES

able 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.

The Vermilion Park Inn is hosting a dinner with Rachel at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 12. There are a few seats still available. 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.

OUR COMMUNITY

Youth snowmobile race series hits the track on Fall Lake





The KCPRO (Kids Championship Power Racing Organization) circuit raced on Fall Lake in Winton last Saturday. The group originated in 1987 in Thief River Falls. In 1991, the club opted to divide into East and West divisions. This prompted the official creation of KCPRO-East, a non-profit youth ice racing organization. The group's mission is all about teaching youth, ages 4-17, snowmobile safety while also encouraging friendship, good sportsmanship and family fun. The club offers ten racing classes from Beginner 120 to Junior Novice. The season wraps up next week on Lake Vermilion in Cook behind Moosebirds in Spring Bay. photos by K. Vandervort





A snowmobile, above, gets a few adjustments before racing. At left, Tara Larsen of Ely, with daughter, Kayle, and son, Logan, celebrated a day of wins Saturday at the Fall Lake track. The family's chief mechanic, Brad, was busy wrenching on sleds and missed out on the photo op. photo courtesy of Talra Larsen

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



the drummer starts it setting the rhythm for all

lost in the music

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	7-3345

Donald G. Gardner Trust grants deadline is March 21 Support groups

ELY - The application deadline for the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust's first grant cycle of 2022 is Monday, March 21.

"This will be the last time applicants will need to fill out a paper application," said Keiko Williams, the Trust's executive director. "The Trust is excited to roll out an online grant portal for its fall grant round this year. I think it will be a great improvement for applicants as they can either key in information and come back to it later. Or they can upload files already on their own computers."

The Trust board recently updated its scholarship program to include Ely Public Library staff who are pursuing coursework in library science. "The board approved this change in its scholarship program because it supports not only our mission but also our community through the library and the services provided by its staff," she said.

Artists and groups can apply for grants in the following five categories:

➤ Individual Artist Grants encourage developing and established artists with funding of up to \$1,000 to take advantage of an impending, concrete opportunity.

➤ Organization Project Grants support activities in the fine arts and for the Ely Public Library. Grant support is intended to make it possible for organizations to present or produce a fine arts activity.

>Youth Grants are awarded to Ely school students in grades 6-12 who have an interest in and demonstrate high motivation in the fine arts. The youth grants of up to \$750 can be used for workshops, classes, lessons or mentorships.

Youth Grant applicants need to schedule a Grant Review Meeting with Williams to review draft application. This meeting is intended to help the individual youth make their applications as well written as possible. Youth Grant applicants must call or email Williams by Friday, March 4 to schedule their Grant Review Meeting.

> Scholarships are

available for graduates of Ely Memorial High School who are in their third or fourth year of college studies or in graduate school. Trust scholarships are awarded to students majoring in one of the disciplines of fine arts or library science. Scholarships are also available for staff of the Ely Public Library that are pursuing library science coursework.

>Operational Funding Grants fund high-quality, established Ely-area organizations that produce, or present fine arts activities or provide services to artists.

Individuals and organizations that would like to have a draft application reviewed should contact Williams by early March.

Dental hygiene services offered

ELY – The Ely Community Health Center in the ECR building, (formerly AFU) is providing free dental hygiene services to anyone in need. Call 218-365-5678 or email DentalECHS@gmail.com and they will get back to you. They can also make an appointment for you to see a dentist who will be available in the Ely Senior Center one day per month.

Street.

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 15: Meet New Elyites.

➤ March 22: Pagami Creek Fire Ten Year Anniversary Series - Overview: About the Pagami Creek Fire featuring Tom Roach and Carl Skustad.

Office hours are usually AA - Alcoholics on Monday and Tuesdays Anonymous from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **OPEN AA - 7:30** Or applicants can make p.m. Wednesdays and an appointment by calling Saturdays, in-person, 365-2639 or emailing First Lutheran Church, at info@gardnertrust.org. 915 E. Camp St., Ely. Grant forms and eli-SUNDAY NIGHT AA gibility requirements are at St. Anthony's Catholic available on the Gardner Church is cancelled. Humanities Trust website ELY WOMEN'S OPEN at www.gardnertrust.org. AA - Every Monday Those without internet access can contact Williams at noon at Ledgerock to have a paper application Church, 1515 E. Camp

mailed to them. The dead-

line for applications will be

12 noon on Monday, March

21. Completed applications

can be mailed to the Trust

office at P.O. Box 720, Ely,

MN 55731 or dropped off

at the Ely City Hall, Clerk's

Office, at 209 E. Chapman

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



Ely Library Book Bags

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Ely Public Library, the Friends of the Library organization is selling book bags, modeled here by library clerk Jessica Dunn, for \$20 each. The totes are made of heavy canvas and big enough to fit 20 standard size hardcover books comfortably. Yes, the library staff checked out how many books they would hold. The main part of the bag has a zippered top, and there's also a side pocket to hold more stuff. Stop by the library to buy a bag (cash or check only), and help the Friends of the Library. Sorry, but they will only be selling these onsite. No mailing available. submitted photo

COLLEGE-BOUND Burnett to play volleyball for Roberts Wesleyan North Woods senior creates chance to keep playing sport she loves

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- North Woods senior and standout volleyball player Morgan Burnett signed a national letter of intent to continue her volleyball career at NCAA Division II Roberts Wesleyan College, a liberal arts college in Rochester, N.Y. Her recruitment by the Redhawks was a process that's becoming a new norm for many aspiring college athletes who want to continue playing.

"I reached out to them," Morgan said. "I reached out to multiple schools, and they were one of them. It ended up being good fit.'

Few colleges outside of Division I schools have budgets that support designated recruiters going on long trips to scope out prospects, and the COVID pandemic has limited opportunities to be seen even more. And the development of Internet-based sites for athletes has been a double-edged sword. While they provide opportunities for small school athletes in rural areas like

Burnett to get noticed, the sheer number of athletes competing for attention and scholarship offers presents a different challenge for college coaches.

Burnett was certain she wanted to play at the collegiate level, and the best way to make that happen was for her to take the initiative to reach out. She found a very receptive ear in Roberts' head coach Doug Porterfield.

"I've been in contact with him since about November," Morgan said. "He's walked me through the whole signing process, what volleyball at Roberts would look like, and education and academics as well. He really cares about his players, and he wants the best for everyone on the team. He made it really feel like home."

Contacted by the Timberjay, Porterfield spoke enthusiastically about Morgan's potential to contribute to the Redhawks.

"Morgan is a determined player who is compelled to work hard to get to the level we play at in NCAA Division II and the East Coast Conference,"

he said. "She has a delightful personality and has demonstrated a good knowledge of volleyball."

Porterfield has plans to develop and use Morgan's skills as a setter. "The setter position requires on court and off court preparation, and I believe she is ready and willing to do what is necessary to help the team achieve our goals," he said

For Morgan, who found herself leading the Grizzlies all over the court, settling into setting suits her just fine.

"I've been setting for the longest time," she said. "It was the first thing I learned how to do, the first position I played, and I set for my club team as well. I'm excited to become a setter full time."

North Woods Head Volleyball Coach Kandi Olson said that Morgan's leadership skills and her overall ability will make the opportunity with Roberts a good one.

'I think it's been visible to everyone that she was able to transition into any job I needed throughout, not only on the court,



North Woods senior Morgan Burnett and her parents, Jenny and Tom, are all smiles after Morgan signed a national letter of intent to play volleyball for Roberts Wesleyan College.

but off the court," Olson said. "She's definitely going to get noticed by the coach as being a team player, and that's what most coaches look for. I think she's got a great future ahead of her over there at Roberts."

A look at the Redhawks' web page revealed a host of individual and team academic awards, another aspect of the team that appealed to Mor-

gan. She plans to major in mathematics education with the goal of becoming a high school math teacher.

But for now, there's still volleyball to play. Morgan is on the Duluth-based Minnesota North 18-1 national volleyball team. She said the team is pointing toward the 18 Nationals tourney at the end of April. The team could possibly play into

early May, after which Morgan's attention will turn to graduation and then packing her bags for the move to Rochester.

"This took a lot of hard work and without my teammates, my coaches, or the teams I've played on, this wouldn't have happened," Morgan said. "I'm really thankful for the opportunities I've gotten through volleyball.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL



When the North Woods girls basketball team traveled to Duluth on Saturday for a quarterfinal game in the Section 7A tournament, cheerleaders and fans were there to support them. Standing at attention for the National Anthem, from left, are Emily Grahn, Madison Taylor, Autumn Swanson and Chloe Johnson.



After spending time greeting attendees, signing autographs, and taking pictures at the Empty Bowl fundraiser on Friday, Miss Minnesota Elle Mark sang the National Anthem before the North Woods - Deer River boys



The eighth annual Empty Bowl fundraiser at North Woods was a big success on Friday. The event raised a combined total of \$2,500 for community food shelves in Cook and Orr, and for the art club.

D. Colburn photos

basketball game.

