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Wolves fall in first state tourney game Undefeated New York Mills walks off against Ely, 4-3

by Nick Wognum

A heartbreaker. The Ely high school baseball team lost in the quarter-finals of the state baseball tournament 4-3 to New York Mills.

Ely faced Royalton in the consolation bracket on Friday at 12:30 p.m.

The Timberwolves returned to the state tournament after a one-year absence to make their fourth appearance. "That's the game of base-

ball it can turn on a dime," said head coach Frank Ivancich. "All of the sudden they got momentum in the sixth on a big double, a couple bleeders and then we made mistake or two and it's a tie ballgame. They battled back and showed why they're 24-0.

"I thought we proved we belonged there. We definitely had them on the ropes," said Ivancich.

Ely took a 1-0 lead in the

third on three straight infield singles followed by a wild pitch.

In the fifth the Wolves tacked on two more runs. Spencer Gaulke led off with a triple, Max Gantt hit a double to score Gaulke. Singles by Pat Huisman and Louie Gerzin plated Gantt.

The game was tied in the bottom of the sixth inning as New York Mills put three runs on the board.

An error, a stolen base and

a single in the seventh inning allowed New York Mills to beat the Wolves 4-3 in walk-off fashion.

Ely outhit New York Mills 9-4 but committed two costly errors.

New York Mills battled back in the bottom of the sixth to tie the game at 3-3.

Gerzin pitched the entire game, striking out eight and allowing four hits.



YOUNG ONE - A days-old moose calf fitted with a collar that expands as the animal grows. A GPS transmitter is attached to the collar, allowing Minnesota Department of Natural Resources wildlife researchers to monitor each calf's location via satellite. The collars are designed to automatically drop off this coming winter before they become too small for the young moose. Photo by MNDNR.

Free clinic closing, temporarily

New home needed for Project Care, which provides service to uninsured

by Tom Coombe

Ely's free clinic is closing, at least temporarily.

Tuesday will be the final day of operation for Project Care Ely at its present location at 232 West Sheridan Street, but clinic officials are hoping they can find a new home soon.

"We have several leads at this point," said Robyn Bertelsen, site coordinator for the Ely operation. "God willing we may be into a new location quicker than we think, but I'm not counting any chickens."

The scramble is on for a new clinic location after Project Care's landlords, Ryan and Wendy Lindsay, notified clinic officials that they have other plans and need to use the building that has been used by the clinic for about two years.

That prompted a notice this week that the June 17 free clinic session would be the last at that site.

"As I emphasized, we're hoping it's temporary," said Bertelsen.

But until a new location is found, Ely will be without a

free clinic and patient records will be transferred to the Virginia Project Care offices, where free clinic services are provided each Wednesday.

"Patient records will be kept separate from the Virginia records, but that's where they will be temporarily housed," said Bertelsen.

Free clinic services have been offered in Ely twice per month, generally on the first and third Tuesdays.

On a typical Tuesday night, about four patients utilize the Ely clinic, which other than minimal part-time

administrative help is staffed entirely by volunteers.

"Right now we're seeing a bit of an uptick," said Bertelsen. "We had a night where we had six patients. One night in the dead of winter we had one patient, yet for that one patient she was so glad we were here."

Project Care provides health care and outreach services for the uninsured, and all funding is raised privately, Bertelsen said.



NEW veterinarians at the Ely Veterinary Clinic are Kristen Peterson (left) and Allison Pace. Peterson is from Wisconsin but spent five summers working in Alaska. "I'm excited to get involved in the community," said Peterson. "I love it here, all of the staff members have been incredibly helpful. It's just super fun to help people with their animals and problem solve." Pace's husband is a firefighter for the Forest Service in Ely. "I've always heard nothing but positive, fantastic reviews from people who come to this clinic," said Pace. "And I'm an avid Vikings fan, I'm not a transplant." Pace is a graduate of the University of Minnesota. The couple is busy remodeling a home they bought in town. Photo by Nick Wognum.

