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COUNTY SCHOOLS

District failed to get the word out on board vacancy

Board never sought an appointment, nor worked to recruit locally, in the wake of the death of Troy Swanson

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
 Managing Editor

TOWER— The late June death of Troy Swanson left both a vacancy and a controversy over his replacement on the St. Louis County School Board. Swanson, who had served as the representative from the Tower-Soudan attendance area for more than a decade, had been a strong advocate for the community and for

ensuring the continued success of the elementary school here.

Yet it appears that finding an equally effective advocate for the community and its school was not a high priority for the school district's administration. The school board never discussed appointing a replacement for the final six months of Swanson's term, which would have been well within the normal practice for most public bodies in the

See related opinion

► ISD 2142 operates more like a private club than a unit of government Page 4

state. Indeed, when the late school board member Lynnette Zupetz, who represented Cherry, died in September 2020, the school board had her replacement seated on the board two months later.

And the district never posted a filing notice in any local newspaper which might have alerted residents in the Tower-Soudan area when filings for the position were open and how and where to file for office. Superintendent Reggie Engebretson, when questioned, stated that the district did publish a filing notice on its website and in the *Cook News-Herald*, but the district's official newspaper has virtually no cir-

ulation in Tower-Soudan, nor does it have a functioning website where residents in the community might have found such a notice.

Greg Dostert, a longtime community activist and member of the Breitung Town Board was one of those who'd been looking for such information. Dostert said he had been thinking of running for the school board even before

See...VACANCY pg. 9

GREENWOOD

Maus tapped as interim fire chief

Longtime critic of the department's practices given chance to lead

by JODI SUMMIT
 Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- At a special meeting that lasted just over 10 minutes, the Greenwood Town Board appointed fire department member Jeff Maus as interim chief. The vote was 3-0, and Supervisors Mike Ralston and Paul Skubic did not attend the Sept. 23 special meeting.

At their Sept. 13 meeting, the board removed Dave Fazio as chief and Mike Indihar as assistant chief on a split 3-2 vote, with Ralston and Skubic voting against. Fire department training officer Rick Worringer also asked to be removed from his position, and the motion



Jeff Maus

See...CHIEF pg. 9

ELY SCHOOLS

County board awards \$1.5 million for project overruns

by RACHEL BROPHY
 Staff Writer

ELY— Just days ago, the school board here had few good answers for covering \$550,000 in cost overruns on the district's facilities project.

Yet salvation arrived on Tuesday morning as the St. Louis County Board voted to allot \$1.5 million in leftover COVID funds to the project.

Superintendent John Klarich explained that after the COVID-19 pandemic caused unprecedented spikes in the cost of sup-

See...FUNDING pg. 9



ELY MARATHON

No hitches on race day

Threatened rain never arrived, new record set in half marathon

by DAVID COLBURN
 Cook-Orr Editor

ELY- While turnout for the Ely Marathon and the Boundary Waters Bank Half Marathon was a bit lighter than normal, 548 runners plunked down the registration fees to compete in friendly weather conditions.

"We lucked out on the weather and we had some great fast times," race organizer Wendy Lindsay said. "Everything went smoothly."

But good running conditions didn't keep the races from having a higher than usual attrition rate.

"We had fewer people who finished the race than we were planning, far less than who had registered," Lindsay said. "So, it was a little tougher than what some folks thought it would be."

A case in point was the fan-favorite individual

Above: A large pack of half marathon runners made their way along Pioneer Road on Saturday.

Right: Robert Henderson, of Minneapolis, was the top finisher in the full marathon.

Lower right: A member of the Team Paul Rudd canoe portage relay squad reacts as she comes across the finish line.

photos by M. Helmsberger

portage canoe marathon, where three runners toting canoes started but only one finished.

The marathon had a new sponsor this year, Sherpa, a running app company. Founder Dane Rauschenberg, an extreme athlete noted for running 52 marathons in 52 weekends,

See...RACE pg. 10



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Community notices

First Saturday pancake breakfasts return to Embarrass on Oct. 1

EMBARRASS- Join us for all-you-can-eat pancakes, choice of ham or sausage links, fruit cup, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee on the first Saturday of the month at Timber Hall. The meal is a fundraiser for the Embarrass Fair Board. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 6-10, with 5 and under free. Breakfasts are always 8 - 11 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month. Upcoming dates are Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3.

Ely Weavers and Fiber Artists to meet Oct. 3 at the Grand Ely Lodge

ELY - The Ely Weavers and Fiber Artists will meet at the Grand Ely Lodge on Monday, Oct. 3, at 11:30 a.m. Our members weave, knit, spin, do basketry and quilt. We welcome guests who share common interests. Please bring a sample of your work for show and tell. If you have questions, call Peg Dawson 317-370-5679.

Local nonprofits invited to apply for UWNEMN funding by October 14

REGIONAL-Nonprofit agencies and programs serving United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's (UWNEMN) service territory are invited to submit Letters of Intent to apply for UWNEMN funding on the organization's website www.unitedwaynemn.org by Friday, Oct. 14.

Agencies are asked to detail how they work in one of UWNEMN's focus areas: Helping Children Succeed, Empowering Healthy Lives, and Stabilizing Families & Individuals and are invited to apply for UWNEMN funding even if they have not applied or received funding in the past. To qualify, agencies must serve individuals who live or work on the Iron Range, in Koochiching County, and/or in Lake of the Woods County. Letters of intent are the first step in UWNEMN's annual fund distribution process, which serves as an important reminder each year that donations to UWNEMN support a host of local agencies in addition to UWNEMN programs like Buddy Backpacks, United for Veterans, Comforts of Home, UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay said.

Full applications are due Jan. 13, 2023, and funding will be distributed in 2023. This annual fund distribution is supported primarily through workplace giving campaigns. Shay pointed out that seventy percent of funds UWNEMN raises each year comes from individuals and workplace campaigns. Businesses interested in hosting a workplace campaign to support UWNEMN's fund distribution and programming can contact elizabeth@unitedwaynemn.org or 218-215-2422.

Sons of Norway to meet on Oct. 6 in Virginia

VIRGINIA- Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge 40 will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 6 in the Virginia City Hall Club Room. Our "Must Go" Silent Auction will be held with proceeds going to the Sons of Norway Foundation. Serving Committee this month is Pat Sleeman and Elaine Edwardson. Anyone interested in Norwegian culture and heritage is invited to attend.

Finnish Americans and Friends meet Oct. 4 in Hibbing

HIBBING- The public is invited to hear the moving story of Dale Wayrynen, a Medal of Honor recipient from northern Minnesota, for his ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam, where he served with the 101st Airborne Division. This presentation by Mike Wayrynen will be on Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 2 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th Ave W, Hibbing. Special music will accompany the program, followed by coffee and refreshments. All are welcome!

AAUW AND EMPOWER

Justice for Indigenous people program on Oct. 4

ELY- The American Association of University Women-Ely Branch, in collaboration with Ely EMPOWER, invites community members to a presentation Tuesday, Oct. 4, from noon to 1 p.m. at The Grand Ely Lodge (400 Pioneer Road) to learn about Justice for Indigenous People. Mak Mars, advocacy coordinator and systems advocate at the Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault in Duluth, will speak on issues related to justice for our Native American friends and neighbors.

Mars will discuss current issues facing the Native American population and ways in which professionals, neighbors, and communities can become allies and help build safer, more responsive systems for all.

He said Indigenous citizens have the highest interaction rate with the "system" than any other group in our region. "Whether it be through criminal justice, as a survivor of domestic or sexual violence, a foster child, a trafficking survivor, or the judicial system, Indigenous people find themselves interacting with a structure filled with historical trauma and biases." For exam-



ple, in Minnesota, estimates are as many as 54 American Indian women were missing statewide in any given month. According to a Minnesota task force report, American Indian women and girls are seven times more likely to be murdered than their white counterparts. It's a problem that's been overlooked for generations.

He will discuss what community members can do in the face of these crises. He will explain where

the vulnerabilities exist in the justice system and how an average person can help close the gap.

Mars has previous experience as an Ojibwe language teacher, tribal child protection investigator/case manager, domestic violence advocate, foster parent, guardian ad litem, and trafficking survivor liaison.

This presentation is part of a multi-year educational project launched in 2021 by a collaboration between the AAUW-Ely Branch and Ely EMPOWER called "Awareness... Then Change." The initiative is designed to increase understanding, honor the heritage of the area, and to set the stage for supporting policy and social action to reduce risks and support the resilience of Indigenous woman and children.

Above: Artwork by Shaun Chosa.

LYRIC CENTER FOR THE ARTS

World Fest musician Okaidja Afroso from Ghana to perform

Multiple events set for Oct. 2 - 8 across the Iron Range

VIRGINIA- The Lyric Center for the Arts in Virginia, a subsidiary of the Laurentian Arts and Culture Alliance, in conjunction with Arts Midwest, will be hosting a week's worth of events that feature Ghanaian artist Okaidja Afroso Oct. 2-8 across the Iron Range.

Activities will feature both public and private workshops and concerts.

Festivities will kick off with an opening reception with Afroso at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 2 at the Lyric Center, 510 Chestnut St. in Virginia. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

On Monday, Oct. 3, Afroso and his band will travel to Hibbing High School to conduct several private workshops with music students. On Tuesday, Oct. 4 students at Chisholm high school will also participate in private workshops. From 4-5:30 p.m. VEMA (Voice for Ethnic and Multicultural Awareness) located at 12 W Lake St., Chisholm, will host a free community workshop with the artists that is open to the public.

The public is welcome to join Afroso's group again at the Lyric center on Thursday, Oct. 6 from 4-5 p.m. for a free workshop as part of Downtown



Arts Virginia sponsored by REVIVE Virginia.

The week will culminate with a full concert at the Minnesota North College Mesabi Range Virginia Campus Theater at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8. The concert is a "pay what you can" performance and all proceeds will go directly to Lyric Center Youth Arts programming.

"This tour gives us the rare opportunity to connect with Midwestern communities," said Afroso. "We are delighted to meet with them to promote global cultural awareness through Ghanaian music, dance, stories, live performances, and educational outreach."

"We're so excited to finally get to make Okaidja's World Fest tour happen," said Torrie Allen,

President & CEO of Arts Midwest. "His musicianship will provide such a unique opportunity for our Midwestern community to experience the art of the African Diaspora through his concerts and workshops across our region."

Afroso follows his family's tradition of storytelling by creating genre-defying music that calls back to his upbringing in a village on the western coast of Ghana. His music speaks to a spectrum of experiences deeply connected to the traditions of the African diaspora. He is devoted to bringing together diverse modes of expression in pursuit of global harmony through his signature performances that blend percussion and dance.

"We are tremendous-

ly excited to partner with Arts Midwest to bring Mr. Afroso to the Range," said Lyric Executive Director Paul M. Gregersen. "The various workshops and concerts presented as part of World Fest will provide folks of all ages with important arts and culture opportunities they wouldn't otherwise get to experience. The exact mission of the Lyric."

A program of Arts Midwest, the 2022 World Fest artist tours are generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies. World Fest is also made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Arts Midwest is also generously supported by the Illinois Arts Council Agency, Indiana Arts Commission, Iowa Arts Council, Michigan Arts and Culture Council, Minnesota State Arts Board, North Dakota Council on the Arts, Ohio Arts Council, South Dakota Arts Council, Wisconsin Arts Board, 3M, Crane Group, and individual donors and partners.

For a full list of World Fest events across the Range, visit lyriccenteronline.org or Lyric Center social media accounts.

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BREITUNG NEWS

Ambulance negotiations crawl along much slower than traffic into Soudan

by Rachel Brophy
Staff Writer

SODAN – The Breitung Town Board heard about ambulance, police, and traffic issues at its Sept. 22 meeting.

Supervisor Chuck Tekautz reported that Greenwood Township is paying \$55,000 for an ambulance feasibility study, looking for information that might support their desire for higher level ALS ambulance service.

“The part that bothers me the most is we have a pretty good basic life support system here,” he said. “You still need your ambulances, etc. and we’re in tough shape for the second ambulance, and Greenwood seems to be not wanting to pay their portion of the ambulance funding. They may be paying it, but I haven’t seen any money.”

Tekautz said that all of the other parties in the ambulance collaborative have agreed to order a second ambulance, but Greenwood has balked, using

the excuse that the contract between Tower and surrounding area isn’t legally sound.

“The ambulance purchase has nothing to do with workers comp or insurance or anything,” Tekautz said. “Greenwood is the hold up for the new ambulance.”

Tekautz also took issue with the study, which he said is to be completed by the end of the year.

“The way it stands right now is the study is going to ALS for an improvement in a system that they don’t want to support now,” he said.

Clerk Dianna Sundahl asked if the purchase could go ahead



Breitung Township Supervisors Chuck Tekautz and Chairman Tim Tomsich with Breitung’s new dump truck.

without Greenwood.

“Where are we going to get the money?” Tekautz asked. “We could, we would like to, but we don’t have the money. Embarrass

has never paid into the ambulance fund yet we take care of nearly 50 percent of Embarrass. It’s a volunteer situation. The state tells you what you can do, but they

don’t tell you how to fund it. We’ll see how it comes out.”

Police report

Police Chief Dan Reing reported that August was a busy month.

“We had a break-in at one of the storage facilities. We ended up finding the suspect and arresting them and they’re on their way to court right now,” Reing said. “Also, one of our officers was assaulted at a residential facility this last month. He didn’t sustain any injuries, but it’s still serious when that happens. The suspect was apprehended.”

Reing also reported that body cameras have come in and have a scheduled deployment date of

See **SODAN... pg. 5**

WHAT YOU DON’T KNOW...

Covid another risk factor for stroke

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Ron Alarcon, of rural Tower, is lucky to be alive — and he knows it.

Alarcon was driving to work to the Cook DNR office late last month and had just turned up Cty. Rd. 77 near the Y Store when he realized something was awry.

“My eye felt weird. I tried to rub it but I couldn’t,” he recalls.

He recalls pulling his car over, but as he did so he ended up on the wrong side of the road.

What Alarcon didn’t know at the time was he was suffering a stroke as a result of a massive blood clot that had formed in his carotid artery and it was choking off the blood to a significant portion of his brain. It was life-threatening without a doubt and a prompt response was critical to his survival.

Fortunately for Alarcon, an experienced EMT and chief of the Evergreen Fire Department was driving by at the time. He saw Alarcon’s car pulled off on the wrong side of the road and decided to stop to check on the driver. When he walked up to

Alarcon’s door and peered inside, he noticed his confusion and his facial droop, frequent signs of an ongoing stroke.

He told Alarcon what he suspected and he immediately contacted 911 and got a helicopter in the air. Just two hours later, Alarcon was in the neuro intensive care unit at St. Mary’s in Duluth, undergoing a clot-busting procedure that not only saved his life but largely eliminated many of the worst side effects of his stroke.

It could have been much worse. “The surgeons said it was the biggest clot they’d ever seen,” recalls Alarcon. “But everybody did what was needed right away. The doctors told me I was very lucky.”

Alarcon, who is active and seemingly healthy, didn’t appear like a candidate for a stroke. But he had a risk factor that doctors have only recently begun to connect to stroke and other medical conditions caused by blood clots. He had tested positive for COVID-19 just three weeks earlier.

The complexity of the COVID-19 virus and the many

different ways in which humans respond to it has proven to be remarkable. For some, the symptoms of infection are mild, to others life-threatening. The medical profession is now well aware that some COVID patients develop abnormal blood clotting. “In some people with COVID-19, we’re seeing a massive inflammatory response, the cytokine storm that raises clotting factors in the blood,” says Dr. Panagis Galiatsatos, a doctor in critical care medicine at John Hopkins University.

While doctors didn’t make a connection between Alarcon’s stroke and his just-prior brush with COVID, he said they did make note of the unusually thick, almost gel-like consistency of the blood that clotted in the main artery to his brain.

In other recent local stroke victims, doctors did make the connection to COVID-19. When Pat HelMBERGER, of Tower, suffered a stroke in June, she had been positive for COVID for more than ten days. According to HelMBERGER, the neurologist who treated both her and Alarcon, Dr. Vikram Jadhav, with Essentia in

Duluth, told her that her stroke, the result of a blood clot, was almost certainly connected to her COVID infection.

