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the **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 33, ISSUE 10 March 18, 2022 \$1⁰⁰

CITY OF TOWER

Council OKs transfer of Gunderson Trust to foundation

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
 Managing Editor

DSACF guarantees 4.75-percent return on investment

TOWER— The city council here, on Monday, approved transferring the assets of the Gunderson Trust to the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation (DSACF) for investment management.

The trust, which contains nearly one million dollars in assets, has generated minimal

financial returns for years, undermining the trust's original mission of providing a steady source of revenue for city operations and community projects.

The trust board had spent the past year researching options to generate greater returns and eventually recommended using the DSACF.

The foundation oversees a large number of similar community trusts for communities across northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin. The DSACF would guarantee an annual payout of at least 4.75 percent, substantially better than recent returns, which have averaged less than one percent over

the past decade, barely covering the trust's expenses for auditing and legal work.

Trust board member Steve Wilson had led the effort to restore the trust to a valuable source of community funding and the board had voted last month to recommend disbanding the trust and shifting its assets to

the DSACF. That decision also required approval from the city council, and will still need a sign-off from the court that oversees the trust, but that's not expected to be a roadblock to the change.

Under the new arrangement, the trust's assets would be expected to generate around \$40,000 annually although that amount is likely to rise over time, depending

See...TRUST pg. 9

COOK BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



New bakery no stranger to community

Owner journeys from farmers market to storefront

by DAVID COLBURN
 Cook-Orr Editor

COOK— It's an ordinary building on an ordinary highway in an ordinary North Country town, but what Rebekah Hodge Olson creates inside Rose Cottage Baking Co. in Cook is quite simply extraordinary.

It's the latest and biggest



step yet for a business Olson started in her own kitchen in 2008 to indulge her twin passions of baking

Rebekah Hodge Olson owns Rose Cottage Baking Co. in Cook. photo by D. Colburn

and providing healthy food options for the community, and to provide a learning experience for her daughters Victoria and Maria. They began by setting up shop at the Cook Area Farmers Market.

"My daughters were

nine (Maria) and ten (Victoria), and I started it for them to be able to earn some money, learn how to work hard, and how providing a service to the community would get them in touch

See...COOK pg. 9

EDUCATION

Six-period day returns to Ely schools

Administration looks at budget constraints

by KEITH VANDERVORT
 Ely Editor

ELY — Citing "substantial" costs and a lack of anticipated learning opportunities, the Ely school board voted this week to rescind the seven-period school day and will revert to a six-period day next year.

The board met for just 30 minutes Monday night and the four members present voted unanimously to accept the administration's recommendation to alter the school day schedule "due to budget constraints."

"With the seven-hour day, the hope was to have more electives for our students," Megan Anderson, 6-12 principal said. She justified the school day schedule reversal, saying, "We were coming into a (teacher contract) negotiation year, and there were a lot of other factors in the mix."

Anderson continued, "We looked at what the costs would be. (Last year) there was a discussion that there would not be a lot of additional costs, but it ended up being a pretty substantial cost to the district to offer that seventh period. And we ended up with kids not having a lot of extra (class) options."

Students who did not opt to add another learning opportunity to their school day were scheduled into a study hall period, according to Anderson. "That really was a great piece this year to have that extra study hall, but it didn't offer more classes, which was a little bit disheartening," she said.

See...ELY pg. 9

FIREWISE

Hands-on lessons in chainsaw safety

Class kicks off series as wildfire season looms in North Country

by KEITH VANDERVORT
 Ely Editor

ELY— Coming off the Greenwood Lake fire and other North Country wildfires last summer, the Ely area remains ripe for more dangerous forest burning emergencies this summer. As the community also looks back at the 10th anniversary of the

Pagami Creek Fire Series of events in Ely marks 10th anniversary...
 Page 10

Safe chainsaw operation was the focus of a class at VCC last weekend. photo by K. Vandervort

more resilient to wildfires.

With that in mind, Dovetail Partners and Firewise officials,

See...SAFETY pg. 11



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Community notices



Folk-rock songwriter Courtney Yasmineh in Ely for two live performances

ELY- Folk-rock songwriter Courtney Yasmineh returns to the Northern Grounds Great Hall in Ely on Friday, March 25 from 6-8 p.m. and Sunday, March 27 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. with a brand new album "Red Roses And Cowgirl Dreams". Rob Genadek, music producer and longtime touring-band drummer, will be performing with her. The pair sing great harmonies as they highlight the Country Western flair of this new album, Courtney's eighth release.

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.

Arrowhead Library System offers free online automotive repair help

REGIONAL- Arrowhead Library System (ALS) now offers free 24/7 online access to popular ChiltonLibrary resources for patrons residing in Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, and St. Louis counties.

ChiltonLibrary provides repair, maintenance, and service information on popular cars, trucks, vans, and SUVs. This continually updated resource provides step-by-step repair procedures, troubleshooting guides, and diagnostic trouble codes, photos, illustrations, diagrams, and multimedia (video and animations) to help simplify complicated tasks. Trusted by automotive enthusiasts for more than 100 years, ChiltonLibrary supports "do-it-yourselfers" of all skill levels, and no other source contains more years, makes and models.

"ChiltonLibrary helps patrons save money on car repairs by offering expert, step-by-step guidance on how to conduct repairs themselves. We are thrilled to offer this free resource to our regional residents," said ALS Regional Librarian Mollie Stanford.

Click on the Research Databases graphic at www.alslib.info and locate the ChiltonLibrary icon. Patrons will need an active library card number to log into ChiltonLibrary. For more information about how to get an ALS library card, visit www.alslib.info/services/how-do-i-get-a-library-card or call 1-218-741-3840.

Read us online at www.timberjay.com



Celebrate Ely Networking Dinner

Join us on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 for a survivor-themed evening of networking, tropical adventure, and keynote speaker, Holly Hoffman, finalist from Survivor Nicaragua.

- Social hour starts 4:30 p.m. (cash bar)
- Dinner buffet 6 p.m.
- Holly Hoffman 7 p.m.

Location: Grand Ely Lodge
Tickets: \$30.00/person

Contact the Ely Chamber of Commerce at 218-365-6123 or fun@ely.org to reserve tickets, or visit Ely.org for the event flyer.

VOLUNTEERS Amateur radio provides vital service for sled dog race

ELY- During this year's Wolf Track Sled Dog Race, a group of dedicated amateur radio operators, sometimes known as "hams", provided a volunteer service that was invaluable to race officials and the sled dog teams.

Eight members of the Vermilion Range Amateur Radio Club (VRARC) were positioned at several key checkpoints along the race route. Their role was to radio in the racers' numbers as they passed through the locations. In addition, another club member served as a rover to keep an eye on racers. "Our mission was to keep track of the teams to make sure they didn't get lost or if they needed help, we could immediately contact race officials," said VRARC Vice President Dave Quick. "Safety was what it was all about."

Coordinating amateur radio operations was the responsibility of those at the network control station, located near the start/finish line. This station was located inside VRARC's mobile communications trailer. Three radio operators fielded the checkpoint reports and kept a log of the radio calls. At times, it got a little hectic as reports from several checkpoints came in at the same time. According to Quick, the communications were pretty smooth throughout the race, with only a few minor incidents reported. "The end result was that no one got hurt and no team went missing," he added. "It was also a great learning experience for all of the amateur radio



Amateur radio operators Terry Jackson of Winton (above) and Lee Obermoeller of Ely (left) assisted with the radio communications during this year's Wolf Track Sled Dog Race. Jackson was at the Hwy. 1 checkpoint while Obermoeller was out and about checking on the various sled dog teams. submitted

operators and a chance to use our equipment."

The VRARC meets every Saturday at 9 a.m. The organization is currently meeting via Zoom, but hopes to return to in-person gatherings in the near future. The organization operates a radio repeater system at the Ely water tower, plus it is continuing to construct a mobile

communications trailer.

The club extends an open invitation to all who are interested in amateur radio. Current amateur radio operators and others are welcome at all meetings. For more information about the VRARC, contact President Pete Makowski at 1-218-749-7600.

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

Sled dogs go to school

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- A group of four-legged friends visited Vermilion Country School last week, along with Heather and David Hicks of Cast Outdoor Adventures, of Ely.

There was a lot of petting and hugging, but also a nice introduction to the sport and business of sled dogs.

"We introduced the students to what it's all about," said Heather. "We did some education about the history of mushing, the equipment needed, and animal husbandry."

The couple runs a non-profit along with their outdoors guiding business, with the aim to provide experiences to people that help build resilience along with creating passions for outdoor pursuits.

"The students were very engaged," she said, "and David is an environmental educator who loves working with youth."

Cast Outdoors is working with VCS to arrange another visit next winter, so that students could get a chance to try

dogsledding out on the trail.

"Experiences like this might pique an interest for a student if they want to pursue working with animals in the future," Heather said. "People love animals, especially dogs."

The couple talked about how important it is for them to have earned the trust of their dogs. "Then they will go to the ends of the earth for you," she said.

Cast Outdoors has a tether-free kennel, so the dogs are free to socialize with each other. When they are taking clients out on dog sled trips, they take the time to introduce each dog to their clients before heading out in the wilderness.

"We talk about our dogs, where they are from,



Aaylah Myers (above) and Brandon Strange (left) got in some puppy time when Cast Outdoors visited the charter school earlier this month. submitted

and if they were a rescue," she said. "It gives the dogs time to adjust to the clients."

The business is located near Ely and offers day trips and overnights, usu-

ally in the Boundary Waters area, as well as summer canoeing and fishing trips.

This was the couple's second winter of offering sled dog trips, and bookings were almost full all winter. Heather said their schedule has to include rest days for the dogs, and sometimes they need to be flexible due to the weather.

This winter has also been busy because their kennel just welcomed a litter of five new pups, which brings their dog count up to 28.

The couple lives off the grid on their homestead where they also garden and raise chickens. They have two boys who are homeschooled.

Cast Outdoors, which includes two other guides, Peter Johnson and Nick Bailles, also teaches winter camping skills, guides fishing trips, and in the summer offers wilderness first aid classes. Their philosophy is to teach their clients "independence rather than codependence," she said. For more information, visit elydaytrips.com.



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HANDS-ON LEARNING

Iron Mosquitos expand ranks in robotics competition

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Team takes eighth place at Lake Superior regional meet

REGIONAL- The ongoing exploits of the Iron Mosquitos robotics team at Northeast Range School took on a regional flair this year, welcoming members from three other area schools who helped the team secure eighth place among 58 teams competing in the FIRST Robotics Lake Superior Regional at the DECC Arena in Duluth.

Beginning in January with the release of the competition's game format and basic robot parameters, eleven students from NER, four from North Woods School, two from Ely, and one from Mesabi East, began their efforts under the primary supervision of Iron Mosquitos coach Ryan Lindsay.

"They get about a 125-page manual and then they've got to figure out how to design something to play that game," Lindsay said. "The kids started meeting and doing some wood prototypes and drawings and some CAD work and then they just kept going from there."

This year, student-designed robots had two ways to score points. One was to collect balls and either drop them in a lower goal or shoot them into a higher goal, and the other was to use makeshift arms to climb rungs on a vertical ladder. While FIRST



Iron Mosquito team members included Northeast Range students Natalie Backe, Matthew Bock, James Brown, Owen Koivisto, Tuuli Koivisto, Hailey Lindquist, Rafael Marroquin, Greyson Reichensperger, Ian Sunsdahl, Wilson Keith, and Alora Hanson; North Woods students Kohen Briggs, Isaiah Briggs, Alex Burckhardt, and Haley Leinonen; Ely students Molly Lindsay and Brandon Hancock; and Mesabi East student Isaiah Denzer-Johnson.

Robotics dictates the basic footprint for robots, it's up to students to design, create, and program, and operate all of the intricate electrical and mechanical components that go into them.

Many people got a glimpse of the 2020 version of these robots in action shortly after the onset of the COVID pandemic, when students used the primary and

backup Iron Mosquitos units to provide contactless delivery of groceries to customers in the parking lots of Zup's Grocery stores in Babbitt, Ely, and Tower.

Ely, North Woods, and Tower's charter school started robotics teams in recent years, but for the time being those efforts have been suspended, Lindsay said.

"The pandemic sort of killed Ely and North Woods, and with adults moving and different things changing it just kind of took the wind out of the sails just as they were getting going," he said. "We love having all the kids on our team, but we hope eventually that those teams get started back up. We've been trying to get more schools in the area just

because we think it's such a great experience for kids."

This year's team was relatively young, comprised mostly of eighth-graders, freshmen, and sophomores, but they received a lot of experienced assistance, Lindsay said.

"We have mentors that graduated from the team four and five years ago who came back on weekends to help out the kids and show them some stuff," he said. "We had a professional Java programmer from Cook, Walter Harrier, who worked with one of our students. We didn't know who was going to be doing (coding) this year, and then Hailey Lindquist from Babbitt stepped up. Walter just volunteers and he put in lots of hours with the kids. It's neat to have them work with a professional programmer."

Other adults who contributed significant volunteer hours to help out included Ryan Denzer-Johnson, Chad Wills, Chris Daugherty, and Chris Koivisto, Lindsay said.

In qualifying rounds at the Lake Superior Regional, six robots competed simultaneously, split into teams of three that changed each round. The Iron Mosquitos won six of the nine

See **ROBOTICS...** pg. 5

CITY OF ELY

Federal funding to help with school water line project

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Construction will also include sewer replacement work

ELY – Federal funding is coming to the city of Ely for a portion of the water line and sewer improvements for the Ely school facility improvement project.

"I received a phone call last week from Sen. (Amy) Klobuchar's office regarding the city's application for a \$245,000 grant," Ely Mayor Roger Skraba said Tuesday night as he updated city council members on the funding.

The original grant application was for the installation of a new water main to the school campus, and has expanded to include sewer line improvements as well. "The sewer line runs

underneath the water line, and if you are going to replace one, you might as well replace the other," he said. "Anyway, we were successful in getting the original grant of \$245,000."

He was quick to acknowledge the support of Sen. Tina Smith and Rep. Pete Stauber.

"They were all part and parcel in us getting the funding," he added.

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski said the existing water line passes by the school campus on Harvey Street between Fourth and Sixth avenues.

"The plan is to replace that water line and then bring in a

fire line, for fire protection, to the back of the campus on the stadium side. That would come from Pattison Street up the alley on Fifth Avenue," he said.

"As the project planning progressed last summer and over the winter there is additional cost to that project, and I will be meeting with the school next week to discuss potential (funding) sources. There is still a funding gap there, but \$245,000 will help in getting a big portion of that project done."

According to the March 14 minutes of the city's Projects Committee, the project grew to an estimated \$826,345. The orig-

inal cost estimate of \$245,000, provided by the school district's general contractor, Kraus Anderson, was increased due to the discovery of ledge rock and following the televised scope work in the sewer line.

"We want to make sure we have proper infrastructure on the campus to support their buildings," Langowski said. "As we have discussed in the past, the line running through campus is theirs as it runs through their property. We do not have easement or right-of-way for it. So, any improvements we make we will have easement as part of that, and we will take on the

maintenance. I think this would be a good thing for both the city and school."

Skraba added, "We all want to help the school. This is fantastic for the school and we don't mind being the intermediary. But at the same time, any other funding should come from the school district and not just the taxpayers of Ely."

In another major project on the city's to-do list, council members approved an engagement letter with Northland Securities supporting the cost analysis completion for a new

See **COUNCIL...** pg. 5

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Opportunity in crisis

Why now is the time for a revenue-neutral carbon tax and rebate program

It's long been acknowledged that challenges also bring opportunity. And the spiking cost of energy, both as a result of COVID-related supply chain issues and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, is a case in point.

It's no secret that oil and gas prices have spiked dramatically since Russian oil became a pariah in most of the global marketplace. Much of the current increase in oil prices is based on uncertainty, which means that, eventually, as we learn how the disappearance of Russian energy will impact the market, and how other sources might replace it, prices should stabilize. Eventually, the price of oil will come back down. It's worth remembering that gas prices topped four bucks a gallon back in 2008, and eventually fell back down to below two bucks.

When gas prices do begin to fall, hopefully by later this year, it would be an opportune time for Congress to finally take action on a revenue-neutral carbon tax. Hence the opportunity. When energy prices fall, the initial impact of a carbon tax would be virtually undetectable to consumers.

Before you get up in arms at the notion of yet another tax, keep in mind that this is a tax that would, at least for the vast majority of us, actually put money back in our wallets.