Olympian Schneider at Peter Mitchell Days

by Nick Wognum

Today is the 15th annual Walleye Whamma fishing contest on Birch Lake, the official start of Peter Mitchell Days in Babbitt.

The community-wide event includes a carnival, two bands performing free concerts, a parade, fireworks and plenty of things to do for kids and adults.

"We've got a great line up of events ready to go for this year's Peter Mitchell Days. Plus we have a special guest joining us this year, Babbitt's own Olympic gold medalist Buzz Schneider," said committee member Jim Zupancich.

Even if you're not angling for a big fish, there's still plenty of fun Saturday night following the Walleye Whamma.

"We invite everyone to come to the Babbitt Arena Saturday night for a great time. First we have a free roller derby exhibition bout at 5 p.m. While you're there be sure to check out the beer garden, food from the Lions Club and your chance to win thousands of dollars in prizes to be given away," said Zupancich.

Drawings will be held Saturday night for two prize

tables chock-full of items from a \$600 Clam fish house to chainsaws, wood carvings, a 42-inch flat screen TV, a handcrafted fire ring and autographed items from the Minnesota Twins and Minnesota Vikings. Prize giveaways will start at 7 p.m.

Tournaments from softball to cribbage to horseshoes to smear will take place during the week with a medallion hunt starting on Thursday.

Then on Friday, June 20 a limited version of the Magel Carnival Midway will be up and running by 5 p.m.

"We have been so fortunate to have the carnival come to town," said Zupancich. "But this year due to health issues with the Magel family they won't be able to get all of their equipment up this year. There will still be rides for the kids and we're going to offer discounted rates.

"And with everything else we have going on, you know what if the weather cooperates I don't see how anybody can't leave town without a smile on their face," said Zupancich.

On June 20 there are two disc golf tourneys and a salad and desserts luncheon.

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Township residents sound off

Seasonal, permanent residents of Morse, Fall Lake, Stony River and Eagles Nest take part in survey commissioned by Minnesota-Morris

by Tom Coombe

Ely's Tuesday Group was briefed this week about a survey of residents and landowners in four area townships.

Kelly Asche of the Center for Small Towns Program at the University of Minnesota-Morris and coordinator of the Four Township Economic Profile Project and Survey, shared plenty of data and a little insight to a packed house at the Grand Ely Lodge.

At issue was a comprehensive eight-page survey conducted last year that went out to 3,609 property owners in Morse, Fall Lake, Eagles Nest and Stony River townships.

About 23 percent - or 832 people - responded.

"To get a 23 percent response rate with no incentive was really good," said Asche.

While Asche cautioned that the survey was not random and can't be considered statistically valid, he added that "the purpose was to get a snapshot."

It provided a bevy of data related to demographics, spending, consumer choices and opinions.

The survey also gives fodder to both sides of the region's most charged issue: the ongoing debate and dispute over proposed new mining ventures in the region.

While most survey respondents said they favored

some development in the region and a slim plurality (45 percent in favor to 41 percent opposed) endorsed more mining, opponents pointed to other segments of the survey to make a different case.

Elton Brown of Morse Township pointed to data indicating that property owners listed reasons including solitude, nature, the environment and peace and quiet for living or owning property in the region.

"A great majority of us are here for the wonders of nature," said Brown. "If that's compromised by heavy industry, many of us will leave."

Asche said the survey also pokes holes in claims that

the community is dying, and said rural areas across the state are gaining population in older demographics to offset migration by those in the 18-29-year-old category.

"Don't keep your 18-year-olds," said Asche. "Get 30-year-olds who have more cash and social capital."

The survey of area township residents showed an aging population, one with "lots of people 55 or older," Asche said.

Just over 50 percent of respondents said they were retired compared to 44 percent who said they were employed.

Only 37 percent of survey

(Continued on Page 9)



PITCHING IN during the City of Ely's clean up days was Paul Haraldson. The event was sponsored by the city and G-Men Environmental Services.



Views from the North Country

First a winter with tons of snow. Now summer starts with tons of rain. We're thinking we should be good with precipitation for a while.