Inflammatory response at play

The link between COVID, or SARS-CoV-2 as it’s known to physicians, and blood clotting, including strokes, is not a surprise, according to Dr. Nicholas Lehnertz, a medical specialist in Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control at the Minnesota Department of Health.

“When you’re infected with pretty much anything, including SARS-CoV-2, you have this process in your body where it notes a foreign sort of entity in your body, and it sort of starts this inflammatory process. That’s what causes our pains and our fevers and all that kind of stuff. Part of the inflammatory process results in this hypercoagulable state, this increased ability of the body to form clots. It’s just part of the mechanism.” But Lehnertz said that there’s a second factor at work as well.

“With SARS-CoV-2, it actually can attach to certain cells in the body. It can attach to our cells in our lungs, but it can also attach to the inside of our blood vessels. That can start a sort of hypercoagulable state right there, and so you get inflammatory markers coming in and then you get platelets coming in and they all sort of bind together, so they can form a clot.”

While it’s generally agreed that COVID-19 patients have an increased risk of having a stroke, pinning down the amount of increased risk has been more of a challenge, Lehnertz said.

“Based on what I’ve read, the incidence of ischemic stroke, the most common kind where it blocks the blood flow to your body, particularly the brain, it generally ranged from about 2.4 to 2.7 percent,” he said. Interpreting the research to determine increased risk requires knowing what baseline level researchers are comparing their findings to, Lehnertz explained. In one study that looked at thousands of hospitalized patients,

See **COVID... pg. 5**

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Editorial

St. Louis County Schools

ISD 2142 operates more like a private club than a unit of government

Once again, the St. Louis County School District has shown it has little interest in actually engaging the residents it's supposed to be serving. For years, the district has operated more like a private club — insular and dismissive of anyone outside the "in" group — than a governmental body that's supposed to be fair, impartial, and transparent.

The school district's handling of the Tower-Soudan board seat vacancy was typical. As we report this week, after the death of Troy Swanson with fully six months remaining on his term, the school district took no action to appoint a replacement. And why would they? Tower-Soudan hasn't been part of the in-group since the area voted 9-1 against the school district's 2009 referendum. When Cherry school board member Lynnette Zupetz died two years ago, the school board appointed her replacement just two months later.

What's more troubling is that the district failed to take the basic steps that most governmental bodies undertake as a matter of course when opting to fill a position. After the death of a member of a board or council, standard procedure is to advertise the vacancy as widely as possible to inform members of the public of the opportunity to engage in public service.

Yet, the school district never sought to appoint a replacement, so they never reached out to the public. And while Swanson's seat was up for election in November, the only candidate filing notice published appeared prior to his passing and only appeared in the district's Cook-based official newspaper, which doesn't circulate at all in the Tower-Soudan area and has no functioning website that might make it possible for someone from outside the area to find it.

To be fair, the district did provide the notice on their website, but school district websites don't provide anything close to the visibility of a newspaper, particularly for residents who don't have kids in school or some other connection, like employment, with the school district.

And even if someone from Tower-Soudan actually saw the notice, it's unlikely they would have recognized that their local seat was even up for election unless someone from the school district had tipped them off. The district's filing notice only lists the various seats up for election

by number, (not by the community name) so unless you know the number of your local school attendance area (don't feel bad, we don't know them, either) good luck understanding anything from the district's notices. We couldn't find a map showing the numbers of the attendance areas on the district's website, nor could we locate one through Google. Apparently, unless you know the district's secret handshake, your application for a seat on the board isn't exactly welcome.

When asked about outreach, the district superintendent said school staff had been encouraged to talk to parents or other community members who expressed an interest in the school about running for the school board. Yet, neither school staff, school board members, nor school administrators should be serving as screeners for potential candidates to the board. You shouldn't have to know someone at the school or at the district office to file for school board. The proper approach is to advertise the opportunity in a way that anyone in the community can easily find and understand, and let people run as they see fit.

The insular nature of the district has long been apparent in the fact that so many members of the school board over the years have either been former employees of the district or had spouses employed by the district. It seems the district likes to keep things all in the family.

The same holds true, at times, in their selection of vendors. For nearly half a century, the school district has used the same official newspaper, without even soliciting quotes from other qualified newspapers, even ones that would be far more effective in getting information out to district residents. A couple years ago, a few brave board members, including Swanson, supported naming the *Timberjay* the district's official newspaper, citing its much larger and broader circulation within the school district and its professional website that allows any member of the public full access to all current and archived public notices.

Yet, because this was ISD 2142, which views its taxpayer dollars like club funds which it can lavish on its buddies without concern about fairness, accountability, or value, the motion was voted down.

That's what happens when you're not with the "in" crowd.



Letters from Readers

I'm proud to add my name to the list of Rob's supporters

I am writing you in support of my friend and colleague Rob Ecklund. Rob has served as State Representative for District 3A since 2016 and has been a hardworking and effective representative for Northeastern Minnesota.

Rob Ecklund is rooted here in Northern Minnesota. He served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps, has spent 57-years living in International Falls, with 26 of those years spent working at the Boise paper mill.

Rob served his community for 5-years on the Koochiching County Board before representing District 3A in St. Paul. He's been my partner in passing legislation and securing funding for projects in Northern Minnesota.

Rob fights for the working men and women of our district. Whether they work in one of our three big industries — timber, taconite, or tourism — or in some other field, he is a champion for working people to earn a living wage, have quality & affordable health care, and to enjoy a secure retirement.

Rob Ecklund has been a leader in the Legislature in bringing high-speed internet to every corner of Minnesota. This past session we worked together to eliminate income taxes on your Social Security benefits. He's also committed to using our enormous state budget surplus to lower local property taxes and support our Iron Range schools.

Finally, crime and public safety are big issues and Rob is endorsed by the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA). He's also been endorsed by our nurses, our construction trade unions, our public employees, and our steelworkers, to name

only a few.

I'm proud to add my name to Rob's list of supporters. Please join me in voting for my friend and colleague, Rob Ecklund, this November.

Tom Bakk
State Senator
District 3

Stauber has forfeited his right to govern

Pete Stauber has turned his back on Minnesotans, embraced his billionaire donors, dishonored his office, broke his oath and chose the pursuit of power over the rule of law. Pete said NO to democracy by joining a radical Republican effort to invalidate millions of votes to overturn the 2020 election. As if that wasn't outrageous enough, Pete went on to vote NO to investigating the insurrectionist attack on the U.S. Capital on Jan. 6 to cover up his party's wrongdoing and to further undo American democracy.

Stauber voted NO to fixing Minnesota's decaying roads, ports bridges and airports. NO to expanding broadband coverage (HR 3884). NO to affordable childcare and high-quality pre-school and NO to struggling low wage workers (HR 5378). NO to \$1400 to Minnesotan's during the worst pandemic in history (HR 1319). NO to paycheck fairness for wives, moms, grandmas, sisters and daughters (HR7). NO to ensuring that all eligible Minnesotans can vote by removing barriers to register and vote (HR4). NO to protecting workers' rights to organize, form a union and collectively bargain (HR 842) and NO to protecting Americans with preexisting health conditions (HR 986).

Stauber voted NO to the Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Prevention Act (HR 7688), NO

to protecting consumers from greedy gas price gouging by huge international oil companies that took advantage of us all during a difficult time.

Stauber voted NO to the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (HR 5376). NO to reducing the cost of prescription drugs and health care insurance. NO to the largest investment in fighting climate change. NO to cutting the deficit and NO to raising taxes on the biggest corporations.

Stauber voted NO to the Chips and Science Act (HR 4348) and NO to the America Competes Act (HR 4521). NO to manufacturing more semiconductors (microchips) in America that would make cars, appliances and computers cheaper. NO to creating more high paying manufacturing jobs. NO to tackling supply chain problems so we can make more goods in the U.S. NO to our leadership in science and technology.

Stauber voted NO to the Protecting Our Democracy Act (HR 5314) and NO to the Freedom to Vote Act (HR 5748). NO to safeguarding our democracy. NO to defending the rule of law. NO to our system of checks and balances. NO to restoring public trust and strengthening our democratic institutions. NO to protecting our votes rather than suppressing them. NO to preventing partisan gerrymandering. NO to stopping voter discrimination and NO to limiting dark money in politics.

Stauber says NO to American Manufacturing and good-paying union jobs. He says NO to America's global leadership in science and technology and NO to democracy time and time again.

It is time for a real leader. Vote Jen Schultz for Congress.

Sue Swendsen
Ranier

Now is a good time to plant some seeds

From noon until 1 p.m. on most Fridays, you'll find folks with hand-painted signs standing on a prominent street corner in Cook. Some contain relevant messages on issues. With an important election coming, some have names of political candidates. We know that good government requires "good citizens" — people who don't just complain about its shortcomings but actually do



KATHLEEN
MCQUILLAN

something to change it. So, we're there to encourage everyone to make sure they are registered and ready to vote on Nov. 8. Rain or shine!

I sometimes wonder what drivers think when they see us. We are heartened by folks who honk and show their "thumbs up" in support. There

are occasional drivers who "punch it" in disagreement, adding their exclamation point with tire-squealing. Most people keep their eyes pointed straight

ahead, either focused strictly on driving, or unwilling to engage. Our hope is to connect with those who want to engage but may not know how. We're there to gently nudge them toward first base. Today, I'm remembering people who nudged me around the bases of "civic engagement" by supplying reasons, tools, and coaching.

It started with my family. They taught me to be proud of my heritage. They did this with stories. Grandpa Mac made sure I knew about the Irish potato famine in the mid 1800s, as well as the near-genocidal rule by the English, that sent his parents and

hundreds of other Irish fleeing to North America. Painfully, they discovered that things weren't much better here. Grandpa explained the meaning of signs that read, "Irish need not apply." Later, I'd learn that similar signs circulated with names of other unwelcomed groups to replace the "Irish". My understanding of "oppression" and my identification with "the oppressed" were the seeds of empathy planted by my grandfather.

Frequently, my mother told the story of her father's arrival at Ellis island. During one of Greece's brutal civil wars, her grandmother raised the steerage

to board her 15-year-old son onto a freighter bound for New York. She knew she might never see him again, but she did this to protect her son from conscription by the Greek Army to fight a war she knew would surely take his life. My mother explained that, despite YaYa's fears of seeing young George leave her, she chose to give him the chance for a better life. Every legal holiday, my mother honored her YaYa's faith in America and her father's pride in his citizenship by placing the American flag in its standard outside our front door. This was an act as important to her as any

See SEEDS .pg. 5

UWNEMN in ‘serious need’ of mentors

REGIONAL – United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN)’s Lunch Buddies mentoring program is set to launch in five schools across the Iron Range this fall.

It’s an exciting expansion for UWNEMN. “We’ve been told repeatedly by school staff that this program is filling such an important need, and we had an absolutely incredible response from students and mentors alike with our pilots – but they were cut short because of the pandemic,” said UWNEMN Executive Director Erin

Shay. “This opportunity to be in more schools than ever for an entire school year is huge.”

The excitement comes with some hesitation, though; with weeks to go until the desired start date, there are not yet enough mentors to place in every community.

UWNEMN Education and Childhood Programs Specialist Sarah Gardeski said the Lunch Buddies program is in “serious need” of mentors for children in Babbitt, Cherry, Chisholm, Keewatin, and Mt. Iron.

“Our communities have shown us time and

time again they are willing to step up to care for our local children,” Gardeski said. “I’m hopeful they will come through again in time for the Lunch Buddies program to start on time. The students are so excited to meet their mentors!”

UWNEMN’s Lunch Buddies pairs grade school students with a local adult, based on shared interests and other factors, to share a lunch period together once a week. Students are referred by school staff and given permission to participate by parents.

Mentoring will take

place the following dates and locations:

- Cherry School – Tuesdays
- Keewatin Elementary – Tuesdays
- Northeast Range (Babbitt) – Thursdays
- Merritt Elementary (Mt. Iron) – Wednesdays
- Vaughan Steffensrud Elementary (Chisholm) – Mondays

Adults interested in becoming mentors are able to select their volunteer location and will be screened through an application, interview, and background check. All



Lunch Buddies mentors will also receive training prior to mentoring.

UWNEMN may add other schools to the program throughout the school year depending on the interest

from schools and volunteers.

“It’s especially important that we unite to meet this need for our children right now,” Shay said. “We know there were many children on the cusp of being ‘at-risk’ prior to the pandemic that are now fully at-risk of serious mental and physical health issues in the future.”

“This is an opportunity for us to rise to the occasion on behalf of the next generation of Iron Rangers.”

To learn more or apply visit: www.unitedwaynemn.org/lunch-buddies.

SOUDAN...Continued from page 3

Nov. 21. “The AEDs are also up and running,” he said, “and will be ready to be placed throughout the community next year.”

Reing mentioned that Saturday, Oct. 8 from 1-5 p.m. there will be a taco fundraiser at the Breitung Community Center to raise money for extra training and equipment.

Highway issues

Seasonal resident Jim Battin addressed the board with concerns about hazardous intersections and truck brake noise on Hwy. 169.

As a citizen and part-time police officer for the township, Battin said he was concerned about increased speeds along the 1.8 mile stretch of highway running through Soudan from Jasper Peak and the hazards that poses for vehicles entering and exiting the highway.

“There are 21 intersections in that 1.8 miles,” Battin said, explaining those included roads, driveways, Monument Park, entry and exit off that road. “I believe that more than 50 percent are hazardous due to hills, curves,

limitations in visibility such as where Main Street comes in, and intersections that don’t come in at 90 degrees.”

Battin suggested a need for better signage warning motorists of the speed reduction to 50 mph in that area. He also mentioned that making the area a no-passing zone would improve safety.

“Some of the most dangerous things I’ve seen as a police officer are cars passing,” he said. “There’s so many hidden driveways. Sooner or later, we’re going to have a bad

accident there.”

Batten also expressed concern about the noise created by engine braking coming down the hill from Jasper Peak.

“The people on that end of Soudan are probably well aware of how noisy those trucks are,” he said. “(Also, on 169) with the increase of speed limit it’s got even worse. Maintenance Supervisor Tom Gorsma mentioned contacting the DOT requesting a sign a year ago, but has not seen anything on that.”

In other business the

board:

► Voted to pay the bills as presented.

► Heard an update on the area blight properties. Reing reported that the three main properties have been served with papers. “Looks like Jasper is a little bit better, but still has a ways to go. No progress on other property. The next step (is) where you can go to court.” Reing will provide an update at the next meeting.

► Heard from the Mesabi Fit Coalition regarding efforts to transition the recently closed Mt.

Iron YMCA to reopening as a nonprofit organization and voted to show support for those efforts.

► Considered information from Sundahl regarding recent safety meetings, active shooter training and an OSHA grant that is available for installation of a more secure entry system at the Breitung Community Center.

► Discussed first aid and CPR training to be held in December.

Next meeting of the Breitung Town Board will be held Thursday, Oct. 13 at noon.

COVID...Continued from page 3

Lehnertz said that strokes occurred in one percent of the patients who didn’t have COVID, and in 1.3 percent of patients who had COVID. Described another way, if the two groups each had 1,000 patients, 10 of the non-infected patients would have had a stroke, compared to 13 in the group with COVID infections.

“That’s a 30-percent increased risk, but it went from 1.0 to 1.3 percent,” he said. “It’s hard to say what exactly the risk of stroke is. It all depends on the baseline number.”

Another challenge is that underlying health factors associated with strokes are similar to those associated with increased risk of severe COVID.

“There’s a strong overlap – hypertension, type-2 diabetes, heart failure, hyperlipidemia, smoking and obesity,”

he said. “These are all risk factors for severe COVID disease which you’re going to end up in the hospital with anyway. Was it COVID that caused your stroke, or was it these other factors along with your infection that caused your stroke? It’s hard to get a clear picture of what is the actual increased risk with COVID.”

