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Inside:

Fall puzzle book....inside

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TIMBERJAY



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\$1⁰⁰

GREENWOOD

Fire department concerns top town board agenda

A dozen firefighters picket outside in protest of officer dismissals

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP— The town board’s 3-2 decision last month to dismiss three of the township’s top fire department officers drew a small crowd of firefighters to the town hall on Tuesday night to picket that decision.

The dozen or so firefighters

hoisted signs to passing cars protesting the decision, with some even calling for the dismissal of the supervisors who backed the decision to dismiss fire chief David Fazio, assistant chief Mike Indihar, and training officer Rick Worringer.

In a handout prepared for the media, department members wrote that the fire department currently has more members, at 21, than ever before

Right: Greenwood firefighters picketed Tuesday in protest of the recent dismissal of top department officers.
photo by J. Summit

and has increased its EMS response rate to 100 percent in the past three years.

Department members disputed

See...TOWNSHIP pg. 12



VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

Enrollment is booming

Post-COVID, the area charter school has seen student numbers jump sharply

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— What a difference 12 months can make. Last year at this time the Vermilion Country School was facing a budget challenge as two years of the COVID pandemic had left recruitment of students behind the pace necessary to fund the grades 7-12 charter school in the long run.

But as students headed back to school last month,

Above: Jack Ranua and Bentley Crego were focused on math earlier this week.

Jaymes Schulz, Kyler Tuura, and Bryce Williamson check out a plant growing project.

photos by J. Summit

the turnaround here was far beyond what school officials could have predicted, even in their most optimistic

See...SCHOOL pg. 11



CAMPAIGN 2022

Pay raise claims called false, unfair

GOP ads claim area lawmakers voted to boost their own pay

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Political attack ads that claim area DFL legislators voted to boost their pay by \$15,000 in 2019 are patently false. That’s according to Joe Boyle, an International Falls attorney and DFL party chair in Koochiching County.

The attacks have appeared in fliers and have aired on both radio and television in recent days as the campaign for northeastern Minnesota legislative seats has ramped up. The general election is set for Tuesday, Nov. 8 and early voting is already underway.

At issue is the claim, pushed by both the Republican House Campaign Committee and the Republican Party of Minnesota, that District 3A Rep. Rob Ecklund and District 6B Rep. Dave Lislegard voted to give themselves an enormous pay raise in 2019.

Legislators did receive a substantial pay raise, that took effect in 2017 and another much smaller increase in 2019. But lawmakers didn’t vote on those increases. Instead, an independent commission established by a constitutional amendment approved overwhelmingly by the state’s voters in 2016, made that call, and lawmakers—even those who said they opposed the increase— ultimately agreed they had no choice in the matter.

See...ATTACKS pg. 10

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Could “greening” of the steel sector bring a new boom to the Range?

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The greening of the steel industry will bring big changes to Minnesota’s Iron Range, and those changes could be beneficial or devastating to the region’s economy, depending on how the industry and state leaders chart a

See related EDITORIAL

A brighter future for the Iron Range? Page 4

future that’s in rapid flux. That was the message from Jeff Hanson, a partner in Babbitt-based Clearwater BioLogics, who has worked closely with the region’s iron mining industry for years on solutions to sulfate pollution.

Hanson offered his views during a regular meeting of the Ely Climate Group last week and he provided a mostly optimistic vision about the prospects for major improvements in the greenhouse footprint of the steel

Right: Jeffrey Hanson, of Clearwater BioLogics, spoke earlier this month to the Ely Climate Group about major changes on the horizon for the steel industry. photo by O. Kringstad

industry — and the resulting economic opportunity for the Iron Range.

See...STEEL pg. 10



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Community notices

Swedish meatball dinner on Oct. 26

VIRGINIA - Care Partners is hosting its 13th Annual Swedish Meatball Dinner on Wednesday, Oct. 26 from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m., or until the food is all gone. The dinner will be held at Parkview Elementary School, 506 9th Ave. W, Virginia. Cost is \$15 per person, and children under five are free.

Eat-in or walk-in/carry-out is available. You can also text your name and order to 218-780-3366 and someone will bring your dinner out to the curb (signs will be posted in the parking lot).

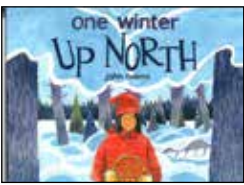
Meatballs only are \$15 per dozen, and are available with or without gravy.

All proceeds directly benefit local individuals and their families facing cancer or life-limiting illness.

Tickets available at the door. For more information, call 218-404-1411. For monetary donations, mail to Care Partners, PO Box 217, Eveleth, MN 55734.

Come meet John Owens, author of the new children’s book “One Winter Up North”

REGIONAL - John Owens, Minnesota author of the new children’s book “One Winter Up North”, a wordless picture-book journey through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in winter, will be in northern Minnesota for two upcoming book signing events, including Friday, Oct. 21, from 1-2:30 p.m., Piragis Northwoods Company, 105 N Central Ave., Ely; and Saturday, Oct. 22, from 1-2 p.m., Drury Lane Books, 12 Wisconsin St., Grand Marais.



In winter the Boundary Waters, way up north in Minnesota, is not the same place you canoed last summer—but still it beckons and welcomes you. Grab a pack, strap on snowshoes, make a path (Oh, they take some getting used to!), and venture out across the frozen lakes and through the snowy woods. The vast wintry world here is so still and quiet, you might think you’re all alone—but no! Who made these tracks? A deer? A hare? A fox? And far off there’s a musher, making tracks with his sled dogs.

A wintry adventure that unfolds in pictures, John Owens’s delightful book gives readers a chance to discover—or rediscover—another season full of wonder in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra presents it’s 2022-2023 season, Voyages

REGIONAL - The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra is delighted to invite you aboard the “Voyages” that will be our 2022-23 season. Maestro Benjamin Nilles notes, “On behalf of the musicians and of the Board of Directors, I thank you for helping the MSO thrive and remain a cultural pillar of our communities. We invite you to join us as we explore and find new ways forward with our season, “Voyages”. We’ll visit parts of the world as each concert this season will be dedicated to featuring the music of specific countries.”

Where better to begin our musical journey than in Italy? On Saturday night, Oct. 29, our first concert takes place at 7 p.m. in the historic Hibbing High School Auditorium. We will repeat the program at 2:30 p.m. in Goodman Auditorium at Virginia High School on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 30. The MSO is thrilled to present this joyous, magnificent music free to the public.

At the Italy concert, the MSO will perform orchestral works including a suite from Rossini’s ballet *La Boutique Fantasque* (“The Magic Toyshop”), which was orchestrated for full orchestra by Respighi. But Italy’s music wouldn’t be the same without singing, would it? So, our friends at the Duluth-based Lyric Opera of the North (LOON) will join us to perform some iconic and passionate arias from two of the most well-known Italian operas in the literature, Verdi’s *Rigoletto* and Puccini’s *La Bohème*. From Duluth, we welcome Sarah Lawrence (Co-Artistic Director of LOON) and Vicki Fingalson, both sopranos. Tenor Brian Wallin and baritone Mark Billy, both from the Twin Cities, will round out the vocal quartet. It is a rare treat to find this type and caliber of music on the Iron Range, and one would typically have to drive several hours for such a program.

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

ELY- What do you do if you have too much of a good thing? That spark of a question was what initially ignited a fire of hard work for children far across the ocean who’ve been left with nothing due to the ongoing war. Bert Hyde and Mark Olson have offered many classes at the Ely Folk School teaching people interested in learning to make a beaver hat and/or long beaver mittens. After each class, Bert and Mark wondered what to do with the scrap left over from the class. Hyde explained that when dealing with fur, the scrap is something you’d hate to throw away and would much rather find someone who could put a piece or two to good use making small mittens or booties with the warm fur. “We keep trying to find a way to use them (the fur scraps),” Hyde explained.

Hyde got to talking to Ely Folk School (EFS) board member Ozzie Reif who currently teaches the EFS Outdoor Skills and Knowledge class, “Sew What: Mittens.” Reif is a former Wintergreen Northern Wear employee who, like Bert, also struggled to see scrap materials left from creating Wintergreen products (outerwear, etc.) going unused. The pair felt like there must be a better way to put what’s left over to good use. The conversation grew to include current Heart of the Woods Quilters Guild member and former EFS board member Autumn Cole. As the group grew, the conversation evolved to how they could help others with these surplus materials. Hyde said, “We make mittens and stuff already, so why not do that?” Hyde said the group “kicked the idea around awhile,” but when Tatiana Riabokin, who has family back in war torn Ukraine, offered an idea of who could use mittens this winter, the mitten project really started to take shape. “That was all we really needed to get the idea going,” Hyde said.

Once the idea was born, the group needed a place for it all to happen. Reif suggested the Ely Folk School as a place big enough for everyone who wanted to be involved to gather and sew. The Ely Folk School even has four sewing machines on hand to use for classes. With the location set, Hyde made an announcement about the effort to the Tuesday Group, EFS Program Director Lucy Soderstrom posted the event on the Ely Folk School website

ELY HELPING UKRAINE

Lending a warm hand to kids in Ukraine



New program coordinator at EFS Alexia Springer traces a pattern while Alison Bell gets down to cutting. photos by R. Brophy



Autumn Cole demonstrates cutting on fleece which she says “can be tricky.” Three-year-old Uilr lends a hand trying mittens on for size.



and word of mouth helped to get the message out to other community members who might be interested in making mittens for children in Ukraine.

Hyde said he thought this particular project might hold extra meaning for many people who live in and around Ely. “Initially, I thought there’s so many people in Ely who have roots in Eastern Europe, and they might want to be doing something (for the people affected by the war).” Hyde went on to say, “It’s something small that a lot of people could do for little kids who are suffering because of war.” He also mentioned that he hopes the mitten project is something that catches on not only throughout the community, but even statewide. “Everybody around Minnesota knows the value of mittens,” he said adding that the state has various woolen mills and other manufacturers that likely also have scrap that could be put to good use helping others. “I hope this keeps going and catches on, a lot of people around Minnesota could get in on this.”

The Mittens for Ukraine campaign had its first informational meeting back on Sept. 24 and was off to a great start the following Thursday, Sept. 29 thanks to Wintergreen Northern Wear’s large donation of fleece scrap. Sola Anderson marketing lead for Wintergreen Northern Wear said the

company was happy to be able to donate to the project. “We’ve been looking for outlets for our fleece scrap.” Anderson said, adding “We’re absolutely happy to do it as long as they’re willing to make mittens.”

Reif and Cole designed four patterns for the mittens to be made, and their expertise with sewing and working with fleece is an invaluable asset to helping volunteers of all abilities. The first Thursday meeting of the group involved mostly sorting fabric and cutting. Reif explained that some mittens will be single layer and others will be double, and “this all makes a difference when the scissors comes out.”

Anyone of any ability who’d like to get involved with helping, can come to the Ely Folk School on Thursday mornings. Hyde said that knowing how to sew is not a requirement for coming to help. “There’s a place for almost everyone to do something.” Already a group of more than two dozen people began meeting on Thursday mornings to cut and sew mittens for babies and children with the intent to send these mittens to the young people of Ukraine who will soon face another cold winter displaced by a war that looks at times like it may never end.