Here's how it works: The government would levy a tax on energy producers or refiners, say \$30, per every ton of carbon-based fuel they're generating. The tax, at that rate, would generate a significant amount of revenue, on the order of \$1.6 trillion over ten years according to a study done by the Wharton School. Yes, there is no doubt that the cost of that tax would be passed on to those of us who consume that energy. But the government, depending on the bill ultimately enacted, would keep very little or none of the taxes collected. Instead, the money would go back to Americans through a rebate check, or a reduction on their payroll taxes or an addition to their Social Security, that would start at around \$50 per person per month and gradually escalate to over \$200 per month as the tax rate slowly escalates over time. For low and middle-income Americans, the rebate would be designed to more than offset the higher prices they would pay for gas or heating fuels, leaving most Americans with more money in their pockets, not

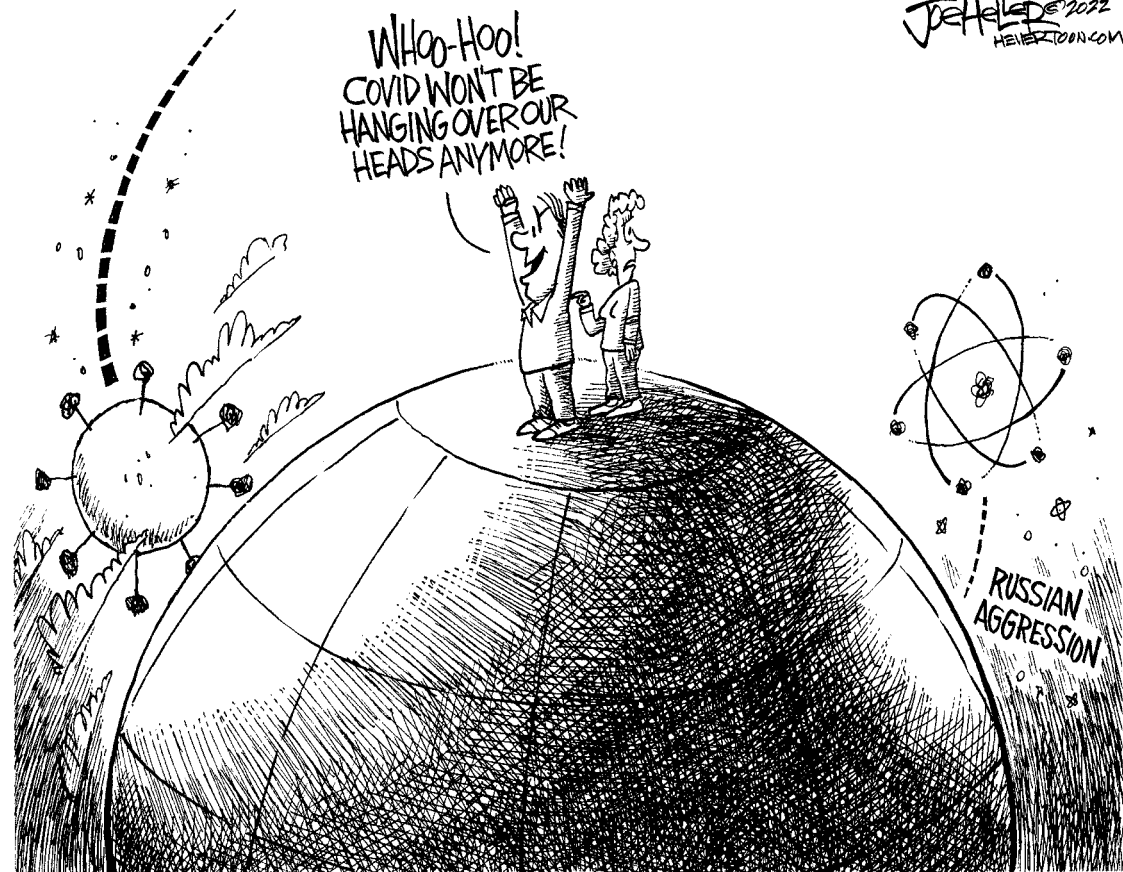
less. That's one reason that the Wharton study predicted a revenue-neutral carbon tax would increase economic growth in the U.S. by 2.2 percent by 2050. Those who argue that shifting to a new energy economy will hurt the U.S. economy, or most consumers, should do a little more homework.

Even so, the carbon tax provides a real incentive for everyone to reduce their carbon footprint, which is ultimately the point of the carbon tax. If you can avoid or minimize your use of carbon-based energy, you still get your monthly rebate from Uncle Sam under a revenue-neutral carbon tax, but in that case it's all gravy, rather than mostly reimbursement of higher energy costs.

By creating the right incentives, such a carbon tax is expected to dramatically cut the carbon emissions that contribute to climate change, without creating a new regulatory regime that tends to scare off advocates of smaller government. Most estimates suggest that such a carbon tax would reduce America's carbon emissions by a third within just five years and close to net-zero by 2050. A carbon tax establishes a set cost that businesses can plan for, and requires little administration, other than tax collection, which is a government system that is already in place. With a carbon tax, there would be no need for government regulation, since the market would do it on its own.

As it is now, the market can't address climate change, because most of the costs are being paid for by the planet, or the commons, rather than by the businesses and consumers who continue to contribute to the problem. We're paying a tax for all that carbon as it is right now, only we're paying it through higher insurance premiums, and higher tax bills for the rapidly increasing costs of climate disaster relief and reconstruction. Yet none of these costs create the kind of incentives needed to address the actual cause, rather than merely treat the symptoms, of climate change. Mitigation, in the end, can only go so far. Unless and until we begin to get serious about reducing carbon emissions, the risk of unchecked and catastrophic warming of the planet grows by the day.

Which makes the eventual drop in oil prices an opportunity we shouldn't overlook.



Letters from Readers

Emergency responders need a little help from their community

In the fall of 2021, there was an explosion on Lake Vermilion, in Greenwood Township, that leveled a home. One life was lost and another seriously injured. The response to this tragic event lasted about 10 hours. During that response time, Greenwood firefighters, and the firefighters from surrounding communities, with which we have mutual aid, went without a proper, strength-sustaining meal.

I went to the Greenwood Fire Chief, Dave Fazio, to volunteer to take on a project to ensure that any firefighter that responds will never go without a good meal during long-term fire suppression efforts. Chief Fazio, in turn, took this proposal to the Greenwood Board of Supervisors, and they gave their approval.

I am asking anyone who wishes to help me in this endeavor to give me a call at 218-753-2094, and I will discuss with them the details. A fire call like the one in the fall of 2021 is rare, but when it does occur, our firefighters need a little help from their friends.

I look forward to talking with anyone who feels they have time, and would likely be available "at the drop of a hat" to help.

Mary Worringer
Greenwood Township

Eagles Nest residents have learned to roll with the punches

In response to Bud Van Deusen's letter in the March 11 issue: Having a lifelong connection to Eagles Nest, I have seen a lot of change in years past. With these changes have come more year-round homes and cabins, boats, snowmobiles, ATVs, etc. We have learned to live with and adapt to these changes.

I would like people to know that I haven't forgotten about Van Air. This was a float plane

business that Bud and his wife ran from their home on Eagles Nest Lake One to take guests from area resorts on fly trips around towns, mines, lakes and the area. These float planes flew most days of the week and often more than once a day. This business created noise that perhaps interrupted people's quiet time at the lake. This change was new to our area, but we learned to live with it and roll with the punches.

We hope that neighbors will continue to get along and learn to live with each other and all the varied recreations that are now a part of modern life.

Percy White
Full-time resident
Eagles Nest Lake 3

Corporations keep us isolated and blind to our real potential

Corporatist politicians "pledge allegiance to the Logos of the Corporate-State of America and to the corporatocracy for which it stands, one nation under monopolistic gods, disconnected and divided, with liberty and justice for few, certainly not all." "Money as speech" is corruption on steroids and corporate "persons" have no conscience, no humanity, no soul.

Ideology blinds us from seeing climate change as the greatest market failure in human history. The "invisible hand" of the marketplace picks our pockets for private gain and public pain. Siloed ideologues invent alternate "realities," manufacture their "facts," choose their news, find comfort in whitewashed history and citizens be damned. Technocrats, overschooled and undereducated, learn more and more about less and less until they know everything about nothing.

Lost among trees, the forest cannot be seen. Isolated facts alone can't tell us what context reveals. Corporate media gatekeepers frame our politics to keep corporate power and dominion

hidden from view.

Media consumers, uninformed by snippets of superficial infotainment blathering learn less and less about more and more, until they know nothing about everything.

Corporate capitalism takes credit for prosperity, but in failure blame is externalized by scapegoating to avoid responsibility. The President or government is blamed when the economy sours. Other convenient scapegoats are workers, immigrants, liberals, regulations, taxes or foreign competition. Globalized supply chains, price-gouging, profiteering, regulatory capture, corporate lobbying and exporting jobs are the work of CEO's who drive the privatized economy.

Corporate influence over education keeps academic inquiry into economic organization and power off limits. Cooperation on the job benefits owners, but ends when public well-being and sharing wealth is suggested. Alternatives to obscene economic inequality offer real possibilities for achieving wholeness of social being. Critics of corporate capitalism, a rare find, allow us to realize that truth is liberating.

Harold Honkola
Winter Haven, Fla.

We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

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

It's time to keep our keels down and our faith strong

I wish I wasn't opening with doom and gloom but if you're hearing what I'm hearing, humanity is being tested to the max. We can identify a host of serious problems, some that threaten our very survival. Some days, it's hard not to ruminate about what it might be next. I, like many reading this, have had to cope with a lot in their lives. My list includes childhood



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

trauma, personal encounters with life-threatening illness and illness that has taken the lives of friends and family. I know about those unexpected conflicts that can tear families apart, severing relationships that I thought were strong and enduring.

And the stress and strain of raising children were sometimes

the worst of all, especially those moments when I doubted my ability to keep them safe. All the fears, anxiety, loss and grief can zap us of our energy and resources, making it hard to face another day.

But honestly, I can't recall a period that has created as persistent an experience of sheer emotional exhaustion like this one has. In addition to the usual ups and downs, the number of what pundits call "existential threats" are at a level that may top the world's record highs.

For over two years, we've lived isolated from one another, engulfed by the stress of a global pandemic. We held on tight through four turbulent years of Donald Trump in the White House. And we still struggle with continued internal threats to our democracy. Growing inequality, economic disparities, disregard for truth and disrespect for the rule of law have weakened our confidence in the fundamentals of a well-functioning society. Team that up with too many guns and it becomes very hard to remain opti-

mistic about the future. Oh, and then there's global warming! If unabated, the future of our planet looks shaky — a perfect recipe for deep despair. And in case that's not enough, there's the domestic economy struggling toward recovery after pandemic disruptions, rising prices for gasoline and other goods hindering efforts to maintain a healthy middle class, our two-party system painfully divided, and a worldwide refugee crisis. No wonder

See **FAITH...pg. 5**

Letters from Readers

We've all have to live with noisy intrusions

A letter writer in the March 11 *Timberjay* asked others to weigh in on his complaints about the proposed ATV trail in Eagles Nest Township, so here goes:

In short it's easy to empathize with him but not so easy to sympathize with him.

We all have unwelcome intrusions near us. For example, here on Frazier Bay, many of us had a cell tower constructed right in our view, complete with bright and blinking lights to pollute the sky all night long. And, we suffer the indignity of buzzing

jet skis, unmuffled speed/cigar boats and shoreline destroying wake boats almost daily. But the worst by far, is the almost daily take offs of a float plane with its ear-numbing decibels that rattles windows and probably exceeds legal noise limits even inside houses with windows closed. I suspect most here (and in similar

situations all too common around the lake) would happily trade all that for an ATV trail "hundreds of feet away."

We are all NIMBYs in a sense. So from one who fought and lost a similar battle - suck it up, buttercup. You will get used to it if you hear it at all. Or, maybe get an ATV (no doubt many in

your community already have them) and join in the fun. From our experience ATVs are generally a pretty polite and fun loving crowd. You and your neighbors just might enjoy yourselves and meet some pretty neat folks at the same time!

**Don Brown
Greenwood Township**

LITIGATION

Federal union ask high court to review PolyMet ruling

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The largest federal employees union in the country has joined a coalition of other groups in asking the Minnesota Supreme Court to take up an appeal over the state Pollution Control Agency's handling of the water discharge permit for the proposed PolyMet mine.

The American Federation of Government Employees, Local 704, submitted a legal brief this past week expressing its concerns about an appeals court ruling in January, which found that the MPCA had engaged in "procedural irregularities" when it prevailed on the Environmental Protection Agency to withhold written comments on its concerns over PolyMet's water discharge

permit. That effort was later exposed by EPA whistleblowers, who are represented by the AFGE.

A Ramsey County district court judge had earlier faulted the MPCA's actions but did not find that the agency had violated any law and that the action did not, by itself, warrant reversing the permit. The Court of Appeals had agreed with that assessment, a decision which several environmental plaintiffs, including the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy and Friends of the Boundary Waters, have now appealed to the state's Supreme Court. In addition to the federal workers' union, the groups Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, the Minnesota Coalition on Government Information, the Minnesota Well Owners

Organization, and two Minnesota administrative law professors, have submitted their own briefs in support of Supreme Court review and asking to be authorized as amicus, or "friend of the court" filers in the case.

In their submission, lawyers for the AFGE argued that the MPCA's actions represented a fundamental violation of administrative process. "Simply put, when a government agency acts in secret—or deliberately obscures its motives or reasoning—it becomes difficult to tell whether the agency's actions were lawful or fair," states the union in its submission to the high court. "When the government hides the ball, it undermines the 'public accountability of three administrative agencies,' diminishes 'public access to governmental information,' frustrates 'public

participation in the formulation of administrative rules,' and inhibits 'the process of judicial review.'"

The Minnesota Supreme Court, unlike the Court of Appeals, only agrees to hear a small fraction of the cases that appellants submit for consideration.

Regardless of the high court's decision on whether to hear the case, the PolyMet water discharge (or NPDES) permit remains in limbo as a result of the January appellate ruling.

The Court of Appeals found that the MPCA must determine whether PolyMet's discharges of pollutants to groundwater should be regulated under the permit.

The MPCA had previously determined that any discharges to groundwater were not subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act, but that view has been over-

turned by a 2019 U.S. Supreme Court decision that determined that discharges to groundwater that eventually reach surface waters may be subject to federal regulation if "they're the functional equivalent of a discharge to surface water."

The Court of Appeals had sent the permit back to the MPCA to analyze whether PolyMet's anticipated seepage of pollutants to groundwater meets that standard. PolyMet's permit remains suspended until that work is completed. Depending on the outcome of that analysis, the MPCA may be required to make modifications to the NPDES permit.

FAITH...Continued from page 4

we're exhibiting signs of "toxic stress". Humanity is overburdened by the weight of too many problems, too much complexity, and no one able to lead us out of massive geo-political entanglements. My ability to rally a positive outlook has definitely taken a hit.

Whenever I'm feeling "near-crazy", a voice rises out of the din of worry, via phone or radio, reminding me that I'm not alone. Others are feeling the same way?! I pause and remember, we're only human.

There are researchers looking closely at how well we are managing our high levels of stress. Some are developing techniques to release stress and prevent feeling overwhelmed. They are informing us about the warning signs of toxic stress, a condition that undermines our innate coping mechanisms, and weakens our immune system.

One researcher studied the role that "faith" plays in all of this. While listening to his thesis, my inner voice

implored, "Faith in what?" As if reading my mind, he answered, "Science, world leaders, and God, of course." And guess what else he added, perhaps the most surprising of them all, "Maintain your faith in others!" I latched on to his advice with all my heart and swore to practice "all of the above". No harm in covering all the bases.

I was raised praying to "the man upstairs". That was my grandfather's way of referring to God. But in my adulthood, when Grandpa wasn't there anymore, neither was the man upstairs. Not to make light of a serious topic, but when adversity struck I learned early on that my best bet was to rely on myself. I can't say I never wished for some omnipotent, benevolent being looking down on me, ready to deliver on my desperate pleas for miraculous interventions or just a moment's respite from the fray. But my faith and hope seemed better invested elsewhere. That is until now. Lately

I've been praying more often. Probably because there are times when I feel like it's the only thing I can do. If prayer can save me from total paralysis, then I'm all for it.

Now, on to foreign affairs. Russia recently launched an all-out invasion into Ukraine, a sovereign, fledgling democracy that borders some of our NATO allies. People around the planet are sickened by the destruction and bloodshed. We feel pressure to "stop" this awful act of aggression. But direct American military engagement could further escalate the war and trigger the forever-feared nuclear confrontation between Russia and the U.S. — an event so terrifying that we all should agree it must be prevented. I pray that our very best diplomatic efforts be directed toward de-escalation!

The weight of these woes challenge our wisdom and tolerance. They can interfere with our ability to process information,

emotions and judgment effectively. Prioritizing our needs becomes more difficult. Increased violent behavior, whether in our homes or on our streets, may well be symptoms of stress overload that effects us, and world leaders.

Studies indicate that constant exposure to direct or indirect trauma can create lasting damage to our brain and nervous systems resulting in symptoms of traumatic stress syndrome that include irritability, hyper-vigilance, emotional hyper-reactivity, psychic numbing, and the inability to trust or accept evidence-based facts and information.

We all yearn for a "quick fix" for the issues that confront us. We want answers, and relief from our distress. When we can't find either, we become prone to panic and that can lead to impulsive actions, some with tragic results. Ask veterans of past wars, victims of violence, or refugees. Their stories can become sources for better

understanding. Potential solutions to our current problems might even be embedded in stories of the past. Some paths forward can be found by looking back. History is important.

These are precarious times. They require restraint, inquiry and rational deliberation before taking action. Continuous effort to stay engaged with allies and adversaries is critical. Listening with an ear for understanding are key to creating positive outcomes. Our elected officials must also feel the pressure to "do something". They need our support to pursue the safest and most constructive path forward,

even if it takes more time.

War and violence can no longer be the preferred strategy to solve our disputes. The tools of war have become far too lethal. To support Ukraine and all of humanity, let's fold our hands, stand together, and raise our voices for all the world's leaders to hear. Peace is more than just a laudable goal. It is our best and only choice.

Let's hold the keel down and keep our faith!

ROBOTICS...Continued from page 3

qualifying rounds, and in the process discovered that at least one aspect of the shooting mechanism on their robot that worked in practice did not fare so well in the DECC Arena.

"We have what's called a Limelight on the top. It's a vision processing system and we color-coded it to look at and center on reflective tape on the target," Lindsay said. "It worked in our library, but it didn't work there. With the angle of where it was and the bright screens and lights in the background, the Limelight couldn't pick out the reflective tape, so our driver had to shut that off and do it manually."

"The kids didn't really know how it was going to perform out on the field and weren't really in tune with the buttons and how it was going to work," Lindsay said. "We were working until 10 or 11 at night for a couple of weeks before the tournament, and we just couldn't get a lot of driver practicing because we were still putting on parts, even on the morning we left."