Another wrinkle with COVID is that there appears to be a slightly elevated risk of stroke in younger people. A review of the National Stroke Registry found that the average age of COVID patients presenting with a stroke was 68, compared to 71 for those without COVID. But again, it’s difficult to put a number to what that increased risk actually is, Lehnertz said.

Lehnertz noted that there was a particular case series reported early

in the pandemic of a few individuals with COVID who experienced strokes who were less than 50 years old and had low stroke risk factors.

“They had large vessel occlusion. These are big vessels that were just completely clotted out,” Lehnertz said. “It was written up because it is an odd presentation. It is a rare occurrence.” It’s the kind of rare event that sent Alarcon to the hospital.

Little research is yet available to determine if long COVID carries an increased risk of stroke, Lehnertz said, but extended inflammatory response and possible damage to the lining of blood vessels are factors that need to be studied in long COVID patients. In the short term, the risk of stroke is greatest during the acute phase of an infection, with risk declining over time.

“There have been examples of individuals after their COVID during a convalescent period when you’re not acutely infected anymore, maybe in the two weeks to a couple of months afterwards, where there is some evidence that there continues to be an increased risk for stroke during that time,” he said.

There are things people can do right now to decrease both the risks for COVID and an associated stroke.

“If you are a current smoker, stop smoking. If you have hypertension, get it under control. That way it decreases your risk overall,” Lehnertz said. “Secondly, get vaccinated. It’s not even a question. They’re incredibly effective, incredibly safe vaccines, and it will help prevent severe disease, and preventing severe disease prevents that state that’s

going to put you at risk for stroke.”

Lehnertz also emphasized that the slightest sign of a stroke is a reason to call your doctor immediately.

“If you feel a slight slurring of your words, a little bit of weakness in your left arm, somebody notices a facial droop, even if it’s temporary, like a transient ischemic attack, go and get evaluated, because early treatment is imperative when it comes to stroke. Some of the early mortality that we saw with stroke was secondary to the fact that people didn’t want to go to the hospital during COVID, because they were afraid of going.”

Lehnertz said that the elevated risk of stroke isn’t something unique to COVID-19, either.

He said there’s also an increased risk of stroke that has been reported for hospitalization with things like the flu or with respiratory and urinary tract infections. “Sometimes we become hyperfocused on SARS-CoV-2, that’s it’s so unique because it’s a pandemic. But there are other bacterial and viral etiologies that also we have associated with increased risk of stroke. We’ve seen this with other infections as well.”

SEEDS...Continued from page 4

religious ritual could be. (The seed of patriotism.)

Before attending Kindergarten, we got our first TV. That was a big deal. The evening news became another family ritual. The Huntley-Brinkley Report routinely played in the background as Mom prepared dinner. I remember the 1960 Kennedy-Nixon debates, the first of many to follow. Of course, we swore loyalty to Kennedy. In our household, the bucking Donkey was as iconic as the Crucifix. (The seed of party affiliation.)

For the next decade, television aired reports of confrontations between blacks and whites rising up across the nation. The images of racial conflict competed with images of a different conflict taking place in the jungle and rice paddies of Viet Nam. Both battles eventually arrived in my neighborhood and then inside my home.

A rebellion triggered by insufferable poverty and discrimination toward blacks, erupted in 1967 in the streets of Detroit. Emotions ran high throughout the community. That year, my brother enlisted and served on a munitions

movement. Holiday dinners became fraught with passionate debate. Tempers flared so high that I thought the differences might tear our family apart. I stood by in silence, trying to decide who was “right” and who was “wrong”. Once I left home, I began to understand the difference between “Right” and “Left”! I realize now that our dining room table served as a staging area for developing my “critical thinking” skills. (More seeds planted.)

In 1970, the nation celebrated its first Earth Day. Mom suggested we organize a neighborhood clean-up. So, we hung posters on lampposts, inviting kids to bring rakes and garbage bags. Mom made cookies. She offered treats every time we left another bag of debris at her pick-up site. At the end of the day, she praised the difference we had made and told us how proud we should be for what we had accomplished. This was my introduction to the joy of organizing something, inspiring others to take part, and seeing results. I’ve never stopped loving that!

My sister continued her activist influence. She shared mimeographed copies of pamphlets on the issues. These tracts increased my understanding of systemic causes and necessary changes. They always included a call to action. Through her, I began

to learn the “nuts and bolts” for positive social change. She shared how to make it happen and how to stay inspired. (Skill development before YouTube.)

They say, “It takes a village!” So here goes my shout out to our high school Civics teacher who made plain how our complicated democratic system works; to the college professors who imparted a curiosity for history and research that helped me grasp why society looks and acts the way it does; to the scores of people I worked with throughout my career, from diverse racial, ethnic and class backgrounds, who shared their stories, challenged my assumptions, and opened my mind to new ways of seeing the world. Their knowledge and insights strengthened my passion for “community” and expanded my definition of “love”. I thank them all.

Sharing stories has become more important than ever with the myriad challenges we face in today’s world. As I write this reflection on the origins of my lust for civic engagement, I want to discover what today’s youth need to value themselves enough to really care about their future. I’m deeply concerned over reports describing their experiences with depression and anxiety at rates not seen before, and despair that contributes to the rise in incidents of

self-harm. We can’t throw up our hands and believe we are powerless. Because that’s not true!

There are things we can do, and must do, when so much is at stake! And we need to do it with young people at our side. This is their world as much, or more, than ours! We can experiment with ways to shape a future that will meet their needs and match their vision. We haven’t any time to lose!

My life has taught me that anger can be a powerful “action emotion”. It spurs us on with its intense demands for something different. “Taking action” can serve as a healing balm for un-channeled anger and despair. Taking action can also be fun, and a wonderful way to forge friendships. It could even be an elixir for some of our nation’s worst heart problems (Maybe start with our empathy deficiency).

We can begin by revering our youth and respecting the leadership roles they will soon inherit for our futures. We mustn’t shy away from their ideas but listen and be receptive. In them lie the answers. We must share our own ideas and beliefs with love and respect so we can craft a path forward. Remember, we’re in this together, preparing our youth for the day when they’ll be in charge. I say, this is a good day to plant some seeds.



the
TIMBERJAY

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

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Week of Oct. 3

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 Oct. 18.

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.

Send a card to Ms. Alstrom

REGIONAL- Long-loved retired Tower-Soudan physical education teacher Carol Alstrom is in the hospital suffering from Lymphedema and having difficulty talking (unlike the loud lady we all once knew). Former students are organizing a get well soon card campaign. Cards can be mailed to Ms. Carol Alstrom, 28475 668th Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355.

Breitung Police Department holding taco fundraiser on Oct. 8

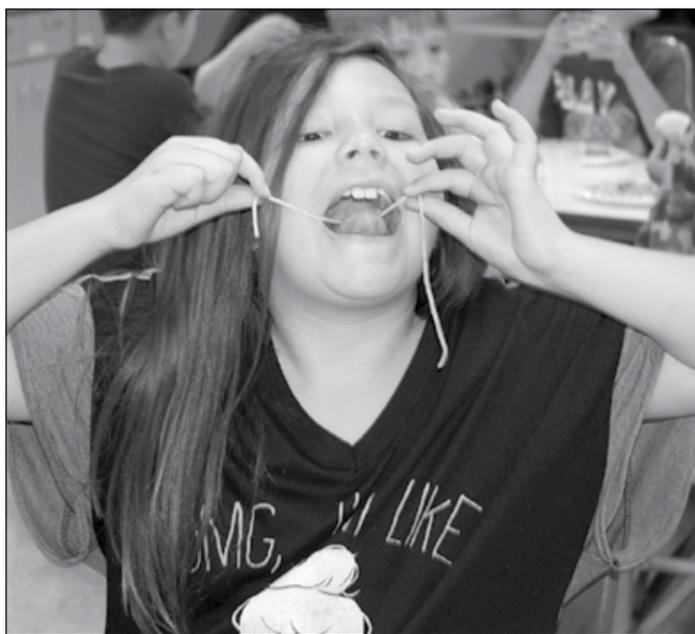
SOUDAN- The Breitung Police Department is holding a taco fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 1-5 p.m. at the Soudan Community Center. Times to be announced soon. Funds raised will be used for training and equipment costs.

Vermilion Dream Quilters to meet on Thursday, Oct. 6

TOWER- The Vermilion Dream Quilt Guild will be meeting in the lower level of St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 6. Please note the earlier start time. Invitations to this meeting were sent to the Heart of the Woods Quilt Guild in Ely and Going to Pieces Quilters in Virginia with an RSVP required. Respond to the invitation to Kathy Lovgren by Friday, Sept. 30. There will be no formal meeting but time for socializing and show and tell with dessert afterward.



Above: A group of the T-S Elementary finishers posed at the finish line with their medals. submitted photo
Below: Kaleelah Chosa practiced her carb-loading during a spaghetti lunch the teachers hosted for the runners the day before the race. photo by J. Summit



Off and running!

About 20 Tower-Soudan Elementary students ran the 1.2 mile Ely Kids Marathon on Saturday. The students had all run at least 25 miles prior to the race. Teachers Jo Holen and Jacque Horvat led students on mile-long runs starting last spring.

Bentley Crego, now a seventh grader at Vermilion Country School, was the top Tower-Soudan area runner, coming in 10th with an 8:41 minute mile pace. Fourth-grader Mark Rettke was the top finisher of the elementary group, coming in at a 9:49 pace. The Tower-Soudan Athletic Association sponsored the T-S area runners again this year, paying their entry fees.

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

Pam Brunfelt history talk, plus concert by the Sectionals on Oct. 25

TOWER- The public is invited to fill St. Mary's Hall at Lake Vermilion Cultural Center on Tuesday, Oct. 25. The evening begins at 5 p.m. with local historian Pam Brunfelt giving her long-awaited talk on the Iron Ranges of Minnesota with an emphasis on the Vermilion Range.

Pam, a recently retired professor at Ely Community College as well as a former trustee of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, is the acknowledged authority on Minnesota's iron rich north and its impact on 20th century history.

A light supper will be served at 6 p.m. in the Halunen Lobby at no charge. At 6:45 p.m., The Sectionals, an octet of Iron Range voices, will present a concert. The Sectionals filled St. Mary's Hall a month ago and are returning by public demand.

The event is free and open to the public, but a free will offering will be taken benefitting the LVCC and The Sectionals. The auditorium is on Tower's Main Street across from the Herb Lamppa Civic Center.

Seating is limited to 150 but a zoom connection will be available for both the lecture and concert. Email LVCC001@outlook.com to receive an invitation.



The Sectionals performed to a full house earlier this year at LVCC.



Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

Northwoods Transfer Station
9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt
Winter Hours
Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm
Tue: 9:30am-3pm
Wed: 11am-5pm

County 77 Canister Site
2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp
Winter Hours
Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm

Embarrass Canister Site
7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass
Hours
Sat: 12:30-4:30pm
Thu: 10am-5pm

Household Hazardous Waste Facility
5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia
Hours
Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm

Cook Transfer Station
2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook
Hours
Mon: 10am-6pm
Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm

Soudan Canister Site
5160 Hwy 169, Soudan
Hours
Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun
8am-5pm

Aurora Transfer Station
5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora
Hours
Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm
Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm
Sat: 8am-noon

Regional Landfill
5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia
Hours
Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm
Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

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



HYDRANT FLUSHING

City of Tower will be flushing hydrants

Monday, Oct. 3 starting at 8 a.m.

Residents should expect discolored water.

Tower Farmers Market last day of the season is Friday, Sept. 30

TOWER- Everyone has one last chance to visit the Tower Farmers Market this year. It has been a great summer for gardens, and there is lots of fresh produce. Vendors also have baked goods, canned goods, fiber art, woodworking, ceramics and more.

Raffle tickets for the Sharing the Harvest basket will be sold up until the time of the drawing on Sept. 30. Tickets are \$1. The basket contains great contributions from all the market vendors. Funds raised will go to the Tower Area Food shelf.



Final Day!

Friday, Sept. 30
4-6 PM
at the Train Depot in Tower

Thanks to all for a GREAT Season!

BOREALIS BIKING

Mountain biking in the mud doesn't keep Team BOREALIS out of top 10

CLOQUET - The Pine Valley trail system in Cloquet hosted a Minnesota Cycling Association (MCA) mountain bike race Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 24-25. Team BOREALIS represented the Ely area at the races with 10 middle school and high school riders taking the start line throughout the weekend. Heavy rains on Friday night left the 3.6 mile trail wet but rideable as the middle school races started on Saturday morning. Eighth grader June Nelson was the first Team BOREALIS rider to hit the trail and brought home a 10th place

finish. Eighth grade boys Wyatt Tedrick and George Sponholz also brought home top 10 finishes for the middle school team finishing 7th and 10th, respectively.

Sunday morning races kicked off at 8:30 a.m. with three Team BOREALIS riders competing in the Freshmen boys division. Chance Wavrin provided the team with another top 10 finish, taking 8th place. Blake Hegfors overcame an early race pile-up to finish in 26th place. Nathan Hoffmeister, starting in 41st, at the back of the pack because it was his first

MCA race, moved up to 15th position by the finish of the two lap race.

Riding for Team BOREALIS in the high school girls races, Rena Johnston placed 12th in the JV2 girls division and Aila

Harding took 16th among freshmen girls.

Team BOREALIS will travel to River Falls, Wis. for their next race at the Whitetail Ridge mountain bike trails October 8-9. Their season will conclude

at the MCA All Team Finale at Redhead Mountain bike park in Chisholm, October 15-16. Nearly 2000 middle school and high school riders from throughout the state of Minnesota are expected to attend.

Name	Category	Place	Time
June Nelson	8th Grade Girls	10	23:36
Grady Anderson	6th Grade Boys	6	28:54
Mason Molden	8th Grade Boys D2	33	31:22
George Sponholz	8th Grade Boys D2	10	18:29
Wyatt Tedrick	8th Grade Boys D2	7	17:55
Aila Harding	Freshmen Girls	16	56:36
Rena Johnston	JV2 Girls	12	48:01
Blake Hegfors	Freshmen Boys D2	26	42:22
Nathan Hoffmeister	Freshmen Boys D2	15	36:16
Chance Wavrin	Freshmen Boys D2	8	35:12

In Brief

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.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

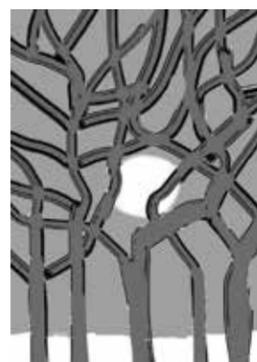
➤ Oct. 4: Mak Mars; Justice for Indigenous People.

➤ Oct. 11: Alex Falconer; Running for the Boundary Waters.

Oct. 18: Ely mayoral candidate, Paul Kess.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



casual chats begin wondering how soon we freeze indian summer?

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 10 am-6 pm Tuesday 10 am-6 pm Wednesday 10 am-6 pm Thursday 10 am-6 pm Friday 10 am-6 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 canceled.
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, 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Wellbeing Development, 41 E Camp St. 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.

Left: Grady Anderson brought home sixth place on Sunday.

Below: Chance Wavrin raced to an eighth-place finish.



AAUW SPREADS AWARENESS

"Unhappy Hour"

A good time was had by all at the AAUW "Unhappy Hour" at Northern Grounds on Sept. 20 from 4:30 - 6 p.m. All beverages were discounted by 32 percent to reflect, in Minnesota District 8, the fact that for every \$1 men earn, women earn 68 cents, and the pay gap is even larger for women of color: Latinas make 49 cents, American Indian Women make 50 cents and Black Women make 58 cents.



COLLEGE NEWS

Forsman named to Summer 2022 St. Scholastica Dean's List

DULUTH- Erin Forsman, of Ely, was named to the Summer 2022 Dean's List at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth. Erin is majoring in Computer Science/ Info Systems.

achieved a 3.75 grade point average or above on a 4.0 scale. The College of St. Scholastica would like to commend Erin for honorable academic achievements. Great job, Erin!

St. Scholastica is a private,

independent college established in 1912 and founded in the Catholic Benedictine tradition. A First Forward Institution, St. Scholastica, is recognized for developing new initiatives to support first-generation student

success. The College's six-year graduation rate is higher than the state, regional and national average. Learn more at css.edu.