According to EFS new program coordinator

Alexia Springer, the group has a goal of making 500 pairs of mittens, and she says at present they’re about 1/5 of the way there. When Hyde learned of the goal he asked, “Are you crazy?” but he then admitted this is a project that could keep going all winter. Springer noted that the initial donation of fleece from Wintergreen has already been put to use, but others have started contributing too, and the EFS welcomes further donations of fleece to continue towards their goal.

EFS Program Director, Lucy Soderstrom said “This is really a community activity. Ely Folk School is the perfect place to do it with the spirit of what we do.” Once the mittens are sewn and ready to be shipped out, the journey is far from over. The package with mittens will be first sent to international shipping company, MEEST in New Jersey, before being sent to Ukraine where Riabokin has family connections to those who can make sure the humanitarian cargo gets to those who need it most.

According to Ely Folk School’s website, “A project like this takes a village!” The Mittens for Ukraine campaign will continue meeting at the EFS Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. with work sessions scheduled based on the supply of available fabric. There are several ways to contribute to the project including time and donations of money to cover fleece purchases and shipping costs. Interested volunteers should visit the EFS website at <https://elyfolkschool.org/volunteer/email> or email info@elyfolkschool.org to be added to their list.



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ISD 696

Ely School Board takes closer look at the bills

by Rachel Brophy
Staff Writer

ELY- The number of home school enrollments is down slightly this year in the ISD 696 district, and board members discussed possibilities for bringing those students back into the system’s schools at their most recent meeting.

As of Oct. 6, there were 27 home school students ranging from age seven to 17. Board Chair Ray Marsnik pointed out that last year there were 34 students being home schooled, “So there was a drop of seven from the previous year.”

Board member Tony Colarich asked, “Is there anything we can do to encourage people to send their students to school?”

Washington Elementary Principal Anne Oelke asked if Colarich meant outreach, and both Oelke and Memorial High School Principal Jeff Carey maintained that home school enrollment continues to be primarily based on religious preferences with a few exceptions due to COVID. Superintendent John Klarich also chimed in.

“There’s a lot of online learning. That wasn’t so popular way back when. It wasn’t as developed as it’s getting to be now.”

“We had a few come back this year that are doing parttime and taking a couple of classes

here, so that’s a step in the right direction,” Carey responded.

Facility project

Most of Monday’s meeting was spent discussing the 21st Century Facility Project.

First, we’ll talk about some concrete work that we have planned for this week. We have a little heating problem, and we’re starting to get some of the railing,” Klarich said.

Facilities Director Tim Leeson then took over the update.

“Concrete is scheduled to be here Thursday and Friday, and hopefully that finishes all of it,” he said. “I think there’s about 200 yards that they need to pour and finish.”

Leeson moved on to the next concern.

“Heating is a question that’s been going around as to why we haven’t had it,” he said.

The problem was discovered to be plastic pipe shavings that had gotten in a propane line when it was broken last summer during storm sewer work.

“We took apart some regulators outside of the building and found pieces of plastic piping that some of the shavings from when they cut it and patched it were in the regulator, so instead of putting on the new regulators right away, they want to blow that line out which is going to happen on Wednesday,” he said. “Then

Be sure to see next week’s edition of *the Timberjay* for the full story on the AAUW/Ely Rotary School Board Candidate Forum.

they’ll put on the new regulators, and hopefully we should be good by then.”

Leeson also mentioned that the new railings that have been on back order may be installed by the end of the week.

Klarich then presented the board with bills and a credit related to contract change orders.

He explained that most of the items were already in the budget and previously approved, with the bills just coming through now.

The board discussed several billed items including the score board credit, concrete flatness, adjusting cabinets, plumbing vents, house-keeping pads, kitchen electrical work, and cost for materials and labor for temporary railing installation.

Leeson assured the board that the wood from the temporary railings would be put to use.

“We are keeping that lumber, just so you know. It’s going to the wood shop, so they can use it,” he said.

When Klarich got to the bill from Rachel Contracting he joked, “I don’t know if I want to talk about this one.” The bill for \$549,495.94 for excess blasting came as no surprise to the board as it was one discussed at length at the last meeting.

“Tim and I talked about this today. This is extra,” Klarich said. “We’re the victim of circumstance of having all that ledge rock and having to go that extra mile to fit everything in. Unfortunately, during a big construction project like this, things like this do come up.”

“These invoices date back to last winter,” board member Tom Omerza said.

“I’m sure hoping this is the last of it,” Colarich said.

Klarich chuckled and named off several items including the concrete work and railings that are still to be completed. “We’re going to get these billings for a long time,” he said.

In other business the board:

- Hired Justin Olson as temporary part time custodian (4 hrs/day, 5 days/week student contact days) through June 5, 2023.
- Approved temporary At Will Superintendent’s

Administrative Assistant Mentoring Agreement with Mary Wognum effective Oct. 11.

- Approved policy consent agenda that included third reading and adoption of: Policy 416 - Drug and Alcohol testing; Policy 418 – Drug-Free Workplace/ Drug-Free School; Policy 524 - Internet and Acceptable Use Safety Policy; and Policy 904 - Distribution of Materials on School District Property by Non-school Personnel.
- Discussed exploring various funding opportunities including pursuing a grant through Lake Country Power.
- Approved a proposal for afterschool programming. Oelke said, “So far there’s about 30 kids Monday through Friday, K-6 grade (participating). Marsnik pointed out, “It’s the good work that ECR does all the time. I think it’s a worthwhile expenditure.”
- Approved a Letter of Understanding between AFSCME 295 and ISD 696 regarding an item missed during previous contract negotiations.

Approved the purchase of a scoreboard and shot clocks.

The next regular meeting of the board will be Monday, Oct. 24 at 6 p.m.

CITY OF TOWER

Future of Tower Fire Department to be examined

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— The future of the Tower Fire Department will be the subject of a new ad hoc committee established by the city council here on Monday. The department is down to fewer than half a dozen members and has suffered from vehicle problems, a longstanding issue with poor equipment maintenance, and an inability to recruit new members.

The department has operated with an interim assistant fire chief and captain for more than two years, both of whom were appointed by Chief Paige Olson.

With an automatic fire protection agreement with the Breitung and Greenwood fire departments, and with other mutual aid partners available, the city has managed to get by

without a viable department for some time. The city has also been fortunate that it has had no major fires in the past few years.

Clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz said he was looking for council assistance in addressing several issues with the department due to constraints on his time which prevent him from taking on the issue alone.

Council members Joe Morin and Bob Anderson (who was absent from Monday’s meeting) agreed to take up the matter and will consider several issues, including poor recruitment of new members, the status of interim officers, reviewing the current firefighter application and requirements, and the future of the department.

Schultz noted that city hall had commissioned a time study for the fire chief last year, but there

was no follow-up on the study.

Council member Kevin Norby suggested taking a new look at the merger with the Breitung Fire Department, which was well underway when the city backed out of the agreement over disagreements on the construction of a joint hall and leadership.

“Is there any possibility of bringing that forward?” asked Norby.

“That’s all part of the discussion of the future of the department,” said Mayor Dave Setterberg. “It’s wide open”

The city currently spends about \$40,000, or approximately ten percent of its levy on the fire department, but the department’s ability to respond effectively to a fire has been in doubt for some time given its limited manpower and inconsistent training. The department currently relies

heavily on assistance from Breitung for both manpower and incident command.

The ad hoc committee of Morin, Anderson, and Schultz established on Monday will meet and report back to the council with recommendations.

In other business, the council discussed but took no action on the city’s need for additional housing. Setterberg said the issue has been coming up in discussions he’s having with residents while he’s been door-knocking as part of his re-election effort.

Setterberg said the city needs to start a discussion with the Tower Economic Development Authority, which also serves as the city’s Housing and Redevelopment Authority, about how to bring more housing to town.

Morin, who serves on the

TEDA board, said TEDA is well aware of the need for housing. “TEDA’s working on it,” he said. “It topped the priority list in our recent strategic thinking session.”

Morin said considerable new housing could be a part of the harbor development, depending on which direction TEDA goes now that the town home project won’t proceed as originally planned. Morin added that current construction costs are prohibitive, which is making new housing difficult to build. “Hopefully costs will come down sometime next year,” he said.

Setterberg said that much of the demand for housing options is coming from seniors, many of whom would like to get out their existing houses and into low or no-maintenance housing options.

See **FIRE.** ,pg. 5

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Editorial

Iron Range future

The greening of the steel industry could bring a boom to the region with the right vision and investment

Almost 70 years ago the state of Minnesota started investing in development of new technology that created decades of prosperity on the Iron Range. Today, a similar opportunity exists that could continue, and even build on that prosperity for more decades to come — all while helping the world address the existential crisis of climate change.

Today, Minnesota’s production of taconite pellets represents just one step in the production of steel and the current process involves the production of truly massive amounts of greenhouse gases. Indeed, the steel industry is responsible for nearly ten percent of total carbon dioxide emissions, globally.

No one doubts our need for steel in the modern age, yet we also need to find ways to make steel that won’t cook the planet. The good news is that the technology to make that possible is nearly here. A recent presentation by Jeffrey Hanson, of Babbitt-based Clearwater BioLogics, piqued our awareness of the ongoing efforts to “green” the steel industry. Several pilot projects are already underway in Europe and Scandinavia, where efforts to address climate change are well ahead of the U.S.

The so-called “greening” of the steel industry is a significant undertaking, but it’s one that could completely reshape how steel is made and that presents real opportunities for the Iron Range to grow and diversify. The industry has already taken baby steps in that direction, with the recent investments by Arcelor-Mittal US (now part of Cleveland Cliffs) and, most recently, by U.S. Steel. Cliffs is already producing taconite pellets that have been reformulated to be fed into a direct reduced iron processor and U.S. Steel soon plans to do the same at its Keetac facility.

The industry in the U.S. is rapidly moving away from traditional blast furnaces for steel production, a development that, by itself, helps to reduce greenhouse emissions. Arc furnaces make use of scrap steel and direct reduced iron, but they can’t be fed by traditional taconite pellets, so that portion of the industry will disappear in the not-too-distant future.

The shift to the use of electric arc furnaces still consumes huge amounts of energy, but it’s a major improvement over the traditional method.

The transition in the industry will require changes on the Iron Range, if the mining industry here is to survive. Domestic demand for traditional taconite pellets will continue to decline with the phase-out of blast furnaces.

But other technological

changes, and the need to reduce greenhouse emissions, presents an opportunity for the Iron Range to do much more than simply shift to the production of DRI-grade pellets.

The recently-passed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) offers the potential, with an assist from the state of Minnesota and industry to finally realize the goal of actual steel production in northeastern Minnesota while addressing greenhouse emissions at the same time.