Schools formed three-member alliances for Saturday's playoff rounds.

"We ended up being the sixth-seed alliance captain, so then you had to pick other teams to play with you in your squad of three in the elimination

tournament."

The Iron Mosquitos teamed up with Cambridge-Isanti High School and Lincoln Jr./Sr. High School of Lake City for their quarterfinal match against Rocori High School, a three-school combined team from Iowa City, Iowa, and Dassel-Cokato High School, and that's where the Iron Mosquitos reached the end of the road, winning one game but losing two to be eliminated.

Major sponsors of the Iron Mosquitos include Apple, the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, USBank, NASA, the Gene Haas Foundation, Babbitt VFW Post 1539

Auxiliary, and Pebble Spa, but Lindsay would like to see major Iron Range companies step up to help support an expanded number of teams in the region.

"I feel like there should be regional funding from some of the bigger industries up here," he said. "A lot of times it's targeted at things like engineers, but kids that want to be electricians, kids that want to be mechanics, those are direct applications in robotics to industries up here. It would be fun to have a big network of Range teams."

COUNCIL...Continued from page 3

ambulance service facility. The Ambulance Joint Powers Board continues to look for possible funding options for the project, estimated to cost as much as \$3.5 million.

Skraba said he was recently informed that State

Sen. Tom Bakk developed a bill to request as much as \$1.6 million for a new facility.

"That would be a match with the other \$1.6 million coming from the respective other (governmental) bodies," he said.

Later in the meeting,

Skraba added, "It's time for us as a community, and I don't mean just the city of Ely, but also Fall Lake, Morse, and the unorganized townships, to look at this as a levy district for the ambulance service. That would mean that \$10 or \$20

per person could be levied across the board. I think Sen. Bakk said he would get us \$1.6 million, but we have to come up with the other \$1.6 million. I think that's where he's going with this."



**the
TIMBERJAY**

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Week of March 21

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Longtime supervisor, chairman to retire

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor



always nice to have all his experience," said Gornick. "He had so much knowledge, so much history, and so many contacts. He will be missed tremendously."

Tomsich has seen a lot of changes since he first was elected to the board. And he has been on the board long enough to see history repeating itself.

"In 1980, I remember asking for money from everywhere you could ask for to replace pipes that were 40 years old. This past year we were replacing those same pipes we replaced in 1980."

Some of the changes were hard, said Tomsich, like watching the demolition of the old Soudan School.

"That was a loss to Soudan, but then it allowed us to develop the area into a recreation area with the soccer field and skating rink."

Tomsich has overseen the creation of the joint wastewater treatment ponds, the joint police department, and improvements at the township's McKinley Park Campground, as well as im-

provements and expansion of the state park.

The MINOS surface building adjacent to the town hall building, which was paid for through a long-term lease from the University of Minnesota while the underground physics experiments were underway, is now a township asset.

"When that building became available [because the experiment had ended], it enabled us to do a lot of things."

The township moved its police department and maintenance equipment into that building, freeing up space for a total renovation of the town hall, creating a new community room and updated township and fire department spaces, as well as renovating the post office.

Other improvements over the years included the construction of township bike trails and a new baseball field.

"There is always another project to do," he said. "It never ends."

Tomsich said people didn't

believe him when he told them he was retiring from the board and would not run for reelection.

"It will take some adjustment, but it will all work out. The township is in good shape."

Tomsich said the township has been lucky to have good board members, clerks, and treasurers.

"They know what the rules are," he said. "They know when to ask for help. They are very dedicated and conscientious."

That dedication also is seen in township employees, he said, both full- and part-timers.

"Everybody pitches in when needed," he said.

And Tomsich will remain available to answer questions and mentor the board as needed.

Tomsich isn't leaving Soudan, and will remain active, along with Lori, on the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board, which organizes the Fourth of July activities. He is also staying on the board of Vermilion Housing, which oversees the apartment buildings in Soudan and Tower.

"Change is hard, but it is a part of life," said Gornick. "We have had a lot of big changes, a new police chief, new maintenance workers, but we are still going forward."

Township residents elected Matt Tichel to fill the open spot on the board. Tichel will assume his seat at the board's March 31 reorganizational meeting. Tichel brings his experience at administering the joint water and wastewater systems to the board, but admits he will have a lot to learn about township finance.

The board, which also consists of Supervisors Tekautz and Greg Dostert, will need to elect a new chairman, a position Tomsich has held for a very long time.

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

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

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

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

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

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at

Support your local food shelf during the March Campaign

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

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

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

SOUDAN- Breitung Township has seen a lot of changes in the last 42 years, but one thing that hasn't changed is the leadership of Tim Tomsich on the Breitung Town Board.

He was first elected in 1980. "I just wanted to get involved and make Soudan a better place to live," Tomsich said.

"The township comes first in his heart," said Jorgine Gornick, who has worked alongside Tomsich as the township's elected treasurer for the past 27 years. "He just has so much knowledge and is always so fair."

Fellow Supervisor Chuck Tekautz echoed Gornick's sentiments.

"He always had the betterment of the town of Breitung in his mind," Tekautz said. "Working with Tim made things easy." Tekautz, who has served on the board for 16 years, understands the commitment and knowledge necessary to keep the township moving forward.

"It's going to be more difficult now," he said. "These are big shoes to fill."

For close to 40 of those 42 years, Tomsich also served as the board chair.

Tomsich grew up in Tower, and graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth with a degree in Business Administration with a focus on finance. After marrying his wife Lori, the couple moved to Soudan, right down the street from the house that Lori had grown up in. While he started his career in banking, he soon moved to the business of mining, working first for Eric Mining, and then for Hibbing Taconite, until retiring in 2015. The couple have three grown children.

His financial experience was invaluable to the township.

"Doing the financials, it was

Singers needed for Ecumenical Worship Service

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower is hosting an Ecumenical Worship Service on Friday, April 15.

The Tenebrae (darkness or shadow) Service is the story of Christ's suffering and death, presented with prayer, music, and narration. The music will be presented by the Tower-Soudan Area Singers. Leaders and members of area churches will provide scripture readings and prayers.

Anyone interested in singing for this worship

service should come to St. James at 6 p.m. on Tuesday evening for rehearsal. Music is provided.

Any questions, call Rolf Anderson at 218-753-3262.

Vermilion Lake passes \$37,800 levy

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Vermilion Lake residents passed their 2023 levy for \$37,800. The breakdown was \$19,500 for the general fund, \$3,300 for the road and bridge fund, and \$15,000 for the fire protection fund.

Tim Hughes was elected to the open supervisor seat with 18 votes, and Incumbent Clerk Crystal Alaspa was re-elected also with 18 votes.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Breitung residents vote for \$656,000 levy for 2023

SOUDAN- At their annual meeting on March 8, Breitung residents passed their 2023 levy for \$656,000. This is the same levy passed for 2022, which included \$10,000 in special funding for the township's hockey rink. Residents decided to include the extra \$10,000 in the levy for 2023. This funding will be used for the replacement of the hockey rink boards. The township has applied for grant funding for the project, but if that request is not successful, will still need to fund the project.

The levy was based on the preliminary budget presented at the township's February meeting which showed no major changes from 2022 esti-

mated spending, with the general fund at \$145,057 (22-percent), road/bridge at \$260,967 (40-percent), fire at \$77,955 (12-percent), recreation at \$38,056 (6-percent), and police at \$133,965 (20-percent).

Fourteen residents attended the meeting. They also approved a \$500 donation to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society's fire hall renovation project, to help with the cost of installing ADA-compliant restrooms.

Next year's annual meeting will be held on March 14, 2023.

Embarrass approves 3.6-percent increase in levy

EMBARRASS- Fewer than two dozen residents attended the Embar-

rass Annual Meeting on March 8. The proposed 2023 levy of \$172,000, a 3.61-percent increase over the \$166,000 levy of 2022, was passed after some discussion about raising it even further to help fund the four ambulance services that cover Embarrass.

The levy increase will address the anticipated inflationary rise in the cost of supplies and services, and fund upcoming 2023 goals, which include new roofs on the town hall and the house at the Nelimark homestead.

A representative of the Babbitt Ambulance Service addressed the meeting to request consideration of an assessment to help fund the service. Households in Babbitt have recently been assessed \$30 per year.

After much discussion about the complicated nature of ambulance service in Embarrass, the town board was directed to investigate whether to assess residents at all and, if so, how to do it equitably.

THANKS
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
I WILL BE WORKING TO
SERVE ALL OF
GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP.

RICK STOEHR

For
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Needs
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FEED and SEED
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CHECK OUT askjean.net for current TAX TIPS!

THANK YOU
Thank you to the citizens who voted for me in the Township election. A special thank you to those who placed my campaign ads and gave me encouragement.

JoAnn Bassing

Cook VFW
Great Food!
Snowmobiler Favorites
THURS: NOON-7 PM
Burgers & Fried Food
Fried: Chicken, Onion Rings, Cream Cheese Wontons, Hammies, Mozzarella Sticks, with Misc. Sauces
FRI: NOON-7 PM
Burgers, Chili
SAT/SUN: NOON-6 PM
Burgers, Chili
Take-Out 666-0500
206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

Tower-Soudan-Embarrass Bookmobile Schedule
Every third
Wednesday:
March 23; April 13; May 4 and 25; June 15; July 6 and 27; Aug. 17; Sept. 7 and 28; Oct. 19; Nov. 9 and 30; Dec. 21

Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m.
Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m.
Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 - 1 p.m.
Soudan (Post Office Vicinity): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.
Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 - 6 p.m.
You can see the full bookmobile schedule on the website, alslib.info/services/bookmobile. For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at als@alslib.info, or website at alslib.info.

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OUR COMMUNITY

Chamber networking dinner focuses on ‘surviving’

ELY - After a two-year hiatus, the Celebrate Ely Networking Dinner returns on Tuesday, April 5 at the Grand Ely Lodge.

The event kicks off with a social hour (cash bar) starting at 4:30 p.m. and offers the opportunity to experience the OUT Mobile Escape Room Immunity Challenge. A buffet dinner begins at 6 p.m. Door prizes provided by Ely's business community.

This year's keynote speaker is Holly Hoffman finalist from Survivor

Keynote speaker was ‘Survivor Nicaragua’ finalist

Nicaragua. She is reportedly bringing her Survivor torch and will be available for photos.

Hoffman was the last remaining member of the Espada Tribe and the last woman standing on Season 21 of the CBS' hit reality show "Survivor Nicaragua". Through that experience, and others throughout her life, she was inspired to share her message of survival.

A professional motivational speaker and the



Holly Hoffman

author of "Your Winner Within," and "Write Yourself a Note," Hoffman acknowledges that "life is made up of challenges, and we are oftentimes faced with situations that seem insurmountable. But within each of us is an ability to focus our thoughts, emotions, and energy to succeed—if only we have the knowledge, tools, and discipline to do so."

A native of South Dakota, Hoffman's writing

and speaking not only offer encouragement and optimism but a roadmap for self-discovery and spiritual enlightenment. Readers and audience members alike walk away inspired to light the fire of successful living within themselves.

Tickets for the event are \$30 per person and can be purchased by phone at 218-365-6123, or in person at the Ely Chamber of Commerce located at 1600 E. Sheridan Street, Ely. Ticket sales close on March 29.

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

Range Mental Health welcomes psychiatric nurse practitioner

REGIONAL - Range Mental Health Center (RMHC) recently added Ely's Kathy Udovich, a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, to their team.

Udovich has earned a Master of Science in nursing from Walden University, a bachelor's degree in nursing from the College of St. Scholastica, an AS from Hibbing Community College and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Minnesota.

She formerly worked at Ely-Bloomenson

Kathy Udovich currently taking appointments

Community Hospital in various nursing capacities including Specialty Clinic Team Leader, floor nurse and surgery.

As an ANCC board-certified PMHNP, Udovich sees clients across the lifespan, with a focus on adolescents through adults. She offers a trauma-focused, non-judgmental, person-centered approach to treatment. "Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect," she said.

In addition to medication management services, Udovich's focuses will include mood disorders, anxiety, chronic illness and substance misuse. "I'm passionate about reducing the stigma surrounding mental health," she added. "Educating the public is key to reducing stigma."

Udovich is currently taking appointments. She's seeing patients in-person in Virginia and via telehealth in Ely until

RMHC moves to a larger facility.

"Kathy is a great addition to the Range Mental Health Center Team," said RMHC CEO Janis Allen. "We are fortunate to have her with us."

Udovich is married to Kelly Weisinger and is a mother of two, Apolonia, 19, and Axel, 9. In her free time, she enjoys boating, spending time at the lake, reading, playing the piano and being with family. She has also earned the

distinction of being named Rotarian of the Year.

Range Mental Health Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive integrated behavioral health care services to the citizens of northern Minnesota thereby helping people reach and maintain productive and dignified lives. To make an appointment with Udovich, contact RMHC's Virginia office at 218-749-2881 or www.rangementalhealth.org for future opportunities within our organization.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



deeply underground hidden plants actively rise soon fields of color

AROUND TOWN

Essentia Ely pharmacy opens Monday in Zup's

ELY - Several months after signing a lease following the opening of this city's expanded Zup's Market, Essentia Health is finally opening their promised pharmacy in the former Shopko facility.

This city will once again be served by at least two medical prescription outlets.

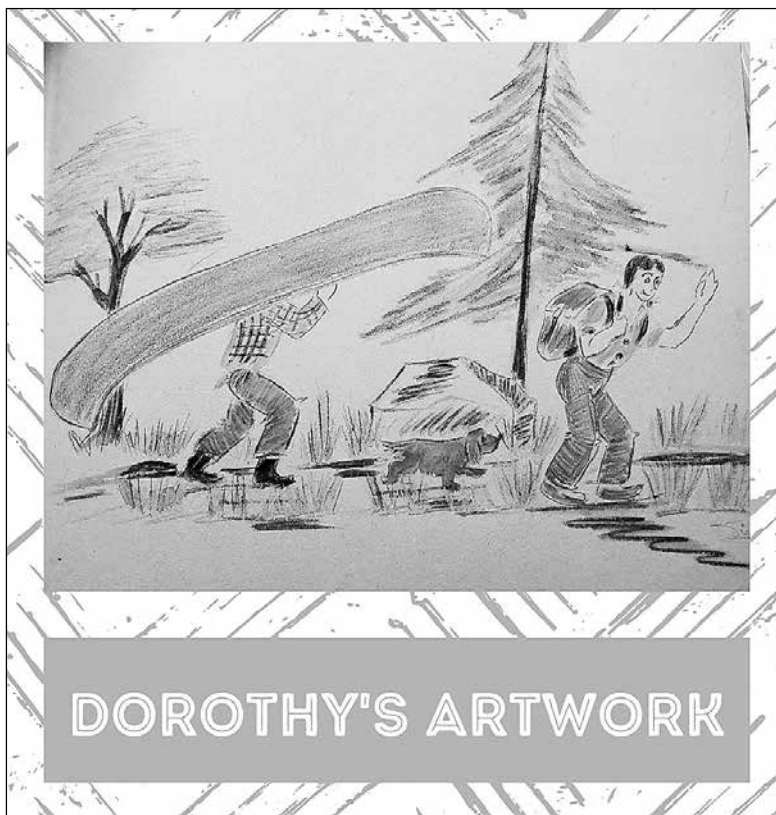
A grand opening ceremony and open house for the Essentia Pharmacy is scheduled for Thursday, March 24 at their facility, located at 1500 E. Sheridan St.

Access to the pharmacy, which opens on Monday, March 21, is available through an entrance in the grocery store and a drive-thru access.

Pharmacy staff will offer several convenient resources, including prescription medication services, flu shots, specialty pharmacy services for uncommon medicines and more.

The pharmacy will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call ahead for holiday hours. The phone number for the pharmacy after it opens will be 218-365-7957 or toll-free at 833-983-2882.

To learn more about Essentia Health's pharmacy services, visit EssentiaHealth.org.



DOROTHY'S ARTWORK

Dorothy Molter had many talents and skills, including drawing. This piece was created for her great-nephew, Dan, who shared it with the Dorothy Molter Museum last fall. This art depicts Dorothy with her beloved cocker spaniel, Peg, and a hidden portager. Seems like she could have had another career illustrating. Courtesy of the Dorothy Molter Museum

Pray for Ukraine

ELY - This community is coming together to pray for the country, people and churches of Ukraine and surrounding countries.

Ledgerock Community Church, 1515 E. Camp St., will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 26. The door of the church will be open at 9 a.m. Come anytime throughout the day to pray.

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.

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

Monday Noon-6 pm
Tuesday Noon-6 pm
Wednesday Noon-6 pm
Thursday Noon-6 pm
Friday Noon-5 pm
Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.
SUNDAY NIGHT AA - at St. Anthony's Catholic Church is cancelled.
ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.
CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital

Ely Police Department Activity Report Feb. 15-28, 2022

Arrests/Citations:

- Attempt to Locate- Individual arrested for Driving after Cancellation and 2nd Degree DWI.
- Criminal Sexual Conduct- Individual arrested for 3rd Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct.
- Out with- Officers arrested an individual on a warrant.