Council wants to dig into Cook's housing shortage

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Ask almost anyone you meet walking along River St. if they think Cook has a housing shortage, and you're likely get a resounding 'yes' as a response.

But while there's a general agreement that Cook could use more housing options, just what those are and how they match up with various needs is a somewhat elusive answer.

Dave Danz was recently appointed to the Cook City Council to replace retired counselor Karen Hollanitsch until the November election, and at last Thursday's council meeting he advocated for the city to begin a process to more clearly define the need.

Danz's professional background in planning and development was clearly apparent as he gave remarks to open the discussion.

"There are so many options for housing development, and I don't have a handle on what the need is," he said. "I know for somebody moving up this way it's hard to find a place to rent. There aren't a lot of options available. I don't know if we're talking about subsidized housing, or are we talking about market rate housing, are we talking about individual single family units? Are we talking about apartment buildings, du-

plexes, and more? What is the need?"

Danz said he wasn't sure what role the Cook Housing and Redevelopment Authority might play in expanding Cook's housing stock, or what potential developers might need as incentives to start a housing development.

"We would probably have to be looking at a project of 20 units minimum to interest a developer in coming here and working with us," Danz said. "If we contributed land towards a development, that could be a big plus, or if we waive some fees. There are a lot of questions that need to be answered, so I need to get educated, for one."

Danz suggested a regional study of the area would be helpful to determine the specific needs of the community, as well as provide insight into what commitments the city might need to make to facilitate development.

"I agree with Councilor Danz," City Administrator Theresa Martinson said. "Some individuals have expressed to me their intent that they'd like to build. When the mayor and I talked we talked about individual lots where somebody from the community can build a home."

Councilor Elizabeth Storm talked about a specific need she's encountered.

"People who have come to me are elderly widows who have places on the lake that they want

to sell and they want to come into town to live," she said. "But there's no place for them. They would not be able to stay at the HRA housing places because their income is too great."

Martinson said the city has taken a look at

possible developments in the past, but suggested that there were many factors, including cost, as to why they didn't proceed.

Councilor Jody Bixby noted that Cook's aging population could increase the demand for single-level housing, and wondered

about the cost of building a new home.

"What's the top-selling home that just sold in Cook?" she said. "Was it like \$200,000? Could you build for that?"

The lively discussion continued for over 15 minutes, and as it came to

a close Danz and Storm agreed to work together to do additional research and come back to the council with possibilities for moving the housing discussion forward.

COOK CITY COUNCIL

Levy increase is coming for 2023

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The cost of doing business these days is putting the squeeze on everyone, including the City of Cook, and in response the Cook City Council set the maximum 2023 property tax levy increase at six percent last week, well below the current 8.3 percent annual rate of inflation nationwide.

The council has been holding regular working sessions before each council meeting to consider budgets for different departments and operations with an eye toward trimming costs wherever possible. Six percent sets the largest possible amount the levy could be raised, but councilors have expressed the desire to trim that down if possible before the 2023 final levy and budget is approved in December.

Ambulance

When City Administrator Theresa Martinson

brought up the ambulance study being conducted by Greenwood Township, Mayor Harold Johnston was quick to offer his assessment.

"They're using a consulting firm based in Tennessee, and they have, I think, a \$50,000 grant just to tell us what to do," he said. "They're talking about having an ALS service. Basically the idea is to have an area-wide ambulance system, and I see lots of problems with that."

Martinson noted that at this point the consultant is compiling information.

Martinson said that a new Eveleth ambulance would be in town later that day for Cook Ambulance Service members to look over, and that council members were invited to look as well.

"We're in the process of starting to identify what we'd like in our next second rig," Martinson said.

Mayor Harold Johnston expressed concern

about the possible price tag of buying another full-size ambulance and suggested the service should look instead at getting a smaller transfer ambulance, which typically costs in the neighborhood of \$70,000 versus around \$250,000.

"There has been some discussion about what type of rig the service needs," Martinson said.

Johnston said that certain kinds of transfers don't need a full-size ambulance.

"If it's a transfer from Cook Hospital to Duluth with myocardial infarction, then you need all the bells and whistles," he said. "But a lot of the transfers go over 200 miles each way with psychiatric patients and maybe you don't need that."

In other business, the council:

► Awarded a bid to KGM Construction for the parking lot paving project at the Veterans Riverfront Park.

► Approved a state grant of \$20,000 to be applied to the construction of a new taxiway at the airport. Martinson explained that federal funding of \$363,697 would cover 95 percent of the cost, and after the state's contribution the city would be responsible for the balance.

► Approved new policies for Cook City Library including one governing access and use of a community meeting room there that will accommodate up to ten people, and the other related to volunteers.

► Heard that the proposed blight ordinance is still under review by the city attorney.

► Discussed the fiber optics high-speed broadband network being installed by Paul Bunyan Communications and how the service might better be explained to potential customers to encourage more sign-ups.

ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

Local photographer Stone adds school shots to repertoire

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- When North Woods kindergarten teacher Beth Wilenius marched her students in neat single file into the school's small gym recently, photographer Connie Stone was ready for them.

She ushered the children onto a low set of bleachers, carefully positioning them in two rows, one seated in front and the other standing behind, engaging in happy friendly banter all the while. When everything was just right, she walked back to her tripod-mounted camera, all the while encouraging the children to "Look at me!"

And when Stone was in position to take the shot, suddenly out came her trusty assistant, a silly looking yellow squeaky creature named Sunny the Pig, a master at coaxing smiles out of the most shy of kids.

"Everybody look here and smile," Stone called out, firing off shots in rapid succession. And just like that, it was over for the kids, but not for Stone. She repeated the routine throughout the morning, taking class photos of all the elementary students. And after a break, it was on to sports team photos that afternoon.

It's quite a change for Stone, a professional photographer with a studio in Cook who's made her mark in the community for many years with her portraits of North Woods seniors, athletes, and area families. She shot her first senior portrait in 2009 at the request of a friend, and things took off from there.

"I would say that by the time my son Steven graduated in 2016, I think that was one of the biggest years I'd ever had, probably 20 to 24 kids. That's

what I average now, about 20 seniors, plus all the other stuff."

But when the ISD 2142 school board decided to open the market to local photographers last spring, Stone seized the opportunity to continue her evolution as a professional photographer.

"I wanted to interview and that was really stepping outside my comfort zone," Stone said. "It was just in February that I had been to a conference that specialized in seniors and volume sports photography. I had already done all the team sports last year, so when the opportunity came up to do the school, I thought, 'I'm going to do it.'"

Stone got the job, and it immediately thrust her into a new realm of the business that demanded more than what she'd been doing in her Cook studio. The first order of business going into the summer was finding an online platform she could work through for taking her pictures and turning them into prints and orders.

She settled on GotPhoto.com, a volume photography business that streamlines the once tedious process of tracking children's photos and creating packages for families to buy. Gone are the checklists and paper logs, replaced by a bar code for each student that Stone scans before taking their pictures. The bar code is digitally written into each picture she takes of a child, ensuring hassle-free matching of kids and photos during processing. Ordering is done online, with the ability to supplement picture packages with additional photos if parents wish.

One key to good portrait photography is focusing on a subject's eyes, and because Stone



Connie Stone's faithful assistant Sunny the Pig helps her coax smiles from kids for her school photography.

photo by D. Colburn
would be taking hundreds of pictures in rapid succession, she decided to upgrade her camera to a Nikon mirrorless model that features an automatic eye-focusing mode. It misses every once in a while, which is one reason Stone takes multiple shots of each subject, but it's far faster than having to refocus after every click of the shutter. Stone estimates that it takes her a minute or less to do a shoot with one student.

It's quite the opposite of how she's approached portraiture up to now. When Stone does a senior portrait, for example, she takes time to get to know that student and then come up with a place, and perhaps props, that reflect their interests and personality. She can't do that in school photography, which puts a premium on building instant rapport with students to put them at ease to get the best possible photos.

"You have to pull out

encounter fun, not drudgery, all while trying to also accommodate each subject's uniqueness.

"You have to respect what they want to do," she said. "Some don't want to smile. Some don't want to move their eyes. Some of the seniors want to put on funny glasses and make faces for their ID cards. You let them do it."

For an additional fee, Stone could just upload all of her shots to GotPhoto and let them choose what pictures are the best ones to offer to parents, but on this first go-round that doesn't fit what she wants to provide. So instead, she looks at each shot, combing through literally thousands of photos to hopefully find at least two photos, and preferably more, of students so parents can have a choice. Sometimes there's only one where everything is just right, but parents having options is what Stone strives for.

"If kids are nervous or fidgety and they're moving they can be blurry," Stone said. "I pick out the best images."

For an idea of the vol-

ume of photos Stone is processing, consider this. She started her first upload of pictures to GotPhoto last Sunday, and the following afternoon the upload hadn't yet completed. When she's finished with everybody, she'll have captured pictures of about 30 times the number of senior pictures she's used to shooting annually.

"I think between staff and students it's pretty close to 600 people," Stone said.

The country's largest school photography company, Lifetouch, has contracts with over 50,000 schools. Stone has only one, but she hopes that the personal touch and caring she brings to her work and the pride she has in being the hometown school photographer will show up in her results.

"It's very personal to me," she said. "You're going to give up some things by not going with a 'big box' company. But I want the kids to have fun, and I want the parents to be happy."

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS		
Ash River Trail Canister Site 11391 Ash River Trail Winter Hours Sat: 12:30pm-4:30pm	Kabetogama Lake Canister Site 10150 Gamma Rd Winter Hours Wed: noon-4pm Sat: 8am-noon	Sturgeon Canister Site 8380 Hwy 73 Hours Sun: 8am-Noon
Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Winter Hours Tue, Thu: 9am-noon Sat: 8am-noon	Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Winter Hours Tue, Sat: 1pm-4:30pm	County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm
Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm	St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle
Household Hazardous Waste Facilities 5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm	3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am-1pm	
Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th		

ELY SCHOOLS

Concerns voiced about facilities project delays

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

ELY- The Sept. 26 meeting of the Ely school board held here on Monday night began by adding two agenda items addressing additional cost overruns as part of the scheduled 21st Century Facility Project update given by Kraus Anderson senior project managers Patrick Gallagher and Todd Erickson.

Erickson explained that the added amendments both pertained to additional costs caused by construction delays due to the ledge rock found while the project was underway. Together, the extra cost related to the rock and additional site utilities, and for adding Bid Package Four, totaled \$215,492, he said.

Board member Tony Colarich asked, "So I understand this fully and to make it really simple, how far in the red are we?"

Erickson and Gallagher further explained the expense breakdowns, with Erickson

stating, "I would say you're at \$550,000."

Washington Elementary Principal Anne Oelke expressed concern about projects, such as the locker rooms, that are yet to be completed.

"Are we going to get additional monthly fees for October, November, December until the locker rooms are done?"

Erickson said, "We kind of capped this." He explained that the additional items covered the month of September and a half month into October.

Gallagher began the overall project update by thanking everyone for their efforts getting the school opened for the year.

"I'm looking around the table here because a lot of you have worked hard to get the school set up in record time while we were finishing up construction. Awesome job! It was a great team effort, and we thank you for that," he said.

Erickson added, "As Patrick

says, beautiful project. I really like how the landscaping is coming together out there. There've been a lot of positive comments."

Erickson then directed the board to look at a handout which featured pictures taken Sept. 22. "We need the concrete people to come back and finish," he said. "We have two days left of concrete work to go, and there have been some issues with cement shortages." Gallagher noted, "This is the second time this has hit us. There's a cement shortage nationwide. It's not a good thing. We wanted to have this done last week, but we're working with them, and we've prioritized the concrete. We're so close."

Erickson went on to discuss the varying numbers for expenditures and the project contingency fund. He explained that as some actual costs came in below projections, the contingency funds actually grew as the remaining monies were added back in.

"As noted in the red, we've

documented, approved and spent \$755,000 of contingency, and we're currently showing that we have \$630,823 that's estimated and pending. With all that we're currently showing a negative amount in the contingency of \$30,387. As noted, some of these items we earmarked a little bit more than we needed, so in a project of this magnitude, I really don't think that's a big issue."

Gallagher added, "Bottom line, we're basically 100-percent spent, but we're not sitting in the hole deep, and we're not sitting with surplus on the main project."

In other business the board:

► Heard from student council representative Madison Rohr regarding plans for Homecoming. Homecoming week will be Oct. 3-7 with the dance to be held on Saturday, Oct. 8. The Student Council is also requesting to have a Homecoming parade on Friday, Oct. 7 at 1:30 p.m. Rohr reported that there will also be various community service events held

that morning. She said the Junior class is planning the homecoming dance which will be held in the new elementary gym.

► Heard from Superintendent John Klarich that he will be attending the County Board of Commissioners meeting in Wright on Tuesday Sept. 27 with hopes of being awarded funds from the American Rescue Act application submitted earlier this year.

► Approved accepting a donation from Cleveland Cliffs via Ely Educational Foundation.

► Heard report from Athletic Director Tom Coombe regarding the use of the new gym and an update on progress with the new scoreboard.

► Klarich noted that the Truth in Taxation meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec 12.

The next meeting of the Ely School Board will be Monday, Oct. 10 at 6 p.m.

VACANCY...Continued from page 1

Swanson's untimely death and he said he'd been watching for filing information to show up in at least one of the local newspapers. But such a notice never appeared and the deadline for filing came and went before Dostert realized what had happened.

The filing notice that did appear in the district's official newspaper was published in late May or early June. At that point, Swanson was still alive and most local residents likely would have been reluctant to challenge a long-time incumbent. That would have changed after his death, but by then the filing notices had already appeared in Cook weeks before. And the district never published any additional outreach for potential candidates in the *News-Herald* or any other newspaper.

The district's administrative assistant Jeanne Sopp states that the district

did maintain the filing notices on the district's website and individual school websites, including in Tower-Soudan. Engebritson stated that she had also told school staff to encourage parents or community members who express interest in the school to consider running for the board. When questioned, however, Engebritson couldn't name anyone to whom school staff might have spoken.

At least one person was able to track down the information and filed for the seat left open by Swanson's passing. Ron Marinaro, a longtime Babbitt resident and former city council member there, is now seeking to represent the Tower-Soudan area on the school board and he's the lone candidate on the ballot. Marinaro, who coached several sports at Northeast Range over the years, and now coaches for Mt. Iron-Buhl, has leased a cabin on

Lake Vermilion's Pike Bay for many years and now calls the area home. He said his experience in business and his 18 years on the city council have helped him understand budgeting and given him a wide range of other skills that he believes would benefit the school district. "I have no agenda," said Marinaro, "but I see a lot of challenges coming up where I think I could make a difference."

Marinaro said he waited to decide until late in the filing period thinking someone else might step up, but when no one else did, he decided to throw his hat in the ring.

Marinaro has run a number of businesses over the years, and currently manages a recycling operation at the regional landfill near Virginia along with a number of other side businesses.

The question of his residence has raised eyebrows with some, including

members of the school board. Board members familiar with Marinaro said they assumed he still lived in Babbitt, where he continues to homestead a residence located next door to his elderly mother, who he cares for on a daily basis.

At least some members of the school board agreed that the district could have done more to let residents in the Tower-Soudan area know about the vacancy.

"I would certainly think that the Tower area feels it needs its own voice, and the district should have respected that by advertising locally, and I would agree 100 percent," said Chris Koivisto, who represents the Babbitt-Embarrass attendance area on the ISD 2142 school board.

Board member Dan Manick said he wasn't eager to appoint a replacement for Swanson, whom he considered a close friend.

"I wanted to honor the

empty seat for a while," he said. "It's not that easy to replace Troy."

He noted that it isn't easy to find new recruits to the school board even in the best of circumstances, which is one reason Manick remains on the board even after he declined to file during his last election.

But getting the word out beyond the acquaintances of school staff or board members could be one way to start attracting new blood to the board.

While Marinaro would represent that new blood, Manick worried he could come to the board with mixed loyalties. "It's wrong to have another Babbitt guy on the board," he said.