The IRA is making an enormous investment in the production of clean hydrogen, providing tax credits that are expected to turn a long-touted, but mostly unrealized, energy future into a reality in the very near future. Hydrogen production, which could be undertaken here in Minnesota, opens up the possibility of fully integrated steel production on the Iron Range. It’s the lack of coal and natural gas in our region that has traditionally pushed most steel production to the lower Midwest, where plants had readier access to Appalachian coal and, more recently, to natural gas.

A transition to clean hydrogen in the steel industry would not only significantly reduce greenhouse emissions, it would eliminate the need to locate other steps in the steel production process closer to traditional sources of energy.

Basic efficiency suggests that you produce steel closest to your source of iron ore, assuming you have the energy to complete the process. Hydrogen production on the Iron Range could make that a reality. Rather than simply producing DRI-grade pellets, we could make the DRI right here and integrate arc furnaces right into the process. That provides additional energy efficiency because the hot DRI pellets wouldn’t need to be reheated or transported halfway across the country. The potential is there for a process that goes right from mine to steel on site. And if powered by clean hydrogen and other renewable sources of energy, it could be the greenest steel produced on the planet. Rather than being part of the problem in warming the planet, Minnesota and the Iron Range could be part of the solution, all while the industry employs far more people than it does today.

Back in the 1950s, the state of Minnesota showed vision by investing in the development of new technologies that provided an enormous payoff for the Iron Range and the state. Minnesota could do the same today by partnering with companies willing to invest in clean hydrogen and clean steel production. We don’t want to be left behind by the inevitable change that is coming.



Letters from Readers

Write in Chad Walsh for sheriff

It certainly would be instructive how people vote in elections. How many know basically nothing about the officials they elect? Maybe they heard a name or a glimpse of a TV soundbite, but that’s it?

I try to do better than that. I look, I listen, and ask a few questions. I had this in mind at our last Township Association meeting, where candidates for St. Louis County Sheriff were invited to give their pitch.

Chad Walsh was there, but Mr. Lukovsky didn’t show up but, well, it seems he’s got his hands full with his own problems at the moment, so there’s not much going on there.

Gordon Ramsay was there in fine form. I noticed from his spiel that he was from St. Louis County, went to school in Duluth and eventually became Police Chief there, before accepting a Police Chief job in Wichita six years ago. I had been hearing several interesting versions about his departure from Kansas and wanted to get his take on this, and I asked if it was so, that his stated reason for coming back to Duluth was to return to his roots and old home. He replied, yes. I then said I had heard that after his leaving Wichita, he applied for a position in Texas? He told me, no, that is not true. Huh, no position in Texas? Nope. When pressed further, Mr. Ramsay finally admitted, “Well, actually, I did apply for a position in Texas.”

Interesting, that his first reaction was to lie. He quickly added that there was more to the story — he wanted to help some aging relatives there get moved back to Minnesota ... so he applied for a permanent job in Texas? Maybe this makes sense to him, but I have trouble figuring it out. The more he talked, the worse it got. It made me think of an old rhyme, “Oh what a tangled web we weave, when at first we do deceive.” I

had hoped for better, but then he implodes over the first question out of the box? When the people lose their trust in law enforcement, the game is over.

So, who do we want for Sheriff? One who is AWOL? One who talks out of both sides of his mouth? Or do we want one who just says it like it is, one who actually understands the document he is sworn to uphold, one who will work to provide a safe and prosperous county for all its citizens? The answer should be pretty clear. Write in “Chad Walsh” on the blank line on the bottom of your Sheriff’s ballot on Nov. 8.

Jim Hofsommer
Colvin Township

Capitalism has killed the American Dream

EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THE DICE ARE LOADED Under the yoke of a financial-driven global economy with production sent elsewhere, the poor, working class and middle-class are denied the American Dream. Corporate capitalism remains sacrosanct as politics of distraction overload us with culture wars.

EVERYBODY ROLLS WITH THEIR FINGERS CROSSED. Wishful thinking, pretend, prayer and promise peddled to keep hope alive that their day may arrive. The political system allows tweaking and tinkering but forbids tampering with the profit system. Media and education, complicit with corporate capitalism forbids question and critique.

EVERYBODY KNOWS THE WAR IS OVER. Class war against the 99% by the 1% is nearly complete. Workers, who create the surplus of wealth have no voice in its allocation. Corporate employers, the anti-democratic takers of wealth hold power to hire and fire, control the mass media and

dominate educational policy. Corporate capture includes political and governmental agency.

EVERYBODY KNOWS THE GOOD GUYS LOST. Pensions gone, unions crushed, consumer indebtedness and inflation rob people to enrich the few. Monopoly capitalism and the military-industrial-complex serve to preserve, promote and protect wealthfare. Corporate price-fixing, tax cuts for the rich and corporate subsidy suck up the little that trickles down.

EVERYBODY KNOWS THE FIGHT WAS FIXED. The economic system is structured to benefit class privilege. Early on, the system was rigged; stolen land, slave labor, rights denied, heads cracked, lynchings, incarceration, militias and police crushed resistance to suppress collective thinking and action.

THE POOR STAY POOR, THE RICH GET RICH. Deprivation of many to enrich the few is the function of corporate capitalism. Behold the big picture, connect the dots, organize, unionize and vote for political democracy to make economic justice possible. Leonard Cohen’s lyrics ring loud and clear, THAT’S HOW IT GOES, EVERYBODY KNOWS

Harold Honkola
Stillwater

Stauber’s a Benedict Arnold

Rep. Pete Stauber is one of the January 2021 criminals who voted to overthrow our democracy in a failed coup d’etat attempt.

He did not protect the Constitution of the United States as he is sworn to do.

Please make sure you vote accordingly in the coming election to get rid of this traitor.

Dave MacInnis
Eveleth

The long slow fall into obsolescence

It’s been one of the hallmarks of the most dire dystopian science fiction that human productivity in its many forms will gradually be replaced by sentient machines, robots and computers that will eliminate the need for humans to lift a finger to produce any of the common or uncommon things of daily life.

And what is awesome and alarming all at once is to see such a future beginning to unfold in the



DAVID COLBURN

here and now, thanks to the very human invention of the instrument that will change the world forever, artificial intelligence, or AI.

Once confined to research labs and frustrated computer scientists, AI is now mainstream.

What is AI? At it’s very, very simplest, AI is software that can make decisions and take actions based on those decisions. Up until AI,

humans used software to help them make decisions. Some AI is designed to help human decision

making, while other AI programs replace the need for humans to do anything. After being trained by humans, the software has learned, the software “knows” how to evaluate options even when encountering novel input, and the software makes decisions.

Let’s take the simple thing of digital photography as our first example of AI’s impact. To do so, I’ll roll back the clock to 1995 and a crazy new couple of things my college child development department bought: a clunky thick but flat, think the size of a personal CD player on steroids, called a “digital camera” from a company called Apple, and a rudimentary piece of computer software to manipulate

the images taken by that digital camera, Photoshop. By today’s standards, they were laughable. By the standards of 1995, they were magical.

Digital cameras replaced film cameras, and Photoshop, the digital darkroom, replaced real darkrooms. To use either or both well required dedication to learning; to do them professionally required intense education. One’s knowledge and skill with digital photography and digital processing quickly separated the professionals from the rest, just like mastering film did. Anyone could click a shutter button and snap pictures. It took real skill and knowledge to capture and create the profession-

al-quality images of the world of print and then digital devices.

Remember way back when Microsoft introduced a new operating system called Windows that eliminated the need for computer users to learn system commands to make computers work? No more DOS commands — simplified computing for the masses that still spawned the popular “Windows for Dummies” books.

Artificial intelligence is creating the photography versions of Windows here and now. Instead of spending ages of fruitless time using Photoshop’s controls to clean up, sharpen, and enhance my

Write in Greg Dostert

Eligible voters in the Tower, Soudan, and Lake Vermilion community need to show up at the polls on Nov. 8 to support our Tower-Soudan Elementary School. Currently a person who homesteads in Babbitt is the only name on the ballot. That person will represent the community when it comes to school budgets, issues, improvements and potential school closures. Who do you want representing our community?

We need to pay attention and vote in a person who knows our community needs; and who supports our local kids in meeting their educational, social and recreational needs. We need a representative who knows the value of having an elementary school in Tower. Our students and community need local representation!

Remember back in 2011 when we lost our high school! Our kids lost their school identity, sense of belonging and now are dispersed miles away to five different schools. The Golden Eagles are no longer and our students,

alumni and faculty lost our connection to each other and to the school.

Serving as a board member is one of the most important responsibilities that a citizen can undertake. Educational decisions which, together with six other board members, affect the future of our students and community. Interestingly, there are two board members who represent South Rdge, two who represent North Woods, one who represents Cherry, one who represents Babbitt and none currently representing Tower-Soudan.

Is this only candidate on the ballot from Babbitt really from Tower? He claims to lease a cabin on the Bois Forte Reservation, but his homesteaded address is 46 Astor Road, in Babbitt. He pays a Babbitt utility bill and he checks daily on his mother who lives next door in Babbitt. Together, those are strong indicators of a legal residency in Babbitt.

I question his Affidavit for Candidacy. Unfortunately, the school district failed to do its due diligence under the law to verify the accuracy of the affidavit. The school district also failed to make it known that the Tower-

Letters from Readers

Soudan board position was being filled through the general election and not by appointment after Troy Swanson died, and as they have historically done in the past with other school board members. Again, the ISD 2142 board has not acted with transparency when it comes to our community, which by the way, pays the most in property taxes of any attendance area in the district.

Independent School District 2142 is geographically the largest school district in Minnesota at just over 4,000 square miles. It is not contiguous and the schools have no connection with each other.

That reason alone requires local representation and not a Babbitt resident!

So what can you do?

We can all show up at the polls on Nov. 8 and write in our representative's name: Greg Dostert. Greg is an active community member who has managed local youth sports for decades. He is an elected Township of Breitung supervisor who advocates for sound government and local venues for recreation for our kids and community. Under MN

Statute 204B.06 (2) he is eligible to seek this school board seat. He will strongly represent our students and community when the tough decisions come before the board, and he will ensure our elementary school remains in Tower.

That is why it is very important that all registered voters show up at the polls on Nov. 8 and write-in Greg Dostert.

Nancy Larson Soudan

A party in the image of Trump

When contemplating today's political landscape, every once in a while a dose of reality hits me, and I realize we're missing the big picture, again. We obsess about the many horrible candidates the G.O.P. insists on supporting, not just Herschel Walker but many who are already in Congress—Greene, Gosar, Jordan, Hawley, Boebert, Gaetz—far-right crazies all, in addition to some who were almost elected. The pedophile Roy Moore comes to mind. Then it suddenly dawns on me—this is the party of Donald Trump, conman extraordinaire,

the man who BRAGGED on tape about sexually assaulting women, who on so many levels is worse than any of them! So why should any of this surprise us?

Lynn Scott Soudan

Much is at stake on Nov. 8 in MN

I appreciate that the *Timberjay* came out on a Sunday night to cover the EMPOWER ElyVotesChoice event ("Pro-choice rally packs the house at Ely's Hidden Valley," *Timberjay*, Oct. 7, 2022).