Complaints:

- Attempt to Locate- Officers were contacted about an intoxicated person possibly in the area. Officers determined the person to be out of town.
- Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.
- Public Assist- Individual brought back to their residence.
- Public Assist- Individual fingerprinted for employment.
- Check Welfare- Officers were contacted

- about an individual that was not answering their phone or door. Officers determined the person to not be at home.
- Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.
- Security Alarm- Officers responded to a security alarm at a local business. Officers determined the alarm to be false.
- Parking Complaint- Vehicle was towed due to snow removal.
- Damage to Property- Officers were contacted about a vehicle that hit a snowbank and caused damage to a building. Officers had the owners exchange information.
- Civil Matter- Officers received information about a civil issue over rent.
- Public Assist- Individual fingerprinted for employment.
- Medical- Officers assisted the

- Ely Ambulance with a medical.
- Mental Health- Officers were called about a person experiencing a mental health crisis. Officers assisted the person and they agreed to get medical care.
- Suspicious Activity- Officers located a vehicle in a parking lot spinning. The driver stopped and agreed to call it a night.
- Mental Health- Officers were called about a person experiencing a mental health crisis. Officers assisted the person and they agreed to get medical care.
- Motor Vehicle Crash- Officers were contacted about a two-vehicle crash with no injuries and minor vehicle damage.
- Security Alarm- Officers responded to a security alarm at a local business. Officers determined the alarm to be false.
- Shoplifter- Officers

- were contacted about a person that left a business without paying for the items he took. Officers determined that it was a misunderstanding over a malfunction of their card.
- Check Welfare- Officers were contacted to check on a person that was acting like they were on drugs. Officers were unable to locate the person.
- Public Assist- Officers assisted an individual get fingerprints for employment.
- Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a dog using the bathroom near vehicles. Officers located the dog and the dog was asked to use the bathroom in another place.
- Animal Disturbance- Officers were called about two dogs running off leash. Officers located the owner with the dogs.
- Damage to

- Property- Officers were called about a truck that hit the side of a vehicle. Information was exchanged.
- Public Assist- Officers assisted an individual while they collected their items.
- Found Property- Officers were given keys that were located in town. This case is pending owner identification.
- Motor Vehicle Crash- Officers were contacted about a two-vehicle crash with no injuries and minor vehicle damage.
- Public Assist- Officers assisted an individual while they collected their items.
- Medical- Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.
- Scam- Officers were called to a local business to pick up a stolen credit card. This case is under investigation.

New daycare program hopes to fill void for care in Orr

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Minnesota has had a continuing shortage of quality affordable child care, a situation made even worse by the coronavirus pandemic.

But that's about to change for the city of Orr when Angie Vidmar opens her new business, Up North Daycare, on Monday, March 21 at her home at 4662 Lake St.

Vidmar's family child care home will have spaces for children ages six weeks to 10 years old, providing child-centered caregiving informed by years of practice and education as an early childhood professional.

"I've wanted to do this for a very long time," Vidmar said. "I worked out at Head Start at Bois Forte and served there for seven years. I started out as a teacher aide and then became a teacher for the four-year-olds. I took a break from there and worked at Norman's One

Stop, and then I decided there was a need in our area and it was a passion I wanted to do."

Vidmar also has earned a national Child Development Associate credential through the Council for Professional Recognition, a worldwide leader in the credentialing of early childhood professionals, and is within a few classes of earning an associate's degree in early childhood and special education from Mesabi Range College.

And she'll also bring a special motherly touch to her work from parenting four children with her husband, Mike.

Vidmar has been busy transforming a portion of her home into a setting that's safe and educationally stimulating for children who could be in her care up to 10 hours a day five days a week, and she's had some help doing it.

"The community has been very great with donations of toys for kids of all ages," Vidmar said.

"I got a startup grant of \$2,000 for safety items, new highchairs, and some learning toys and activities. That really helped out a lot."

Vidmar believes that children do best when they have a schedule that they feel comfortable with, so she'll go into each day with a basic structure in place, while also recognizing that working with children of different ages and development levels will require some flexibility on her part.

"When you're dealing with kids it can be hard at times, but you juggle it and you just get through it," she said. "I'm excited to just be around all the different age groups and see them grow throughout the process of my journey."

Having open, respectful, and responsive communication with parents is also essential to success in her work, Vidmar said.

"You have to have good communication and be upfront and forward



Angie Vidmar is opening a family child care home in Orr that will serve infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-agers. submitted photo

with them. You want to build that connection with them so that they trust you. They're putting their kids in your hands, eight to ten hours a day that they could be in my care, so we have to have trust and you've just got to build that," she said.

With the nationwide shortage of infant care, it's not surprising that Vidmar has already had

numerous contacts for the two slots she has for babies. She also has space to care for one toddler, three preschoolers, and four school-age children. She plans to offer full-time care, and will also have regular part-time and drop-in care options, depending on space availability. She's prepared to build her business slowly, if need be, and welcomes

families to arrange a visit to see and hear firsthand what she has to offer.

"They can even do a drop-off just to try it," she said.

For more information about Up North Daycare, call Vidmar at 218-780-9219 during normal business hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or email angelaj32002@yahoo.com.

Orr City Council moves forward with bus barn purchase

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- The Orr City Council approved the purchase of one building and gave a tentative thumbs up to construction of another at Monday's regular meeting.

The city has been exploring and negotiating the purchase of the ISD 2142 St. Louis County Schools bus barn on Hwy. 23, east of the Orr Center, for months. The proposed purchase price of \$10,000 has never been an issue, but there wasn't clarity about how to handle the district's request to reserve one bay for a bus until such time as having a route in Orr is no longer feasible. Rather than an open-ended agreement, the city was more inclined to go with a limited term

lease arrangement with an automatic renewal clause.

That issue apparently was solved, as council members approved the purchase and a lease agreement on Monday, both of which will be given to the city's attorney for final review before finalizing the deal.

The action was good news for Orr Ambulance Service, which will convert the facility for use as its ambulance headquarters. Ambulance Director Donna Hoffer will have to seek out additional funding for the extensive renovations needed to transform the space for the use of the service. The timing of the renovations will depend on what funding is available.

Councilors received a request from Voyageur Trail Society to purchase

two vacant city lots on Lake Street located immediately south of Kallio Apartments, with the intent to build a storage building to house the society's trail grooming equipment, which is currently stored outdoors in Ash River. As the society maintains trails from Ash River to Orr and on to Crane Lake, building a metal storage building in Orr would protect the groomer from the elements and provide a more cost-effective base of operations for trail grooming. The society proposed a combined purchase price of \$4,600 for the lots.

VTS Vice-President and trail administrator Jim Watson was present and spoke to the council about how the society and city would benefit from the proposal. Three of the

groomer operators live in Orr, Watson said.

"We have two groomers, one stationed in Ash River and one here in Orr," Watson said. "We bought a new one three years ago and put it up on the Ash River and moved the one that was six years old here. Those groomers are \$230,000, so a fairly sizeable expense, not counting the drag that's 30 grand to pull behind it. Our mission is to find a place so we can keep that unit here in Orr and the people working here in Orr."

Outside storage affects the hydraulics, and the groomers often have to heat up an hour or more on cold days before they're ready to hit the trails.

Council member Lloyd Scott expressed concern about possi-

ble impacts on the city's sewer system when the groomers are washed.

"We just don't want pebbles and rocks and stuff to go through the sewer and into the plant," he said.

Watson readily agreed to meet with water and sewer supervisor Paul Koch to review building plans and possible solutions for any identified threat to the sewer system.

Council members approved of the basic concept and indicated that they wanted to move forward on getting their own assessment of the value and possible sale prices of the two lots, and to come back at a future meeting to discuss the proposal again. Watson agreed to provide a schematic drawing showing the approximate dimensions of

the proposed building and how it would be sited.

In other business, the council:

► Approved the purchase of ten new EMS job shirts with embroidered logos and names on the front and reflective ORR EMS on the back for \$1,530 from Monsters Inc.

► Approved Patrick Hoffer to fill the vacant assistant director position with the Orr Ambulance Service.

► Announced that the Board of Equalization for the city of Orr will be held on April 12 from 9 to 10 a.m. If residents have questions about their real estate taxes they should contact the city's local appraiser, Beth Sokoloski, at 218-471-7735.



Tara Cotten and daughters Brooklyn, left, and Natalia pose at the groundbreaking for their Habitat for Humanity home in Cook. submitted

Dedication of new Habitat home will be held Sunday in Cook

COOK- Eight months after breaking ground for a new Habitat for Humanity home build at 419 4th St. NW in Cook, Tara Cotten and her daughters Natalia and Brooklyn will realize their dream in a house dedication ceremony scheduled there for this Sunday at 2 p.m.

"This is a family that spends every possible minute outside and having their own yard will be nice for them," said a press release from North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity. "A large garden is planned and having a safe street to bike on brings peace of mind to Tara. Tara has been an excellent partner and has enjoyed working with volunteers to build her home."

The home was built in partnership the Cook Lions Club, Cook P.E.O. and volunteers from Cook and Tower, on land donated by Kirk and Angela Weidner of Britt.

"I have been wanting to stop renting and become a homeowner for a while now," Cotten said. "We have done so much work in building our own home. I have met and worked with so many great people throughout this experience who have touched our lives forever. If it wasn't for the volunteers and their commitment, our dreams of homeownership wouldn't have come true. I drive by the home almost every day and can't wait to move in."

Dinner theater spaces are filling

COOK- Reservations are filling up for the approaching Bleak Mid-Winter Players' production of "Into the Mountains," but there are still tickets available for all three performances.

"We are prepared to sell tickets at the door of there is room," said group member Tiffany Briggs. "We'll keep our Facebook page updated as performances fill up."

The play tells the

COMMUNITY NEWS

story of the life of Gladys Aylward, an English woman who selflessly served as a missionary to China. Dinner theater performances will feature a Chinese-styled meal.

Two dinner theater performances at Cook First Baptist Church are scheduled for 6 p.m. on Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26. The church will also host a dessert theater at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 27.

A fourth dinner theater performance, this one at North Star Church in

Virginia, is scheduled for Saturday, April 2 at 3 p.m.

Dinner theater productions cost \$15 per person and \$7 each for matinee dessert theater. Tickets are available online through a link on the Bleak Mid-Winter Players Facebook page or by email at BMWtheater@gmail.com.

Trinity church to host free meal

COOK- In Italian, the word rigatoni means "ridged" or "lined," and

Cook area residents are encouraged to join the line for Trinity Lutheran Church's next free community meal on Thursday, March 24, with rigatoni as the featured item.

Meals will be served in drive-through fashion from 4 to 6 p.m. in the church parking lot and will include bread sticks, salad, and dessert. The church is located at 231 2nd St. SE and the public is welcome to attend.



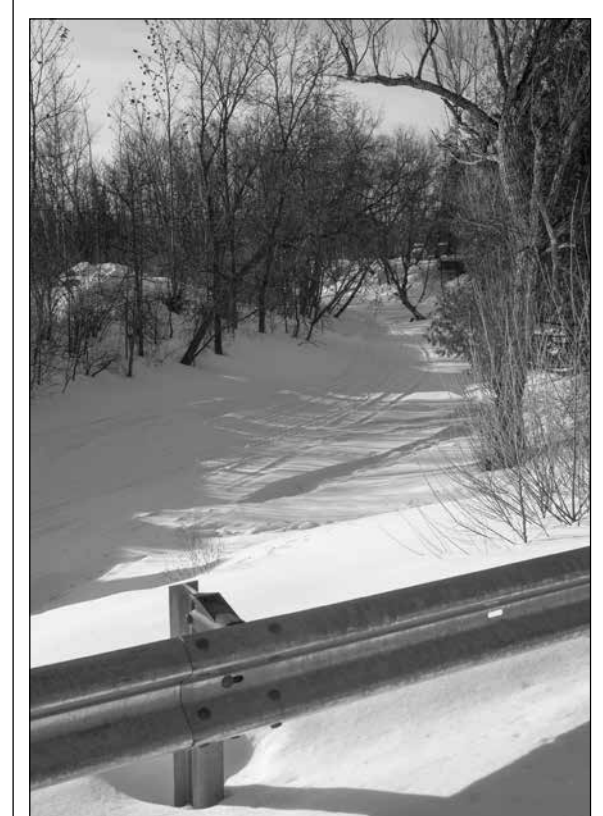
Planning is underway for the Cook Area Farmers Market

COOK- The planning may be happening virtually, but the shopping will be the same diverse and friendly community gathering folks have come to expect over the years when the Cook Area Farmers Market starts another season in June.

Planning resumed in February with a Zoom meeting to discuss what needs to happen between now and opening day on Saturday, June 18. Vendors will be in their usual location in Cook City

Park on River Street every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon through September selling a wide variety of fresh produce, canned and baked goods, arts and crafts, and more.

Cook area residents who grow their own produce or make their own goods may be eligible to join the fun over the summer. Check the Cook Area Farmers Market page on Facebook for meeting times and ongoing developments.



This spot on the north end of the Veterans Bridge on River St. in Cook will soon become a designated entry/exit point on the DNR map for the Little Fork River water trail. photo by D. Colburn

TRUST...Continued from page 1

on the investment results achieved by the DSACF. The trust board is recommending that 75 percent of that revenue go toward city operations, with the remainder dedicated to community nonprofits.

In other action, the council approved a motion to pay city engineers SEH an additional \$4,900 to cover the cost of additional soil testing for the Pine Street reconstruction project. SEH had originally budgeted \$8,000 for the work, but the final bill had come to \$12,900 and SEH was requesting the difference. The council did not immediately approve SEH's request for additional labor time to cover the cost of administering change orders. SEH is also seeking two days of extra working time based on its original estimate of 63 working days for the project. To date, the project has entailed 50 working days, and engineer Matt Bolf estimated 15 days remaining and so the company is requesting pay for 65 days, rather

than 63. But the council was reluctant to pay SEH for additional days worked until those days have actually been worked. "There are 13 days left and if they don't use all of them, maybe they owe us money," said Mayor Dave Setterberg. He noted that the original contract had actually been for 70 days and that SEH had requested additional pay way back in October, but the city had declined at that time. Combined, the Feb. 24 letter from SEH is asking for an additional \$14,900 as part of its work on the project. The city had previously agreed to pay SEH \$121,600 for its engineering and project oversight of the project, based on 20 percent of the original estimate of the project's cost.

Council member Sheldon Majerle indicated he wasn't impressed with the SEH letter, signed by Bolf, requesting the additional funds, noting that it was addressed: "Dear Linda," despite the fact that former clerk-treasurer Linda Keith hasn't worked

for the city in over two and a half years.

In other business, the council:

► Gave the first reading to a new RV park and campground ordinance that would establish minimum standards for such facilities in the city. The ordinance would require management be on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week and would establish quiet time from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. The sale of alcohol is prohibited within the parks, as is the use of fireworks, except on July 4. Pets must be leashed and must not be left unattended while outdoors. Only certified firewood will be allowed for sale. All lighting must be directed downward to meet Night Sky standards.

► Heard an update from Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz on the city's water and sewer billing, which was changed to reflect that the city is no longer collecting funds for debt service for the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board's water filtration plant. Schultz said he would monitor the new

billing from the TBWWB to better understand the city's utility costs before recommending any billing changes.

► Heard a proposal from Setterberg for creating a "movies in the park" event on summer evenings, most likely at the former football field. Setterberg had looked at an inflatable screen that could display movies, which could cost up to \$3,000 including everything needed. He suggested that the fireman's relief association might be able to help finance it. He said the cost of licensing a movie would run about \$450 a time but suggested that local businesses might be willing to sponsor the showing. Setterberg motioned to allow the clerk-treasurer to reach out to other groups to see if there is interest in advancing the idea. Council member Joe Morin said he liked the idea but suggested considering some kind of goose control on the field. Majerle suggested the harbor would be a better location, and Morin noted

that TEDA is considering a community space on the west end of the harbor, which could be a location for such an event.

► Authorized Setterberg, Morin, maintenance supervisor Ben Velcheff, and Schultz to explore alternatives and funding possibilities for replacing a shared sewer lateral that serves three residences on S. Second St. Schultz said the city normally does not support maintaining shared laterals, but that issues with ledgerock had made the installation of individual lines prohibitively expensive. He said the installation of separate laterals for each residence would likely cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. A less costly option would entail replacing the shared lateral, which Schultz said Velcheff estimated to cost between \$30,000-\$40,000.

► Approved a donation of \$250 to the St. Louis County Fair.

► Heard from Schultz that the city has received one bid so far for the old

grader. It's been advertised the past two weeks with a minimum bid of \$5,000, with bids due by March 17.

► Heard about a foreign sports car show to be held at Fortune Bay in June.

► Approved a three-year retainer agreement with the Colosimo, Patchin, Brunfelt law firm with a monthly retainer of \$500 per month in 2022, increasing to \$575 per month in 2023 and \$650 per month in 2024. Setterberg said he found the increases to be "pretty steep," but Majerle said the city used to pay a \$600 a month retainer for its city attorney 20 years ago. The motion passed 3-1, with Setterberg voting no. Council member Kevin Norby was not present at the meeting.

► Referred proposed changes to the city's zoning ordinance, drafted by council member Norby, to the city's planning and zoning commission for review.

ELY...Continued from page 1

"Now we are looking at this again, knowing that we are in the budget phase (and looking at) what we can do. We are having discussions about semester classes rather than a full year stretch, so we can offer more opportunities for the kids," Anderson continued. "The four core subjects (language arts, math, science, and social studies) are set, but we are looking at what else we can do."

As an example, she offered psychology for one semester to be paired with a health class in the second semester as a way to offer additional learning opportunities for Ely students. "We are trying to get a little more creative within those time constraints," she said. "This is the first step that I'm looking at in creating the master schedule for next year."

Rochelle Sjoberg, who is acting as temporary school board chair as Ray Marsnik recovers from injuries he sustained in a motor vehicle accident late last year, said she reviewed the school board minutes from last year and indicated that the

switch from a six-period to a seven-period school day was presented by the former ISD 696 superintendent "at no cost, and it is unfortunate that is not how it rolled out. We probably got the cart before the horse."

Sjoberg continued, "I think the best thing that we can do is to move forward with the recommendation today. I would recommend that if we look at this again, we have this more laid out prior to making a decision. Hopefully that is something we can look at doing next time around."