Marinaro said he considers himself a "Tower guy" these days and argues he'll be a passionate voice on the board. "I'm vocal at meetings," he said. "I always have been."

But Marinaro may first have to get past a potential

write-in effort by Greg "Dusty" Dostert, a long-time Soudan resident and member of the Breitung Town Board. Dostert has also been a longtime advocate of youth activities, particularly sports, and has served as a Little League coach for many years. Dostert has a long history in construction, having been a union iron worker for decades, a career that has taken him around the world on major projects.

He said he has nothing against Marinaro, who he doesn't know, but had already been thinking about running back in the summer. He said he's 100 percent committed to maintaining the elementary school in Tower, which would be among his top priorities.

FUNDING...Continued from page 1

plies needed to complete the project, as well as an unexpected overhaul of the school's ventilation system to achieve new post-COVID standards, the original scope of the project had to be scaled back, and items originally in the plan were taken off the table. Since then, finding funding to make up for the budget shortfalls has been of par-

amount concern.

"We were attacking this on any front we thought we could get funding," Klarich said.

One such effort was application for COVID relief money through the American Rescue Plan. Klarich explained that last spring St. Louis County Commissioners Mike Jugovich and Chair Paul

McDonald visited Ely to check out the 21st Century Building Facilities Project. At that time, McDonald mentioned that there could be funds for which Ely Public schools might qualify. "They liked what they saw and wanted to help us out," Klarich said.

Klarich mentioned that lobbyist Jeff Anderson, of The Costin Group, hired

to assist with the project in 2019, also helped make Tuesday's funding award a reality.

"He was really a mover and shaker on this," Klarich said.

Klarich said the funding award still has to get formally passed at the next Board of Commissioners meeting on Oct. 4, which should be no problem with

the entire St. Louis County Board supporting it.

Although this \$1.5 million can only be used for COVID relief and cannot be applied to cover the unexpected costs that were caused due to environmental/geologic factors, Klarich was happy to note the money would be put to good use.

"At the beginning of

this project some things had to be canceled, and the hope is that this money can be used to bring back some of the stuff that was taken away. We want to put money back into the original plan to help finish this project as it was initially intended."

CHIEF...Continued from page 1

was amended to add his name to the list. The reason given for the removal was for not performing their official duties.

Maus has served on the fire department over 15 years, and he is currently serving as the township's interim treasurer. The township also has an interim clerk, JoAnn Bassing.

Maus formerly served

as a fire department captain, but was abruptly relieved of his duties when the town board decided to reorganize the department's leadership about ten years ago. This occurred shortly after Maus reported fire department safety violations to the MN Department of Labor and Industry (OSHA), which were subsequently found to have merit.

Maus told the

Timberjay that his priority, working along with Supervisor Rick Stoehr, has been to get the fire department apparatus on a maintenance schedule. He said that as far as fire department records show, there had not been any regular maintenance since 2018.

The fire department's main truck, Engine 1, has been repaired. The

truck had stalled during a training in August but had not been brought in for repairs. According to information given at the special meeting, that truck was also taken out on a fire call a few days after it had stalled out during the training and stalled again.

The fire department will hold their regular monthly business meeting on Oct. 4. The township is

seeking applicants for the open fire chief, assistant chief, and training officer positions, with applications due on Oct. 30.

Clarification

In the Sept. 23 article about the Sept. 13 regular meeting, the *Timberjay* incorrectly reported that the public input policy had been changed to a three-minute limit. The

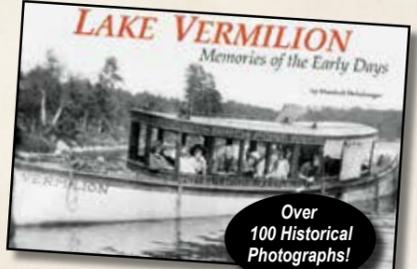
motion to change the policy failed on a 2-3 vote, with Ralston, Stoehr, and Skubic voting against the change. Also, the kitchen range in the town hall kitchen has a working gas pilot, but it needs to be lit prior to use, because the gas line is shut off when the oven is not in use for safety reasons.



Memories of the Early Days

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

Written by Marshall Helmsberger • Published by the Timberjay



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RACE...Continued from page 1

was on hand for the event and ran the half marathon, finishing fifth.

In addition to the sponsors, the event is always supported by a large cadre of volunteers, and Lindsay was beyond pleased with this year's crew.

"We had over 350 volunteers this year, which is incredible," she said. "We need that many to make it happen safely."

Marathon results

38-year-old Robert Henderson, of Minneapolis, won the marathon with a time of 2:57:06. Sam O'Donnell-Hoff of Duluth was close behind in second at 2:57:30, and Ely's Hudson Kingston took third, clocking in at 3:00:13.

Sorcha Ashe of North Oaks scored a comfortable win on the women's side with a time of 3:35:07. Tess Gessler of St. Paul finished just ahead of Ely's Molly Gardner to take second at 3:45:35, with Gardner completing the course in 3:48:23.

Three Ely runners -- Sunshine Gardner, Nick Gardner, and Sean Ferrier -- were the only ones to attempt the full marathon portage canoe race. Sunshine Gardner was the only one to hit each of the checkpoints in the allotted

time and was the solo finisher with a winning time of 4:45:45.

The Ely Outfitting Company relay team of Charlie Cecil, Maddie Fahnline, Austin Konrath, Kristen Larsen, Elsa Soderstrom, and Eliza Vistica ran against the clock as the solo entry in the marathon relay team portage canoe event and completed the course in 5:07:31.

Half marathon results

The top spot in the Boundary Waters Bank half marathon was claimed by David Hyopponen, of Duluth, with a time of 1:16:43, which was a new race record. Placing second was Henri Carlson, of Cook, in 1:17:12, and third went to William Sackett, of Grand Rapids, in 1:24:40.

Lisa Smith, of Hibbing, was the first woman runner across the finish line with a time of 1:30:48. Runner-up Hanna Torvi, of Duluth, came in less than a minute behind at 1:31:34. Jackie Nelson of Mt. Iron wasn't far back in third, clocking 1:32:23.

Three women and one man were signed up for the canoe portage half marathon, but only the women crossed the finish line. Dana Gilbertson, of Duluth, took top honors in



3:00.9, more than a half-hour ahead of the other two competitors. Runner-up Krisy Goetsch, of Merrill, Wis., crossed the line ahead of Claire Butchkoski by a mere four seconds, 4:38:27 to 4:38:31.

The team relay portage canoe half winner was Are We There Yet. Calvin Sinclair, Gus Sinclair, Jill Sinclair, Tom Sinclair, and Darrick Unger negotiated the course in 2:33:11. MortyHub DischFish, a three-person team com-

prised of Austin Fisher, Kendra Hubbell and Justin Mortenson, placed second in 2:45:36. Britta DeSutter, Jean Farmakes, Carin Skoog and Mya Snyder, running together as Paul Rudd OFC, took third with a time of 3:00:34.

Above left: The final member of the "Are We There Yet?" half marathon canoe relay team makes it to the finish line with a time of 2:33.11.

Above: Ely sixth graders Henry Fetterer and Parker Niskala look strong heading into the finish of the half marathon at the 2:55 mark.

photos by M. Helmberger

ELY BLUE LINE CLUB

ARENA CLEAN-UP

Saturday, October 1st
9AM-5PM



WWW.ELYHOCKEY.ORG

CORRECTION

Last week's story on candidate debates listed a congressional forum on Sept. 24 in Brainerd. The forum will actually be held Oct. 24. The Timberjay regrets the error.

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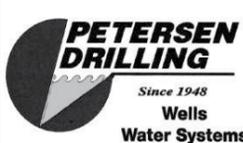
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CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Sheriff candidate Lukovsky fined for corporate contributions

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A panel of three administrative law judges has imposed a \$1,000 civil penalty for campaign violations against Jason Lukovsky, the current St. Louis County Undersheriff. Lukovsky, who is running to replace the retiring Ross Litman

as county sheriff, was accused in a complaint filed back in August of accepting \$2,750 in campaign contributions from corporations, something that's prohibited under Minnesota campaign laws. Lukovsky was one of two candidates to make it through the Aug. 11 primary and his name will appear on the Nov. 8 general election ballot.

The complaint was filed

by a Steven Peterson, although no address for the complainant was immediately available. But Peterson filed the complaint after reviewing Lukovsky's recent campaign finance filings and noticing contributions over a nine-month period from several businesses, including Puglisi Classico LTD., Twin Ports Computer Services, LLC, Mainella Properties, LLC, Hernesman Sports, Inc.,

Lukovsky Chiropractic Clinic, and Rust Group, LLC.

In testimony to the panel, Lukovsky admitted accepting the improper corporate contributions, but said he had done so in error out of a misunderstanding of the statutes in question.

But the judges noted that the complainant argued that all candidates have an obligation to follow the law, particularly when

an individual is running for the chief law enforcement job in the county.

The panel, using a rubric established by the OAH imposed the \$1,000 civil penalty and ordered Lukovsky to return the illegal campaign contributions to the donors.

COUNTY SCHOOLS

School tax levy to drop in 2023

Valuations will determine if individual payments do the same

REGIONAL- The St. Louis County School District's property tax levy for 2023 is projected to go down slightly, but some taxpayers may still see an increase in the taxes they pay.

Finance Director Kim Johnson told board members at Tuesday's meeting, held at South Ridge School, that while she continues to monitor and make adjustments, a small decrease in the levy is almost certain.

"It's still changing, but this is pretty close," Johnson said. "Most of it relates to our long-term facilities maintenance. In the Pay 22 levy we had a pay-as-you-go levy of about half a million dollars that's going away. So you're seeing that decrease, but you're seeing an increase in the debt service as interest and principal payments change based on the way they were set up. So in total, we're going to be down about \$131,000. On Friday they had an error in the debt service and they got that fixed today, so we're still going to see a decrease in the levy."

However, that decrease won't necessarily translate into savings for some taxpayers whose property has significantly increased in value since last year. Their

actual taxes could still go up, Johnson said.

"When they get their statements, if they have an increase in school taxes, the first place they need to look is on their valuations. With school taxes going down in total, valuations will move what percentage you pay of the school taxes."

Board members voted to give initial approval for the district to levy the maximum amount possible, although a specific percentage was not discussed. Such approval is standard at this point in the budget process, with the final levy amount to be determined later in the fall.

In other action, the board:

➤ Approved publishing the Notice of General Election for board seats in Districts 2, 3, and 5. The notice lists the candidates as Nathan Briggs for District 2, Ron Marinaro in District 3, and incumbent Lynn Hilde in District 5, all running unopposed.

➤ Approved amending the district's contract with the county for ISD 2142 to manage the Check and Connect program. The amendment provides for the addition of mentors in the Rock Ridge and Hibbing school districts, as well as wage adjustments.

➤ Approved a tuition

agreement with the MN Service Cooperatives Online Learning Program for online classes for students. Engebretson noted that this was an ongoing agreement that requires reapproval each year.

➤ Approved an agreement with St. Louis County for three student resource officers to be placed in district schools, one less than what was requested by the district. Board member Chris Koivisto asked Superintendent Reggie Engebretson to notify him next year well in advance of the date the Board of Commissioners is to vote on the proposal so that he can lobby them directly to fund all of the positions requested.

➤ Held a second of three required readings of proposed changes to the Internet Acceptable Use and Safety policy, and the first reading of the proposed revised School Meals Policy.

➤ Approved the final documents authorizing the sale of bus garages in Orr and Cotton that have been discussed at multiple previous meetings.

➤ Approved the 2023-24 school calendar.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Board bans new deer farms to prevent CWD

REGIONAL— The St. Louis County Board has voted to prohibit new deer farms in the county in an effort to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease, or CWD. The unanimous vote updates the county's zoning ordinance to allow existing deer, or cervid, farms to continue to operate, though it prohibits expansion of those farms.

The county had been operating under a one-year temporary moratorium, which would have expired at the end of this month. During the past year, the Planning Commission considered options ranging from a complete ban, to doing nothing, or requiring a conditional use permit for new cervid farms.

"We realized our emphasis needed to be to do what we can where we can," said Planning Director Matt Johnson. "Now we'll focus on educating the public about testing and helping stakeholders who are looking for a cure."

Chronic wasting disease affects deer, elk, reindeer, sika deer, moose and other members of the Cervidae family. CWD is fatal to animals and there are no treatments or vac-

cines. It may take over a year before an infected animal develops symptoms, which can include drastic weight loss (wasting), stumbling, listlessness, and other neurologic symptoms. Some infected animals may die without ever showing signs of the disease.

In 2021, a CWD-positive deer farm was confirmed in Beltrami County; and earlier this year, a deer tested positive for CWD in neighboring Itasca County.

"Agriculture is important, but the importance of protecting our white tail deer herds and the traditions of deer hunting in this county have to take priority," said Commissioner Keith Nelson.

Commissioner Patrick Boyle, who first raised the issue more than a year ago, added, "Most of us at this table have been at a deer camp and enjoy deer hunting. I thank the board for this. It's the right step and the right direction."

The updated ordinance prohibiting new cervid farms and expansion of existing ones is effective immediately.



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ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM

Writers on a roadtrip visit area libraries

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Minnesota authors Lorna Landvik and Sarah Stonich visit 20 area libraries

ELY- Fall colors are always a good time to head “up north,” but for Minnesota authors Lorna Landvik and Sarah Stonich it was also a perfect time to talk about books and writing with eager audiences at libraries across the North Country.

The two share many things besides being well-known authors and friends. They both came to writing as second careers, and both center many of their books and characters on the places and people they’ve known growing up and raising their families in Minnesota.

The two had stops in Ely and Cook on Sept. 15 as part of a 20-city “Road Tripping Writers” tour sponsored by the Arrowhead Library System.

“We are absolutely thrilled to be hosting Lorna Landvik and Sarah Stonich,” said ALS Regional Librarian Mollie Stanford. “It’s an amazing experience to meet authors of this caliber and we are excited that our patrons are having this opportunity at libraries in the ALS region.”

While Stonich is very familiar with northeastern Minnesota, the geography of the Arrowhead was a little challenging for Landvik. The two had spent the evening prior doing a program at the Silver Bay Library, and Landvik hadn’t realized that the trip from Silver Bay to Ely on Hwy. 1 was not your regular freeway driving experience.

“It took a lot longer than I expected,” she said as she breezed into the Ely Library about two minutes before showtime. “That 70 miles took me an hour and fifteen minutes.”

Stonich had arrived earlier and had already taken time to drive by the site of her grandparents’ old house on Chapman Street, adjacent to the J & L Hardware Building. The Stonich family was well known in Ely. Stonich said the first time she did a book tour up here, all the senior citizens in the room, average age estimated at 85, wanted to do with tell her stories about her grandparents. One time in Ely, she said, while taking a sauna at the Ely Steam Sauna and sitting with a wet towel over her head, someone walked in and said, “You must be Julia Stonich’s granddaughter.”

Stonich built a cabin off Mud Creek Rd., halfway between Ely and Tower, that became the focus of her one non-fiction book, titled “Shelter.” Her first novel, “These Granite Islands,” was based in a fictionalized version of Tower-Soudan, where her grandparents first settled.

Landvik was enjoying the quirks of the area. While in Baudette she stayed at The Walleye Inn.

“It was spooky,” she said, “I was the only person there.” She especially enjoyed the sign in the room that reminded guests

that fish guts were not permitted in any of the trash cans.

Stonich had her own other-worldly experience driving at night from Baudette to International Falls.

“There were tunnels of mist,” she said, “and a huge moth hatch.” Suddenly there were unexplained thumping noises on the side of her trusty Subaru. She pulled over to realize that the moth hatch had attracted hundreds of frogs that were trying to cross the road and hopping into the side of her car.

This is the first real book tour either author has done since the pandemic hit.

“COVID did a number on both of us,” said Landvik, saying the psychology of the event made it hard for both of them to write.

Landvik said she was unable to write for the first four months of the pandemic. She said she read a lot of thrillers and a lot of James Michener’s sweeping multi-generational historical dramas.

“I needed to escape I guess,” she said.

But once she did start writing again, she hatched what may be one of her most inventive novels yet.