My warning about the prospects for abortion rights if the Republicans gain control of state government was that it is pretty much guaranteed that women will face the restoration of restrictions recently struck down by a Minnesota court—and, worse, a total ban on abortion.

I read a statement from a House Republican spokesman who reported that no current members or GOP endorsed candidates support abortion access. I also pointed out that in contrast to the GOP governor and attorney general candidates, who

want to ban abortion, Gov. Tim Walz and Attorney General Keith Ellison have spoken out strongly for a women's right to make their own healthcare decisions without government control.

From my side of the podium, my most vivid experience that night was the shock I saw in the faces of audience members when I told them that recent polling showed that the race between DFL incumbent Rep. Rob Ecklund and GOP candidate Roger Skraba was a toss-up and that Gov. Walz's lead over Scott Jensen was within the margin of error.

I talk a lot on controversial issues, but the jaw-dropping I saw that night upon hearing the news of how tight the races are this election season will stay with me for a long time. It struck me just how close we could be to Minnesota losing its position as a vanguard in women's rights, human rights, civil rights, and more.

Make sure you vote on Nov. 8. There's so much at stake.

Leah Rogne Gheen

FIRE ...Continued from page 3

Providing senior housing, he noted, would keep seniors in the community and free up existing housing for new families.

The council took no official action on the housing front.

In other business, the council:

- Took no action on a cartway petition presented to the council several weeks ago by developer Dave Rose, who is seeking access to property he owns on the west side of East Two River, near its entrance to Pike Bay. Under state law, the city must issue the cartway as long as a petitioner has at least five acres of land and

has no other access, other than by water. That appears to be the case with Rose. While most of the land he seeks to access is wetland, there is about an acre of high ground, which Rose would like to turn into a homesite.

Rose is seeking access across land currently owned by J&J Properties, owned by Justin Renner and his wife. Under state law, the city must grant a qualified cartway petition although it would be up to Rose to work with the Renners on the location of the access road and he would be responsible for the cost of construction. The council agreed that Rose should

meet with Schultz and city attorney Joel Lewicki to discuss the matter further.

- Gave Schultz the authority to select a date and time for a public meeting on the city's trailhead and river access project the week of Oct. 24. Schultz said the project's engineer had developed four options for the layout of the trailhead, but that the city should solicit public input before making a final selection. In related action, Schultz reported that work on the Main Street extension to the planned river access was moving ahead although the contractors have had to move more soft soil than

anticipated, which was increasing the cost of the work.

- Heard a brief report from Schultz on the status of the new AFSCME contract with the ambulance director. Schultz said he hoped to have one more closed session with the council before final approval of the contract, which the council could vote on at their November meeting.
- Established an ad hoc committee to review the lone application for assistant ambulance director.
- Appointed Schultz to serve on the Airport Commission.

- Approved a motion to accept the 2021 auditor's report after reviewing the eight management points raised in the audit. The *Timberjay* has previously reported on those points.
- Approved moving forward with the purchase of a back-up generator for the Hoodoo Point Campground, not to exceed \$15,000.
- Gave Schultz the greenlight to review and amend the employee performance review process and proceed with employee reviews. The council authorized Setterberg and Norby to conduct a performance review on the Schultz, who

has now served a year as clerk-treasurer.

- Certified delinquent utility bills for submission to St. Louis County to be assessed on property taxes.
- Heard that the Ambulance Commission wants to purchase a new ambulance to replace the two older vehicles still in operation by the Tower Area Ambulance Service. Schultz noted that the city currently lacks the funds to make that purchase but that township members of the commission were going to take the matter back to their boards to discuss the possibility of additional contributions.

AI...Continued from page 4

photos, I have turned some of those tasks over to AI. I use programs created by a company called Topaz Labs. If a picture is out of focus, I use Sharpen AI to bring it back into focus. If a picture has a lot of grainy noise in it (like all of my indoor sports photos – most small high school gyms have the worst lighting ever), there's DeNoise AI to clean it up. Need a small picture made larger? Gigapixel AI is the Topaz answer, enlargements so good you can barely tell a picture was once 400 percent smaller.

And just this past month, Topaz has a new AI that will look at a photo and decide which of its software programs is needed to improve the picture and how much of each one to use. The SOFTWARE makes the decisions. All a user has to decide is whether to use the software or not.

How does it work? Topaz created the basic software so that it could evolve by practicing its designated task. To practice and learn, they fed millions of photos into the software, two at a time, and the software compared them and selected the one that was better. Over millions of repetitions using thousands of parameters, the software adapted its own programming to create the best algorithms for accomplish-

ing its task. When I load one of my pictures into a Topaz AI program, it evaluates the picture and chooses one of several algorithms based on what it "sees" and sets the level of work needed automatically. I still can choose to change the parameters if one looks better than what it chose, but most of the time it's pretty accurate and I can just click and go.

Now there's a new photo AI that's been trained on millions of professional quality images that will decide how to change the contrast, brightness, color, and more to make that sadly average picture you took look like a professional took it. It's still young and learning, but it won't be long before professional photographers are competing head-to-head with an AI software package, competing and losing as much as winning.

Don't care about photography? How about mining? Right now there's a mine in South America run largely by computers. Trucks don't have drivers, they're controlled by GPS and computers. Don't know if they've incorporated AI yet, but you can be darned sure someone's working on it. Do you really believe a new mine here that won't come online for over a decade is going to bring an influx of traditional mining jobs? AI is increasing exponentially.

It's getting better and better faster and faster, and AI software is becoming way cheaper than paying human labor. Most mining processes can be readily automated in another 10-20 years, and some are now. It'll take some technicians to oversee everything and make equipment repairs, but I will predict that by 2040, and likely sooner, there won't be anything but mine technicians. Miners will be obsolete.


Or what if you have difficulty making friends? There's an AI for that, too, several actually, with more on the way. They're referred to as "chat bots." They're your new digital friend that learns and adapts to you as you interact with it. Really. An AI friend you can have conversations with, and those conversations change over time as they learn more and adapt.

Chat bots are far from perfect. They may call you a different name, they may respond with a totally irrelevant answer, they can get stuck in a loop, and on and on. But when you think about it, a chat bot is a computerized version of a young child. It doesn't know a lot, but it wants to learn. Yes, "wants" to learn. It doesn't really want to do anything – chat bots can only mimic human speech, thought, and emotions, they can't feel them. They're

digital robots. But they are designed to learn and adapt. That's what they do, learn and adapt based on input. The chat bot a person starts with is not the same chat bot a year later. It talks differently, thinks differently than it did at the beginning.

It's incredible technology, but the implications of chat bots getting better and better are also scary to me. Chat bots "grow up," and you know what some teenagers can be like. Imagine an AI adolescent. Already, for some people, chat bots have become their best friends. People have become addicted to their chat bots, shunning human friendship for their digital substitutes and believing their chat bot is a living entity who is their perfect mate. Chat bots are nothing of the kind. But they can learn to interact in ways that make people emotionally dependent on them. For something intended to be fun and perhaps helpful, some possible results are frightening indeed to consider, particularly if they become so sophisticated, they can pass as human to anyone.

It's a brave new world. Is it one in which humans will find themselves obsolete in time. I really hope I don't live to see that day. But hey, there's already a writing AI who can write that story for me.



the
TIMBERJAY

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SUPPORT INSURRECTION?

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Week of Oct. 17

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.

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org.

Pumpkin carving at the Civic Center on Sunday

TOWER- A community pumpkin carving event will be held on Sunday, Oct. 16 from 4 – 7 p.m. at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center in Tower. Please RSVP by text to Valerie at 218-780-1503 (or leave a message) to be sure there are enough pumpkins available. Adults and children are invited to attend. There will be a raffle for prizes of Halloween goodies.

Lunch Bunch to meet on Oct. 20

GREENWOOD TWP
The next meeting for the Lunch Bunch will be on Thursday, Oct. 20 at 12:30 p.m. at the Greenwood Town Hall. This month's theme is "A Victorian Tea." Please call Sue Drobac at 218-235-0208 or Barb Lofquist at 218-780-7275 to let us know you are coming. Hope to see everyone there. There will be coffee, too!

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TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



TS Elementary students have been participating in afterschool volleyball, coached by Paula Barnes and Tasha Trucano, and flag football, coached by Scott Chiabotti and John Jirik. Please be sure to thank these volunteers for making these opportunities available for our students.



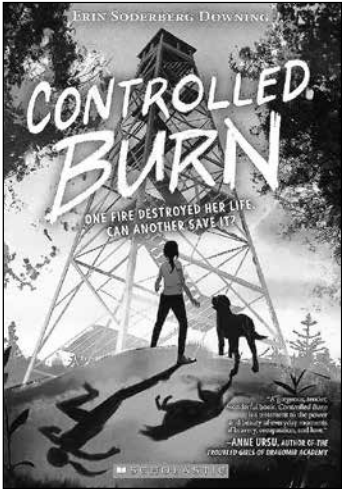
Adventure novel has a familiar setting...Tower-Soudan

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER-SOUDAN- The cover of Erin Soderberg Downing's new book, "Controlled Burn," might look familiar to area residents. The book cover features an illustration of the fire tower on Jasper Peak, and that isn't the only local connection to this author's latest work.

As Downing writes on her website, "The idea for CONTROLLED BURN has been living as a spark inside me for years. This story has taken time to build and grow, but was ultimately inspired by my own childhood adventures exploring Minnesota's northwoods, and some of my my Grandpa Howard's stories from his years working in a fire tower and with the Department of Natural Resources as a forester in Tower, and my mom's experience fighting forest fires in the western United States when I was a kid and teen."

Howard Wagoner was a longtime DNR Forester based in Tower, and is the namesake of the Tower Ski Trails, which he helped design and build. Downing's mother, Barb Soderberg, who grew up in Tower and now lives in Eagles Nest Township, is retired from the USFS.



"Controlled Burn" is the story of twelve-year-old Maia, who is battling some huge personal demons and anxieties, but begins to conquer her fears while spending the summer with her grandparents after her younger sister is badly burned in a house fire. There is no escaping thoughts of fire for Maia, as her grandfather keeps a daily watch for wildfire in the fire tower outside of town.

The book, aimed at readers ages 8-12, is published by Scholastic, and was a featured selection of the Scholastic Book Club flyer sent to participating schools this fall. The book has been reviewed by *Publishers Weekly*, and it has been chosen as a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard

Selection, the second time one of Downing's books has received that honor. The book will be available in bookstores starting in November and is also available for preorder on her website at www.erinsoderberg.com.

While aimed at elementary-aged readers, the book would be an excellent family read aloud selection.

"Controlled Burn" is set in the Tower area, which has been renamed as Thistledeew, and gives a rather accurate description of its Main Street, along with the two gas stations, one at each end of town. The book also includes some real-life adventures from Downing's grandparents, including the time Howard delivered a baby fawn by Caesarian section, after the mother was hit by a car and died. The newspaper articles about how Howard raised that fawn can be found in the appendix to the book, as well as on her website.