COMMUNITY NEWS

New hours set for **Cook library**

COOK- The Cook Public Library has new open hours, according to Library Director Crystal Phillips.

The library will now be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lobby pickup of items is available by calling 218-666-2210.

North Woods Community Ed promotes classes

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Community Education program is currently taking enrollment for a number of classes in March and April, including:

► Martial Arts for all ages, beginning March 15.

►Safe Home Alone Class, Monday, March 21 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Fee is \$12 for ages 9 and older.

▶Red Cross Babysitter Certification Class, March Tuesday, 29 through March 31 for ages 11 and older.

≻Estate Planning Class, Tuesday, April 19, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., \$6 fee.

≻Clever Connie Coupon Class, Wednesday, April 27, 6 to 7 p.m., \$16 fee.

► Prairie Fire Theater - Peter Pan, April 25 – 29, fee is \$10 for kids second through 12th grades.

For more information, to view other offerings, and to enroll online, visit ISD 2142's Community Education web store at https://slc2142.revtrak. net/.

Theatre group preps new play for upcoming debut

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, 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, 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.

NHS Correction

In a photo caption for the National Honor Society inductions at North Woods School that appeared in the Feb. 25 edition of the Timberjay, inductee Jonah Burnett was incorrectly identified.



The Timberjay regrets the error.

RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

Hanson: Russian invasion could be part of global realignment

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor sphere, would eventually prompt a reaction from

REGIONAL— Since the fall and break up of the Soviet Union thirty-plus years ago, the western world has largely set the rules of the new world order. But Russia's decision to invade Ukraine may well be about more than who controls that former Soviet republic, independent since 1991. That's according to Tom Hanson, diplomat-in-residence at UMD's Alworth Institute.

Hanson has been a frequent lecturer on foreign affairs around the country, including recent presentations in both Tower and Ely.

Hanson, like most Americans, has watched Russia's invasion of Ukraine with growing concern as well as some uncertainty about how to interpret the actions of Russian President Vladimir Putin. On the one hand, says Hanson, who spoke with the Timberjay last week, Putin's invasion could be viewed through a very traditional lens. "The idea of a large power wanting to have a say over its neighbors is as old as history," said Hanson."The Monroe Doctrine comes to mind," he said, referring to America's long-stated belief in its right to a sphere of influence in the New World.

Russian leaders dating back to Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin had warned western leaders that the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO, into the former Soviet

prompt a reaction from Russia. Ukraine has made it clear in recent years that it wishes greater integration with the European Union and NATO, and Hanson sees that realignment as a factor that led to the Russian invasion. He said Putin and many other Russian leaders see the period after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dismantlement of the Soviet Union as a humiliating time for Russia and may see the reimposition of some form of control over Ukraine as part of their transition back to the status of a major world power.

Russians weren't the only ones with misgivings about NATO expansion, notes Hanson. "There was opposition in this country to expanding NATO at the time," he said. "[Longtime Russia expert] George Kennan said it was a big mistake and predicted that Russia would react within about 20 years. He was remarkably prescient on that. William Cohen, [President Bill Clinton's then-secretary of defense] threatened to resign over it."

President Clinton made the decision to expand NATO in 1994 and it was ultimately implemented in 1997. In 2014, Russia seized Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and eight years later, it invaded the rest of the country.

Hanson notes that the concept of sphere of influence is facing a direct clash in Ukraine with the "very deep principle" of sovereignty. "The West is currently making that

right much more important than Russia's desires,' said Hanson, which is one reason western nations have rejected Putin's calls for guarantees against further European integration with Ukraine. Those differing concepts have left Russians themselves divided, Hanson notes, with younger Russians favoring the rights of sovereignty and largely opposing the invasion and the older generation, which grew up with Ukraine as an integral part of the Soviet Union, supporting the war.

Global realignment?

From the western viewpoint, Putin's decision to invade Ukraine appears self-destructive, as the action has all but severed the many ties that have bound Russia to Europe and the western world. To western eyes, Putin has unmistakably exposed himself as a ruthless dictator with no respect for human rights and left many western analysts openly questioning his grip on reality.

Yet Hanson notes that Putin may have already decided to sever ties with the west in favor of realignment with China. "There's a huge school of thought that Russia is ready to slam the door on the west," said Hanson, and that view was bolstered by the prominent meeting between Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping during the recent Olympics in Beijing, which emphasized their growing relationship in both economic and military terms. "It's part of a huge shift going on in the balance of power, with the rise of China," said Hanson. "It has countries like Russia and China questioning the central U.S. role. The Chinese and Russians talk more of a multi-polar world."

Hanson sees Russia as interested in even greater integration with China, with trade in energy, technology, and finance, helping to free Russia, and to a lesser extent China, from its reliance on the west, including the supremacy of the U.S. dollar. "Longer term, both of them want to get free of the dollar," said Hanson. "China is implementing a digital currency, which could be a long-term threat to the dollar."

Most western analysts see the potential realignment as a major threat to the world order, largely imposed by the West, which will present an alternative vision for human progress— one in which individual rights and the rule of law take a back seat to centralized government power.

"It's framed by the U.S. as autocracy versus democracy," said Hanson. Where does it go from here?

Western analysts have struggled at times to understand Putin's ultimate objectives in Ukraine, in part because his stated rationale, which includes ending a purported genocide against Russian speakers and "de-Nazification," ring so hollow. Hanson said he believes that Putin hopes to take Ukraine's coastal regions along the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov in order to bolster's Russia's position in the Crimea, the Ukrainian province which Putin seized in 2014. It's also believed that Putin wants greater control over eastern portions of Ukraine, which have historically been Russian-speaking.

"I really wonder if they want to take Kiev, or some of the larger cities," said Hanson. "It would be very bloody." Given the powerful defense that Ukrainians have mounted to date, Hanson does not believe that a long-term occupation of the country is possible.

At the same time, the remarkably coordinated western response, led by the U.S., has united NATO behind the imposition of the hardest-hitting economic sanctions regime ever agreed to by western nations. "Freezing the Russian central bank out of SWIFT [Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications], was the equivalent of a financial nuclear strike," said Hanson, one that has left the Russian ruble and its economy in dire straits.

As the impact of sanctions increasingly hit home with average Russians, and with the Russian army appearing to be increasingly bogged down by Ukrainian military forces and resistance fighters, internal opposition to Putin is likely to grow. Widespread street protests against the war have already broken out in major Russian cities and other independent political leaders have voiced opposition as well.

That potential instability in Russia could pose one of the biggest risks of all from Putin's decision. If Putin's gamble in Ukraine fails, there is increasing fear in the West that he could lash out in unpredictable ways. Putin has already placed his nuclear forces on high alert and he has made it clear that further western involvement in the war could lead to "consequences greater than any of you have faced in history.'

While such threats could be seen a bluster from a leader who has backed himself into a corner, Hanson said questions about Putin's state of mind have certainly prompted western leaders to tone down their rhetoric. "We don't know if he's a rational actor at this point,' he said. Hanson said he also believes that NATO will shy away from implementing a no-fly zone, due to the risks of direct military confrontation with Russia.

While Russia's military has appeared less effective than advertised when confronted by trained Ukrainian forces, Hanson said Russia does have high-tech weaponry, such as hypersonic missiles, against which the U.S. does not have effective defenses."I think everyone is most concerned about an escalation that would get into uncharted territory in terms of the kind of weapons that are used," said Hanson.

UKRAINE...Continued from page 1

ing, Polishchuk, like many Ukrainians, is working to assist the Ukrainian effort to maintain its independent democracy. Polishchuk said the effort involves virtually all segments of Ukrainian society.

While an estimated two million Ukrainians have fled the country, that's a tiny fraction of the country's 44 million people, Polishchuk notes. "The vast majority of people are staying in Ukraine, not because they cannot leave, but because they choose to stay," he said. While men under age 60 are currently not allowed to leave the country, Polishchuk said most Ukrainian women as well, even those with young children, are choosing to stay to resist the Russian invasion. "Everyone is doing something," he said. "People are not hesitating to take a stand because they know what they are standing for. Ukraine is now more united than ever." Polishchuk said Ukrainians have been heartened by the tremendous support they've received from around the world and believes that Ukraine has become an inspiration to the world.

here to help, please do. There are a lot of wounded people," he said. "If you can send money, please do. If there are military veterans who want to fight for Ukraine and the freedom of the world, they can contact me directly. They'll be provided with the flight and guns and the ammunition."

Polishchuk provided the following links to a number of legitimate organizations and websites that he knows are raising funds both for humanitarian aid as well to support the Ukrainian military.

1. https://ukrainewar.carrd.co/

VOTE • SHANE DRIFT District I Representative

BooZho, Bois Forte Band Members! It has been my honor and privilege to serve you as the District I Representative for the last four years. I am humbly asking you for your support and vote on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. I would like to share a little bit about me. I have two wonderful children. I am in a serious relationship. I have been alcohol and drug free for over 28 years. I have a college degree, and I serve on our ambulance and fire department.