Board discards study session

On the recommendation of Interim Superintendent John Klarich, the school board voted unanimously to discard their monthly study session, typically held on the fourth Monday of the month, and instead conduct a second regular business meeting on that day each month. The school board will continue to hold their regular monthly business meeting on the second Monday of each month.

Klarich cited the increased decision making and approval process required by the school board for the foreseeable future regarding the school district's continuing building and facility renovation project for the second business meeting.

"We are going to be getting (construction) changes and all sorts of things that we will have to make decisions on quite frequently, and I just want to make sure that we don't have to wait a whole month to get something accomplished," Klarich said.

He noted that with the building construction scheduled to be completed by the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, "we are busy from here on until that building is opened up, and if we have to make changes, we'll have to know right away."

He continued, "Any kind of delay now will delay that (grand) opening."

School board member Tony Colarich said he supports the change to a second monthly business meeting for the school board. "This gives the public an

opportunity to participate in the public forum if it is a regular meeting," he said.

Special meetings will still be held by the school board when necessary. "We are doing this just to move the (building) project along so that we don't get held up or have to call special meetings throughout the spring and summer," Klarich said.

Other business

In other action, the school board:

► Adopted the 2022-2023 school calendar that provides for a 172-day school year. The school starts on Tuesday, Sept. 6. The last day of school, and graduation, is set for Friday, June 2, 2023. Winter break begins Friday, Dec. 23 and runs through Monday, Jan. 2, 2023.

► Hired Matthew Thibodeaux for the full-time, long-term substitute art teacher position from Feb. 4 - May 4, 2022.

► Accepted the resignation of Jessica Anderson from the Indian Education

Homeschool liaison position effective March 1.

► Accepted the resignation of Jason Kelley from his full-time custodian position effective March 18.

► Accepted the resignation of Mary Fleetwood from her special education teaching position effective June 30, 2022.

► Renewed the following assistant coaches for the 2021-2022 school year, Max Gantt, assistant baseball coach, Megan Wognum, assistant softball coach, Nate LaFond, assistant girls track coach.

► Approved the following assistant coaches, Darren Visser, assistant boys track coach, Jim Wittrup, Paul Kienitz and Derek Johnson, volunteer assistant baseball coaches, Tony Rechichi, volunteer assistant softball coach.

COOK...Continued from page 1

with people," Olson said. "So, we started and they learned how to work hard and they enjoyed it."

Olson enjoyed it, too, and as the girls grew older and took on more responsibility, Olson shifted her attention to another passion: creativity.

"As they got into their teen years, they took over the classic recipes that people love, the cinnamon swirls, the whole wheat breads, the Swedish rye," Olson said. "They pretty much ran the bakery and I focused on developing new recipes. The more I challenged myself, the more I looked for the next challenge, searching the world over for fascinating recipes you can't get anywhere else."

Having grown up in a family that valued education, an inquisitive mind and continuous learning have been key elements of Olson's success.

"I went to libraries before the internet and borrowed copious amounts of books," Olson laughed. "Anything I could get my hands on. And once the internet was available, I availed myself of the wealth of knowledge there. Never stop educating yourself. There are always new techniques, there's always something that's been done a certain way and they've found a new innovative

way, a more economical way, or a healthier way to do it."

Olson's baked goods developed a devoted following of people who eventually wanted to be able to get her creations outside of the farmers market season. At the time, a stand-alone bakery wasn't an option, but toward the end of the 2017 farmers market season she hit on a unique alternative, bakery boxes. Starting with only three customers, Olson created weekly unique options of new recipes that people could order and have delivered in decorative boxes. Between listening to suggestions from her customers and her growing skills using social media to market the endeavor, the business took off.

"As word spread and people saw these fun things that are only available one time, just in that bakery box and never available again, it just blossomed," Olson said. "I learned what people liked, and now there are so many popular recipes that I do repeats."

Olson delivers her bakery boxes to customers from Cook to Grand Rapids and said, "It's interesting to see which city prefers which recipes."

It has been quite the journey for someone whose first experience

baking was whipping up a boxed strawberry cake mix as a six-year-old under the watchful eye and guidance of her mother, and opening Rose Cottage Baking Co.'s storefront in Cook is the culmination of her passion for baking, healthy eating, and service to the community.

The bakery box idea was so successful that Olson was bumping up against the state's sales limit for products produced in home kitchens, and if she were going to keep doing it, she needed to find a building. After much searching, in 2020 she found the location at 210 Hwy. 53, across the road from Zup's Grocery. When she contacted Jodee Micheletti at Northeast Title Company about the possibility of renting the space, Micheletti responded with an unexpected offer to sell the property to her.

"She said she'd like to offer the building for sale and that she would cut the price so I would have equity in the building right away," Olson said. "She said this is what was done for her when she bought the building. It was the first building she ever purchased, and she said she believed in paying it forward. I was kind of overwhelmed."

Olson turned to her

advisors at the Small Business Development Center in Duluth and to marketing experts Anna Anderson and Beth Chapman at Art Unlimited in Angola, and when both said the offer made good business sense she took the plunge.

Demolition began last September, and Olson temporarily halted making bakery boxes at the end of December with construction scheduled to begin in earnest in January.

There were many familiar hands that contributed to the construction and cleanup process, including but not limited to Olson's husband, Jason, her sister, Leah Landacre, and brother, Micah Hodge, as well as her children, including sons Van, Al, and Rod King Jr. But yet another unexpected blessing appeared late in the fall in the form of local retired master carpenter Nick Brown.

"My sister is friends with him, and she told him that I was building a bakery and could use some help," Olson said. "He walked in one day and said, 'Hi, I'm your sister Leah's friend, my name is Nick Brown, and I'm a retired master carpenter and I'd like to help you.' And it was amazing. Nick had tools and tricks of the trade that I'd never used before. I

learned a lot and enjoyed getting to know him and building a friendship with him, and he has the sweetest wife, Monica. I told her to be sure Nick is here for the grand opening, so he gets all the credit that he has coming to him. I owe so many people that I could never pay back for all of the kinds of help and encouragement they gave me."

When Rose Cottage Baking Co. is fully operational, there will be more than Olson's tasty and healthy baked goods available. There's a small cozy dining area at the front of the store, and she'll be offering panini sandwiches and soup and perhaps other fare that's out of the norm for typical cafes, she said. A gleaming silver espresso machine will get fired up next week after she and her staff get the appropriate training, Olson said.

While a grand opening is coming on Thursday, April 7, Olson did a soft opening this week beginning Tuesday, serving only coffee and scones from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"The reason I'm doing a soft opening is that I owe so much to the community," Olson said. "They kept my little business going all these years. This is an opportunity where I would have time to visit because I won't be stuck

under a noisy hood. I can sit here and visit and talk and let them see what they did, how they brought this little housewife, who has some business sense and common sense, how they brought her to this place where she could serve her community full time. I am so stoked."

Next week, Olson will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The week of March 28 she will be open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"I'm pretty much easing into being open full time," Olson said. "I gave myself two weeks to practice using the equipment before I opened to the broader community."

The week of April 4, which includes her grand opening date, she will be open regular hours Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. She will also start opening on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

Check the Rose Cottage Baking Co. Facebook page for announcements, business hours, and more. Information is also available by calling the baker at 218-231-5400 or emailing rosecottagebakingco@gmail.com.

FIREWISE

Ely-area events mark 10th anniversary of Pagami Creek Fire

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – A series of free events marking the 10th anniversary of the Pagami Creek Fire will be held here in the coming weeks.

► Overview about the Pagami Creek Fire - Tuesday, March 22, noon-1 p.m., Grand Ely Lodge. Hosted by the Ely Tuesday Group presentation by the U.S. Forest Service. Attend in person or tune in from home. For more details, email elytuesdaygroup@gmail.com.

► Prescribed Fire and USFS projects in surrounding area – Saturday,

March 26, 8:30 a.m. -noon. Vermilion Community College, Room CL 104. At this open house, fire professionals will discuss what prescribed fire is, how the USFS plans for it, weather and smoke management, communication strategies, the tools and techniques used in prescribed fire operations, and more.

Open house agenda: 8:45-9 a.m. Welcome. Introduction of prescribed fire. Why we burn.

9-10:30 a.m. The process of prescribed fire parameters and challenges.

10:45-11:15 a.m. Getting operational – Boots on the ground show

and tell.

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. USFS 2022 Prescribed burn presentation and projects, along with forest health benefits and wild-land fire resiliency.

A question-and-answer session will follow the presentations, followed by an overview of proposed USFS land management projects. Presentations by USFS. For more information, see USFS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SuperiorNF>.

► Shapiro and Smith Dance Company presents Burning Air about the Great Hinckley Fire of 1894 on Saturday, March 26, 3-4:30 p.m., Vermilion

Community College Fine Arts Theater. This informal performance will be followed by a discussion about the fire then and now and how this dance was created out of historical records and survivors' stories. Website link for more details: shapiroand-smithdance.org

► Beneficial Effects of Fire Post Pagami Creek Fire – Tuesday, April 12, noon-1 p.m., Grand Ely Lodge. Hosted by the Ely Tuesday Group and presented by USFS personnel. Attend in person or tune in from home. For more details, email elytuesdaygroup@gmail.com

► Pagami Creek Fire Ten Years On: What

we've learned – April 20-21, Ely's Historic State Theater. A two-day symposium on lessons learned from the Pagami Creek Fire that includes visits to the 2021 Greenwood Lake fire site. This event is open to all, but may be of greatest interest to professional natural resource managers. Organized by the UMN Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative. Fee for symposium participation and registration, see SFEC's Upcoming Event page: [<https://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/upcoming-events>]

► Film: Oshkigin Spirit of Fire and Panel Discussion - Thursday,

April 21, 6-8 p.m., Ely's Historic State Theater. A screening of a local 16-minute fire documentary followed by a discussion with tribal panelists on the value of Indigenous perspectives in transforming our relationship with fire and how we, as humans, relate to the whole community of life that we are part of. Panelists from Tribal nations within the 1842 and 1854 Treaty Areas.

► Saturday morning walking trips with Bill Tefft, Ely Naturalist - Wildland Fire sites, prescribed fire sites and more. Everyone welcome. Get details at Elyfieldnaturalists.wordpress.com.

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DESCRIPTION	MSRP	DESCRIPTION	MSRP				
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ELY Rotary Club donations to help Ukraine relief fund

ELY- The Rotary Club of Ely is seeking donations from local Rotarians and the community to support the Rotary International Foundation Disaster Relief Fund.

The Rotary Foundation will utilize its Disaster Relief Fund in response to the deepening humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

The Rotary Club of Ely will match any donations raised by its members and the community up to \$4,000.

Through the official channels of the Rotary Foundation, donors worldwide can donate with confidence and know that their contributions will go directly to those who need it most.

The Rotary Foundation has received a perfect score – 100 out of 100 – for Financial Responsibility, Accountability, and Transparency by Charity Navigator. Charity Navigator evaluates non-profit organizations' financial health and tracks accountability and transparency policies to ensure the good governance and integrity of the organization.

"We are excited to invite the general public to help our club respond to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. By sending funds to the Rotary Foundation, I feel confident that they will directly impact those in need," said Rotary Club of Ely President Todd Heiman.

If you would like to support this worthwhile cause, the Rotary Club of Ely will collect donations until April 20. To contribute, visit the Ely Rotary website at <https://elyrotary.org/> and click the donate button on the homepage. Or, make a check out to Ely Rotary Club and write Ukraine Relief in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to Rotary Club of Ely, PO Box 222, Ely, MN 55731.

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SAFETY...Continued from page 1

working with Vermilion Community College, conducted a chainsaw safety class last weekend to give participants an introduction to safe practices when using a chainsaw to clear trees and brush around their property.

Firewise is a program created by the National Fire Protection Association, adopted for use by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and St. Louis County, dedicated to providing educational tools to protect against wildfire.

St. Louis County's Firewise coordinator, Gloria Erickson, introduced the class of about a dozen students, most with no chainsaw experience, to VCC Natural Resources instructor Ryan Miller early Saturday morning for a day of classroom instruction followed by a weekend of practice in the woods around VCC.

The class was specifically designed for individuals with little or no previous experience in operating a chainsaw. Students learned about the function, maintenance and use of internal combustion engine powered chainsaws, and entry-level safe use of a chainsaw was taught in the field. The class provided lots of hands-on cutting experience to give the students confidence, and demonstrated safe piling and burning techniques for cut hazardous woody debris.

Erickson related her introduction to the North Country and how she learned to love and respect the woods up here.

"I came here 22 years ago as a 612'er oblivious to our forest," she said. "I thought those balsams right outside my cabin window were the way it was supposed to be up here."

Having been in the Firewise program for the last decade, she has learned a lot.

"When I look at our forest, it is not looking too good. There is more and more spruce budworm, and thick balsams are choking out many other trees," she said.

In her quest to work with landowners to spread the word on things residents can do to make their properties safer and more resilient against wildfire, she also has in mind the safety of local firefighters and those who come to fight the increasing number of forest fires.

Erickson told the students, "My biggest thing is trying to empower people to be able to go out on their property to do the work themselves. We can't tackle this problem alone. We are



Vermilion Community College instructor Ryan Miller, right, demonstrates proper chainsaw cutting techniques at the chainsaw safety class in Ely last weekend. Above, a student disassembles a chainsaw to learn maintenance techniques. photos by K. Vandervort

lucky to have the USFS and DNR along with fantastic volunteer fire departments, but when you look at how much land they have to cover if there is a fire, we all have to do our part."

Ryan Miller came to VCC following ten years with the USFS and DNR. He used to be part of the Hot Shot firefighter organization, mostly working out west. "We never have enough resources, so we do what we can to help to save properties," he said.

He described to the students, mostly homeowners around the Ely area, the triage process firefighters use as they work the path ahead of a wildfire to visit individual properties and determine what houses can be saved and what houses will surely burn when the fire arrives.

"If a house is non-defensible, we are not going to waste our time and resources, and we tell the homeowner that they have to let it burn," Miller said. "We can save one house that will take six hours of work, or we can save six other houses where we can spend maybe 30 minutes or an hour to make the buildings more defensible."

Determining how a house or property can be defensible was the focus of the weekend class. Making a residential property more resilient to fire starts with the homeowner and a chainsaw long before there is smoke in the air.

What make a house in the woods indefensible? Miller said that trees close to the buildings, stacked firewood right outside the door, pine needles and other debris in the house gutters, cedar shingles, wood siding, nearby balsams, dead or alive, and other flammable stuff all lend to an indefensible house.

Firewise education describes a defensible space around a building in ever-expanding circles

or zones that give homeowners a reference point to make their space more fire resilient. For more information, go to the National Fire Protection Association website at www.nfpa.org.

Erickson added a simple, yet overlooked aspect makes a property more defensible to wildfire. "If the fire fighters can't get a big rig down your driveway, they are going to drive on by," she said.

Miller touched on climate change and the obvious changes in the wildfire burning seasons in the North Country as the planet continues to warm.

"Fires are not what they were even 20 years ago," he said. "Our winters are getting milder. The fuels in the forests are getting denser and building up as we continue with the 100-percent fire suppression theory. We are only going to see fires get bigger and more destructive."

Miller introduced the class to the chainsaw and demonstrated how to clean and maintain one. Each student was given a chainsaw to disassemble, clean and reassemble. They were successful, with no parts left over.

"Chainsaws are not inherently dangerous, but they are very unforgiving," he said.

Miller reviewed the personal protection and safety equipment each chainsaw operator should use, including eye protection, gloves, hearing protection, long-sleeved shirt, chaps, boots and hardhat.

"I don't recommend using steel-toed boots when working around fires," he said. "They obviously can heat up very easily."

Miller discussed safe chainsaw handling and operating, emphasized the securing of a safe work zone, and maintaining secure and balanced footing when cutting, limbing, felling and brushing.

The day of classroom

discussion was followed by two days of field work in the woody area on the VCC campus where students put their knowledge to use and gained confidence in using the chainsaw in the woods. Students learned to stack wood and storage techniques for later use, and how to properly construct a brush pile for burning debris.

Look for more opportunities this year to participate in chainsaw safety classes and Firewise demonstrations around the Ely area. Several events are planned in the coming weeks to mark the tenth anniversary of the Pagami Creek fire (see separate story).

For more information on the St. Louis County Firewise program, call or email Gloria Erickson at gloria@dovetailinc.org or 218-365-0878.