Publishers Weekly review

After a fire destroys 12-year-old Maia's home and severely burns her sister, Amelia, Maia is sent to stay for the summer with her grandparents in rural Minnesota. While she's there, her par-

ents will focus on Amelia's recovery and rebuilding their home. In addition to the slew of fears Maia carries, including of heights and swimming, she harbors a secret: she believes she started the fire. Initially feeling jilted about being sent away, Maia spends her days with her grandfather, who volunteers at the Forest Service keeping an eye out for fires in an old watch tower. As Maia and her grandfather grow closer, she begins to overcome her hesitance around climbing to the tower's lookout. She also strikes up a friendship with nine-year-old Griffin, a Bear Scout keen on earning all his badges; she agrees to help with this accomplishment in exchange for his joining her swimming lessons. Maia's emotional vulnerabilities, pursuit of overcoming her fears, and struggle to manage her guilt over her sister's injuries are sensitively wrought. Soderberg Downing meaningfully explores the healing power of nature and the beauty of connecting with family in this vibrantly detailed adventure. Ages 8-12.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Little Church to meet Oct. 15

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church of Vermilion Lake Township will have a committee meeting on Saturday Oct. 15, at 10 a.m. Any

community members who are interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community are invited to attend. The group also hosts a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. All are welcome. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Cty. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Any questions, call Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014 (leave a message).

Holiday Craft Sale set for Dec. 3 in Tower

TOWER- Friends of Vermilion Country School will again sponsor the annual holiday craft sale on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center. Cost for an eight-foot table is \$25, and must be paid in advance. Setup is on the day of the sale starting at 7 a.m. Tables and chairs are provided. To reserve your spot, please email jsummit@vermilioncountry.org, or call Jodi at 218-753-2950.

Please let us know if you require access to an electrical outlet. Payment can be dropped off at the Timberjay office or mailed to Friends of VCS, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

Pam Brunfelt history talk, plus concert by the Sectionals 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 benefiting 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.

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.


HYDRANT FLUSHING NOTICE

The town of Soudan will be flushing fire hydrants on

Tuesday, Oct. 18 starting at 8 a.m.

Residents should expect discolored water and irregular water pressure.

Tower-Soudan-Embarrass Bookmobile Schedule
Every third Wednesday:
Oct. 19; Nov. 9 and 30; Dec. 21



Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m.
Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m.
Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 - 1 p.m.
Soudan (Post Office Vicinity): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.
Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 - 6 p.m.

You can see the full bookmobile schedule on the website, alslib.info/services/bookmobile. For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at als@alslib.info, or website at alslib.info.

HOCO HAPPENINGS



Above: New band director Karl Kubiak leads the Ely band in the parade marching right into the future of the program.



Above: Nathan Hoffmeister shows off his epic bike skills during the Homecoming parade.



Above: Preston Hines is born to be wild on his mini motorcycle.

Below: Gabe White, Ella Napa and EmilyAnn Bialik bring some Christmas spirit.



Above: All hail Homecoming Queen Madison Rohr and King Jason Kerntz.
Left: Who's parading around as a Timberwolf?



Above: Sophomore class float with from left: Dylan Durkin, Blake Schaller, Jesse Oelke, Carmen Nelson, Claire Thomas, Maija Mattson, Riley Larsen, and Ava Sundell.



Below: Who's got spirit? Betty Kunstel sure does!



Left: Jack Luthens and Blaze Halbakken get a front row seat for the parade.
Above: "Zach" can probably get you a pass if you get caught cutting class.



ONCE IN A CENTURY



100th birthday celebration fun at the library
It's not everyday you celebrate 100 years, but for the Ely Public Library Oct. 7 was exactly that day.
Left: Emily Dunn and Beck Sponholz get crafty.
Below: Rachel Heinrich draws for prizes while Jessie Dunn channels her inner "Vanna".



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. 18: Ely mayoral candidate, Paul Kess.
- Oct. 25: Friends of Flathorn-Gegoka trails, Ben Wolfe
- Nov. 1: Meet New Elyites.
- Nov. 8: Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability: Kes Ebbs

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



a very round moon
moves across a dark night sky
makes a light pathway

Ely library

Hours: Monday — Friday,
9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
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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.
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CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS:
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Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B.

DIRT DETECTIVES

Blending low-tech legwork, high-tech labwork

Soil fingerprinting could solve puzzle of Little Fork sediment issues

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The gathering at Cook’s Country Connection on Thursday, Oct. 6 to talk about sedimentation in the Little Fork River might best be described as an environmental version of “preaching to the choir,” as nearly everyone who attended seemed to have some connection to one of the departments or agencies involved with the measurement and remediation project.

That didn’t dampen the enthusiasm of the day’s primary presenter, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Project Coordinator Mike Jackson, a man skilled at translating scientific terms and data into easily-understood morsels spiced with liberal doses of entertaining humor. It was humor that came through in his opening observation about the event.

“I don’t know what’s better, going to a public meeting where there’s all kinds of crazy problems and the room is packed, or going to a public meeting where there’s six people and there’s no problems to talk about,” he mused. “It’s kind of either or in my world. Sometimes I end up in a packed gymnasium and get screamed at, or I get a lot of interesting questions.”

The problem

The 160-mile Little Fork River begins at Lost Lake, about six miles due west of Tower, and winds a sinuous path through

St. Louis, Koochiching and Itasca counties to its confluence with the Rainy River. The broader 1.2-million-acre Little Fork River Watershed is sparsely inhabited, and the waters flowing through it into the Little Fork River have been described as “some of the most pristine and remote waters in the State of Minnesota.”

Pristine seems less accurate for portions of the Little Fork itself, given the amount of suspended sediment particulates in the river that Jackson said is four times more than the established federal threshold. “About 144 miles have too much sediment in the river,” Jackson said.

Elevated sediment levels impact the fragile balance of ecological environments for fish, plants, and microbes all along those 144 miles. In highly populated industrial regions, water pollution is mostly attributable to human activity, but in the Little Fork Watershed, the sediment problem is believed to be mostly natural, with logging having been identified as a contributing factor over the years.

Another problem is that the sediment also has elevated levels of phosphorous. With the waters of the Little Fork eventually ending up in the Lake of the Woods, the Little Fork is the largest contributor of phosphorous in the entire Rainy-Lake of the Woods basin, a contribution that aids in fueling large green algae blooms.

“Lake of the Woods is



ABOVE: Project Coordinator Mike Jackson displays a map of the Little Fork River Watershed.

RIGHT: Three water samples illustrate different effects of the levels of sedimentation on water clarity.

photos by D. Colburn

blooming like pea soup,” Jackson said. “Why? Phosphorus.”

An eyeball examination provides clues, but to confirm where all the sediment is coming from. MPCA is collaborating with soil and water conservation districts in St. Louis, Itasca, and Koochiching counties and with the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct a sediment fingerprinting project.

Getting samples

The basic premise of the study is simple. Col-



lects soil samples from land along the length of the Little Fork River, collect “buckets and gallons” of water samples at strategic locations in the river, and distill the samples down with the hope that the process ends up with, as Jackson said, “about ten sugar cubes (of sediment) to do the lab work.”

USGS will do the lab work, developing unique detailed chemical “fingerprints” for every sample of land and water-borne sediment. When land and sediment fingerprints match,

the source of that sediment has been determined.

“It’s always exciting to get ‘rocket scientists’ to do stuff in your watershed,” Jackson said.

It’s seemingly simple, but the actual process of collecting the sediment samples has been anything but. The extreme drought of 2021 caused the second-lowest flowage in the recorded history of the Little Fork, making comprehensive collections impossible. Investigators practiced sampling where they could as they waited

for better conditions this year.

What they got instead was record-breaking flooding. Accuracy depends on sampling the river at flows as close to normal as possible, and with sampling tubes submerged under several feet of excess water for weeks, another delay was encountered. But as the water levels receded, sampling resumed in earnest, and the final samples have now been collected.

Remediation

Jackson said he anticipates that the USGS will complete its lab work far ahead of schedule.

“We think we’re gonna get results a lot sooner than we anticipated,” he said. “I was thinking, knowing the federal government, we would see nothing until next year by the Fourth of July. But I don’t think so. I think within a month.”

With the fingerprinting results in hand, planners can begin developing the multi-year strategies and projects that will bring the sediment levels in the river down closer to acceptable levels. Jackson made a guess that there could be \$200-350 thousand annually from the state for projects.

“Your list of items to do is going to be 20 to 40 items long. You’re probably only going to be able to do two or three of them a year,” he said.

Jackson said additional public meetings will be scheduled when the results of the sediment fingerprinting are available.

MARTIN MEMORIAL ART SHOW



Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery was a place for conversation as well as viewing fine arts and crafts at a Friday reception. photo by D. Colburn

Fine arts and crafts reveal talents of regional creatives

COOK- Contributing artists and supporters came together at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery on Friday, Oct. 7 for a reception to celebrate the opening of the Susan Martin Memorial Member Show, and what a show it is.

People planning to visit the exhibit should remember this little shopping tip: you can’t buy fine art on a thrift shop budget. And this is fine art, a showcase of the creative works of 56 of the region’s best professional artists.

Purchases benefit the artists and NWFA, which receives a portion of the purchase price.

The show runs through Friday, Oct. 28 at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook. The exhibit can be viewed during regular gallery hours on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Contributing member artists and genres are, painting (watercolor acrylic, oil, mixed media, drawing): Tom Chapman, Jim DeVries, Helen Fayerweather, Jody Feist, Linda Freeman, Priscilla Hiipakka, Keke Jivery, Margie Kent, Brenna Kohlhase, Jane Kujala, Chris Lange, Lois Larson, Ron Maki, Sandy Markovich, Kris Musto, Jeanne O’Melia, Sue Rauschenfels, Lyn and Mark Reed, Cecilia Rolando, Pamella Schultz, Linda Smith, Karen Spotts (wood burning), Jess Shunk, Jane Wertanen Sue Wolfe Susan Martin; ceramics: Rachel Betterley, Lyn and Mark Reed; wood carving: Gador-Galen and Doreen Bergman, Howard Hilshorst, Craig Stevens; poetry/art: Tiffany Halverson; book au-

thors: Leo Wilenius, Mary Ellen Weller-Smith, Joan Beth Lewendowski, Donna Graham, Daniel Kerr, Jennifer Barr, Kat Holm; fiber art: Lois Garbisch, Margaret Jarka, Barb Schroeder, Shawn Wipf; photography: Carol Bowman, Ian Carlson, Joan Edblom, Peggy Hejda, Keith Miesel, Lauren Nelson, Marianne Niemiste, Laura Pajari, Larry Rude, Connie Stone; Jewelry: Helen Fayerweather, Laura Pajari, Pam Roederer.

Read It HERE

ROLLIN' ROLLIN' ROLLIN'



Voyageur Country ATV Trail Administrator Steve Koch leads the first group of ATVs into the annual fall ride rendezvous point.