What I have accomplished over the last four years is as follows: requested CARES Act

"When people see other people ready to die for their country, it has helped bolster that international support," he said.

He said the sanctions are hitting Russia's economy very hard but, like many, he doesn't believe it will be enough to stop Putin's aggression.

While the situation grows ever more dire for the Ukrainians, Polishchuk is confident that his country will ultimately prevail. "Ukraine is huge and believe me our people know how to fight," he said. Polishchuk said his own father has been engaged on patrol near his home, with a gun and car trunk full of Molotov cocktails. "We're ready to fight in the forest for a very long time," he said. "Russia will have no peace here."

Polishchuk said the recent Russian decision to focus its attack on civilians and civilian infrastructure reflects their military's lack of success when pitted against trained Ukrainian soldiers. "Our military is kicking their asses and they are scared," he said. "Russians are giving up in whole groups and say they don't want to fight."

Despite Ukraine's valiant resistance, the hardest days are undoubtedly still to come, which is why Polischuk says it's important that people around the world continue to provide support to Ukraine in any way possible.

"If you're a doctor and can come

www.timberjay.com

2. https://uahelp.monobank.ua/

3. https://helpukrainewin.org

4. https://www.comebackalive.in.ua/

5. https://bank.gov.ua/en/news/all/ natsionalniy-bank-vidkriv-spetsrahunok-dlya-zboru-koshtiv-na-potrebi-armiyi?fbclid=IwAR1PmNv-rdtY9Y3krVJa-JS43cpHtiz-09R-YiDtpjMFnykaoj7f5XukI4rA

6. https://supportukrainenow.org/

How doctors and nurses can help

Experienced medical workers can help in the care for the wounded by contacting Mariana Sluzhynska, +38 050 315 8418, ukrainemedhelp@gmail.com.Sluzhynska is able to converse in English.

How foreigners can join the fight

To all foreigners who wish to join the resistance to the Russian occupiers and the protection of world security, the leadership of Ukraine offers to come to our state and join the ranks of the Territorial Defense Forces.

1. Apply to the Embassy of Ukraine in your country

2. Get your documents in order

3. Arrive at the embassy with documents for an interview

4. Write an application for enlistment in the Territorial Defense of the Armed Forces of Ukraine

5. Receive instructions on how to arrive in Ukraine and what to bring.

6. Go to Ukraine in an organized manner.

https://www.militarytimes.com/ flashpoints/ukraine/2022/02/27/want-togo-fight-for-ukraine-heres-what-to-do/

Military veterans wanting to fight for Ukraine can also contact Polishchuk directly at +38 068 108 6513. and American Rescue Plan (ARPA) payments for Band Members; requested CARES Act and ARPA financial information to be made public; required that Health and Human Services build financial reserves; pushed to increase monies put into the tribal government and casino financial reserves; requested that all Bois Forte Tribal election ballot counts be on YouTube; pushed to eliminate financial strain placed on our casino; requested a resolution to protect the Fortune Bay Employee medical fund; voted to increase casino employee salaries; requested a resolution for any new business venture to be brought before the Band Members for approval; advocated to purchase a new ambulance; made sure all Band Members received their 1854 per capita payment for the last two years; and I voted against renewing the Kemper Sports contract at the Wilderness Golf Course.

Some of my goals for the next four years are: for the Band to move forward with a medical marijuana, recreational marijuana, and hemp business; build a Section 8 Housing Complex in the Twin Cities and Duluth for our band members; language and cultural programs; build a traditional roundhouse; financial education classes for our young Band Members; an urban office in Bemidji; plus to increase the 1854 per capita payments; protect our 1854 treaty area and treaty rights; increase funding for our elder programs; and put ARPA payments into the children's trust accounts; payments to Band Members from marijuana business.

It would be a good idea to teach our youth about planning for retirement. It would be good for our young Band Members who turn 18 and receive their "eighteen monies" to start a retirement account. Some things that need to be considered include how much money do I need to have in my retirement account, will I have enough money to retire, and how much should I put into a retirement account.

When I was first elected into office, I donated \$200 from my first paycheck, and to date I have donated over \$16,000 to various tribal government programs. The various programs I have donated to are: The Elders' Activities, Nett Lake Pow-wow Committee, Nett Lake LIEC Committee, Bois Forte Burial/Funeral Fund, Bois Forte Heritage Museum, KBFT 89.9 FM Radio, Bois Forte Medical Clinic, and Bois Forte Ambulance Service. Please keep in mind that I am not bragging or boasting. I made a promise to myself that if I was elected, I would donate back to the tribe.

If you, the Bois Forte Band Members elect me to serve you for another four years, I will continue to stand up and speak up for our Elders, Band Members, and employees. I will look out for the best interest of our tribal government, programs, services, and businesses. I will continue to ask questions, and I will do business the same way that I have been doing.

In closing, if you have any ideas, concerns, or issues, please feel free to call me at 218-750-2552. You can also message me on Facebook.

Remember to Vote for Shane Drift District I Representative on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. Miigwech!

Sincerely, Shane Drift District | Representative

Paid by the candidate on his own behalf

ORR...Continued from page 1

for potential hazards from possible fuel spillage. Yet it appears that an automatic internal shutoff system installed in the refueling system worked as designed, preventing any gas from leaking as a result of damage.

Fueling services were suspended at the store and repair work began later that afternoon. By Saturday morning, a limited number of pumps were back in operation.

As of Friday, the incident was classified as an accident and no charges were filed against the driver. The incident remains under investigation by the St. Louis County Sheriff's



A row of fuel pumps was damaged by a logging truck (not pictured) at Pelican Bay Foods in Orr last Friday. photo by D. Colburn



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For questions, contact: Julie Lesemann COO/Assistant Administrator 218-666-6210 jlesemann@cookhospital.org



The Timberjay / 218-753-2950

NEEDLIN



I look forward to meeting the citizens of the 3rd **District and starting this** journey with you!

Sunday, March 20, 2022 12:00 PM Grand Ely Lodge 400 N Pioneer Rd, Ely, MN 55731 (218) 365-6565 Open to the Public, All Are Welcome

Community Hospital

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital has a 2015 Chrysler 200 for sale by sealed bids.

EBCH has for sale by sealed bid a blue 2015 Chrysler 200 Limited four (4) door sedan loaded with options. This car is in good condition, and currently, the odometer reading is 43,918 miles. For questions or to look at the car, please contact EBCH Facilities Team Leader George Rajkovich at 218-365-8731. The minimum starting bid is \$6500.00.

Bids due by 4:00 pm on March 18, 2022 The winning bidder will be notified on March 21, 2022

Please mail your sealed bid to: Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital **ATTN: Marketing & Communications** 328 W. Conan St. Ely-Bloomenson Ely, MN 55731

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Celebrate St. Patrick's

Saturday, March 19 • 7 PM

Traditional Irish Dance

Ely Senior Center • 27 S First Avenue East \$10 admission, children accompanied by an adult are free



Live music /dance instruction provided by

Friends On The Range



with Carol Booth on piano, Jim Ganahl on accordion, and Susan Hoppe on fiddle. Traditional dances will include jigs and reels and hornpipes, plus waltzes and polkas. Comfortable shoes are recommended. All dances are taught. No experience is necessary.

Singles are welcome.

Refreshments are potluck.

CITY OF ELY

Utility fee increase proposed; public hearing set for Tuesday

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY – Utility customers here will have the opportunity to learn more details of the projected increase in utility rates at a public hearing on Tuesday, March 15. City Council members invite residents to sound off on the issue at a public hearing that begins at 5 p.m.

Following the hearing, council members are likely to act on the Ely Utilities Commission recommendation to raise monthly fixed fee rates by \$1.50 for all utility customers.

The slight increase to fixed fees, proposed from the utility's Budget and Rates Committee, calls for a \$1 increase to the sewer fixed-rate fee and a 50-cent increase to the water fixedrate fee.

Electric rates are recommended to stay the same, following a seven-percent rate increase last year. The commission's memo indicated that an electric power contract renegotiation and extension last year resulted in no electric rate increase this year.

The memo said, "One of the major goals of the EUC over the past several years has been to ensure the operating fund balances are enough to avoid major rate increases and allow the EUC to be more deliberate in how rates are analyzed. Overall, given the (COVID-19) pandemic we endured during 2021 and 2022, enterprise fund balances have remained relatively consistent and only incremental adjustments are being proposed due to price increases of operating supplies and chemical products."

For the city's water utility, according to the EUC's Budget and Rates Committee, in 2021, due to the pandemic and difficult circumstances, the decision was made to cover the forecasted \$15,000 shortfall with reserve funds and leave the Water Fund rates unchanged.

"The shortfall was realized by the painting of

the water tower," the memo said. "Looking ahead to 2022 and beyond, operating supplies and chemical product prices have risen due to high inflation and supply chain issues. Therefore, we recommend a 50-cent increase to the fixed fee for the Water Fund (beginning) in 2022 to ensure our cash balance remains steady. The adjustment will result in a six-dollar increase annually for account holders."