Her latest book, due to be published in early December, had a working title of “The ABCs of Erotica,” but is now more tamely titled “Last Circle of Love.”

Landvik teased the plot to the audience at the library, but refused to give any spoilers, even when prompted by Stonich, who hasn’t yet finished the preview copy she has been reading.

The book, Landvik explained, is about a different type of recipe book, cooked up by a group of older church women who are trying to raise funds needed to keep their small town Lutheran church from closing. Will the idea of cooking up romance, rather than recipes, be the ticket to save the church? Readers will find out when the book comes out, just in time for Christmas.

Stonich just published the second in a possible trilogy of books that started with “Fishing!”, a book about a former professional fisherperson who now hosts an all-women’s public television fishing/talk show which takes place on a fishing boat, while the host and guest both actually fish. “Reeling” brings the always adventurous RayAnne Dahl to New Zealand, where she is filming the second season of her unexpectedly popular fishing/talk show. But she is also working on the third book in her “Vacationland” and “Laurentian Divide” series, set in a small resort town in northeastern Minnesota, as well as a new crime series, which shares some characters from these previous books.

Stonich said her “Fishing!”



Minnesota authors Lorna Landvik (left) and Sarah Stonich. photo by J. Summit

and “Reeling,” both comedies, appeal to younger adults, noting the audiences they are attracting at their library tours are definitely mostly full of retired people.

Audience members asked both writers if they work on one book at a time or like to work on multiple manuscripts at once. Both admitted to having multiple novels started, but both said they work best if focusing on one novel at a time.

“I have seven on my computer right now,” said Landvik. “I used to only work on one at a time, but now I have too many ideas.”

Taking a break from writing to do the library tours has shown her she really needs to focus on just one book right now.

“I don’t do outlines,” Landvik said, “ever since being forced to do them in ninth-grade English class.”

Both writers agreed that the only authors they know who can work on multiple books at one time are journalists, who are schooled in meeting deadlines.

“I need to put four of my five books away and just work on one,” said Stonich, who plans to focus on the third book in her “Vacationland” series.

The two writers live in different neighborhoods in Minneapolis, though Stonich gets to spend a lot of time in northeastern Minnesota in the summer. The two are active in the Twin Cities writing community.

Both women appreciate the life and culture of small town Minnesota and hate to see the havoc that big box and dollar stores have wreaked on Main Streets through the state. The two had toured downtown Virginia a few days before, and they had a “Lucy and Ethel” type adventure when they got to make truffles at Canelakes, which featured a slow-moving conveyor belt.

Unlike Lucy and Ethel, from the famous “I Love Lucy” episode, they waited until after

their candy-making time to taste the treats that Canelakes is famous for.

“I bought a box of hot air candy,” said Landvik, “because Sarah told me I had to try it. I hadn’t heard of it before. It’s gone!”

Landvik is known for her humor and depictions of small-town Minnesota life.

She honed her comedic skills working in Hollywood, and continued to do so after moving back to Minnesota as a member of the Dudley Riggs Improv Theater group.

“It took me a long time to get published,” she said.

Stonich also started her career in another field, as a visual artist and painter. She said her writing career was mostly accidental. Her first book was published in 2001, and she went on her first book tour that fall in Europe, right after the 9-11 tragedy, when audiences wanted to talk to her about current events, not necessarily her historical fiction. But the success of her first book led her into writing full-time.

The two now both are being published by the University of Minnesota Press.

Landvik had been working with a major publisher, Ballantine, but when they opted not to publish one of her recent titles, “Mayor of the Universe,” her first foray into comedic science fiction, she thought she would try self-publishing. Stonich recommended the U of M Press, and she started working with the same editor that Stonich works with.

The publishing landscape changed markedly with the introduction of e-readers, like the Kindle.

Major publishers were saying that “books would die,” said Stonich. “But university presses started picking up fiction authors.” Actual books have not died off, both noted. And both are happy to have interest

in both their current and future works.

Asked what they are reading right now, Stonich said she is reading a lot of authors from Commonwealth countries, and often is hired to write book reviews.

“I like to leave the country,” she said.

Landvik has been reading a lot of Scandinavian writers.

While they have over a dozen published works between them, and Landvik has also written plays, they do not feel they work as hard as other writers they know.

“People say that I’m prolific,” said Landvik, “but I’m a slacker.”

Stonich said she feels like she’s the “laziest writer on the planet.” But she admitted that during her ramblings and wanderings she is always picking up things that end up in her novels.

“At home I will sit down, look at what I wrote the day before, do the laundry, walk the dog, and then write a little,” she said.

Landvik called her writing style “flying by the seat of my pants.”

She said her books come to her with named characters and titles. “I trust my imagination to take me places,” she said. “I liken it to motherhood. You think you are in charge, but you are not.”

Stonich said magic happens when her characters “start running the show.”

“I have to let go of my own ego,” Stonich said. “Then I am really writing. The characters take over and do the writing for you.”

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACFH). To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

Fond du Lac CC offering four-year teaching degree

CLOQUET- After 20 years of planning and collaborative effort, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (FDLTCC) is excited to launch its new Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education with the first cohort of future teachers taking their first classes in January. FDLTCC is the first two-year educational institute in Minnesota to earn approval to offer a baccalaureate degree. For more information on the Elementary Education program, visit <https://fdltcc.edu/degrees-certificates/degree-programs/elementary-education/>.

The new B.S. Degree will lead to a Minnesota Teacher Kindergarten to 6th Grade license. According to Dr. Kim Spoor, Dean of Education, “We

are so excited to offer this unique program at FDLTCC, as currently only one percent of licensed teachers in Minnesota are American Indian, and our program will help fill this gap.”

Spoor adds that it is important for people to know that this program will serve both Native and Non-native student educators who are interested in knowing how to best serve all K-6 students in various classroom settings. Besides being the first ever four-year degree program offered at FDLTCC, “... no other teacher education program in Minnesota offers a program that meets state requirements while also intertwining our Indigenous ways of knowing and cultural values” shared Spoor.

For more information about the Elementary Education program at FDLTCC and the Bachelor of Science Degree, please contact Dr. Kim Spoor via email at kimberly.spoor@fdltcc.edu, Sara Montgomery via email at smontgomery@fdltcc.edu, or visit <https://fdltcc.edu/degrees-certificates/degree-programs/elementary-education/>.

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FOOTBALL

Ely comeback falls short, 58-50

Wolves score 36 points in the second half but slip to Cook County in double OT

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

GRAND MARAIS — Something finally clicked for the Timberwolves in the second half of last Friday's contest here against Cook County. After managing just 20 points in their previous ten quarters of Section 7A football, Ely exploded for 36 points in the second half, and took the lead with less than a

minute to go.

Yet even as their offense finally found its groove, Ely's normally stingy defense couldn't put it away. They gave up a game-tying touchdown with just thirty seconds remaining to send the game into overtime, where the Vikings pulled it out 58-50.

The Wolves looked hot early as they put eight points on the board in their opening drive. Senior quarterback Gunnar Hart

hit senior runningback Jason Kerntz on a 75-yard pass play for six, followed by the two-point conversion. But Ely's lead didn't last long as Cook County responded, putting up two touchdowns in the remainder of the quarter while Ely's offense went silent.

By the break, the Wolves were trailing 24-8 and it looked like a repeat of the team's first two games of the season.

It didn't help that Hart went

out on an injury early in the first half. He tried to return later, but came out shortly after due to pain. That left junior runningback Deegan Richards taking the snaps the rest of the way.

The Wolves made their adjustments over the half and that's when the team's offense finally hit its stride. "We came out hot in the second half," said Ely Head Coach Louie Gerzin. The Wolves scored back-to-back

touchdowns to close the gap, but Cook County caught them napping on their next possession, tripping them up on a reverse that gave the Vikings a bit of breathing room. It didn't last long as Kerntz grabbed the ensuing kickoff and ran it in for another six.

The Wolves picked up two more touchdowns in the remainder of the half, their final score

See FOOTBALL...pg. 2B



VOLLEYBALL

Wolves nip Grizzlies 3-1

North Woods first team this season to win a set against Ely

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELDTWP- The Ely volleyball team left the gym at North Woods School last Thursday with their undefeated record intact, but not before the Grizzlies put an end to another Timberwolves' season mark.

This one had the potential to be a barn-burner, with the one-loss Grizzlies ranked two spots ahead of the undefeated Wolves in the Minnesota-Scores Quality Ratings Formula, likely a result of schedule strength.

But Ely put the Grizzlies on notice early that they were in for a battle. Leading 11-8 in the first game, the Wolves went on a devastating 12-1 tear, fueled by three aces from Rachel Coughlin during a service run of eight consecutive points, staking Ely to a 23-9 lead enroute to a 25-12 win.

Game two was the type of volleyball Grizzlies' fans were hoping to see, as North Woods was in the thick of it early. The teams were knotted at 7-7 when Ely started to inch ahead, slowly building a 15-9 lead.

After the Grizzlies took the ball back at 15-10, Lauren Burnett fired a couple of aces and Hannah Kinsey knocked down a dunk at the net. An Ely error put the Grizzlies right back into the thick of it, trailing just 16-15. Moments later the teams were tied at 17-17, and North Woods went ahead by as many as three points before Ely's Madeline Kallberg connected on a kill to pull the Wolves even again at 22-22.

Boosted by the opportunity to hand the Wolves their first game loss of the season, Burnett got the call for a pair of kills that put North Woods one point away from the upset, and



Top: Ely senior Madeline Kallberg focuses as she goes up for a kill attempt during last Thursday's contest with North Woods.

Above: Grizzlies players celebrate after beating Ely in the match's second set, Ely's first loss in any set all season.

Left: Ely junior Hannah Penke notches a dig, while teammate Rachel Coughlin provides backup.

photos by D. Colburn

FOOTBALL

Grizzlies crushed

Barnum wins 65-14

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

BARNUM- The North Woods Grizzlies faced a daunting task when they traveled south to square off against the Barnum Bombers last Friday. Barnum's offense had put 95 points on the board in its previous two games, and the Grizzlies had neither the chains to hold them down or the horses to keep pace, falling to 0-4 on the season with a 65-14 loss.

"They're a tough team to stop," Grizzlies Head Coach Joel Anderson said. "They've got a nice quarterback, good receivers, and good backs. You've got to kind of pick your poison with them."

The potion the Grizzlies picked worked like a charm after Barnum received the opening kickoff. Facing a third-and-six, linebacker Olin Nelson stepped in and picked off a Barnum pass and took it 29 yards to the house for a pick six and the first lead North Woods has enjoyed all year. With Nick Abramson tacking on the two-point conversion, the upstart Grizzlies were up 8-0.

"We had them bottled up on the back side and were putting pressure on the quarterback and Olin just happened to read the back standing there and intercepted the ball."

But the joy didn't last long when the

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

Ely tops Virginia tourney

Dumps Duluth-Marshall in straight sets on Tuesday

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

DULUTH — The unbeaten Timberwolves made short work of Duluth-Marshall here on Tuesday, allowing a number of the team's younger players to get in on the action. Ely took it in three, 25-12, 25-11, and 25-17.

"It was a quick game that allowed us to get more people on the floor which was nice to see," said Head Coach Megan Wognum.

A total of 12 players made the stats board on Tuesday, with seniors Madeline Kallberg and Rachel Coughlin, and Natasha Fulkrod leading the way at the net with six kills apiece. Kallberg added six digs and three aces, while Coughlin added 14 digs and Fulkrod tapped four aces to bolster their stats. Junior Hannah Penke posted five kills and ten digs, while senior Kate Coughlin added four kills, eight digs, and four aces. Sophomore Clare Thomas added four kills and four aces,

See WOLVES...pg. 2B

See VOLLEYBALL...pg. 2B

VOLLEYBALL

Grizzlies get a workout with packed schedule

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- It's a good thing the North Woods Grizzlies volleyball team enjoys playing together, because they may have spent more waking hours with their teammates than their families in a ten-day stretch in which they will have played ten matches.

Beginning Sept. 20 with a win against Cherry and scheduled to end this Thursday with a road trip to Northeast Range, the Grizzlies will have played matches every other day for ten days, including a Saturday tournament in Virginia where they took on four school in just one day.

The tournament matches were played in best-of-three format rather than best-of-five, but North Woods hasn't gone to

a fifth game in any of its regular-schedule matches.

The Grizzlies bounced back from a Thursday loss to Ely by opening the tournament with a 2-0 win over Northeast Range.

"We came out really strong and it was looking like we were going to have a fantastic day," Head Coach Kandi Olson said. "And then we played Kittson County Central."

The Bearcats took the match 2-1, and Olson said her team lost focus.

"We struggled to recover it," she said. "We had every opportunity to win that game."

Against their next opponent, Cromwell-Wright, North Woods lost 0-2.

"We just came out flat and couldn't seem to kick it into gear," Olson said. "They were a little frustrated by how they finished the second match, and

that was hard to turn off."

But the Grizzlies finished the day on a positive note, defeating Rock Ridge 2-0 and exiting the tourney with a 2-2 record.

On Monday, North Woods hit the road to take on Littlefork-Big Falls, and their 25-6 win in the first game let Olson know that she would have the opportunity to work in all of her players in this match. Playing with mixed lineups, the next two games were closer, but North Woods took them both, 25-16 and 25-19.

"In the first game we really put the ball in the right people's hands at the right moment," Olson said. "In the next two we realized that we had an opportunity to play everyone, which was awesome. But we definitely lost our aggressive side."

North Woods was back home on Tuesday, defeating Cook County by scores of 25-10, 25-14, 19-25, and 25-12.

The Grizzlies have faced varied foes with different styles during this mini marathon, which has been a good thing, Olson said.

"It's given us the opportunity to try a few different things that we haven't been able to try in games yet, like try new defenses and offenses," she said. "It also gave us the opportunity to see how our reserves can help us fill the gap."

The Grizzlies have a week off following Thursday's scheduled match at NER, providing Olson with a rare midseason opportunity. Individual skill development is something that mostly happens in the off-season, as Olson has to primarily focus on building team cohesiveness while working on different sets one the season starts.

"We have a lot of things planned that we're going to work on and try to do," Olson said.

VOLLEYBALL...Continued from page 1B

after a time-out the comeback was complete when an Ely hit sailed wide. The Grizzlies and North Woods fans erupted in celebration over the 25-22 win while the Wolves regrouped on the sideline.

North Woods rode that emotion into the next game, but after Ely took a 3-2 advantage, the Grizzlies never led again. Riding the hot-hitting arm of Hannah Penke, who had a match-high 19 kills, Ely used a 15-6 run to take the third game 25-15.

Game four was like the first and third, with the Grizzlies hanging tough early but the Wolves wearing them down with their relentless attack. With Kate Coughlin serving, the Wolves went on a decisive four-point spurt punctuated by an ace and another Penke kill to go up 18-10. A weak return to the net by the Grizzlies on match point turned into a perfect set for Ely's Lilli Rechichi, who slammed home the 25-15 game winner.

Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum was pleased with how her team bounced back from the



disappointing second-game loss.

"I think a lot of it comes down to our mindset," Wognum said. "It's really important that we're playing with not only our athletic ability, but also our mental capabilities. It's good for us to lose a set, it's good for us to be able to come back and learn from that and make better choices the next time. It proved tonight that we've grown mentally. That's always been a challenge for us in volleyball the last few years and we've grown."

Grizzlies Head Coach Kandi Olson talked about what turned things around for North Woods in the second game.

"We were playing at Ely's pace instead of our pace," Olson said. "We don't play from reacting, we create, and we needed everyone to do their job and play their role. It just took a little reminder for them that we could hang with them. I was really proud of how they focused and stuck together. And really, it was momentum on our side. They

knew it and they knew they had to keep that excitement going and finish out that set."

Penke's kill shot total was a personal best, and Wognum said that was due as much to her heady play as it was to her powerful arm.

"She's a smart player. She knows how to place the ball," Wognum said. "They've got to learn how to put the ball in places where other people aren't, but she's just got that. She played phenomenally."

Penke also collected 14 digs and three aces. Kate Coughlin led the team in digs with 22 and nailed six kills. Sarah Visser had 20 set assists, and Kallberg was close behind with 18 and also had nine kills.