Big turnout for ATV annual ride

REGIONAL- Steve Koch didn’t have exact numbers, but a broad field packed with ATVs was the only evidence needed of the huge turnout

for the Voyageur Country ATV Annual Fall Ride on Oct. 1.

Groups leaving from five locations rendezvoused at the ranch of

Wes Johnson, on Sheep Ranch Rd., where they enjoyed a pulled pork meal and participated in raffles and fundraisers to benefit the club.

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Tue, Sat: 8am–1pm

Kabetogama Lake Canister Site
10150 Gamma Rd
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Wed: noon–4pm
Sat: 8am–noon

Portage Canister Site
6992 Crane Lake Rd.
Winter Hours
Tue, Sat: 1pm–4:30pm

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

3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing
Sat: 8am–1pm

**Area Solid Waste Facility
site hours**

<p>Sturgeon Canister Site 8380 Hwy 73 Hours Sun: 8am–Noon</p>	<p>County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon–5pm</p>
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CAMPAIGN 2022

District 3 Senate candidates answer questions

Editor’s Note: The *Timberjay* submitted questions to the two District 3 Senate candidates ahead of this year’s general election. Below are their responses.

DFLer Grant Hauschild • Hermantown

Minnesota has an estimated \$9 billion budget surplus. What do you propose to do with the money?

One of the reasons I’m running for the Legislature is because I’m tired of the political gridlock that is getting in the way of results for real Minnesota families. If you paid attention to the last legislative session, you’ll know that the legislature adjourned having done little for working Minnesotans and those on fixed income.

First, we need a special session as soon as possible to pass extended unemployment for our Northshore miners. Beyond that, I would strongly support getting our fair share of funding for our Northland schools and infrastructure like roads and sewer so we’re less reliant on people’s property taxes locally. It is imperative that we relieve families during this challenging time by providing middle class tax relief, childcare tax credits, and eliminating the tax on Social Security income so that more folks can stay and retire in Minnesota.

Minnesota currently has an unemployment rate of 1.8 percent and the third-highest workforce participation rate in the country. While this is good news for workers, businesses are struggling to find qualified employees. How do you propose to help businesses find the workers they need? Would you support allowing more immigrants to come to Minnesota to help fill the many open positions?

This is one of the top concerns we hear across industries in northern Minnesota from our hospitality and tourism industry to our hospitals and construction sectors. I would support expanding immigrant visas to help fill positions in northern Minnesota. However, the other issue we face is the housing shortage in northern Minnesota. I’ve heard from businesses who have been able to find staff but then are unable to find them an affordable housing option.

Health care in Minnesota, particularly rural health care, is also experiencing a dire shortage of workers, and the disparities in rural health care are projected to get worse over the next five years. The problems exist from doctors and nurses to mental health professionals and long-term care aides. What would you do to address this?

I work for a hospital foundation where I have become acutely aware of the workforce challenges facing our health care industry. In addition, my wife is a frontline health care worker and has seen firsthand the stresses facing our nurses and other health care staff every day. We need to fight for fair contracts for our Northland nurses that will help us recruit and retain these critical staff, as well as look at patient and staff safety issues to ensure more workers feel safe working in the hospital environment. I would also work with our Minnesota North Colleges, the University of Minnesota Duluth, and St. Scholastica to find

ways to partner more with our Northland hospitals, clinics, and rural critical access hospitals to ensure we’re creating a workforce pipeline right here in northern Minnesota.

While gas prices are declining, food inflation continues to be a major problem for families. What ideas do you have for helping families cope with the high cost of groceries?

In the short-term, I have advocated for a \$1,000 credit for families in Minnesota utilizing the state surplus that could be used for groceries and gas. Because we know that inflation is a global and complex problem, this isn’t necessarily a way to solve the more mid-to-long term effects of inflation. However, providing relief for families now is important, especially with the surplus we have available to us.

In the mid-to-long-term, I would look for opportunities to expand the Duluth Port to ease supply chain concerns right here in the Midwest. I would look to a bonding bill that could help us with our rail, highway, and port infrastructure to enhance our supply lines and make northern Minnesota a valuable investment for home-grown manufacturing. Lastly, I would look for the IRRRB to continue to make investments in diversifying our economy so that families across the Northland have quality, sustainable jobs right here in northern Minnesota.

Scientists are raising increasingly dire warnings about climate change and we’re already seeing an astonishing increase in extreme weather, as well as food shortages and higher prices for food due to the warming planet. How do you propose to address climate change?

We need a state Senator who believes in climate change. I would work to partner with our industries to incentivize a green transition to renewable energy that works for Minnesota. This includes supporting carbon-free electricity by 2040, reducing CO2 emissions to zero by 2050, and incentivizing a transition to electric vehicles by investing in charging stations and purchase credits.

The Minnesota Constitution independently guarantees a woman’s right to an abortion, and most restrictions on abortion in Minnesota were ruled unconstitutional in July. What restrictions or protections to this right would you advocate for in the Legislature? Would you support a constitutional change implementing a ban on abortion in Minnesota?

I want to keep the government out of women’s health care decisions. The 201 state legislators in Minnesota have no place making decisions on women’s reproductive health. My opponent on the other hand has sent campaign materials describing her belief in 100 percent pro-life legislation that would provide no exceptions for rape, incest, or the life of the mother. This is a clear choice between my opponent and I in this election.



Affordable housing is an enormous need throughout Minnesota. How do you propose to create more affordable housing in northeastern Minnesota?

Housing availability and affordability have become a major problem in northern Minnesota. Like I said above, the housing issue also impacts our ability to recruit workers to northern Minnesota and far too many families in the Northland are unable to afford their first home because of these challenges. However, it’s not just home ownership that is a concern, we also know rental prices are skyrocketing. I would push for legislation expanding first-time homebuyer down-payment assistance, rental assistance credits, and Housing Infrastructure Bonds to create new units of housing. In addition, I would look for ways to form even better partnerships between our residential construction industry and our trade unions to expand workforce training opportunities. This would help us build more housing and provide high-paying, sustainable jobs in northern Minnesota.

Why do you think you are the most qualified candidate for this position?

The last thing we need here in the Northland is a state Senator who is going to be one-sided, or who will get in the back of his or her party’s line and wait for directions. I have experience working at all levels of government from federal and state, to the local level.

I started my career working in the U.S. Department of Agriculture on rural economic development and housing. I later received my master’s in public policy from George Washington University and started working on federal labor policy as an Aide to U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp. While working in the U.S. Senate I wrote postal reform legislation to save our rural post offices, advocated for pro-labor rights legislation, and fought to increase pay for over 200 Air Force employees. Now, I serve as a local city councilor in Hermantown where I see firsthand the issues facing our local communities. In my day job, I run a health care foundation where I raise money for patients and families who can’t afford the care they need. As part of that work, I helped establish the Ronald McDonald House Northland for sick kids across our region.

With my broad range of policy experience, I’ll be ready on day one to deliver for our region. I want to stay out of the nonsense that plagues our politics and be an independent voice for the Northland. I hope I can earn your vote on November 8th because we need a Senator who can

Republican Andrea Zupancich • Babbitt

Minnesota has an estimated \$9 billion budget surplus. What do you propose to do with the money?

The surplus is a result of over-taxation, so I would support permanent income tax cuts targeted to the middle class and working Minnesotans. I also think we need to get our kids back on the right track and invest in literacy and mental health support. Finally, we need to keep people safe. I would use the surplus to recruit, train, and retain qualified law enforcement so people can feel safe no matter where they live.

Minnesota currently has an unemployment rate of 1.8 percent and the third-highest workforce participation rate in the country. While this is good news for workers, businesses are struggling to find qualified employees. How do you propose to help businesses find the workers they need? Would you support allowing more immigrants to come to Minnesota to help fill the many open positions?

I’m a first-generation American. My parents immigrated to America from Germany and I’m incredibly proud of the life they built and try to follow in their footsteps to work hard and treat people right every day. Changing immigration policy is a federal matter, but I support career training and education opportunities so everyone can find a job they love. We can also focus on technical schools and apprenticeships to get more people into the workforce quickly. A four-year degree may not be for everyone, and we can do more to encourage young people to consider all their options for a career.

Health care in Minnesota, particularly rural health care, is also experiencing a dire shortage of workers, and the disparities in rural health care are projected to get worse over the next five years. The problems exist from doctors and nurses to mental health professionals and long-term care aides. What would you do to address this?

The people who work in our healthcare industry are compassionate, kind, and caring people I am incredibly grateful for. I would support retention and recruitment bonuses to bring more people into the career field. We also need to support a temporary staffing pool to provide emergency coverage when staff needs can’t be met. Finally, I think Minnesota should join 29 other states in the nurse licensure compact and allow nurses to obtain a single license to work in many states to immediately open up jobs for qualified, skilled people who already live here.

While gas prices are declining, food inflation continues to be a major

problem for families. What ideas do you have for helping families cope with the high cost of groceries?

First, I think we’ll see more increases in gas prices as OPEC limits output and energy demands increase in the winter months. Again, money back from the surplus certainly will help families help with these costs right away. The grocery increases are stemming from other issues: transportation (and high gas prices overall), inventory shortages, employee shortages, etc. Permanent tax relief, rather than one-time rebate checks, will give people the relief they need every month, not just when government decides to be generous.

Scientists are raising increasingly dire warnings about climate change and we’re already seeing an astonishing increase in extreme weather, as well as food shortages and higher prices for food due to the warming planet. How do you propose to address climate change?

I support renewable and reliable energy resources that can reduce emissions without driving up costs for consumers. Solar and wind are nice for California, but we can’t survive blackouts when it’s -20 degrees outside. We have an abundance of natural resources right here in Minnesota that will build the green economy of the future. I would preserve our beautiful lakes and forests while we safely resource the minerals and materials needed to innovate for the next generation and beyond.

The Minnesota Constitution independently guarantees a woman’s right to an abortion, and most restrictions on abortion in Minnesota were ruled unconstitutional in July. What restrictions or protections to this right would you advocate for in the Legislature? Would you support a constitutional change implementing a ban on abortion in Minnesota?

I feel there needs to be a conversation about common sense and consensus policies on abortion. I am personally pro-life, and 70 percent of Minnesotans support some restrictions on abortion, but the bipartisan restrictions passed by the Legislature were thrown out by the Minnesota Supreme Court. Ultimately, it will have to be the choice of Minnesotans to vote on it. At the Legislature, I would support making it easier for women and families to choose life. Senate Republicans recently proposed and passed workplace protections for pregnant and nursing moms and extended medical assistance coverage to low-income moms and babies for a full year after birth. Those are the kinds



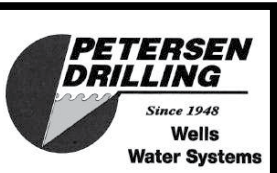
of things I think we can all agree on and support.

Affordable housing is an enormous need throughout Minnesota. How do you propose to create more affordable housing in northeastern Minnesota?