For the city's sewer utility, much like the water utility, operating supplies and treatment product prices have risen due to inflation and supply chain issues, according to the Budget and Rates Committee, and they recommended a one-dollar per-month increase in the fixed fee rate beginning in 2022, resulting in a \$12 annual increase in costs for account holders.

Development and construction continues this year on a Mercury Pollution Minimization Plan, as required by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, to meet the city's discharge permit mercury limit at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The funding plan for the project, according to the Budget and Rates Committee, is to receive approximately \$8 million in grants, and the remaining \$500,000 will be obtained through a low-interest Clean Water Revolving Fund that becomes payable starting in 2023.

Rates for the city's electric utility were raised one percent in 2020 due to an increase in purchased power from Minnesota Power. In 2021, usage rates were increased by about seven percent following the same rate increase from the provider.

The EUC joined the Northeastern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency to partner with other local municipalities to negotiate fair market wholesale rates across the Iron Range. A new contract went into effect at the beginning of 2022 and runs through 2029. "The new contract eliminated the highly volatile fuel-adjustment charge and better load management opportunities," the Budget and Rate Committee memo said. "The collaborative effort provided municipalities negotiating power that resulted in a fair purchased power rate for the EUC and its customers."

Frozen water pipes

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski reported to city council members last week that the city's public works department receives as many as five to seven water line freeze ups per day.

"We've had some that were refreezes, and oftentimes that means the water was inadvertently shut off (by customers) when they were letting it run," he said. "None of them have been too major."

He reminded city water customers, "If you have had problems in the past, run the water. Check the temperature of your water and if it is 37 degrees or lower, you are probably headed toward a freeze up."

The city of Ely will thaw frozen water pipes at a rate of \$100 per hour during regular business hours, and a minimum of \$200 per hour after hours and on weekends. "On the weekends, call the emergency number on your utility bill," Langowsi said.

Other business

In other business at the March 1 meeting, the council took the following actions:

➤ Approved a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to issue an Interim Use Permit for a term of five years for the Jake Forsman Memorial/ Fundraiser and Car Show/ Burnout Competition. The event is held on the first Saturday in October in front of Ely City Hall.

➤ Approved a recommendation from the Budget Committee to add a John Deere lawn tractor, to be used at the Rec Center, to the public works equipment replacement list for 2022.

ICE..Continued from page 1 –

est and student program planners involved," she said. "Most students who take this course, as well as our Technical Rescue I course in the fall semester, are in the Wilderness and Park Management Program, the Outdoor Leadership Program, or Law Enforcement or Wildland Wildlife Law Enforcement Programs."

Nelson said the Technical Rescue II course has three components, including Ice Safety and Rescue Awareness, Snowmobile Safety and Rescue Awareness, and Low Angle Rope Rescue Awareness.

"This course takes place over six days throughout the spring semester at VCC," Nelson said.

Students gathered on a frozen lake outside of Ely on a frigid morning last month with the expectation of getting their feet, and everything else, wet.

"This portion of the

in proper techniques in planning and executing the appropriate rescue procedures and equipment using "Talk, Reach, Throw, and Go" methods.

To provide the rescuer with a greater sense of competency in dealing with ice rescues.

"The successes we have in this course are students coming away feeling more prepared to be in an outdoor setting no matter what they are doing, the build-up of confidence they have from putting on the dry suits to getting into the water and being comfortable in the water, and the management of equipment that goes along with all of these technical courses," Nelson said.

There are challenges that come with the course.

"The equipment is really expensive and I would like to purchase other types of equipment as well so the students get an idea of what equipment "The students seemed to have fun while learning the different techniques and feeling comfortable in the water," she said. "The key is to keep moving or their feet and hands get cold, depending on the weather the day gives us. This year it was pretty nice outside at 15 or so degrees. A few years ago, I did the course and it was in the negatives, but the students toughed it out and made a great day of it."

The Technical Rescue I course that VCC offers during the fall semester includes Swift Water Rescue Awareness, Boat Operations and Water Rescue Awareness, Wilderness Rescue Awareness, and ATV Operations and Rescue Awareness.

"Typically if a student takes one of these courses they will take the other out of personal interest," Nelson said.

"These courses are intended to show students a variety of technical rescue areas," she added. "It will hopefully show them which areas they like or dislike when they get into the job field. If there is an area that interests them, it is suggested that they take more courses in that area. Some job fields will provide training after they get hired and show interest in certain areas."

Search Management Systems and Wilderness First Responder are other classes at Vermilion that they can take in this area.



course is designed to train the rescuer in the most current techniques in ice rescue," she said.

The primary objectives of this program are to execute the following:

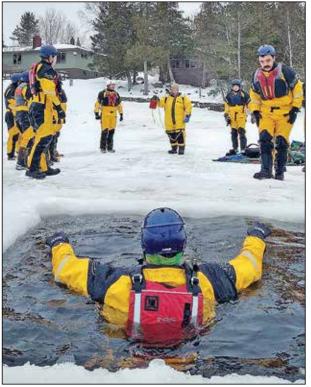
Train the rescuer how to recognize ice characteristics, its strengths, and weaknesses.

➤ To provide the rescuer with the knowledge to understand how hypothermia can affect both the victim as well as the rescuer.

► Train the rescuer

types are out there," she said. "Another challenge is that there is a classroom portion to this we do the night before and that can get pretty long for the students who just want to be outside doing the fun stuff. But along with the getting into the water fun stuff, we need to have that foundation of knowledge so they know why we are doing what we are doing before jumping in."

According to Nelson, the 2022 ice rescue field day went well.



Students took turns playing the rescue victim during the recent VCC ice rescue class. submitted photo

TOWNSHIP DAY

Few Morse residents attend annual meeting

Incumbent reelected, levy remains unchanged again

by KEITH VANDERVOR Ely Editor

MORSE TWP – Government of the people was front and center Tuesday night as the annual township meeting was held here and around the state. However, besides the supervisors, treasurer and fire chief, just two other people bothered to show up.

Once a year, rural residents who attend the grassroots gatherings (there are 1,780 other such townships in Minnesota), are able to sound off on setting their own tax levy and budget, and other issues, while electing supervisors.

The two townships near Ely, Morse Township and Fall Lake (in nearby Lake County), held uncontested elections. Len Cersine won another threeyear term in Morse, and incumbent Craig Seliskar was expected to continue to serve as a supervisor in Fall Lake.

Last year, during the height of the coronavirus pandemic, both Fall Lake and Morse restricted attendance for their annual meetings, while nearby Eagles Nest Township held their annual meeting virtually.

Meanwhile, back at Morse Town Hall, just 38 ballots were cast all day for the incumbent supervisor. Cersine received 100-



Town of Morse election judges tally the votes Tuesday night prior to the annual meeting. Supervisor Len Cersine ran unopposed and received 38 votes. photo by K. Vandervort

percent support. The vote was certified, the annual meeting was called to order, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Supervisor Terry Soderberg was again selected as moderator for the meeting.

Town treasurer Mary Ann Lekatz gave her report that showed a beginning balance of \$296,436, receipts of \$672,507, disbursements of \$501,170, and an ending balance of \$467,821 for 2021.

"A great portion of that amount was to be used for purchase of land for over \$126,000," she said.

Supervisor Bob Berrini added, "Just to let the people know, we are getting reimbursed for that and getting 168 acres for nothing. You can't beat that."

Morse Township board members again recommended no change to the tax levy increase for the proposed 2023 budget. "It doesn't change a lot from year to year," Soderberg said. The proposed general fund for next year of \$212,700 was unanimously approved. "That's for personnel, the building, fire department, first responders, insurance, joint power and recreation fund," he said. The total levy of \$365,730 (the same amount as last year), including \$181,036 for the general fund and \$184,693 for roads and bridges, was unanimously approved.

Berrini noted that the road and bridge fund could see an increase in spending this year with the increase of gas prices. "Who knows what the price will be by the time we get our graders out this spring," he said. Fire chief Ted Krueger

presented an annual report for the Morse-Fall Lake Fire Department.

There were 80 total calls to Morse Township last year, including eight structure fires, two vehicle fires, one chimney fire, 10 downed power lines, 14 wildland fires, five accidents with injuries, 13 medical and rescues, and 13 reports of smoke in the area.

In Fall Lake Township, 27 calls included one structure fire, one downed power line, one wildland fire, two accidents with injuries, seven medical and rescue calls, four reports of smoke and two water emergencies.

Winton had one structure fire, two accidents with injuries, one downed powerline report, one water emergency and one smoke in area report.

The Morse-Fall Lake First Responders received 152 calls for service, including 108 general medical calls, 15 motor vehicle accidents, 36 rescues, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, six lift assists, and eight water emergencies. First responders had a total of 60 days of wildfire medical standby for the Behzik, Delta and Greenwood fires.

GREENWOOD...Continued from page 1 -



opening last year and lost by a slim two-vote margin. She opted not to file this year, but later mounted a last-minute write-in campaign.