For the Grizzlies, Skyler Yernatich connected on a team-leading 10 kills, followed by Burnett with nine and Addy Hartway with seven. Talise Goodsky picked up 17 assists. Tori Olson had 18 digs, while Burnett had 15.

FOOTBALL...Continued from page 1B

in regulation put them up by six with just 44 seconds to go.

"I think our running-backs were running hard and our line was blocking really well, and I think we kind of wore them down," said Gerzin in trying to explain Ely's sudden offensive turnaround.

Unfortunately, it was Ely's defense that couldn't get the job done. An errant

kickoff gave the Vikings good field position with 40 seconds to go, and two plays and just ten seconds later, they punched another six on a deep pass play that sent the game into overtime.

Cook County scored in the first overtime period, but the Wolves headed off the conversion, and they scored on their first possession to send the game

into double overtime. It was rinse and repeat for Cook County, but Ely failed to hit the end zone. "I have to hand it to Cook County. They put up a very good defensive front to keep us from scoring," said Gerzin.

That left the Wolves to face the long drive home thinking about what might have been.

"What made the difference was three plays, three

reverses when we kind of blew our assignments," said Gerzin. "We've just got to be ready."

Kerntz had a huge night for the Wolves despite the loss, scoring 36 of Ely's points, including five touchdowns and three two-point conversions. He rushed for 129 yards, 102 passing yards, along with a 65-yard kickoff return.

Senior Erron Anderson

rushed for 90 yards, including two touchdowns and a conversion. Hart connected on a 73-yard touchdown pass to Kerntz before he left the game. Deegan Richards passed for 29 yards in relief.

Senior Jakson Hegman led in tackles with 8.5, while sophomore Alex Merriman tallied six tackles and a sack. Junior Gavin Marshall added 6.5 tackles and broke up a

pass, while Richards broke up six passes and notched 4.5 tackles. Junior Chase Anderson posted three tackles, a sack, and a fumble recovery.

The 0-3 Wolves were set to visit Mt. Iron-Buhl on Friday to take on the Rangers. They'll be home Friday, Oct. 7, to host North Central.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

Bombers got back to work. "It was 32-8 by the end of the quarter, let's put it that way," Anderson said.

The Grizzlies didn't score again until early in the fourth quarter, with Nelson on the receiving end of a 40-yard touchdown pass from Jonah Burnett.

The Grizzlies were

without the services of running back Jared Chiabotti, who was still nursing an injury from the previous game against Deer River. Chiabotti had been the team's leading rusher through three games.

Anderson said there were too many miscues on defense, from missed reads

to botched tackles.

"We had them bottled up for no gain or a one-yard gain, and our guys tried to throw them around instead of moving to the legs to tackle them, and they'd score a touchdown," Anderson said. "And you cannot look at their backfield, and that's what we

did the entire game. We had guys step in the wrong direction, and they were beat."

The offense was also out of sync, Anderson said, and time outs did little to correct the problems.

"A couple of them were doing one thing and a couple were doing another,

and it was just one of those games that no matter how many times you tell them to do something they can't put it together," he said.

The Grizzlies were scheduled to face another potential juggernaut on Friday for North Woods homecoming. Braham beat rival Barnum 60-44 before

blanking Chisholm 36-0 last week.

"We'll go back to the drawing board, shake this one off, and try to come out with a clear focus and hopefully we can make some strides forward," Anderson said.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

while junior Sarah Visser tallied 21 set assists and five digs. Senior Courtney Eilrich posted nine digs.

The win, coming as the volleyball season heads into its final three weeks, further

cements Ely's position as the team to beat in Section 7A. But Wognum said the team won't be resting on its laurels, despite their success to date. "We are going to take the next week and half to refine some of the skills we need to work on," she said. "Our defense is really coming along but we are always working toward better coverage and movement on the floor."

Ely's latest victory cruise came on the heels of their most recent tournament win, this time at Rock Ridge on Saturday.

The unbeaten Wolves made short work of their contests with Cherry and Cromwell before facing a couple of their toughest challenges of the season

against South Ridge and Kittson County Central. The Wolves topped the Tigers 25-18, 25-13 and Cromwell 25-12, 25-13, before facing South Ridge in the Wolves' tightest contest of the year to date. The Wolves took the first set 25-23 and lost the second 25-18 before edging the Panthers 17-15. Against Kittson County Central, the Bearcats took the first set 27-25, but lost momentum, allowing the Wolves to recover for a 25-20 second set win. Ely easily took the decider, 15-4, to keep their perfect record intact.

The Wolves relied heavily on the offensive prowess of Penke and the Coughlin sisters throughout the tournament. Penke

racked up 31 kills, while Kate Coughlin tallied 30 and Rachel Coughlin added 22. The three of them also led in digs, with 32 for Kate Coughlin, 30 for Penke, and 20 for Rachel Coughlin. Kallberg also posted a strong performance, with 15 kills, 19 digs, and 52 set assists, while Visser added 51 assists, 16 digs, and six aces.

Sophomore Lilli Rechichi posted 18 kills and five blocked shots on the day, while seniors Courtney Eilrich and Natasha Fulkrod added 18 digs and ten digs respectively.

The Wolves are set to host Northeast Range on Monday and travel to Lakeview Christian on Tuesday.

Tedrick leads NR-E swimmers at Duluth meet

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

DULUTH— Senior swimmer Lily Tedrick continued a string of strong performances this week as she finished in the top two in three events against a large field at the Soderlind Invitational at Duluth East, on Saturday. Her performance helped Northeast Range-Ely to a sixth-place team finish in a field of nine schools, most of them much larger than NR-E.

Tedrick topped thirty other swimmers in the 100 Breaststroke, with a time of 1:15.03, just edging second-place finisher Norah Gunderson of Proctor-Hermantown by sixteen-hundredths of a second. Tedrick took second in the 200 IM, with a time of 2:30.50, less than two seconds behind Gunderson, who topped the field in the IM.

But others on the team stepped up as well. Senior Morgan McClelland posted the top split time for NR-E in the 200 Medley Relay for a second-place finish in a field of 23. McClelland posted strong finishes in two freestyle events, taking sixth among 31 swimmers in the 100 Free with a time of 1:03.49. She also finished seventh among 27 swimmers in the 200 Free with a time of 2:20.24.

Senior Maggie Dammann posted a tenth-place finish in the 100 Backstroke, with a time of 1:17.64.

As a team, NR-E tallied 192 points during the meet. Sauk Rapids dominated the field with a combined total of 637 points.

NR-E will take part in the Taconite Invitational on Saturday, at Mesabi East, with a 1 p.m. start. They'll be at International Falls on Tuesday, with a 3 p.m. start.

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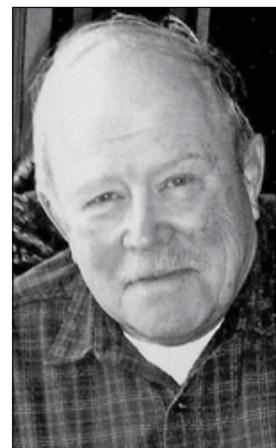
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Obituaries and Death Notices



Ralph F. Christopherson Jr.

Ralph F. Christopherson Jr., 82, lifelong resident of Virginia and Lake Vermilion, died on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022, at Edgewood Vista Memory Care in Virginia. A memorial service will be held 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower. Reverend Liz Cheney will officiate. Memorials are preferred to Immanuel Lutheran Church. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

Ralph was born on Jan. 16, 1940, in Virginia, the son of Ralph Sr. and Bernice (Tilman) Christopherson. He was a graduate of Roosevelt High School in Virginia. He

served in the Army National Guard. Ralph was united in marriage to Sally Rankila on Dec. 22, 1962, in Virginia.

Ralph was an entrepreneur, starting a couple of small businesses. He retired in 2002 as a truck driver for Malton Electric. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower and a retired member of the Greenwood Township VFD. Ralph was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, and more.

Ralph is survived by his children, Amy Christopherson of Anoka and Chad Christopherson of Maple Grove; sister, Mary Christopherson-Juve (Pete) of Yuma, Ariz.; brother, John Christopherson (Virgie) of Oconomowoc, Wis.; brother-in-law, Gary Rankila of Minneapolis; sister-in-law, Karen Christopherson of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.; grandchildren, Nicholas Christopherson, Jack Vlasaty and Cassidy Christopherson; a niece; several nephews; and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Sally in 2021; and brother, Daniel Christopherson.



Martin J. Walsh III

Martin Joseph Walsh III, 91, died peacefully on Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022, at his home at Edgewood Retirement Community in West Des Moines, Iowa. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, Sept. 27 at St. Augustin Catholic Church in Des Moines. Interment was at Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines, followed by a luncheon at the Wakonda Club.

Memorials of choice are welcome to The Martin J. Walsh III Scholarship Fund, St. Michael's College, One Winooski Park, PO Box 256, Colchester, VT 05439.

Marty was born on Feb. 25, 1931, in Hartford, Conn., to Catherine (Conley) Walsh and Martin J. Walsh II. He was reared in New Britain, Conn., and graduated from New Britain High School in the class of 1949. He earned

a BA degree from St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont, in 1954. He was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force at that time and served two-and-one-half years. In 1960, Marty came to Des Moines as a sales representative for the P and F Corbin Division of the American Hardware Corporation, where he met Katherine "Katie" Kurtz and they married in 1963.

Marty invested his entire career in the builders' hardware industry in which he took immense pride. In 1975, Marty and Katie purchased the builders' hardware division of L.H. Kurtz Company and formed Kurtz Walsh Builders Hardware Company. Marty's trio of hard work, honesty and integrity built the business into what is now Walsh Door and Security with offices in Des Moines, Iowa City and Kansas City, Mo.

Marty, most proud of his Irish heritage, was a generous and compassionate man who was dedicated to helping others in a quiet manner. He attributed his success to his strong work ethic and his Catholic faith. He was honored to have served as a member of the diocesan papal-visit steering committee that operated with

respect to the 1979 visit of Pope Saint John Paul II to Des Moines. Marty was proud to serve on the board of directors of the Iowa Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, as well as on the board of directors of Homesteaders Life Company. He enjoyed his membership in the Cambio Club, and St. Michael's College always held a special place in his heart.

Des Moines was home to Marty for over 60 years. Marty and Katie spent winters in Naples, Fla., at Bear's Paw Country Club and summers on Lake Vermilion in Tower. Together they established lifelong friendships and made lasting memories. God, family and friends were Marty's priority.

Marty is survived by his wife of 59 years, Katie; children, Martin J. Walsh IV (Suzanne), Brian K. Walsh (Melynda) and Meaghan Walsh Schneider (Dan); grandchildren, Jack Walsh, Lizzie Walsh, Nick Walsh and Bridget Walsh Schneider; sister, Kathleen Walsh Fagan of Connecticut; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and sister, Joanne Walsh Brennan.



William Kraskey

William "Bill" Kraskey, 57, of Hutchinson passed away on Monday, Sept. 19, 2022 at his home. He was born on June 5, 1965, in Deer River. He graduated from Horace Mann High School in Biwabik. He then went to Willmar Vo-Tech for two years and moved to Hutchinson with employment at Minnesota Specialty Yeast. Poor health and the battle with COVID shortened his life but he gave it a good fight.

He is survived by his mother, Dorothy (Douglas) Garland; brothers, John (Linda) Kraskey, Robert Kraskey and Curtis (Angela) Garland; nephews, Spencer and Alex Garland, Mason (Megan) Kraskey and Riley (Morgan) Kraskey; and niece, Callie Garland.

Lake Country Power seeks applications for local Community Award

Applications due by Nov. 1; award recognizes a nonprofit that contributes to local community

COHASSET- In the true vision of a grassroots movement, Lake Country Power will recognize a nonprofit organization that has made outstanding contributions to the local community through a special effort of volunteers and unique efforts.

seeking applications for the Touchstone Energy Community Award. Any nonprofit organization that has helped make northern Minnesota a better place to live and work through its community service is eligible for the \$500 cash award.

may nominate an organization by completing an application form, available at Lake Country Power or online at www.lake-countrypower.coop. Questions may be directed to Tami Zaun at 1-800-421-9959, ext. 7152. The application will require a description of the communi-

ty service project, program or event and the positive impact it brought to the community.

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1. Mail to Lake Country Power, Attn: Tami Zaun, 26039 Bear Ridge Dr., Cohasset, MN 55721, or e-mail tzaun@lcp.coop.

The award recipient will contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award, which has a cash prize of \$2,000. The statewide award winner will be recognized in March 2023.

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POSITION OPENING
Ely Public Schools
Substitute Teachers

Ely Public Schools is looking for substitute Teachers for the 2022-2023 school year.

No experience necessary, just a desire to make a difference.

Competitive pay, flexible schedule.

Call or visit:
Teachers on Call

1-800-713-4439 or teachersoncall.com

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2022



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Competitive pay, flexible schedule.

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Teachers on Call

1-800-713-4439 or teachersoncall.com

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2022

POSITION OPENING
Ely Public Schools
Indigenous Support Interventionist

Ely Public Schools is looking for an Indigenous Support Interventionist for the 2022-2023 school year. A background check is required.

Qualifications include:

- AA Degree or 2 years of college preferred
- Preferred experience working with school-age American Indian children
- Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting
- Knowledge of Google Suites

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

A complete application must include the following:

- Non-Licensed District Application
- Resume
- 2 letters of recommendation

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

Rate of Pay: \$17.00/hour

Hours: 6 hours/day

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

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2022

POSITION OPENING • ELY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Paraprofessional

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Paraprofessional for the 2022-2023 school year; background check required.

Qualifications include:

- Associate's Degree/equivalent or complete a Para Pro exam with a passing score (www.ets.org/parapro)
- Preferred experience working with school-age children
- Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting
- Ability to perform job description duties

Benefits include:

- Paid sick leave, personal days and vacation
- Health and life insurance
- Flexible spending account
- PERA retirement

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

A complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume
- College Transcripts
- 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us Contact the District Office for a complete job description.

Starting Rate of Pay: \$17.23/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

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

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2022



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Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

THE CHANGING CLIMATE

September among the fastest-warming months of the year

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Septembers aren't what they used to be in northern Minnesota. Forty years ago, the fall air often started creeping its way into the North Country in late August, when the traditional cold spots often recorded their first frost. By early-to-mid September, widespread frost

was commonplace, and the growing season for sensitive garden plants, like tomatoes and squash, was at an end. Before the end of the month, many stations occasionally recorded a dusting of snow.

Those days appear to be gone.

Now, summer seems to hang on, even in a part of the country where fall once came early. And that's not just your imagination, according

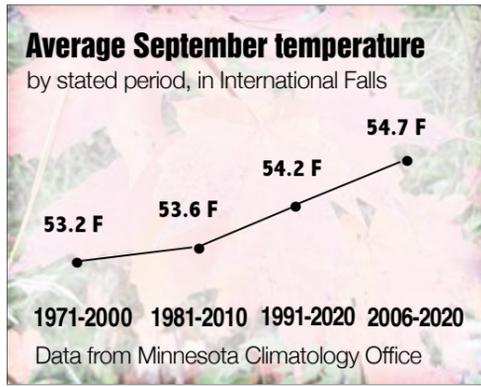
to state climatologists, who note that September, along with June, are the two fastest-warming months of the year in Minnesota.

This year has been no exception. Temperatures this month have been running anywhere from 1.5 to 2.5 degrees above normal across northern St. Louis County, and that's based on the most recent 30-year average, which factors in much of the

warming that's occurred in recent decades.

Those months are typically the bookends of summer here in northern Minnesota and their steady warming has meant that summer temperatures arrive earlier in the spring and linger on well into what used to be autumn.

The changes in early See WARMING...pg. 5B



NATURE'S PALETTE
**IS PEAK
UPON US?**



Peak color seems a bit behind normal this year. The late spring, combined with plentiful rainfall and mild temperatures in September appears to have delayed the color change at least by a week or so. But look for plenty of color this coming week, sparked by several days of cool temperatures and sunshine, two factors that help prompt the changing colors. photos by Timberjay Staff



HUNTING

Hunt turkey in the North Country? You betcha!