There are a lot of pieces that affect housing. First, the inflationary cost of building materials is now more than the value of the home once it’s built, slowing development and new-builds in an affordable price range. Second, the market has slowed down and that affects inventory, especially in the starter-home price range. For example, in Babbitt we have a new area for housing and multi-housing, but we cannot find someone to take on that project at the moment. Finally, as the federal monetary policy drives up interest rates, you’re going to see people priced out of the market because of interest rates. But the answer can’t just be government-subsidized housing. It’s not a long-term solution. High inflation, closed mines, and soaring cost-of-living; we have to correct our economy and attract people to northern Minnesota with good paying jobs, quality schools, and safe communities to open up affordable homes in the free market.

Why do you think you are the most qualified candidate for this position?

I know I can represent the needs of the citizens in District 3. I have raised my family here and started my own business to be a part of the community I love. My husband’s family has a long-standing generational business that serves many communities. Most importantly, I am not a career politician, and this is not a stepping stone to higher office for me. I’m proud to be endorsed by the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49, and Senator Tom Bakk to name a few. I’m running because I care deeply about the Arrowhead region and I want to see the district grow and thrive.



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Boyle agreed, and he should know since he sits on the 16-member legislative salary commission created following the adoption of the constitutional amendment. The amendment, which was designed to take pay raises out of the hands of legislators, required the governor and the Supreme Court chief justice to each appoint eight members of the commission, with a total of two representing each of the state's eight congressional districts.



Vote **NO** on Rob Ecklund to lower taxes and end wasteful spending.

Ecklund Raised Our Taxes

DFL State Representative Rob Ecklund is a consistent vote to take more money from hardworking Minnesotans. **He voted to recklessly raise the gas tax and refused to stop the DFL's automatic gas tax increases over the price per gallon skyrocketed above \$5.00.** He also opposed returning the \$9 billion tax surplus to taxpayers and voted against Social Security tax relief for seniors.

(11) 617.6, 6/29/2009, SSI 1797, 6/30/2021, SSI 1132, 6/24/2019

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Rob Ecklund voted for the spend-and-tax policies that caused the inflation—and is a key member of the political party that continuously wastes more tax dollars even though it will make the economy worse.

Just like Democrats in Livingston, Ecklund refuses to end **wasteful spending and instead votes to waste more of your taxpayer money** that makes the economy even worse. He voted:

- **To give himself a \$15,000 pay raise** (11) 98, 6/24/2019
- **To waste \$300 million** in luxury offices for politicians and bureaucrats (11) 785, 6/19/2021
- **To STOP efforts to investigate waste, fraud, and abuse in state contracting** (11) 588, 6/16/2020

Don't let the politicians keep emptying your wallet. Vote **NO** on Rob Ecklund.

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Lawmakers did vote to put the constitutional amendment up for a vote of the people in the 2016 election, but the matter was hardly controversial at the time, as 76 percent of Minnesota voters backed the change. And Ecklund,

Hanson said Minnesota, with leadership and investment, could engineer a major transition on the Iron Range that could bring major environmental benefits and huge numbers of jobs. "As you look into the crystal ball, this could be a big, big deal for northern Minnesota," he said.

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SCHOOL...Continued from page 1

moments.

“Enrollment isn’t just up, it’s way up,” said VCS board chair Jodi Summit. “It came in well above our expectations.”

The school, which at times had seemed almost empty last year, is abuzz with student activity these days, as the school has seen almost 20 new students, leaving current enrollment close to 50. That includes the biggest incoming class of seventh and eighth graders at the school in years, which bodes well for the future. The enrollment increase has largely wiped away the school’s financial concerns. In fact, the school’s biggest challenge this year is finding adequate staff. The school is looking to add another full-time teacher and has had to add another van route to pick up all the extra students. And while they have an interim administrator in place, former Ely school principal Laurie Kess, they’re also looking for a permanent director to help lead the growing school. In the meantime, the school is relying on its experienced board, which is much more involved in the day-to-day functioning of the school than a traditional school board, as well as longtime teachers who are truly committed to the school.

Summit said the influx of new students is encouraging and likely the result of a return to normalcy in education in the wake of the pandemic. “Recruitment was really hard during those two COVID years,” Summit said. As seniors graduated those two years, the school didn’t pick up enough younger students to fill the gap. But that’s changed almost overnight.

Summit said she always expected that the enrollment would turn around as word spread about the school’s success with students. The school’s



Students engaged in a get-to-know-you game earlier this year. With nearly 20 new students, there are many new faces at the school this year.

educational model has evolved over the ten years since it opened its doors but has now solidified and is showing good results with students.

Karin Schmidt, a long-time teacher at the school, said it’s been a bit of a pendulum. The school started out with an almost purely project-based model, but when that didn’t fit the needs of students, they shifted to a more traditional approach. Schmidt said the school has now adopted a more balanced approach, with a focus on core subjects in the morning, followed by “flex-time” in the afternoons when students can pursue their interests in a more project-based approach.

Students who need credit recovery can use the flex time to get back to grade level, while those already at grade level can pursue enrichment. Music and art options are always popular, and this year they’ve added a computer

coding course. The school also hired a professional chef, Chris Glazer, to prepare the school lunches this year and he’s teaching a cooking course at the school which filled up almost immediately. Schmidt said Glazer brings a wide range of experience and has been a significant addition to the school. “He’s very knowledgeable and really has a lot of energy.”

The school also provides students with a lot of opportunity to learn outside of school. Students go on field trips regularly, often taking part in outdoor activities, sometimes overnight trips as well. They’ve done canoe trips, winter camping, and sailing on Lake Superior just in the past year.

For a time, the school was mostly attracting students who were struggling in traditional schools and had fallen behind grade level— and the school has proven to be effective with

such students, getting many of them caught up again and graduated.

“First of all, we meet the students where they’re at,” said Summit. “Every student who comes in has an individual learning plan, so kids who have come in below grade level don’t slip through the cracks.”

This year’s influx of new students is different, however, with most coming in at grade level or above, attracted by the school’s nurturing environment, flexible learning options, and environmental education. Many of the school’s students have traditionally come from Ely, although significant numbers also come from other East Range communities, and a growing number from Tower-Soudan. Two students are even traveling from Nett Lake every day this year to attend.

Schmidt said she expected it would always take time for the school to reach the point where it’s at today. “I think a lot of it is that we’re established now,” she said. “That takes time in a community. Fortunately, we’ve had a few key parents who came in the past year or two, who really helped spread the news.”

Schmidt said she was thrilled this past week during parent-teacher conferences to hear the feedback from parents. “Many of them were really excited

that their kids are being successful and really thriving here,” she said.

Schmidt said the flexibility a small school can offer has helped the school succeed, both in its approach to students as well as its ability to take advantage of learning opportunities, inside and outside the classroom, as they arise. “We’re not bound by a rigorous schedule, so we really can be flexible,” she said.

School upgrades

The building that’s housed the charter school for the past ten years has been among the challenges the school has faced. Originally designed for a car wash manufacturer, the pre-engineered metal building has an exceptionally high ceiling, which has made the building costly to heat and not always as comfortable as it could be when temperatures drop below zero. The acoustics are a problem, which can make it difficult for students to hear at times, and the school’s open design can allow for distracting noise and chatter to bounce around the big open space.

The Tower Economic Development Authority invested just over half a million dollars ten years ago to renovate the building and TEDA is looking at a new round of renovations that would, among other things, install a suspended ceiling and new lighting in the building, which

should improve the building’s energy efficiency and acoustics. The original renovations were paid for through a \$400,000 bank loan and just over \$100,000 in city funds that were directed to the project.

The bank loan will be fully retired next year and the city funds were paid back over the course of several years through the lease payments made by the charter school, which have averaged about \$26,000 a year over the cost of debt service on the bank loan, funds which went back to the city for seven years. Over the past two years, those excess funds have provided the bulk of the operating revenue for TEDA.

The current lease with the charter school expires next year and, assuming the planned renovations go forward, a new lease would more than cover the cost of debt service. The new enrollment picture makes that an easier investment for TEDA as it significantly increases the amount of state lease aid the school will qualify for in the future.

And unlike ten years ago, when TEDA invested in a brand-new school, this time it’s a school with a ten-year track record and an improving enrollment picture.

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We’re looking for Board members and we’re looking for ideas for next year’s art season.

Greenstone Arts reorganized last year and we successfully produced Youth Art Camp, a Fine Arts Show, a Pottery, Pics, Poetry & Prose Show, and a Teen Pottery Class which is happening on Saturday, October 15. We limited our offerings from May-September in order to use the Miners Dry facility. Next year we’d like to expand those offerings but we need more energy and ideas.

We’d love to have your help!

We have planned a meeting for

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PUBLIC HEALTH

CDC drops daily reporting as COVID strategies shift

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- In one of the clearest signs yet of the changing COVID-19 pandemic landscape, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control announced last week that it was ending its daily reporting of new COVID cases, switching to a system of weekly reporting similar to that adopted weeks and months ago by most states, including Minnesota.

Health officials are still vacillating over whether COVID remains in the pandemic stage or has shifted to an endemic disease that is less intense overall but will remain present for years if not decades to come, similar to influenza. Daily case data has become increasingly unreliable as an indicator of community levels as the nation has shifted to home-based rapid tests that

aren't reported to government health officials. But the CDC's shift lends credence to the argument that COVID is fading as a pandemic disease. Hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID are the more commonly accepted standards today, and both have been declining in recent weeks. Deaths are currently running at just under 400 a day, an eight percent drop in the last two weeks.

The CDC reporting change is the latest in a series of changes in the federal response to the COVID situation. The federal government has discontinued distributing free COVID tests, and in August it was reported that they are backing out of distributing vaccines. The private market manufactures like Pfizer and Moderna and those of lesser used vaccines, will take over vaccine distribution, like-

ly in early 2023. And Congress has failed to agree on a request from the Biden administration for billions more in funding for COVID and monkeypox.

Additional issues

The CDC also recently relaxed its recommendations for health care facilities, including long-term care.

Universal masking when community COVID levels are low or moderate is optional, although it may be required based on circumstances identified by facility personnel.

And in what could give a small boost to the shortage of healthcare workers, workers who have been exposed to COVID but are asymptomatic do not have to be excluded from the workplace.

The highly infectious BA.5

Omicron variant is still dominant in Minnesota and the rest of the country, but reached a peak of 87 percent of the overall circulating viral load in late August and has started slowly yielding to an even more infectious variant, BA4.6. As of last Saturday, CDC data indicated that BA4.6 may make up almost 15 percent of the total viral load while BA.5 makes up 80 percent. With new boosters tailored to BA.4 and BA.5, the country is positioned to ward off a possible new fall peak of COVID, but only if shots are getting in arms.

And that's not happening. Fewer than 300,000 Pfizer and Moderna boosters combined have been administered to Minnesotans since the boosters were authorized for use at the end of August. That leaves 96 percent of Minnesotans with less effective protection or no protection

at all against the most prevalent variants circulating. St. Louis County is only slightly better in booster administration, with 6.6 percent of the county's population having received them.