DeLuca was first elected to the board in 2008 and served four non-consecutive terms on the board. Stoehr ran once before for supervisor in 2019, losing by only a handful of votes.

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

case, the town board never voted to go without the published notice.

Bassing said moving the meeting to June also gave the opportunity for "snowbirds" to attend the meeting, and that there would be more information available about both the broadband and ALS ambulance issues, which could help in the decision of setting the 2023 levy. Greenwood has often continued its meeting until summer, and the township is not required to set their levy in March.

At the request of an audience member, township residents were forced to vote by paper ballot on Bassing's motion, which confirmed almost two-toone support to continue the meeting at a later date. Most of the approximately 40 people in the audience then sat and waited for the township election results, which took another 45 minutes, slowed by the number of write-in votes in the clerk's race. The board then held its Board of Canvass. The new supervisor will be sworn in prior to the reorganizational meeting set for March 24. The board also voted to set a special meeting for Tuesday, March 15 to pay claims and payroll and pass a resolution affirming the township's voting place. The board had planned to do this business after the March 8 meeting, but the meeting was not properly noticed as a special meeting. Special meetings, held outside of the regular date, time, or location, need to have a specific agenda posted, and only items on that agenda can be acted on at the meeting.



Rick and Julie Stoehr cast their votes at the Greenwood Annual Meeting. photo by J. Summit



Annual meeting

Residents at the Greenwood Annual Meeting voted 25-13 to continue the annual meeting to Thursday, June 23 at 6 p.m.

Before a vote for the moderator could be called, John Bassing put a motion on the floor to recess the meeting because the clerk had failed to publish the required notice at least 10 days prior to the meeting, as set forth in state statute.

Clerk Debby Spicer said she had talked with the Minnesota Association of Townships attorney Steve Fenske who told her that "most townships vote to not follow that." Spicer added the notice was posted on the website and the township bulletin board. In past years, Greenwood Township, along with most other area townships, has published notice of their annual meeting in their official newspaper. In either



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BOYS BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Ely tops Fond du Lac in regular season finale

Were set to take on Northland-Remer on Thursday in the opening round of the Section 7A playoffs

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

ELY- The Timberwolves had to shoot well to get the better of the Ojibwe in both teams' regular season finale here last Friday. Fond du Lac (7-16) has played its best hoops while on the road all season and last week's game was no exception as they

kept the game in reach until the end, falling 81-67.

"We played well and shot the ball well against a good Fond du Lac team," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald. Junior guard Joey Bianco, as he has almost all season, led the hit parade for Ely, with 26 points, 11 assists, and 8 rebounds, narrowly missing a triple-double.Eighth-graderJack

Davies connected on six trevs enroute to 19 points, while senior Harry Simons added 17 points. Junior forward Erron Anderson added ten boards while classmate Jason Kerntz grabbed seven.

With last Friday's win, the Wolves improved their season record to 15-11, but that wasn't enough to earn a home berth in the opening round of the Section 7A playoffs, which were set to get underway on Thursday, March 10.

Instead, the tenth-seeded Wolves will be on the road to take on seventh-seeded Northland-Remer, which finished their regular season at 20-6.

It will be the first meeting between the two teams in recent memory, so it isn't clear how

they'll match up. "They have two sets of athletic twins who can shoot the ball and defend pretty well," said McDonald. "They aren't overly big so that could be to our advantage," he added. "We will have to defend them and hit some shots. We will also need to take care of the basketball or we will be in trouble trying to beat them on their home court."



SECTION 7A GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

T-Wolves stun South Ridge

Huge second-half rally sends underdog Ely to Section 7A semifinals

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

DULUTH- Ely sophomore guard Grace LaTourell has hit countless

third-seeded South Ridge 60-60 with two minutes to play, LaTourell was hammered on a three-point shot and stepped to the charity stripe with the game in the

Above: Ely's celebration begins as the final seconds tick off the clock in their upset win over South Ridge.

Right: After being blatantly fouled on this three-point attempt, Ely's Grace LaTourell hit three straight free throws to give the Wolves their first lead of the game with two minutes remaining.





The Grizzlies' Jonah Burnett eyes the bucket through the outstretched fingers of a Deer River defender. photos by D. Colburn

BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies edge Warriors

North Woods heads to playoffs as second seed by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The stands were packed to the rafters on Friday at North Woods for the battle between the Grizzlies boys and rival Deer River, with both pride and second seed in the Section 7A tourney on the line. The hometown lads didn't disappoint, pulling out a roughand-tumble 78-75 thriller over the Warrirors. This one lived up to its billing from the outset, with the lead changing hands a dozen times in the first half. An 8-0 Deer River run midway through the half gave the Warriors their largest lead at 26-19, but a three-ball and a pair of charities by T.J. Chiabotti and a bucket and one by Sean Morrison got North Woods back to within two, 29-27. Deer River again stretched the lead to seven, but a basket and two free throws by Jonah Burnett and a fast break and free throw by Chiabotti knotted the score at 34-34. The Grizzlies were up by five, 39-34, after Morrison scored in the paint and Chiabotti dropped in a trey, but the Warriors rebounded the final two minutes of the half to take a 42-39 lead into the locker room. Trouble threatened when Sean Morrison headed to the bench with his fourth personal foul just a minute-and-a-half into the second period with the Grizzlies trailing 47-41, but Chiabotti canned three-pointers on consecutive possessions to tie the score 47-47. The Grizzlies weathered Morrison's absence with threeballs from Brenden Chiabotti and Jared Chiabotti and a putback by Alex Hartway, and

game-winning free throws in practice, a mind game she

Grace hit some of the most clutch pressure free throws at the end. Ely Head Coach Max Gantt

plays to sharpen her focus and hone her skills.

But on Saturday, the stakes in the 7A Sectional tournament were real. With her sixth-seeded Timberwolves tied with balance. "It was very nerve wracking but in practice I think as if I'm shooting to win the game, so then that's just what I thought," LaTourell said.

She made all three to give the Wolves their first lead of the game and hit six more down the stretch to cap a stunning 17-point second-half comeback for the shocking 69-63 upset over the Panthers.

"Grace hit some of the most clutch pressure free throws at the end," Ely See ELY GIRLS...pg. 2B

photo by D. Colburn

Head Coach Max Gantt said.

Ely was down 43-28 at the half to a team that had beaten them by 22 only eight days before, but Gantt knew the game was still winnable.



Rangers oust Grizzlies

North Woods tops Deer River in opening round

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

DULUTH-Ιf Saturday's Section 7A quarterfinal game against top-ranked and top-seeded Mt. Iron-Buhl had been a movie, perhaps a scrappy bunch of North Woods Grizzlies girls would've come out on top, an underdog story for the ages.

Left: The Grizzlies' Helen Koch speeds past a Deer River defender during opening round action last week.

photo by D. Colburn

But reality was not so kind, as the Grizzlies were outmatched and outgunned from the start, losing to the Rangers 91-40 to bring their season to an end. However, by just stepping on the court at Romano Gym at UMD, the Grizzlies achieved a season-long goal.

In recent years, North Woods has failed to get out of the opening round of sectional tournament play. This Grizzlies team was determined to do better and, much improved from last season, earned the eighth seed and home court

advantage for this year's tourney. They trounced Deer River 58-35 on March 2 to earn the trip to Duluth. It symbolizes another step in the right direction for a squad that will likely have bigger goals next season with the top seven players in its rotation returning.

The Grizzlies went 5-10 in last year's COVID-shortened season but finished this one at 13-13.

"The girls are very happy and proud of the season that they had,"

See NW GIRLS...pg. 2B

See GRIZZLIES ... pg. 2B

ELY GIRLS...Continued from page 1B-

"We haven't started well against them any of the times we played them," Gantt said. "But if we kept the game close enough, and if we made a run, it was going to be fine. And, man, we just hit a lot of shots that second half, we hit a lot of threes. We took care of the ball, and when we needed stops, we got them."

The first key three came right after South Ridge dropped a trey to go up 48-31. Ely's Madeline Perry immediately answered with a triple for the Wolves, and the comeback was on. The Wolves neutralized the Panthers' inside game with a zone defense that pushed shots to the perimeter, shots that weren't finding the mark. LaTourell and Madeline Kallberg dropped in treys, Perry added three on a bucket and one, and a big three-ball by Sarah Visser at the 7:35 mark cut the deficit to single digits at 55-48.

Gantt threw another wrinkle at the Panthers by going to a full court press, throwing South Ridge even more out of sync. Threes by LaTourell and Perry got Ely to within two, and a 14-foot jumper by Madison Rohr brought Ely all the way back, knotting the score at 60-60 with 3:40 left to play.

"We played that a lot during the year, that onetwo-two pressure, and it just swung the momentum," Gantt said. "We worked really hard on it and we got some easy shots off of it."

Neither team scored on the next five possessions,

and as an errant Ely shot headed out of bounds, it looked as if the Wolves had squandered another opportunity. But Visser made a tremendous lunge over the end line to flip the ball back to one of her fellow players, and Gantt called time out with 2:12 remaining, setting up LaTourell's three-point try and go-ahead free throws.