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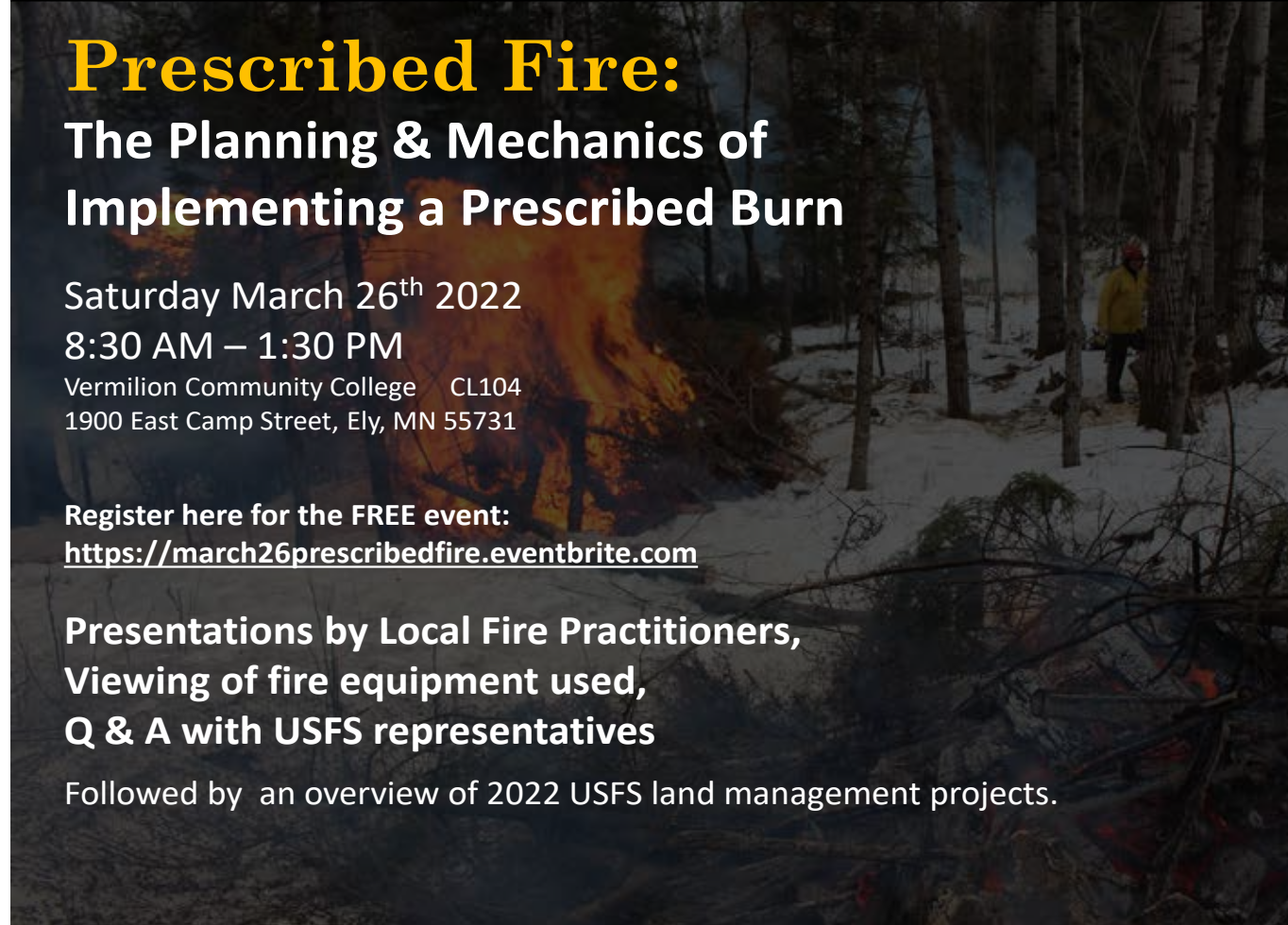
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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Better than expected

Wolves narrowly miss Section 7A championship bid

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

DULUTH—What a difference a season can make.

Back in December, when girls hoops got underway, the Timberwolves looked decidedly mediocre, racking up a 6-7 record through the team's first six weeks of play. By season's end, they were just a couple ball bounces away from a trip to the Section 7A championship.

"Overall, I am super proud of this group," said Ely Head Coach Max Gantt. "We improved a ton as the year went on and we had a lot of fun doing so."

Ely came into their Section 7A semi-final round contest at 16-10 after back-to-back playoff wins, and by the numbers the game with Cromwell-Wright should have been a blowout. The Cardinals hit the court with a 21-5 record, ranked tenth in the state in girls basketball.

Yet, thanks to solid Ely defense, the Wolves went into the break leading by five and were in the game right up to the end. "We just couldn't hold the lead through the second half," said Gantt. "We played a zone that sort of stifled them, but we turned it over a few too many times on offense in the second half and that was the difference. Credit to Cromwell. They weren't ranked tenth in the state for no reason."

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

BOYS BASKETBALL

Quick out for Ely in 7A playoffs

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REMER—On paper, at 21-7, Northland-Remer was the stronger team when they faced the Timberwolves here last Thursday night in the opening round of the Section 7A boys basketball tournament. It turns out the Eagles were the stronger team on the court as well, as they pummeled Ely 87-33, ending Ely's season at 15-12.

"We ran into a buzz saw," said Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald after the game. "They really shot the ball well against us and nothing went right for us on either end of the floor. It was a disappointing end to a good season."

Ely fell behind early and was never able to regroup as the Eagles kept the pressure on throughout. "We didn't defend well, didn't shoot well, didn't rebound, and had too many turnovers to make a game of it," said McDonald.

As he has all season, junior guard Joey Bianco led Ely offensively, with 16 points, a bit below his season average of 22.9 points per game. Senior Harry Simons added six rebounds.

Bianco led the team across the board this season, averaging 8.6 rebounds, 6.5 assists and three steals per game. Simons, who along with Mason Davis and Eddie Prijatel, wrapped up his high school hoops career this past week, finished second on the team in scoring, with an average of

See **ELY BOYS...**pg. 2B



SECTION 7A BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

Grizzlies weather Northland

Seventh-seeded Eagles fall short of upset win, 71-67

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

DULUTH- North Woods junior guard Brendan Chiabotti scored 22 points and senior guard T.J. Chiabotti knocked down seven free throws in the final three minutes as the Grizzlies held off an upset bid by Northland on Saturday, advancing to Wednesday's 7A sectional semifinal with a narrow 71-67 win.

Having lost to the Grizzlies 103-78 in the regular season, the seventh-seeded Eagles played a slow-paced deliberate motion offense to put the brakes on the high-scoring North Woods offense, and it worked. While Northland got a pair of treys from Alec Wade in the early going that put the Eagles up 10-3, they successfully worked the ball until they found good shots that were dropping. North Woods was down 18-7 at the ten-minute mark when Brenden Chiabotti scored his second bucket of the game and followed that up with a triple and another bucket to narrow the margin to 20-14. A pair of Brenden Chiabotti free throws, giving him 12 points for the half, capped a seven-point run that got North Woods to within two, 27-25. But Northland quickly answered with five points to go back up by seven.

The Grizzlies had one of their most effective series of possessions in the waning seconds of the half. Jared Chiabotti was fouled on a fast

Above: The Grizzlies' T.J. Chiabotti launches a three-point shot over the outstretched arm of a Northland defender.

Right: Alex Hartway tries to head off a Northland ballhandler.

Lower right: Jared Chiabotti goes up for a jumper from the paint.

photos by D. Colburn

break layup and converted the charity, Alex Hartway got a steal and breakaway bucket, and Sean Morrison scored on a putback, cutting the Northland lead to just 33-32 at the half. The Grizzlies had 22 fewer points at the break than they did in their regular season win over the Eagles.

On a perfectly executed play coming out of intermission, Morrison flipped a pass to T.J. Chiabotti for an easy layup that gave the Grizzlies their first lead of the game, and a fast break score and two free throws by Brenden Chiabotti put North Woods up 38-33. The Grizzlies appeared to have the game well in hand when Morrison hit an acrobatic scooper to push the margin to 48-38, but a 9-0 Eagles run topped off with a Nolan Carlson trey had Northland right back in it at 48-47. The Grizzlies went back up by eight, but with 2:40 left to play that lead had narrowed

See **GRIZZLIES ...**pg. 2B



THE LEGISLATURE

Senate passes Tomassoni's ALS research bill

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ST. PAUL- When David Tomassoni was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) last year, the state senator from Chisholm vowed to keep representing his district and to become an advocate for individuals and families affected by the disease.

Those two things came together in a poignant and powerful way on the Senate floor last week when his colleagues unanimously passed Tomassoni's bill to provide \$20 million to fund ALS research and \$5 million for caregiver support programs and sent it on to the House, where action on the bill was anticipated as soon as this week.

Sen. Tom Bakk, of Cook, cast two votes for the bill. The first was his own, and the second was the 67th and final affirmative vote cast on behalf of his close friend and independent caucus colleague Tomassoni.

When the Senate Higher Education and Policy Committee took up the bill on March 8, Tomassoni addressed the committee remotely. He used a computerized augmentative communication device to deliver his comments. "Lou Gehrig died of ALS in 1939. Little to no progress in finding a cure has been made since," Tomassoni said. "This bill is a concerted effort to find a cure for ALS. ALS is a neurological disease that saps the strength from muscles and ultimately leaves chaos in its wake. In September, I was still driving and able to dress and feed myself. Today, I can't do any of them. The disease progresses differently in different people. Hopefully, this bill will go a long way to finding a permanent stop to any progression whatsoever. It may not happen in



Sen. David Tomassoni, supported by sons Dante, left, and Dan, right, receives a hearty welcome from his Senate colleagues on the opening day of this year's legislative session in January. photo courtesy Senate Media Services

my lifetime, but the future needs to be full of hope that the next generations will be ALS-free."

With Tomassoni continuing his legislative work from a distance due to his current physical limitations, Bakk formally introduced the legislation in committee and again to the Senate as a whole. Bakk described the need for the bill and the impact it could have here and well beyond Minnesota.

"Very little research has been done on (ALS) because it doesn't affect a large cohort of people," Bakk said. "In Minnesota it afflicts about 450 people, and that's been a constant number for a long time. Two people get diagnosed every week and two people die every week. There are different degrees of progression. Some are extremely fast, and for others, people somehow are able to live a number of years with it and we don't know why. Because we haven't spent the money to learn more about it. It could be very curable."

"Wouldn't it be something to be proud of if Minnesota was the place that was able to change the health of the world for all of the future people who are going to be diagnosed with ALS," Bakk continued. "In all the bills I've carried over all the years, I don't think I've ever carried one that was more about hope."

The caregiver support portion of the legislation originated with a separate bill drafted by Sen. Karin Housley, R-Stillwater, and was incorporated into Tomassoni's measure. Bakk referenced a press conference held to introduce the ALS bill when describing what the volunteer caregiver training and respite care it would provide would help to address.

"If you had watched the press conference and saw those families talk about what they had to go through trying to care for somebody with a debilitating disease like ALS, most spouses have to quit their jobs because the care is so intense. There is just no way a family can have any kind of a normal life," Bakk said.

The Senate suspended its rules so that the bill could be acted upon more quickly than normal. For nearly an hour, with Tomassoni watching from home, senator after senator rose to speak in support of the bill, to share stories illustrating their respect for Tomassoni, and to express praise and gratitude for his commitment to champion such a cause.

Senate President David Osmek, R-Mound, said, "It's not going to just affect Minnesotans. It may not necessarily find a cure, but this is going to impact the world. If we can make progress with this terrible disease, this is going to help people not just in Minnesota, not just inside the United States — and that is David Tomassoni."

Charles Wiger, DFL-Maplewood, called Tomassoni "a decent, hardworking senator who cares about people and who has a legacy now of fighting the war on ALS."

Bakk rose again during the comment period to reinforce that

voting for the bill was about more than recognizing the legacy of a cherished colleague.

"What does this vote mean? This isn't a vote for Sen. Tomassoni," Bakk said. "This is a vote for people we don't know. It's a vote for Sen. Tomassoni's vision and the courage of what he's going through, and his number one priority right now in his life is to help others. That's a pretty remarkable legacy."

Republican Majority Leader Jeremy Miller wrapped up the remarks.

"This is a big deal," he said. "Sen. Tomassoni, thank you for giving us the opportunity to help you help make a difference in the lives of so many families across our state, across the nation, and across the world who are dealing with ALS. Sen. Tomassoni, this one's for you."

Following the unanimous vote, Senate members rose to their feet in a 45-second standing ovation in honor of Tomassoni and the passage of the bill.

An unusual aspect of the bill is that the funding has been allocated through 2026, a period of time that Bakk said will prevent a rush to get the money spent and instead encourage thoughtful, collaborative research proposals that can have greater impact.

"We don't do that often here," Bakk said. "We're going to try to craft this so people aren't working in silos in the research, that they're working collectively together and we create some synergy among all our best minds in Minnesota."

Rep. Dave Lislegard, DFL-Aurora, is the chief author and sponsor of the bill in the Minnesota House, which has assigned it to the Higher Education Finance and Policy committee. Reps. Julie Sandstede, DFL-Hibbing, and Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls, are among the co-authors.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

to just two, 62-60.

That's when T.J. Chiabotti went to work from the free throw line. Drawing fouls on four consecutive possessions, Chiabotti hit seven consecutive charities for a 69-64 lead with just 34 seconds remaining. His eighth attempt missed the mark, but Davis Kleppe came streaking in to snare the rebound, was fouled, and hit the second of two free throws. After Northland dropped in two charities, Brenden Chiabotti scored his 22nd point of the night on a free throw with 19 seconds left, giving the Grizzlies a 71-66 edge. Northland managed only a solitary free throw in response, sending North Woods to the semifinals with a 71-67 win.

The Eagles made a game of it by keeping the Grizzlies off balance on offense most of the game,

limiting North Woods to 40 percent shooting. The Grizzlies shot 59 percent from the field in their Dec. 17 contest.

Free throw shooting was the difference this time. Led by T.J. Chiabotti's nine-of-ten sharpshooting, North Woods hit 17 charities out of 20 attempts, a sizzling 85 percent. Northland got to the stripe 16 times but hit only 11.

North Woods had four players score in double figures, led by Brenden Chiabotti's 22. T.J. Chiabotti hit for 17, and Jared Chiabotti and Sean Morrison, who fouled out, each had 12.

Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe gave credit to Northland for taking advantage of the Grizzlies early.

"Defensively we just didn't go after them and put the pressure on them to force some mistakes," he said. "We let them survey

the floor, and they're all good passers, they can all dribble, and they made us pay. They got us on a few backdoor cuts, they got us on a rotation a few times where we get we didn't get back to our man, and they played good ball. They didn't look like a seven seed to me."

Brenden Chiabotti led the Grizzlies in scoring with 19 in the first game of the season against South Ridge, but has been averaging just under 10 points a game. He picked a good day for a breakout game, Kleppe said.

"Brenden carried us that first half and kept us in the game," Kleppe said. "He hit those couple of threes there and hit some free throws for us to just keep scoring a bit. Once we came out after halftime and got that first backdoor basket to T.J. to take the lead, I felt like we loosened

up and got going."

Second-seeded North Woods was scheduled to play third-seeded Deer River in the semifinals on Wednesday, after the Timberjay's press time. The Grizzlies defeated the Warriors 78-75 in the last game of the regular season and went into the matchup on a 14-game win streak, while Deer River was 6-4 in its last 10 games.

Cook County

North Woods squared off against 18th-seeded Cook County in their 7A sectional opener on March 10, and the Vikings' chance of winning this game was about as good as someone winning the Daytona 500 on an antique snowmobile.



North Woods was up 15-0 before Cook County scored their first point, and the Vikings were scoreless from the field for the first eleven minutes of the game. With the bench getting liberal playing time, North Woods was up 44-12 at the half and cruised to an

85-29 win.

Twelve Grizzlies scored in the contest, led by T.J. Chiabotti with 20. Sean Morrison with 17 and Jared Chiabotti with 12 were the other players in double figures.

ELY GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

Cromwell used intense pressure and solid man defense to keep Ely off balance as much as possible, and it ultimately made the difference. Yet the Wolves felt no shame in the loss. "To play a team like that within seven points and have the lead for most of the

game is pretty amazing," said Gantt, "especially when you think about some of our games earlier in the year."

Even in losing, Ely's shooters had a good night, connecting of 50 percent of their shots from the floor. Sarah Visser had a big

night, pouring in 20 points and adding seven rebounds. Madeline Perry added 12 points. "We just didn't get enough shots because of the

tough Cromwell defense," said Gantt.

For Ely, the season set a new standard, one that Gantt acknowledges poses

a challenge for next year. "We proved we can be a top team and compete with top teams," he said. "Now, the challenge will be trying to

get back to this point next year. Coming back better and more skilled. Coming back with more knowledge of the game. Coaches, too!"

ELY BOYS...Continued from page 1B

16.6 points a game, despite recovering from a broken hand he suffered early in the season, which benched him for ten games.

Despite last week's drubbing, McDonald was pleased overall. "I thought we did have a nice season, especially since we were always fighting injuries or Covid-related absences," he said. "These guys really worked hard throughout the

season and it was a good bunch to work with."

Looking ahead to next year, the team will lose its three seniors, but has a strong crop of juniors who played major roles this year. But McDonald was quick to challenge his team. "If we are going to be any better

next year we will have to do some work in the off season," he said.



It's Time For.....

COOK YOUTH BASEBALL

Registration for the upcoming 2022 youth baseball season is open! Girls and boys ages 5-12 on or before May 1 are welcome to join! Register your child/children by April 15 by entering the registration link below into your web browser or by using the QR code below. You can also go to our Facebook Page, "Cook Youth Baseball" to register.

Enter this link into your web browser:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSekca-81YPblNy-uSuV4-CsS3Vh1NhGQuMRR_AeNQbfD0_5RQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Coaches and umpires are also needed for the season.

If you are interested, please email us at cookyouthbaseball@gmail.com.



MINNESOTA POLITICS

Rep. Rob Ecklund to seek re-election to the Minnesota House

INTERNATIONAL FALLS – Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL, has announced his plans to seek re-election to the Minnesota House of Representatives this fall. Currently serving his fourth term, Rep. Ecklund will run to represent the newly drawn District 3A along the Canadian border from Koochiching County east to Grand Portage.

“We’ve all been through some incredibly difficult challenges the past couple of years, but no matter the roadblocks that come our way, folks in northeastern Minnesota are resilient. Looking forward, I’m optimistic we’re turning the corner to a new chapter. But we have work yet to do so all Minnesotans can have the chance to succeed and prosper,” Rep. Ecklund said. “Serving in the Legislature is an incredible honor, and I’m grateful to the people of our region for the opportunity to be a part of vital work to support workers, students, educators, seniors, small business owners, veterans, and middle-class families. I look forward to once again working to earn the trust of voters this fall so we can continue our shared efforts toward a strong future for people in our region and across the state.”