Season opens Saturday



Spotting a wild turkey, like this one near Lost Lake, is hardly an unusual event these days as the species has spread widely into the North Country in recent years. file photo

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — As recently as ten years ago, the notion of hunting wild turkeys in northern St. Louis County would have seemed ludicrous — right up there with hunting for sasquatch.

What a difference a decade can make. With a warming climate and the expansion of recreational deer feeding, which has left corn and other turkey-friendly foods across the landscape, wild turkeys have moved into the North Country in significant numbers. Whether you're in Orr, or Ely, or anywhere in between, spotting a turkey or a whole brood of turkeys out along an area highway or field is hardly surprising anymore. And that means a new opportunity for area hunters to bag quarry with a bit more heft than your typical ruffed grouse.

Minnesota's fall turkey season gets underway this Saturday, Oct. 1 and it's a hunt that's likely to attract at least a few hunters up here in the north.

If you'd like to give it a try, you'll need to buy another license. Your small game license may work for ruffed grouse, but you'll need a turkey license if you want to bag a bird fit for your Thanksgiving spread.

Hunters are allowed to take one turkey of either sex during the fall season. Fall turkey hunters may use a crossbow, firearm or bow and arrow.

Fall turkey licenses are available for purchase online, by telephone by calling 888-665-4236 or in person anywhere DNR licenses are sold. More information about fall turkey hunting is available on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/Hunting/Turkey).

Outdoors briefly



Youth deer hunt set for Oct. 20-23

REGIONAL — Minnesota will hold its annual youth deer season again this year, set for Thursday, Oct. 20, through Sunday, Oct. 23.

The season coincides with statewide teacher workshops, so many Minnesota students don't have school during the youth season.

To participate, youth must be 10-17 years old and have a deer license. Participant numbers are not limited and there is no special permit, so parents should purchase or obtain a regular deer hunting license for the youth who will be

hunting.

An adult parent, guardian, or mentor must accompany youth ages 10-13. All hunters and mentors, regardless of whether they are participating in youth deer season, must follow blaze orange/pink clothing requirements. Adults may not hunt, unless they are in an area open during the early antlerless season and have the corresponding license. Complete youth season details are available on the DNR youth deer hunting page (mndnr.gov/Hunting/Deer/Youth.html).

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleye reports have become hard to come by as another stretch of poor weather moved into the area. Still, some anglers braved the weather and caught some quality walleyes. Angler reports on locations remain somewhat mixed with some reports of walleyes on shallow rocks, in 5 ft of water. Most reports are still on humps ranging from 20-40 feet of water. With water temps now getting down in the high 50's to low 60's, big minnows have become the best way to go to catch walleyes. Pike suckers on a jig and creek chubs on lindy rigs have been very effective. Orange/chartreuse, white and gold have been the top colors.

Smallies continue to transition to sunken islands, close to deep water and feed heavily. Out here, big active minnows like creek chubs or lite suckers are very hard to beat! Humps that top out from 10-20 feet have been best. Some smallies continue to be found in shallow rocky bays, current areas and around islands. Spinnerbaits and soft plastics have been very effective here.

With cooler water temps, pike have become very active this last week. Good numbers of pike are being caught with large suckers fished under bobbers, right off docks, shallow bays, river mouths and weedbeds.

Thanks to cooler water temps, stream trout have

started to move shallower and back to within reach of shore anglers. Night crawlers floated off the bottom, small spoons and spinners have been very popular as of late. Anglers fishing from a boat have been reporting that trolling small crankbaits behind the boat about 100-150 ft., has been very effective for them.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
66 43				63 44				62 46				65 44				58 38			
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.
09/19	64	53	0.00	09/19	66	50	0.00	09/19	na	na	0.00	09/19	73	52	0.87	09/19	65	50	0.00
09/20	74	55	0.00	09/20	76	48	0.00	09/20	na	na	0.00	09/20	79	57	0.01	09/20	74	50	0.00
09/21	78	48	0.00	09/21	81	48	0.00	09/21	na	na	0.00	09/21	55	46	0.00	09/21	80	48	0.00
09/22	56	39	0.00	09/22	56	34	0.00	09/22	na	na	0.00	09/22	55	39	0.00	09/22	52	40	0.00
09/23	55	39	0.00	09/23	57	31	0.00	09/23	na	na	0.00	09/23	55	39	0.00	09/23	57	32	0.00
09/24	56	40	0.05	09/24	57	31	0.15	09/24	55	45	0.76	09/24	54	48	0.05	09/24	53	34	0.02
09/25	53	49	0.18	09/25	53	49	0.10	09/25	54	46	0.05	09/25	61	46	0.18	09/25	53	49	0.10
YTD Total			22.24	YTD Total			24.01	YTD Total			22.53	YTD Total			NA NA	YTD Total			29.12

Outdoors briefly

Hunter walking trails provide access to public lands

REGIONAL — The Department of Natural Resources maintains hunter walking trails as easy ways to travel by foot through wildlife management areas, state and federal forests, and other public hunting lands. Hunter walking trails wind through prime habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock, wild turkey and deer. There are more than 600 miles of hunter walking trails meandering throughout the northern half of the state. Many of the trails are gated, allowing foot traffic only.

The DNR offers a hunter walking trail tool (mndnr.gov/Hunting/HWT) that provides information on trail locations by name and county.

DNR seeks input on hunter wildlife sightings

REGIONAL — With archery deer season underway and scouting for the upcoming firearms deer season starting in earnest, now is an ideal time for hunters to start using the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources online log for deer and other wildlife sightings.

"We're asking deer hunters to share their observations of wildlife to help broaden our knowledge about

deer and other wildlife species," said Eric Michel, DNR ungulate research scientist. The DNR uses the results to compare what hunters report to the population estimates that are an important tool for managing wildlife.

Using a mobile device or desktop computer, hunters can enter information on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/Mammals/Deer/Management/Deer-Hunter-Field-Log.html) about wildlife they see while hunting including deer, turkey, bear, fisher and other species. Hunters also will be able to report specific information about any deer they harvest, including antler size.

WARMING...Continued from page 4B

autumn weather can be seen in the climate data in International Falls, which has the longest period of record at a single location of any place in the region, outside Duluth. Every ten years, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, updates what are known as monthly climate "normals," or averages, which are determined by averaging the readings at each weather station for each month. While the variations of day-to-day weather can easily mask the effects of climate change, the trend line of average temperatures provides a far more authoritative data set for climatologists.

Climate normals are based on a 30-year average, which is updated every ten years. That update drops the data from the oldest decade as it adds the data from the most recent ten-year period. If the climate is changing, that should show up as climate normals are adjusted every ten years. To the surprise of very few climatologists, those 30-year normals have been climbing over

the past few decades in most places, including International Falls, particularly in months like September.

In the most recent 30-year period, 1991-2020, the average September temperature in the border city was 54.2 degrees F. That's a full degree warmer than the normal of 53.2 degrees F for the period from 1971-2000. And if you consider the changes seen in just the past 15 years, from 2006-2020, the differences are even more dramatic. September's average temperature is now 54.7 degrees F, or 1.5 degrees F above the 1971-2000 normal.

The first frost of the season is also coming later in the Falls, and elsewhere around the region.

According to Boulay, the median first frost date for the Falls is Sept. 11. This year, the mercury didn't reach the 32-degree mark in the Falls until Tuesday morning, Sept. 27, more than two weeks later than usual. And that was early compared to last year, when the border town didn't reach 32 degrees until Oct. 17, a new record for the latest

date ever.

"They don't make Septembers like they used to," said Boulay.

The warming in June and September isn't limited to Minnesota. A recent study published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*, have shown that the summer is longer across almost all of the Northern Hemisphere, having increased by 4.2 days per decade on average, over a 60-year period beginning in 1952.

As might be expected, the same study found that winters have been shortening as well, as have both spring and fall. The study concluded that at the current rate of change, summers in much of the Northern Hemisphere will last up to six months, on average, while winters will last less than two months by the end of the century.

While that might please some Minnesotans, the researchers believe the impacts to agricultures and the ecosystems upon which all life depends, could be profound.

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- CLEAN**
 - Boats, PWCs, trailers, and gear
 - Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, skis, wakeboards, ropes, and life jackets before leaving
- DRAIN**
 - Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders. PWCs - run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive
 - Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
 - Trash unused bait
- DRY**
 - Everything at least five days before going to other waters
 - (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

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EMPLOYMENT



FULL-TIME REPORTER/EDITOR

Join the independently-owned community newspaper with a national reputation for quality. The Timberjay, northern Minnesota's most award-winning weekly newspaper, has an immediate opening for a full-time editor/reporter in Ely.

Live, work, and play in the town at the edge of the famed Boundary Waters, named by Outside Magazine as one of the Ten Best Small Towns in America.

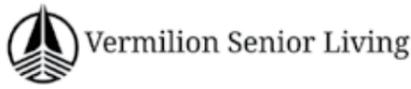
We are looking for an experienced news editor or reporter who wants to immerse themselves in a vibrant community full of colorful characters. A background in page layout (InDesign) and excellent photography skills are important as well as writing ability.

Competitive salary plus a SIMPLE-IRA savings plan with matching contributions.

Qualified candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and writing and/or layout samples to Marshall Helmberger at marshall@timberjay.com.



Local Furniture Store looking for a person to work Saturdays greeting and assisting customers from 10 am - 2 pm with more hours possible. Contact Nick at Anderson Furniture, 218-741-9356. 10/7



Vermilion Senior Living is hiring for HHA's and Certified Nursing Assistants.

Our Current Open Shifts Include:
 > AM/PM Shift (7AM-3PM)-(3PM-11PM)
 > Overnight (11PM - 7AM)
 Including rotating weekends.

These positions are responsible for:
 > Providing personal care and follow the residents' care plan
 > Performing delegated nursing and medical care designed by the RN to maintain the residents' physical and emotional well-being.
 > Accurately documenting information
 > Communicating with RN's and LPN's regarding relevant information pertaining the residents
 > Following HIPAA rules

Benefits:
 > CNA/NOC pay differentials
 > Free Meals
 > Paid Time Off
 > Medical, Dental, Vision and HSA
 > Insurances are available 30 days after full time employment.
 > 401(k)
 > Flexible schedules available

Requirements:
 > Great communication skills
 > Strong work ethic
 > Team-player (POSITIVE) attitudes.
 > Previous experience is preferred but not required.
 > Must be able to pass a background check.

Please contact **Hailie Brondum** at 218-753-7788 or hailieb@mnsignaturecare.com 10/21

Purchased Referred Care and Billing Specialist

Applications close 10/07/2022

Position Purpose: The Purchased Referred Care and Billing Specialist provides support and technical assistance for payments, co-pays, denials for the Purchased Referred Care Program. Also performs functions related to third-party billing services for Health Services to include the areas of Medical, Dental, and Family Services programs, which may result when health care services are delivered by the facility to consumer clients. Duties include the submission of properly executed claims on a timely basis to third-party payers and responsible parties and rebilling or correcting billing of accounts previously submitted.

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

** Excellent Benefits!!** 9/30

Peshel Accounting We're Hiring Receptionist

Looking for a person who is:
 -Proficient in all Microsoft Programs
 -Organized and Innovative
 -Has Customer Service Experience
 -High School Diploma or equivalent preferred
 Monday - Thursday
 email resume to jpeshel@gmail.com 9/30



COME JOIN OUR TEAM!
 Waschke Family Chevrolet is currently seeking an Auto Body Technician and an Automotive Detailer. Stop in and apply in person at 126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, or inquire by phone at 218-666-5901, or send resume to Dgrecinger@waschke.com.

WANTED!

Waschke Family Chevrolet is currently seeking an A/B technician. Prefer GM Certified but will train. Base pay plus incentives! Stop in and apply in person at 126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, or inquire by phone at 218-666-5901, or send resume to Dgrecinger@waschke.com. 11/1

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP SEEKING FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Greenwood Township is currently looking to hire personnel to fill the Fire Chief position, Assistant Fire Chief position and the Safety Officer position. These are paid positions. The Greenwood Township Board offers a \$3,000 per year good time service credit pension, pay per run, pay per meeting, and pay per drill.

Job descriptions and Standard Operations Guideline manual are available to pick up at the town hall or by email. Please email the clerk (clerk@greentownshipmn.com) to have this information emailed with an application form.

We encourage all qualified applicants to apply by October 30, 2022.

All area fire dept members are encouraged to apply.

Greenwood Township Board
 Sue Drobac,
 Greenwood Township Board Chair

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 23, 30 & Oct. 7



POSITION OPENING City of Tower

Assistant Ambulance Director

For position description and to apply, visit www.cityoftower.com/positions-available
Deadline Friday, October 7

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 23 & 30, 2022



Current Openings Teacher: Science and/or Social Studies (1.0)

Vermilion Country School is seeking to hire a full-time licensed teacher for science and/or social studies for the 2022-2023 school year. Positions open until filled. Salary per established pay scale (available by request).

The Vermilion Country School is a grades 7-12 charter school in Tower. The school serves a multicultural student body of approx. 45 students, with an innovative learning model that is uniquely-adapted to this rural community. For more information, visit our website at www.vermilioncountry.org.

For more information, full job description, or an application, please email lkess@vermilioncountry.org, or call 218-753-1246 (ext. 2 for office) or call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950



VAN DRIVER

Vermilion Country School is seeking to hire a part-time van driver. Valid license and background check required (CDL not required). Route is 45-60 min., morning/afternoon.

Call Karla for information at 218-753-1246 (ext. 2 for office)



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Environmental Services

FT Laundry Aide (Wage starting at \$14.68/hr)
 FT (Environmental Tech I) Housekeeping and Laundry Aide (Wage starting at \$14.68/hr, \$1,500 sign-on bonus)

Hospital/ER

PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting at \$35.17/hr, \$4,000 sign-on bonus)
 Casual Unit Clerk/HUC (Wage starting at \$17.36/hr. EMT and/or NA cert. required)

Care Center

FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.36/hr - \$1,500 sign-on bonus)

Activities

PT & Casual Activities Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.36)

Laboratory

FT Medical Lab Tech (Wage starting at \$23.38/hr. \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

Radiology

FT Radiologic Technologist (Wage starting at \$26.14/hr. \$4,000 sign-on bonus)
 Casual Ultrasound Tech (Independent Contractor)
 Casual Radiologic Tech (Independent Contractor)

Dietary

PT Dietary Aide/Cook (Wage starting at \$14.18/hr.)

TO APPLY:

www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/

More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220

humanresources@cookhospital.org

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Charter School DIRECTOR Vermilion Country School, Tower

SALARY: PER ESTABLISHED PAY SCALE (AVAILABLE BY REQUEST)

POSITION IS FULL-TIME, OPEN UNTIL FILLED

FULL JOB DESCRIPTION: Email jsummit@vermilioncountry.org. Also will be posted at WWW.VERMILIONCOUNTRY.ORG

SEND COVER LETTER AND RESUME to: Jodi Summit, Board Chair, jsummit@vermilioncountry.org, or call 218-753-2950.

QUALIFICATIONS: Minimum 4-year degree in relevant area. Administrator licensure or coursework preferred but not required. Experience with charter schools and school leadership. Experience/interest in innovative learning and creating a democratic school environment. Ability to write/manage grants, interact with state agencies, VCS authorizer, and all stakeholders. The board envisions this to be a full-time position. For more information, visit our website at www.vermilioncountry.org.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FIELD TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICE DATES

The October and November Regular Board Meetings for Field Township will be held October 18, 2022 and November 15, 2022, at 7 pm at the Clerk's residence, 9998 East Lind Rd, Angora.

Pat Chapman, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 30, 2022

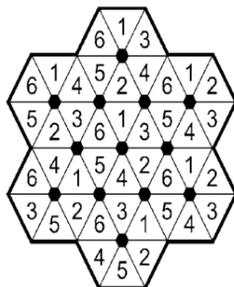
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

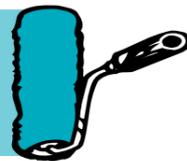
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