After Ely went up 65-60 on a pair of La Tourell charities, Rohr got a key stop at midcourt, forcing a Panthers player into a traveling violation. The game was effectively over with 24 seconds left when La Tourell hit two more free throws, giving Ely a three-possession 68-61 lead. La Tourell answered a quick South Ridge deuce by hitting the front end of a one-and-one, and a desperation heave by South Ridge wasn't close, clinching the upset win for Ely.

"Every girl who checked in, they worked their butt off on defense, they took care of the ball better the second half, and no one was afraid to take their shot," Gantt said. "It was awesome. Madeline Perry had a great second half. She wanted the basketball and we had to run sets to get it to her. She really wanted it after missing last year playing in a playoff game and scoring it like she did was amazing."

Perry pumped in 11 of her 17 points in the second half, four fewer than LaTourell's team-leading 21 points. Sarah Visser also hit double-digits with 14.

The Wolves earned a return trip to Duluth and a semifinal matchup against second-seeded Cromwell-Wright, scheduled to be played Wednesday at UMD's Romano Gym. "We need to keep ourselves in the game and we'll see if we can sneak out a victory," said Gantt just ahead of the game, set to be played just after the Timberjay's weekly deadline. "We can play with them, but we have to take care of the ball, play decent defense and knock down a couple threes. The girls are pumped for this opportunity, and we have earned it."

Ely dumps Hill City

In the opening round of the Section 7A playoffs in Ely last week, the Wolves advanced on the strength of an 84-21 rout over Hill City. "Our pressure really gave them some trouble," said Gantt. "We had 36 steals as a team and played really good man defense in the half-court."

The Wolves also dominated the posts, leaving little for the Hornets to work with. "It was fun to be able to host a playoff game and put on such a performance," said Gantt.

Perry posted another strong performance, hitting 75 percent of her shots on her way to 24 points. Grace LaTourell added 17 points and tallied nine steals and seven assists. Madeline Kallberg added 13 points, Sarah Visser posted 11 points and five steals, while Madison Rohr added nine

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

North Woods trailed by only four when Morrison re-entered at the 9:44 mark.

Jared Chiabotti hit a rainbow three from the left corner to tie the score at 61-61 with 6:25 to play, and Morrison was fouled as he bulled his way for a bucket at the 5:32 mark. The score and free throw gave North Woods a 64-61 lead.

The Grizzlies had the ball and a slim 71-69 lead when Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe called time out with 1:49 remaining on the clock. Deer River committed two quick fouls to put T.J. Chiabotti on the line for a one-and-one, and the North Woods senior hit both charities.

The Grizzlies were up 76-73 when T.J. Chiabotti went to the line again with 22 seconds left. He made the first and missed the second, but Hartway slipped in to grab the rebound and shovel it to Chiabotti, who was fouled

again. Now in the double bonus, Chiabotti missed both, but Hartway was there again for the rebound. Jared Chiabotti hit one of two attempts to put North Woods ahead, 78-73.

Deer River scored on a fast break with 11 seconds left, then got the ball right back when they forced a jump ball on the inbounds play and had the possession arrow. The Warriors had eight seconds to manufacture a tying three to send the game to overtime, but Sam Rahier's shot failed to connect as the Grizzlies escaped with the 78-75 win.

"Alex Hartway coming in there and getting those two rebounds on the missed free throws were really the difference in the game," Kleppe said. "He limited their opportunities and I couldn't be more proud of his hustle out there. I've said the last couple of games that these tight games are going to come

Right: The Grizzlies' Alex Hartway works to defend against a Deer River ball handler.

photo by D. Colburn

down to a guard rebound. I certainly give him the proverbial game ball."

T.J. Chiabotti was determined not to lose in his regular-season finale for the Grizzlies, pouring in 30 points to lead all scorers. Despite sitting with foul trouble for much of the game, Morrison scored 17 for the Grizzlies, and Brenden Chiabotti hit for 12.

With the win the Grizzlies took over Deer River's spot as the second seed in the Section 7A tournament, and Kleppe said this game was good preparation to go up against a tough field.

"I'm just proud the boys battled all the way to the buzzer, and we won kind of ugly, but that's



what's going to happen," Kleppe said. "There are seven or eight good teams

in the tournament this year. It's going to be ultra-competitive. The quarterfinals

NW GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

Head Coach Liz Cheney said. "What they saw in their eyes was a more winning season than they've experienced in a while. All the starters are coming back and we have a real solid seven girls, which is going to be exciting looking to next season."

Deer River

The Grizzlies got up v against Deer River but couldn't shake the Warriors in the early going. North Woods led 19-15 when Deer River called time out with the ball at 6:41 left in the first half. The Warriors misfired coming out of the break, not only on that possession, but for the rest of the half. North Woods went on a 12-0 run, with senior Brianna Whiteman coming off the bench to drain two big three-balls in the final minute of the half to give the Grizzlies a comfortable 31-15 lead going into intermission. The Grizzlies kept right on rolling in the second half, getting triples from Hannah Kinsey, Helen Koch, and Kiana LaRoque as they build a commanding 46-20 lead at the 12:30 mark. Both teams were sluggish offensively for the rest of the game, but North Woods was happy to settle for the 23-point win. Kinsey scored 16 to lead the Grizzlies, followed closely by Hannah "River" Cheney with 15.

said. "We did not want to just hand the game over, we wanted to be as competitive as we possibly could against the number one Class A team in the state of Minnesota."

In terms of effort, the Grizzlies prepared hard, worked hard, and defended hard, but MIB was clearly the better team. North Woods kept minutes, getting scores from Kinsey, Cheney, and Talise Goodsky to trail 9-6. But a 14-0 Rangers run ended any hope the Grizzlies might have had to hang in longer, and by halftime the deficit had grown to 61-18.

One bright spot for the Grizzlies was the play of Lauren Burnett. An eighth-grader, Burnett as the second player off the bench in the Grizzlies' seven-player rotation, and she showed why against the Rangers, knocking down eight first-half points and finishing with 14. Burnett was the only North Woods player to reach double figures.

"It was her game, it was her day," Cheney said." She wasn't afraid to drive the with Lauren's performance, and she's a good glimpse of the future for the Grizzlies."

That future will depend somewhat on how the girls turn out for summer basketball, Cheney said. They have a summer camp and a six-week summer league with Virginia, MIB, and a few other area teams, and while it's not as easy to get the girls together in that the success they had this season and the bonds they formed will serve as extra incentive for them to participate.

"We really grew into not just a team, but a team that's also a family, that's there for each other on and off the court," Cheney said. "We broke our last huddle with 'one, two, three, family' and I think that says

THE TIMBERJAY

are going to have some incredible matchups. But you know, the guys proved tonight that they can get it done." North Woods was

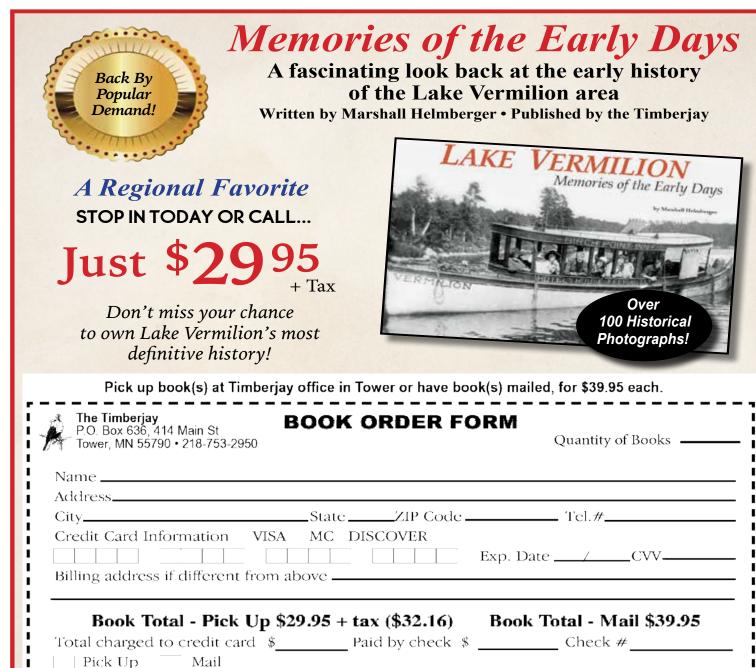
scheduled to play its first tourney game at home on Thursday against 18th-seed Cook County, who won Monday in a mild upset over 15th-seed Silver Bay, 67-31. The Grizzlies and the Vikings, who came into Thursday's game with a 3-17 record, did not play in the regular season.

Provided the Grizzlies win, their quarterfinal opponent could be Ely if the 10th-seeded Wolves, 15-5, can get past seventh-seed Northland, 20-6. The quarterfinal game is scheduled to tip off at 4 p.m.on Saturday at UMD's Romano Gym in Duluth.