Rob Ecklund

In light of a record \$9.25 billion budget surplus, Rep. Ecklund is working to get more money in Minnesotans’ pockets, including authoring legislation to eliminate income taxes on Social Security payments for seniors. This session, he is chief author of a bill to deliver economic recovery grants to borderland businesses to help them recover from the dual economic crises of the prolonged Canadian border closure due to COVID and the 2021 wildfires in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. He’s also working to refill the state’s unemployment insurance trust fund –

wiped out during business closures during the pandemic – to prevent businesses from facing a large tax increase on top of the economic struggles they’ve already experienced.

A strong supporter of public education, Rep. Ecklund has supported significant investments in Minnesota students, including historic per-pupil funding increases, expanded early childhood opportunities, and resources to address unfunded special education costs. He also successfully delivered millions worth of funding for school improvements in Ely.

Rep. Ecklund chairs the Labor, Industry, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee in the House. From this position, he’s worked to deliver key benefits like paid family leave and earned sick time, expand apprenticeship programs, increase funding for Minnesota OSHA investigators, improve safety for logging, meatpacking, refinery, and factory workers, and enact new workplace protections for pregnant women and nursing mothers.

In recent years, he’s been the leader among legislators to increase the state investment in broadband infrastructure to

expand fast, reliable internet access to more homes, schools, and businesses. He was the chief author of legislation last year to deliver a historic \$70 million investment in broadband.

Having served in the United States Marine Corps, Rep. Ecklund is committed to supporting Minnesota’s military veterans and ensuring they have access to job training and career opportunities, as well as housing, health care, and other support they need to prosper once their service concludes.

“Those who wear the uniform in service of our country make incredible sacrifices. They deserve our full support when they return home,” Rep. Ecklund said. “Working in a bipartisan fashion on solutions for our veterans is some of the most rewarding work I do at the Capitol, and I look forward to continuing to help ensure that those who served can succeed and thrive in Minnesota.”

Rep. Ecklund has championed expanding the Veterans Court Model through the Veterans Restorative Justice Act, the Helmets to Hardhats program to connect veterans with careers in the building trades, financial support for three new Veterans

Homes, and the new Veterans Safe Housing Initiative aimed at ending veteran homelessness. He was also instrumental in securing funding for the Ely Veterans Affairs clinic expansion.

An avid outdoorsman, Rep. Ecklund has led the fight in the Minnesota House against Chronic Wasting Disease, a fatal neurological condition threatening Minnesota’s wild white-tailed deer population. While in office, he’s successfully delivered millions of dollars for ATV and snowmobile trail development across northern Minnesota. Rep. Ecklund also serves on the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, the panel charged with recommending projects to fund from Legacy Amendment sales tax proceeds.

District 3A contains all of Koochiching and Cook counties, most of Lake County, and the northern part of St. Louis County. Following redistricting, the district added cities including Bigfork, Marcell and Hoyt Lakes.

More information on the campaign is available at www.robecklund.com.

PANDEMIC

All COVID indicators looking good as surge fades away

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Key indicators of COVID activity in the North Country and elsewhere in Minnesota have dropped to levels not seen since last summer, signaling that the record-breaking Omicron surge is now solidly in the rear-view mirror.

In the most localized data, three of the six North Country zip codes the *Timberjay* has been monitoring since fall 2020 had no new cases reported March 3 in the Minnesota Department of Health’s weekly report. Orr, Tower, and Embarrass all escaped adding new cases to their counts and increases in the other three zip codes were miniscule when compared to recent history. Ely had just six new cases, Cook had five, and Tower added two. Five of the six zips had new cases in the March 10 report, but none had more than five.

The St. Louis County COVID dashboard data for the northern portion of the county also held positive news in its most

recent updates, which lag a week or two behind due to reporting and verification protocols.

Sharp declines have occurred in weekly case rates per 100,000 in all regions of the county in the Feb. 27 report, and in the north the rate of 55.7 was miniscule in comparison with a rate of 1,218.6 registered on Jan. 16. The county also breaks down COVID numbers by age groups for each region, and no group had more than three cases reported in north St. Louis County for the week of Feb. 27, with none being reported for the 0-19 and 50-59 age groups. Five weeks prior, new cases for all age groups were running into double digits.

More recent data shows that St. Louis County had a seven-day average case rate of 18.3 on March 10, the lowest that measure has been since Aug. 2, when health officials were in the earliest state of warning about a possible surge driven by the Delta variant, and barely a month after Gov. Tim Walz ended his peacetime emergency declaration because of improved COVID indicators.

Statewide, Minnesota is now

among the lowest group of states for the widely used measure of test positivity rates. According to information from the John Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, the seven-day moving average for Minnesota on Wednesday was only 3.3 percent, well below the benchmark indicating wide community spread, and lower than Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa. Other sources have reported measures as low as 2.6.

The news is more than welcome after Minnesota marked two years since the first COVID case was identified in the state two weekends ago.

Hospitalizations due to COVID have also take a precipitous plunge statewide. New hospitalizations on Feb. 28 were at 7.3 per 100,000 people, 76 percent lower than at the height of the Omicron surge in January.

Other developments

Cases of “stealth” Omicron are on the rise globally. The BA.2 variant is seemingly even more transmissible than BA.1,

the strain of Omicron that caused the surge of cases in Minnesota in December and January.

While BA.2 may prompt new surges in cases around the world, experts disagree on whether the U.S. is due for another big surge, with a large percentage of the population immune through either recent infection in the Omicron surge or vaccination. The BA.2 strain doesn’t show indications of causing more severe disease than BA.1.

Health officials are also keeping an eye on a new variant, dubbed Deltacron, that is a mix of the Delta and Omicron variant. Revealed last month, only a handful of cases caused by the rare variant have been diagnosed in the U.S., and for the time being Deltacron is not considered a variant of concern here.

Two weeks ago, President Joe Biden announced a new coronavirus response plan that would take steps toward living with the virus as well as preparing for variants. The plan includes measures for protecting against and treating COVID-19; preparing for new

variants; avoiding shutdowns; and fighting the virus abroad. It was reported on Tuesday that officials at the Department of Health and Human Services confirmed that all of the money it has received for coronavirus activities has been allocated.

However, the plan faces an uncertain future because of disputes in Congress about how to fund the \$15.6 billion price tag that comes with it. The funding was stripped out of the massive \$1.5 trillion spending bill, and a stand-alone bill may not make it through an evenly-divided Senate.

U.S. households can order more free COVID-19 tests. Households can order eight tests total, so households that have ordered none so far can order eight, while households that have already ordered four can get an additional four, delivered via the U.S. Postal Service. Orders can be placed online at COVIDtests.gov.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Mary Ann Arvila

Mary Ann Arvila, 82, of Cook, passed away peacefully at the Cook Care Center on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 26 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Lunch will follow immediately after the service at the Cook Community Center. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Mary Ann was born on Jan. 17, 1940, in Virginia, to Gust W. and Mary (Jiacik) Peterson. She grew up in Gheen, graduating from Orr High School in 1958. Mary Ann was united in marriage to Leslie G. Arvila on Sept. 17, 1960, at Trinity Lu-

theran Church of Cook, where she was an avid member throughout her time. Mary Ann started her years of work at Mel’s IGA in Orr. During this time, she also participated in the planting of trees for the state of Minnesota, as well as cleaning cabins at surrounding resorts. Mary Ann retired from her long-time job at the Northern Farmers Co-op of Cook in 1991 and a couple years after started a part-time job at the Cook Hospital in laundry.

Mary Ann was a busy woman who enjoyed life. Cooking, baking, gardening, and canning were some of her best interests, and if she wasn’t doing one of these you could find her playing the accordion, playing cards, volunteering at the Thrift Shop, or listening to her beloved Elvis Presley tapes. Mary Ann had a love for Elvis. Mary Ann found great interest in volunteering at the Thrift Shop; she loved working in the household section and adding more and more every week. Most of all, Mary Ann loved spending time with her family.

Mary Ann is survived by her children, Dale (Karla) Arvila of Cook, Dawn (Troy) Simp-

son of Cook, Brad (Michelle) Arvila of Angora and Scott (Becky) Arvila of New London; loving grandchildren, Bo (Carrissa) Simpson, Brenna Simpson, Samantha Arvila, Colton Arvila, Seth Arvila, Lauren Arvila, Brynn Simpson and Sophie Arvila; great-grandchildren, Teagan Simpson, Rylin Worlds, and baby girl Simpson arriving in June; brothers-in-law, Arvid (Greta) Arvila and Stewart Anderson; sister-in-law, Mary Arvila; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Leslie Arvila; sisters, Delores Saatela and Blanche Jacobson; brother, Leonard Peterson; brothers-in-law, Melvin Jacobson and Everett Saatela; and granddaughter, Brooke Simpson.

Agnes Mesojedec

Agnes Mesojedec, 98, of Soudan, passed away on Sunday, March 13, 2022, at Edgewood Senior Living in Hermantown, with family at her side. Funeral arrangements are pending with Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

Janice E. Haugen

Janice E. Sundahl Haugen, 81, of Duluth, died on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, in her home, with her family by her side. Private family services were held on Saturday, March 5. The family would like to thank the staff of Essentia St. Mary’s Hospice for their loving care of Janice and Dougherty Funeral Home of Duluth for their outstanding services and sincere compassion.

She is survived by her husband, Orrin; son, Keith (Mike Goerd) Haugen; daughter, Debbie (Dan) Wiirre; granddaughters, Leah Anderson (Adam Nori) and Emily Anderson (Gregg Malmgren); great-grandson, Hunter Hoopman; sister, Emma Kapla; seven sisters-in-law; and many nieces and nephews, including greats and great-greats.

Cheryl M. Newton

Cheryl M. Stupica Newton, 65, of Embarrass, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 12, 2022, in her home surrounded by her family and beloved animals. A celebration of life was held at Range Funeral Home in Virginia on Thursday, March 17.

She is survived by her

husband, Bob; daughter, Kristen Rosett; sons, Michael and Andrew Newton; brother, Bill Stupica (Chris); sister, Sue Mestad (Keith); and several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and special friends.

Sylvia M. Alt

Sylvia Maymi Laakkonen Alt, 93, of Angora, died on Saturday, March 12, 2022, at her home. Per Sylvia’s wishes there will be no funeral service. A private family interment

will be held in the spring. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her daughter, Patti Alt (fiancé Bob Erickson); son, Jeff (Debbie) Alt; daughter-in-law, Patti Alt; sister-in-law, Frances Laakkonen; grandsons, Craig, Jason (Rachel), Chaz (Adam), Reed (Steph) and Riley; great-granddaughters, Emily and Kara Alt; and many nieces and nephews.

Donald G.
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*Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact
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Call 365-2639 or email info@gardnertrust.org
Youth Grant applicants must call Keiko by Friday, March 4
to schedule a grant review meeting.



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

OUTDOOR RECREATION

North Country Trail route decisions ahead

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

SOUDAN— Planners for the North Country National Scenic Trail are hoping to wrap up public comment on possible routes between Tower and Ely by the end of March, and they heard a strong vote of support from area residents here for a route that incorporates the Lake Vermilion state park and the growing

network of trails located in Tower.

The North Country Trail (NCT) is one of just 11 Congressionally-authorized national hiking trails in the U.S. and it's slated to be, by far, the longest once it's eventually completed, stretching more than 5,000 miles from the Green Mountains of Vermont to central North Dakota.

More than 800 miles of the trail are planned

for Minnesota, including much of the Arrowhead. The trail will incorporate some existing trails, when possible, but will also entail new construction as needed.

NCT staff are currently working with the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission to develop possible route corridors, using GIS mapping, as well as input from local

See **TRAIL**, pg. 5B



THE NEIGHBORS

Watching for wild cats

Distinguishing a bobcat from a lynx isn't that tough when you focus on the field marks

REGIONAL— Last year, I wrote about a bobcat that had taken up temporary residence in an old doghouse in Randy and Julie Grahn's backyard near Cook during a February cold snap. They feed lots of birds there and, depending on what's on offer at the Grahn residence, other critters show up to take advantage of the largesse.

This time, it was a propped-up deer carcass that attracted what appeared to be an entire family of bobcats earlier this winter. The cats showed up at various times and in varying numbers, and at times they had as many as four bobcats, most likely a female with her juvenile kits still tagging along.

While bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) are found throughout the North Country, their population thins out as you move north and east in Minnesota. For many years, they were virtually unknown in our region, as they weren't as well adapted to long, cold winters and deep snow as their cousins the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*). But climate change and other human-caused alterations to the

Above: A bobcat sits atop the remains of a deer carcass near Cook.

photo by J. Grahn

Right: A lynx stares from heavy cover.

file photo

environment in northeastern Minnesota have allowed this species to spread into the region.

The bulk of Minnesota's bobcat population has long been centered in central and north-central Minnesota, although they have certainly increased in numbers in northeastern Minnesota in recent years. As might be expected, we still hear of significantly more bobcat sightings in the Cook area and points west, (closer to the state's core bobcat range) than we do in the eastern portions of our coverage area. While bobcats are certainly present in the Tower and Ely area, you're increasingly likely to run into Canada lynx as you move east in our region.

It's pretty easy to confuse these two species, especially if you only get a quick glimpse. But there are a few hallmarks to keep in mind if you happen to spot one of these wild cats that can help you quickly distinguish them. The bobcat, which is also called a red lynx in some areas, does have a somewhat warmer color palette than the Canada lynx, with a reddish tint to its fur, in contrast to the almost ghostly tan or gray of the Canada lynx. The bobcat also tends to



exhibit more spots and striping than a lynx.

While both species have a bobbed tail and a black tip, a bobcat's tail tends to have black striping as well, while a lynx's tail is mostly a mottled tan or light gray, with a distinct black tip which often appears as if it's dipped in ink.

The Canada lynx also walks with its

See **WILDCATS**, pg. 5B

Outdoors briefly

DNR seeking comment on northern St. Louis County stream management

INTERNATIONAL FALLS— The DNR is seeking comment on fisheries management plans now available for Ash River, Lost River, Fawn Creek, and Kinmount Creek all located in northern St. Louis County.

Comment is being sought by the DNR's International Falls area office, through April 15.

The plans call for the continuation of trout stocking in portions of the Ash and Lost rivers, while they call for suspending trout stocking for now in both Fawn and Kinmount creeks.

DNR fisheries staff will use comments and suggestions from the public as they update fisheries management plans that identify specific management activities planned for the covered waters over the next five to 20 years. These plans include a variety of fisheries information: summaries and evaluations of past management activities and regulations; background information such as water chemistry characteristics; water temperature information; and species presence, stocking, and historic catch rates from previous fisheries surveys.

These plans also can identify biological and social factors that may limit a fishery's potential and seek to address these limiting factors by prescribing science-based management tools when appropriate.

Comments and suggestions from the public are important in identifying angler values and social considerations to include in the plans. Public input also helps evaluate the success of activities laid out in management plans and is most useful before plans are finalized. Anyone can request copies of the plans and share thoughts about fisheries management by contacting Kevin Peterson, International Falls Area fisheries supervisor, by email at kevin.peterson@state.mn.us or phone at 218-598-8190.

Comments and suggestions for managing other lakes and streams in the International Falls work area are welcome at any time and will be considered when those plans are due for review.

WILD CATS...Continued from page 4B—

rear somewhat elevated, a characteristic resulting from its significantly longer back legs. The lynx has longer legs all around than the bobcat, which are undoubtedly an advantage in deep snow. The lynx also has very large and prominent feet, another clear advantage for capturing its primary prey, snowshoe hares, in deep snow.

While both species do have tufted ears, the tuft on a lynx is much more prominent (typically extending about two inches) than on a bobcat. You're likely to see the ear tufting if you get a decent look at a lynx, but you'd have to be up close to spot the much-less-pronounced ear tufting on a bobcat. Lynx also have a fairly prominent, whitish "beard" that extends down below their chin, often framed with a narrow black line. While that characteristic is often overlooked in most descriptions, I think

it's a very noticeable distinction between the two species.

While some DNR biologists once claimed that lynx did not reproduce in Minnesota—but only appeared as occasional wanderers from Canada—that has been disproven by longstanding research from the U.S. Forest Service. Since 2001, the Forest Service has obtained more than 1,700 DNA samples from lynx in northeastern Minnesota, with reproduction documented every year since 2001. Which means we now know that Canada lynx are not mere wanderers into the state but maintain a longstanding and reproducing population of at least hundreds of individuals in our region. So, keep your eyes open. Either one of these two similar wild cats could be peering out, at any time, from the woods near you.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
40 20				44 23				46 25				42 23				36 19			
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.
03/07	32	7	0.00	03/07	30	3	0.00	03/07	28	5	0.02 0.4"	03/07	30	1	0.00	03/07	31	0	0.00
03/08	32	5	0.00	03/08	31	0	0.00	03/08	30	5	0.00	03/08	30	14	0.00	03/08	31	7	0.00
03/09	36	7	0.01 0.3"	03/09	34	5	0.00	03/09	33	6	0.03 0.5"	03/09	14	-2	0.01	03/09	34	5	0.00
03/10	15	-12	0.00	03/10	13	-18	0.00	03/10	12	-20	0.01 0.2"	03/10	16	-9	0.00	03/10	14	-23	0.00
03/11	17	-9	0.00	03/11	17	-19	0.00	03/11	15	-21	0.00	03/11	12	-9	0.00	03/11	16	-23	0.00
03/12	12	-22	0.00	03/12	10	-28	0.00	03/12	10	-22	0.02 0.4"	03/12	16	-17	0.00	03/12	10	-29	0.00
03/13	21	-22	0.05 1.3"	03/13	22	-27	0.08 0.6"	03/13	20	-22	0.03 0.5"	03/13	27	9	0.00 0.3"	03/13	20	-24	tr 0.1"
YTD Total 1.24 70.5"				YTD Total 1.74 46.0"				YTD Total 1.95 75.8"				NA NA YTD Total 1.90 55.7"							

TRAIL...Continued from page 4B

trail enthusiasts, who are often the best source of information about existing trail resources. Local trail enthusiasts also typically make up a potential volunteer base for construction and ongoing maintenance of the NCT. Like other better-known national trails, like the Appalachian or Pacific Crest trails, the NCT will be built and maintained primarily by volunteers, according to Matt Davis, a staff member of the NCT, who was in Soudan last Thursday for a public meeting on the trail.