Mt. Iron-Buhl

As the bus pulled up outside Romano Gym on Saturday, Coach Cheney had a message for her team.

"I said, "We have two choices, we can walk into the gym already defeated, or we can walk into the gym and make MIB work for the win tonight and see what happens," Cheney it close for the first five secured a role this season ball. I was very, very happy the summer, Cheney hopes it all right there."



Community notices

Soudan Rink end-of-season party set for Saturday, March 12

SOUDAN- The final skating party of the year will be held on Saturday, March 12 from 11:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m.

The party will be held "ice or no ice," and the Soudan Rink will be officially closing for the season.

Free 'Northland Hackathon' for high school students curious about computer science

REGIONAL- Whoever thought non-fungible tokens (NFTs), cool websites, sweet apps, and cybersecurity would be mentioned in the same sentence as computer science? A guy from Cloquet who focused on computer science (at Harvard, no less) and was named one of Fortune magazine's "30 Under 30" honorees, that's who. Because Luke Heine, 27, knows computer science is the foundation for all kinds of cool innovation.

And he's going to introduce area high school students to it during the first-ever Northland Hackathon, a virtual, free event from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. A hackathon is a free-flowing event at which computer programmers and those with similar interests collaborate on exploring possibilities, with the goal being to have working software or hardware by the end of the

"A hackathon is a digital form of building things with Legos, only more fun!" said Heine. "We're going to be making things up as we go along on April 9, so the more creative participation we have, the better. You don't have to be a website guru to join us. You just have to want to explore all the cool things associated with computer science. There's no cost, so you have nothing to lose."

While the Northland Hackathon

is indeed free and a virtual event, Heine said there will still be a cap on attendance so participants have the best opportunities for interaction. He encourages people to register for the event now at NorthlandHackathon. com. Those registered will be sent materials before the event so that everyone is ready to start hacking at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 9.

"All these resources we're providing are free and they're what the pros use," said Heine. "You'll just get them years in advance. They're what we wished we had discovered when we were starting out."

Patty Salo Downs, Executive Director of the Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth Memorial Fund, said

Heine is a shining example of the kind of STEM students to whom the Alworth Fund provides scholarships.

"Luke realized early on that STEM careers are a lot a fun, and he's going to great lengths with the Northland Hackathon to expose many others to its endless possibilities," said Salo Downs. "There are a lot of kids in the Northland as creative as Luke is. Who knows? Maybe the next area's next STEM star will be part of the hackathon!"

The Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth Memorial Fund awards scholarships to students with interests in pursuing a bachelor's degree in mathematics or scientific fields of study.

Obituaries and Death Notices



James Allan Hill Sr.

James Allan Hill Sr., 90, a lifelong resident of Soudan, died on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at Essentia Health-Virginia Hospital. A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 6 at Bauman's Vermilion Funeral Home in Tower. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

The family would like to give a heartfelt thanks to the staff of Vermilion Senior Living in Tower for the excellent and compassionate care he received. Jim made many friends in the ten months he was there.

Jim was born on Nov. 30, 1931, in Soudan, the son of James A. and Esther (Mackie) Hill. He was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School and was an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Army where he served overseas in the Korean war. Jim was united in marriage to Donna K. Branwall on March 4, 1955, at the Lutheran Church in Ely. He worked at Erie Mining Company and Reserve Mining Company and was the owner/ operator of Hill's Heating and Sheetmetal. Jim was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan and the VFW. He enjoyed spending time at the cabin, fishing, gardening, and in his earlier years, hunting. He was also known for his apple orchard. Jim was a chef and fantastic baker, baking all kinds of breads, pulla, buns and rolls. Jim is survived by his sons, Jim (Pam) Hill Jr. and Dan (Corrine) Hill, both of Soudan; sister, Joan Olson of Negranddaughter, braska; Jodi (Nick) Levens and great-grandchildren, Jackson, Elliot, Neva and Nixon, all of Tower; and numerous extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Donna in 2021;

sister, Shirley Dallas; and granddaughter, Kimberly Sunsdahl.



Daniel H. Broten

Daniel Harlan Broten. 56, of Tower, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, March 2, 2022. A gathering of family and friends was held on Sunday, March 6 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower and continued on Monday, March 7 before the Memorial Mass at St. Martin's. Reverend Father Beau Braun was the celebrant. To honor Dan, attendees were asked to wear camouflage or flannel. Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Dan was born on March 6, 1965, in Virginia, the son of Harlan and Adeline (Gust) Broten. He was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School, Community Vermilion College, and Eveleth Vocational Technical College. Dan married his soulmate, Brenda Shoen, on July 6, 1991, in Tower. He was employed by Potlatch for 10 years, and then at USS Minntac for the next 25 years. Dan enjoyed hunting, trapping, boating, fishing, snowmobiling, wild ricing, canning, gardening, camping, and making maple syrup. He was an adventurer and a traveler. His greatest enjoyment came from spending time with his family and friends. Dan was the vice-president of the Penguins Snowmobile Club, a member of the Prospector Loop 4-Wheeler Club, a member of the Cross-Country Ski Trails Club, an instructor for 4-wheeler and Gun Safety classes, a member of the St. Martin's Church Choir, and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

na Broten; parents, Harlan and Adeline Broten; siblings, Lori (Jeff) Schulze, Lisa (Gordon) Dunkeld, Yvonne Broten, and David (Joan) Broten; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and many, many friends.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Timothy Broten; in-laws, Cletus and Carol Shoen; sister-in-law, Julie Shoen; godparents, Alex and Emma Gust; and grandparents, Henry and Edna Broten.



Anthony J. Pecha

Anthony John "Tony" Pecha, 70, of Tower, died on Thursday, March 3, 2022, of natural causes while snowmobiling. A Memorial Mass will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 12 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Reverend Father Beau Braun will be the celebrant. A gathering for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. Memorials are preferred. A link for the service live-stream can be found with Tony's obituary on the funeral home website at www.baumanfuneralhome.com. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, а Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower. He was born on April 4, 1951 in Soudan, the son of Anthony and Rose Marie (Kalsich). Tony grew up in Soudan and was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School, where he was the school's leading basketball scorer, scoring over 1,000 points back before the threepoint shot. He received his Associate in Arts degree from Vermilion State Junior College in 1971. While at Vermilion, Tony was a two-year starter for the Ironmen basketball team, earning All-State

Team and All-State Tournament Team honors. He attended St. John's University in Collegeville, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry with minors in Math and Secondary Education.

Tony had a banking career that spanned forty years. He led Boundary Waters Bank in Ely as its president for almost twelve years, retiring in 2016. Tony also served as vice-president of American Bank North in Cook, president of State Bank of Tower, and manager of the Babbitt Steel Workers Credit Union. Tony was a committed volunteer, serving for nine years on the Board of Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital and serving as a board member of Ely's Boundary Waters Care Center; he was a trustee at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower, a board member of the Eagles Nest Township Lakes Association, and a former member of the Breitung Fire Department. He was a man of faith and a man of his word. Tony loved grouse hunting, deer hunting, elk hunting, fly-fishing, and wild ricing. His bold laugh, big smile, and his heart to help others will be deeply missed.

Tony is survived by his sisters-in-law, Rosemary Pecha and Margaret Pecha; brother-inlaw, Ken Bruce; nieces, Linda (Edward) Tezak, Cecelia (Peter) Prijatel, (Skip) Dickinson, Jeri Jennifer (Glen) Overbye, Julie (Ted) Norman, Jane Shaw, Janine Pecha and Jean Marie Petrich; nephew, Ronald Pecha Jr; numerous great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins including special cousin, Eugene "Butch" Pecha; extended family and friends, including special friends, John Bobence, Robert Pearson and Scott Kregness; and his faithful dog, Bandit.

Jean Richardson

Spauld-Jean ing Richardson, 80, of Cook, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday. March 21 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook

She is survived by her son, Thomas Richardson; sister, Joan Wisnieski (Donald Mueller); brothers, Dennis (Jean) Spaulding, Lonnie Di Marcantonio and Ted (Anne) Di Marcantonio; sister-inlaw, Michelle Di Marcantonio (Mario); grandson, Christopher (Brittany) Dawson; great-grandchildren, Leah and Lucas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jeffrey J. Boshey Jr. (Agasii baa mino gozi makade ginew)

Jeffrey James Boshey child Kinlee; daughter, Jr. (Agasii baa mino gozi Sandra Anne Wognum of makade ginew), 44, a Denver, Colo., and her proud member of the Bois adopted sons, John, Mar-Forte Band, died on Friquay, Tyson and Stephan; day, March 4, 2022, in La special nieces, Susan Crosse, Wis. A wake was Baer Pernia and her chilheld on Monday, March 7, dren, April and Cameron and Tribal Rites were held of San Diego, Calif., and on Tuesday, March 8, both Ingrid (Andrew) Swenat the Vermilion Wellness son of London, England; Center. Interment was at sister, Adela Swenson the Vermilion-Bois Forte Baer; brother, Norman Cemetery. Family ser-(Ellen) Swenson and vices were provided by their adult children Ken Bauman-Vermilion, а (Penny) Swenson and Bauman Family Funeral Karen, and their children. Home in Tower. He is survived by his mother, Lucille DeFoe; brothers, James Boshey, Joel Boshey, Anthony Defoe and Jared Boshey; sisters, Jade Boshey, Tif-PESHEL J⊿\$⊾ Jean ACCOUNTING 218-365-2424 1704 E Camp St. PO Box 89 | Ely, MN 55731 | askjean.net CHECK OUT askjean.net for current TAX TIPS! Your local source for news, music and entertainment!

fany DeFoe and Danielle Defoe; life partner, Frances Saukko; children, Dominic Morrison, Molly Lightfeather, Tecumseh Johnson, Felicia Martin, Jessica Martin, Jocelyn Martin, Marcus Thibault and Jeffrey Boshey III; 14 grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He is also survived by The Lake Vermilion Singers, with whom he shared laughter, love and lifetime friendships.

Anne Swenson

Laveta Anne Swenson, 85, longtime resident of Ely and publisher of the Ely Echo weekly newspaper from 1977 to 2021, died at Virginia Regional Medical Center on March 2, 2022. There will be no ceremony. She chose to donate her body to science and the remainder to be cremated.

She is survived by her son, Nick (Mary) Wognum and their children, Megan, Evan (Nella) and Jacob (Kyah) and great-grand-



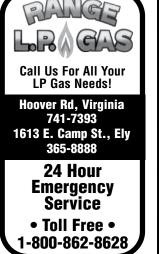
Dan is survived by his wife of 31 years, Brenda Broten; children, Brianna Soby, Katrina Broten (Kelly Blocker) and Anthony Broten (Tristen Tuura); granddaughter, Leo-

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SISU JEWELRY



He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Karen; brothers, Donald, Ronald and Robert Pecha; sisters, Delores Johnson and Darlene Pecha; and nephews, Gregory Johnson, James Johnson and Thad Pecha.



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THE NEIGHBORS

Adapted for survival

Snowshoe hares are a prime target of predators, but they have strategies for success

EGIONAL— To be a successful species in the wild takes a number of strategies for survival.

In the case of the snowshoe hare, it comes down to both defense and a little offense.

Snowshoe hares are a prime target for a long list of North Country predators and they've adapted with their own array of defensive strategies that help them avoid becoming someone's lunch.

Snowshoe hares are also called "varying hares" because they change colors with the seasons- brown in

summer and white in winter, a seasonal change that helps them blend into their surroundings. While hares are fast runners – another critical adaptation - the best strategy is to avoid detection and save yourself from the necessity of a mad dash through the woods with a predator on your tail. It also helps to know well in advance what's headed your way, which is why hares, and closely related rabbits, both have prominent ears, which give them outstanding

like rabbits. They start early, breeding as early as February and continuing into July. The young bunnies, known as leverets, are born three or four to a litter just over a month after breeding. Unlike their rabbit cousins, they're born fully furred, eyes open, and ready to hop about within minutes.

A single female can have up to four litters a year even here in Minnesota, so if you do the math, it's apparent that hares have an astonishing reproductive potential that helps the species survive. That reproductive potential can

sometimes send snowshoe hare populations a bit out of control. According to the DNR, wildlife biologists estimate that snowshoe hare populations can, in high years, reach densities of about 3,400 animals per square mile. If you figure 20,000 square miles of good snowshoe hare habitat in northern Minnesota, it would amount to a total population of about 68 million. That's a lot of snowshoe hares, and evidence that their survival strategy can go a bit overboard at times. The last time we might have hit hare densities like that was back in the late 1970s and early 80s, when it seemed like there were, literally, snowshoe hares everywhere up here. That peak was followed by a population crash that took the hare population, and the predators that rely on them, a good decade and a half from which to recover. That's likely one reason Canada lynx had practically disappeared from Minnesota by the late 1980s (they've since rebounded along with hare populations). From my experience, the snowshoe hare population has been doing well for some time now. It seems like every thicket of alder or hazel near our house has no shortage of bunny trails heading off in all directions. Of course, it's already breeding season for them, so you know what they have on their minds...

Above and below: A snowshoe hare, from the front and behind, showing its large hairy feet that allow it to run atop the snow.

Bottom: A bunny trail atop the snow along the edge of the Lost Lake Swamp.

photos by M. Helmberger



WHITETAILS Deer WSI on the rise

REGIONAL- An unusually cold and snowy February has sent the region's winter severity index, or WSI, for whitetail deer close to severe levels across parts of the region, with weeks of winter weather yet to go.

As of Wednesday, the WSI stood at anywhere from 90 to over 120 across the region. The WSI, which wildlife managers use as a guide to winter deer mortality, adds a point for every day with a below-zero temperature and another for every day with a snow depth of 15 inches or greater. With snow depths around the area now well in excess of the 15-inch threshold, the index is adding at least one point a day, and two points whenever nighttime temperatures dip below zero. With four or five nights of subzero lows forecast for this week and into the weekend, the WSI is likely to add at least another ten points by this time next week. While warmer weather is now forecasted for next week, the predicted temperatures aren't likely to significantly dent the region's snowpack.

Winters with a total WSI value of 50 or lower are considered mild, according to the DNR. Winters with readings of 51 to 119 are considered moderate, while winters topping a reading of 120 are considered severe, although readings that high are not unusual in northern St. Louis County.

DNR wildlife managers acknowledge that the WSI is only one of a number of factors that impact deer survival. The overall duration of winter and the timing of spring green-up, along with the quantity and quality of habitat and forage, are other factors that affect survival.

Outdoors briefly

hearing. And snowshoe hares, as their name suggests, also rely on their large back feet to run on top of the snow, which gives them another margin for error when trying to avoid predators.

Those big feet give snowshoe hares another survival advantage here in the North Country, particularly in late winter as the snow depth increases. Being able to move across the top of the snow allows snowshoe hares to feed at heights they couldn't reach at other times of the year. After deep snow years, it's not uncommon to find evidence of snowshoe hares feeding on shrubs and downed branches as much as four or five feet in the air. Those are feeding heights more typical of whitetail deer.

But perhaps the most important survival strategy of the snowshoe hare is their penchant for, well... breeding



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Deadline for fish house removal coming soon

REGIONAL- The DNR is reminding anglers that permanent fish houses must be off most lakes in northern Minnesota by Monday, March 21. The only exception is for waters on the Canadian border, where the deadline is March 31.

In addition to enforcing the law on fish house removal, area conservation officers will be watching for trash left behind by anglers. Commonly left items include bait, blocking material, bottles, cans, cigarette butts and plastic bags filled with waste. As wheelhouses have proliferated across the state, people have increasingly been dumping sewage atop the ice.

"Some of the things people leave behind are downright disgusting, and anything people leave on the ice has the potential to be an eyesore at best and an environmental concern at the worst," said DNR Conservation Officer Garrett Thomas. "The message is simple: Don't leave anything behind when you leave the ice, and make sure to dispose of it properly."

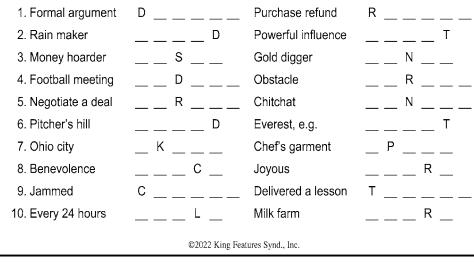
After the deadline, fish houses can still be used by anglers, but they can't be left overnight on the ice, unless they're occupied. Shelters may not be left or stored at public accesses.

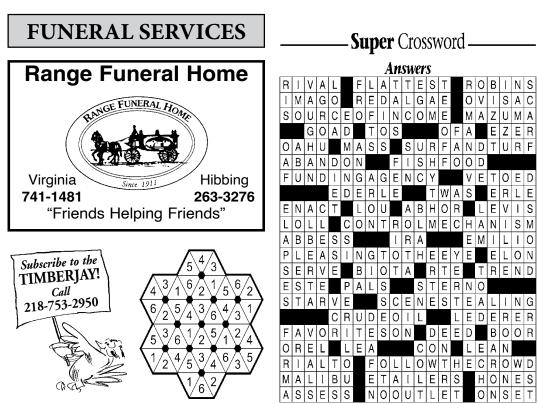


EMPLOYMENT



other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from $M\underline{A}STER$ for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.





Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

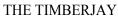
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7B March 11, 2022

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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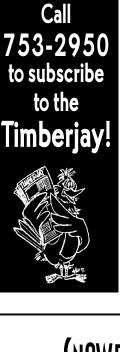
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passionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226). ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS-East Range meetings and infor-mation, call 218-749-3387 or www.district8online.org. AA FRIDAYS- 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 262 E Harvey St., Ely. Meets in the basement.

recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous. We have been there. For meeting or other information call 218-728-3199. (Narcotics Anonymous is a

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