Using input from local residents and GIS mapping, ARDC has developed two possible routes that would connect from just southwest of Ely to the Pike River Flowage, about six miles west of Tower. To date, they have identified two possible route corridors, both of which go through Bear Head Lake State Park before taking distinctly different routes. The northerly route (Option A) would head north from Eagles Nest Township to Lake Vermilion's Armstrong Bay before continuing west through the Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park and Tower before meeting back up with the southerly route near the Y Store. The southerly route (Option B) would head west from Bear Head Lake, eventually passing just north of the Wahlsten corner (Cty Rd. 26 and Hwy. 135) before heading northwest to intersect again with the northerly route.

The several local residents in attendance at the meeting all voiced support for the northerly route,



Representatives of ARDC and the North Country Trail were in Soudan last week to take input on potential routes for the NCT through the area. photo by M. Helmberger

which they noted includes many more sites of interest and would have available services for hikers, including campgrounds, restaurants, and stores in both Tower and Soudan. Davis said the ultimate route decision would be made by the National Park Service, which is charged with trail oversight, but Davis said the NPS typically relies on input from local residents on such decisions.

So far, Davis said about 3,100 miles of the trail have been built or designated, with about 2,000 miles yet to go, many of them in Minnesota. He said an 18-mile segment of the trail southwest of Grand Rapids is slated to be built later this year, by the NCT's Arrowhead Chapter, which is based in Grand Rapids. That chapter is in charge of trail construction from Remer to Ely, noted Davis.

Currently, NCT hikers in the area are using the Mesabi Trail to connect with other portions of the trail, but NCT's Davis said the national scenic trail system is supposed to be comprised, as much as possible, of simple, unpaved footpaths, in order to provide the best possible experience for hikers. The trail is required by law to be non-motorized, which prevents it from sharing trails used for motorized vehicles.

He said the NCT planners also try to avoid straight trails and will often deviate from the shortest possible route to bring hikers to areas of scenic interest. "We're not looking for the shortest distance," Davis said. "We're looking for the best experience. We want people to always be wondering what's around the next corner."

Fishing reports

Ely area

Lake trout fishing was slow this last week as one small front after another blew through the area. Anglers reported marking a fair number of lake trout, but the majority were not very willing to give chase. Dead bait lying on the

bottom produced almost as many lakers as bucktails and tubes.

Anglers continue to poke around for panfish, but reports continue to come back as poor. We really need a week or two of normal temps to get this bite going.

The eelpout spawn will be in full swing this next week and eelpout reports are showing we are close to

the peak. Anglers have been finding good numbers of pout at night on area lakes. Sunken islands in 15-30 feet of water have been producing eelpout on some area lakes. River mouths have also been very productive areas on other area lakes.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely.



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Vote Tim "Woody" O'Leary
for Bois Forte District II Representative
• Election April 5 •

Ahneen, Boozhoo, and Hello, as this nationwide movement keeps our eyes open to the ongoing tragedy of missing Native American women, I would like to remind everyone in our community that this is real. This is not just to remind Native Americans that this is real, but to everyone that this newspaper reaches and beyond, and that everyone can make a difference no matter where you live. My heart goes out to all of the families living this nightmare. On a lighter note, not only am I an advocate to keep our Band members employed, as well as non Band members, I plan on making changes to keep them. Without our employees we are nothing. Instead of coming up with ideas to fire people, we will be making changes to keep them, and keep them happy. Unlike another candidates in this election, I am not running to fire, terminate, or reverse the previous administration's choice on the current director of our casino, nor fire our new surveillance director. I am also not running to hire my family members, I don't have an axe to grind, I don't have any vendetta. I am planning on attracting employees and keeping them. Bois Forte has many great job opportunities that have potential for advancement. We are a very great company to work for. I plan on doing better for our people. Thank you for taking the time to read today. Tim O'Leary

Tim O'Leary
Paid by the candidate on his own behalf.

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Closes: 3/29/22

Position Purpose: The Head Start Teacher will provide educational services to pre-school-aged children in an assigned classroom setting. Provide educational and support services to families of enrolled children, while assuring that confidentiality is maintained in a professional manner. Incumbent will implement the Head Start Early Childhood Education Plan and provide the full range of early childhood services through the curriculum, meet the Performance Standards, including mental and physical health and safety, culture, and nutrition activities.

Website Address: <https://boisforte.com/jobs/>

Published in the Timberjay, March 11, 18, 25, 2022

GILBERT PUBLIC LIBRARY PART-TIME LIBRARY CLERK

20 hours/week

Please pick up the job description and application at the library. 218-748-2230.

HOUSING NEEDED

LOCALS- PLEASE HELP!

Staff at the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary are looking for housing starting from May 1 – Dec. 31, but could be needed longer. Looking for housing within a 30-45 minute drive of the sanctuary.

Please contact Bill at 828-508-1751

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<https://voyageur.campintouch.com/ui/forms/application/staff/App>

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LAND FOR SALE IN THE CITY OF TOWER

The Tower Economic Development Authority has authorized the sale of the following residential lot and existing two-car garage in the city of Tower, located at 510 S Second Street and legally described as follows: Lot 5, Block 22, Plat of Tower.

TEDA will be accepting sealed bids for the identified property through 4 p.m. on April 14, 2022, with a minimum-accepted price of \$20,000. The former residence was demolished and removed from the site, which is now ready for new construction. The garage remains on the site and is in reasonably good repair.

TEDA has authorized the sale of the property with the requirement that the lot be redeveloped for residential purposes. The sale of the property will be contingent upon the buyer agreeing to begin construction of a zoning-compliant residence within one year, with substantial completion within two years of purchase.

Interested parties should submit a sealed bid clearly marked: "Sealed Bid: 510 S Second St."

Addressed to: Tower Economic Development Authority, PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790

The bids will be opened at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2022 at Tower City Hall and read aloud. TEDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids or waive informalities.

Published in the Timberjay, March 18, March 25, and April 1, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICES

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 707

Ed Villebrun nominated Beverly Steel as Vice-Chairperson. Beverly Steel declared Vice Chairperson.

REGULAR MEETING

January 10, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Janice Connor, Treasurer
Malita Spears, Clerk
Ed Villebrun, Director
Davelle Jones, Director

ALSO PRESENT:

Peter Hardy, Supt./Prin.
Corinne Whiteman, School Secretary
Christine Hampson, Bus Mgr
Chris Gruber-VIA ZOOM

ABSENT:

Beverly Steel, Chairman
Laura Ferwalt, Vice Chairman

Janice Connor called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 707 to order at 8:14 a.m.

22-056 Motion was made by Spears and seconded by Villebrun to approve the reorganizational agenda.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

22-057 Motion was made by Villebrun and seconded by Spears to the December 13, 2021 regular meeting minutes.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

22-058 Motion was made by Villebrun and seconded by Spears to approve the bills in the amount of \$61,487.25 (list attached).
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

22-059 Motion was made by Jones and seconded by Villebrun to approve the December 31, 2021 Financial Report.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

Malita Spears nominated Beverly Steel as Chairperson, Janice Connor relayed a message that if Beverly Steel gets nominated as Chairperson, she wanted to decline nomination. Janice Connor nominated Laura Ferwalt as Chairperson. Nomination closed. Laura Ferwalt declared Chairperson.

Janice Connor nominates Malita Spears as Clerk. Malita Spears accepts nomination. Nomination closed. Malita Spears declared as Clerk.

Davelle Jones nominated Janice Connor as Treasurer. Janice Connor accepts nomination. Nomination closed. Janice Connor declared as Treasurer.

22-060 Motion was made by Villebrun and seconded by Jones to approve the revised Signature Plate.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

22-061 Motion was made by Villebrun and seconded by Spears to keep the Board Salaries the same as last year. Which are the following: \$250.00 per member per regular meeting \$40.00 per negotiations meeting \$130.00 per year additional for Chairman \$100.00 per year additional for Vice Chair, Clerk and Treasurer \$40.00 per year one issue, meeting lasting less than one half hour \$65.00 per one issue meeting lasting over one half hour
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

22-062 Motion was made by Spears and seconded by Jones to approve Park State Bank and MSBA Liquid Asset Fund the District Depository.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

22-063 Motion was made by Villebrun and seconded by Jones to approve the Cook News Herald and Timberjay as the Official District Newspaper.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

22-064 The agenda item for setting the Dates, Time and Location of the Board Meeting's will be put on next month's agenda. There was no motion made for this item.

22-065 Motion was made by Villebrun and seconded by Spears to adopt Robert Rules

of Order 11th Edition for the Nett Lake School.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

22-066 Motion was made by Villebrun and seconded by Spears to approve the School Board and Staff expense allowance \$65.00/day with receipts for one full day.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

21-067 Motion was made Spears seconded by Jones to use the Federal Mileage rate for 2022 which is at \$0.58.5
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

The following people were approved to be Representatives on the following committees: Community Education – Beverly Steel Early Childhood Family Education Advisory Board – Laura Ferwalt, and Malita Spears Local Indian Education Committee (LIEC) and Indian Education Committee – Beverly Steel for both Committees.

The following were approve Committee members: Certified Negotiations/ Grievance – Janice Connor, Laura Ferwalt, Ed Villebrun Policy Committee – Laura Ferwalt, Beverly Steel, Davelle Jones Meet and Confer – All School Board Members Building and Grounds – Beverly Steel and Ed Villebrun Legislative – Beverly Steel Personnel Committee – Janice Connor, Laura Ferwalt, Davelle Jones

22-068 Motion was made by Villebrun and seconded by Spears to keep the board representatives and committee members the same as FY 2021-2022.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

22-069 Motion was made by Spears and seconded by Villebrun to approve the Superintendent as the Individual with Official Authority (IWOA)
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

The Board Meeting went into the regular meeting at 8:42 a.m.

Chris Gruber with Miller McDonald Inc. presented the FY 2021 audit. Discussion occurred.

Superintendent /Principal report was given: A new heater was installed in the storage room, to help keep the Sprinkler System heated. Over winter break the gym floor was flooded and damaged. I will be meeting today with the adjuster, to see how much it will cost to be repaired. We do have insurance.

No Consent Agenda

22-070 Motion was made by Villebrun and seconded by Spears to approve the 2021 Audit Report prepared by Miller McDonald Inc.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

22-071 Motion was made by Spears and seconded by Villebrun to approve the rate of pay for substitute teachers at \$21.43 per hour effective January 10, 2022.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

22-072 Motion was made by Villebrun and seconded by Jones to approve the rate of pay for substitute Paraprofessionals at \$18.57 per an hour effective January 10, 2022.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

22-073 Motion was made by Villebrun and seconded by Jones to accept the letter of Resignation from Peter Hardy effective June 30, 2022.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

22-074 Motion was made by Villebrun and seconded by Spears to approve the posting of the superintendent/principal for the FY 2022-2023.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

22-075 Motion was made by Villebrun and seconded by Jones to adjourn the meeting 9:29 a.m.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0-0

Published in the Timberjay, March 18, 2022



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Environmental Services

Casual Laundry Aide
Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

Dietary

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FT Head Cook

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- Soak up the sun
- Joke
- Sports figure?
- Penne – vodka
- Playwright Levin
- "Oops!"
- Picnic spoiler
- Vacuum's lack
- Novelist Jaffe
- Chinese food assortment
- Some mixologists
- Docs' org.
- "Uh-huh"
- Tousle
- "Locksley Hall" poet
- Year in Mexico
- Sock part
- Stop – dime
- Short recital piece
- Uppy one
- Spike's warning
- Three, in Rome
- JFK's vessel
- Brother's son
- Leveling wedge
- Jurist Fortas
- "I did it!"
- Antitoxins

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13			14			
15					16			17			
18				19		20	21				
			22				23				
24	25	26			27	28	29		30	31	
32					33				34		
35			36	37				38			
		39				40	41				
42	43				44	45			46	47	48
49					50	51			52		
53					54				55		
56					57				58		

- the sea-son ..."
- Ireland
- Tiny amounts
- Six-pack muscles
- Head, to Henri
- Attire
- "Oklahoma!" carriage
- Oscar-winning actress Emma
- Top-of-the-line
- Compared to
- Hesitant sound
- Poet of yore
- Jai –
- Slender
- Sunflower State
- "Billions" actor Paul
- "Exodus" hero
- Yoko of music
- Collar
- Scents
- La-la lead-in
- Music for seven
- Concerning
- "Hey!"
- Ellington's "Take – Train"
- "Toodle-oo!"
- Aesopian also-ran
- Tend texts
- Fade away
- Clothing protector

DOWN

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

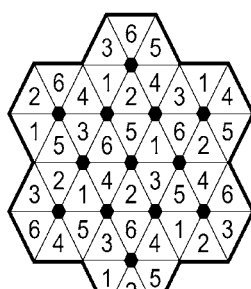
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Find It Here **753-2950**

King Crossword Answers

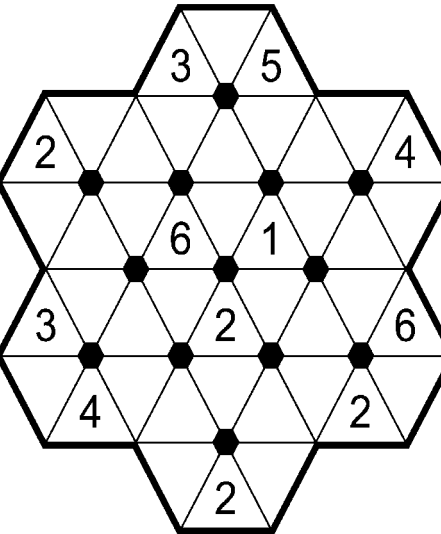
Solution time: 25 mins.

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

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



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

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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Super Crossword

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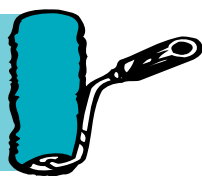
ACROSS
1 Passengers
7 It's used for simmering
14 Good for farming
20 Texas wildcat
21 Huffington of HuffPost
22 Hooded snakes
23 Noted WikiLeaks whistleblower [#42]
25 Potato, yam and rutabaga
26 Impressionist painter Mary
27 Toaster waffle brand
28 Ancestry
29 Not needing an Rx
30 Unkempt sort
33 Swimmer who won six Olympic gold medals [#39]
35 It has triceps
38 Radical type
40 Work units
41 Author of the Edgar-winning novel "New Orleans Mourning" [#37]
45 "TRL Top 10" channel
46 Wig makeup
50 Not similar
51 2014 Olympics host city
54 Pooh and Roo's creator
57 Erudite class
59 Actress called "The Queen of Technicolor" [#40]
61 The "Y" of YSL
62 UFO pilots, presumably
64 Surveyor's map
65 Caught in a lasso
66 Whom each of this puzzle's featured women have as a namesake
70 Like hot stuff
74 State of mind
75 Always, to Keats
76 Dismounted
80 "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" actress [#35]
83 Black or red candy
86 Grow to accept
87 High-stick billiards shot
89 Make sizzling sounds
90 Stag, e.g.
91 Nondairy milk source
93 2006 U.S. figure skating champion [#44]
95 — Pet (1980s fad)
97 Petrol unit
99 Astros, on sports tickers
100 She played Dharma on "Dharma & Greg" [#43]
105 Deep drink
108 Have life
111 How Earth rotates
112 Born under — sign
114 Nondairy milk source
117 Person "from around here"
118 "The Last O.G." actress [#45]
121 Close to a dozen
122 Many an allergy sufferer
123 Make happy
124 Tension
125 Runtly ones
126 Michael who once headed Disney
42 Part of UCLA: Abbr.
43 Reggae grew from it
44 Taxi ticker
45 Saharan illusion
46 Longtime Ritz rival
47 "How sad!"
48 As to
49 Enjoy a book
52 Ice — (longtime skating show)
53 Netflix alternative
55 Crooner Murray
56 Heathland
58 "You know who I am"
60 Merman of old musicals
63 Full of tumult
66 Fedora fabric
67 Still having a shot to win
68 Qatar's capital
69 Van Devere of "The Changeling" for short
70 Hoodwink
71 "There, I did it!"
72 Said aloud
73 Bound along
76 — "Star Wars" droid
77 Neighbor of a Pole
78 Frozen drink brand
79 Beach bird
81 In a prying way
82 Admin. aide
84 W-2 pro
85 "Yeow!"
88 Hearing pair
92 Clumsy ox
94 Suture
95 Baby whales
96 Mount St. —
97 Add-on cost for a science course
98 Shortly, informally
100 Fonda and Austen
101 Really praise
102 Gunpowder component
103 Dewy-eyed
104 The Pine Tree State
106 "— bin ein Berliner"
107 Totally lose it
109 Charlotte — (rich dessert)
110 Anesthetic of old
113 Flabbergast
115 451, to Nero
116 Keats poems
118 Dosage amt.
119 By birth
120 100 in a cen.

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

Super Crossword

Answers

R	I	D	E	R	S		L	O	W	H	E	A	T		A	R	A	B	L	E		
O	C	E	L	O	T		A	R	I	A	N	N	A		C	O	B	R	A	S		
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