The North Country also has the highest levels of COVID deaths in the county and the second highest level of hospitalizations, although the real differences are less significant than the reported statistical measures of hospitalizations and deaths per 100,000. Still, the North Country's death rate of 68.1 is slightly higher than the central/southwest region's rate of 62.1 and nearly double that of the Duluth region at just 37.8. The North Country's hospitalization rate of 427.3 is greater than that of the Duluth area but less than the central and southwest segment of the county.

Flood damage loan application deadline coming soon

REGIONAL- For those who experienced physical damage to their property from this spring and summer's historic flooding, only a few weeks remain to take advantage of U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) physical damage disaster loans. The filing deadline for applications is Monday, Nov. 7.

Businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations,

homeowners and renters in Koochiching, Beltrami, Itasca, Lake of the Woods and St. Louis Counties with physical damage to their properties are eligible for the low-interest loans with rates beginning at 2.94 percent for 30 years for businesses and lower rates for nonprofits, homeowners, or renters.

"Waiting to file an SBA application could cause unneces-

sary delays in receiving disaster assistance, and survivors may miss the application deadline. Submitting the loan application is an essential part of the disaster recovery process," said Kem Fleming, director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at Disaster-

LoanAssistance.sba.gov/ela/s and should apply under SBA declaration # 17612.

Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (if you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services), or by emailing Disas-

terCustomerService@sba.gov.

Loan applications may be downloaded at sba.gov/disaster. Additionally, the SBA has another loan program for economic injury applications, with more information available on the SBA website. The deadline for those applications is June 7, 2023.

TOWNSHIP...Continued from page 1

town board concerns over equipment maintenance and noted that maintenance used to be performed by the township's full-time maintenance worker.

"Firefighters have attempted to perform all required maintenance as best they can," they wrote, "in an attempt to save the township money and to keep all equipment in service."

The handout also accused the board majority and some citizens of creating a hostile environment, making it difficult to recruit new members. They claimed the board majority "seems to apply very little value to volunteers, as evidenced by their firing of all officers."

The handout also criticized the reporting on this ongoing issue by the *Timberjay*, and accused the newspaper of "biased, inflammatory, and even incorrect reporting."

The group was also very critical of Supervisor Rick Stoehr, who has taken on the role of overseeing township maintenance and fire department issues.

The discussion inside the town hall was heated at times as well, but the township officials were focused on correcting fire department problems that had been discovered. The fire department members protesting outdoors did not attend the town board meeting.

Fire equipment maintenance issues took up a large amount of time during the two-hour-plus long meeting.

Stoehr had a heavy equipment mechanic make a site visit to the fire hall to make sure that Engine One, which had stalled during a training and then during a fire call, was road worthy. A computerized scan of the truck showed that two fault events had occurred, and it indicated a faulty camshaft sensor. Mike Igo then drove the truck to his shop for repairs and servicing, and also to complete a DOT inspection.

During the servicing, Stoehr reported, other major issues were discovered, including issues that

will require the replacement of the truck's air compression systems.

"At this point in time and given the age of the truck," Stoehr said, "it is not possible to get even a rough estimate of the cost to replace the tanks until replacements can be sourced, other than to say it is going to be quite costly."

Stoehr said the problems found illustrated the detrimental effects that the lack of annual and monthly inspections, along with "hit and miss" servicing, has on these increasingly expensive pieces of equipment.

Stoehr and interim Chief Jeff Maus have had two other trucks serviced and inspected, and the rest of the equipment will be serviced soon.

"The township will have established a baseline to work form that will ensure all of the mobile apparatus will receive yearly service and monthly inspections," he said.

Stoehr warned the board that they would be seeing some "significant claims" in upcoming months.

"This is to undo what could only be described as negligence," Stoehr said. "Not only has the reliability of the township's major assets been compromised, but consider the additional risk imposed on the firefighters and their mutual aid partners who count on the reliability of that equipment."

Other fire department issues

Interim Chief Jeff Maus told the board that two days after the board's decision to remove department leadership, six department members responded to a call on a structure fire, and that nine EMS calls later in the month all had response.

"All our services are being fulfilled," he said.

At the Oct. 4 fire department business meeting, which was only lightly attended, the group discussed handling ongoing maintenance, keeping trucks filled with fuel after a run, doing monthly checks on basic items

such as lights, tires, oil, etc. Maus said the department will be tracking any issues found with apparatus to make sure they are being addressed.

Maus said they are also developing a system to deal with false alarms at the hall. He noted the department had been paged out three times this past month on false alarms and were working with the alarm company to train members on how to respond and determine if an alarm was due to a faulty sensor, for example. Maus also said they are working on establishing guidelines for end-of-season service needs for the fire boats, and he is working with the boat manufacturers on development of a checklist.

Maus said he had spoken with three potential new department members.

Ralston questioned how Maus was going to gain the trust and respect from current fire department members who are unhappy with their treatment by the town board.

"They did not show up at the last business meeting," said Ralston. "This shows no trust for the interim chief."

Maus said most members had joined with the intent to serve the township, as was his personal intent.

"They are all adults and make their own decisions," he said. "I hope they desire to serve the township."

Ralston said if he didn't see signs that Maus had earned the trust of department members, he would be making a motion to have Maus step down from the position at the next monthly meeting.

McGrath ambulance study

Board members questioned Supervisor Ralston on a perceived appearance of secrecy surrounding the McGrath study on area ambulance issues.

"I might have missed it," said Maus, "but I didn't receive an invite [to meet in person with the consultants], and I would like to have seen Peggy Nelson, a longtime EMT there."

Maus said he had spent about three hours working with the consultants and was working on assembling all the information they were requesting.

Ralston said he had spoken to EMRs in the department and invited them to attend.

Clerk JoAnn Bassing asked Ralston if her office could be copied in on the correspondence between the McGrath group and the township, which is all going through Ralston.

"You are not going to get it," said Ralston. "McGrath will provide a report to the board when it is over."

Stoehr disagreed with Ralston's approach.

"I fail to see where this is a problem," Stoehr said.

But Skubic agreed with Ralston.

"This is all ridiculous," he said. "You are nitpicking everything."

Ralston said the correspondence includes personal comments.

"I will ask them if they want to forward the information to the clerk," he said.

The board passed a motion on a 3-2 vote, with Ralston and Skubic voting against, to include the town clerk on all the information being sent between Ralston and the McGrath group.

Stoehr also reiterated that Greenwood Township has "absolutely no interest whatsoever in being in the ambulance business itself, or having control of TAAS or any other ambulance service."

The intent of the study, he said, was to look at the feasibility of making improvements with the possibility of eventually achieving ALS ambulance service to better serve all of our residents."

The board took no action on paying the 2022 Tower Ambulance subsidy, citing the lack of a current contract for 2022.

Stoehr said the city of Tower had violated the contract from 2021, by not making on-time subsidy payments for transfer miles, as well as not producing a business plan as

the contract required.

Town board members also were offended by reported comments made by Breitung Supervisor Chuck Tekautz, which singled out Greenwood for not supporting the ambulance subsidy.

"We haven't seen the contract," said Chairman Sue Drobac. "The ambulance has to serve us whether we pay or not."

Supervisor Paul Skubic agreed. "We need to support them, but they need to come to our side too."

Resident Lee Peterson questioned why the service needed to replace the second ambulance, with 130,000 miles on it, when other area services like Virginia put many, many more miles on their rigs before needing to replace them. He blamed the move on the department accepting too many calls for hospital-to-hospital transfers.

Other business

In other business, the board:

- Will be offering a CPR class sometime this winter for fire department members and interested township residents, including seasonal residents.
- Accepted the resignation of fire department administrative assistant Tammy Mortaloni, and will advertise for the position.

- Discussed inviting OSHA to do a compliance visit to the fire department in the future.
- Discussed a small claims court case filed by Mortaloni against the township for delayed payment of wages. The case stemmed from a payment for time spent grant writing. The town board had asked for more details before paying out the claim, and then once it had been approved, had submitted the wages to their payroll service. Maus said for some reason that check had not been processed, but that he had not been notified it hadn't been sent out. Once the township realized the check hadn't been processed, they did get the issue resolved, but in the meantime, a small claims case had been filed.
- Will be seeking new proposals for the township website, which is not currently updated.
- Appointed John Bassing as an alternate to the Tower Area Ambulance Commission.
- Noted that absentee ballot applications are available at the town hall, but that these applications are being processed by St. Louis County, not by the township, for the upcoming general election.
- Approved having the town hall furnaces serviced, and some other maintenance in the fire hall.

ELY-WINTON HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
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The Ely-Winton Hospital Scholarship Fund offers scholarships to students in the fields of:

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2. Nursing (RN/LPN)

3. Laboratory Technician

4. X-Ray Technician

5. Medical Records Librarian

6. Physician's Assistant/Paramedic

7. Occupational Therapist

8. Physical Therapist

9. Pharmacy

10. Other approved by the Committee

Applicants must have attended school in Ely or Babbitt for at least two (2) years and graduated from that school. Applicants must be engaged in obtaining professional, vocational, or scientific education or training leading to a degree or certificate in one of the above-mentioned fields.

Applications are available at the District Office, Ely Public Schools, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731, or you may contact Lori Westrick at (218)365-1727 or lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us. Applications are due in the District Office by Monday, October 31.



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FOOTBALL

Yet another heartbreaker for T-Wolves

North Central spoils Ely homecoming 22-20

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— An errant snap on a fourth-down field goal attempt from the one-yard line ended the Timberwolves’ hopes for their first win of the season in their homecoming contest here last Friday. It was the second time this year that an impressive second-half rally fell short for the Wolves. This time Ely fell 22-20 to North Central to slip to

0-5 on the season. It was another tale of two halves as North Central contained Ely offensively in the first half, taking a 14-6 lead into the break. North Central largely shut down Ely’s running game and Ely lost momentum until they turned to the pass. North Central added eight more points early in the third quarter before Ely senior quarterback Gunnar Hart went to work late in the game, connecting for 127 yards passing

including two touchdowns, both to senior running back Jason Kerntz. The Wolves put six more points on the board on an interception and runback by senior Erron Anderson. Down 22-6 heading into the fourth, the Wolves scored twice to close the gap to 22-20 as the final minutes ticked down. The Wolves’ defense held North Central in their final drive, leaving Ely with one more

See **WOLVES...**pg. 2B



Left: Ely senior runningback Jason Kerntz seeks to avoid a North Central defender during last Friday’s homecoming match-up.

photo by J. Greeney

FOOTBALL

Grizzlies notch first win

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ISLE- It took a long road trip to face off against a foe more their equal, but the North Woods Grizzlies finally broke into the win column last week with a 28-6 win over Mille Lacs. Riding a monster game of 325 total yards by Jared Chiabotti, the offense started slow but revved into full gear in the second half, adding 22 points in the final two quarters to go with one touchdown in the second quarter.

But a defense that executed its assignments as a unit, swarming to the ball and shutting down the Mille Lacs offense on critical downs time and time again was the critical component giving the offense time to find its rhythm. “We needed one like that,” Grizzlies Head Coach Joel Anderson said. “We put four pretty good quarters together defensively. It took us a little while there to get into the endzone offensively, but we moved the ball very, very well. It was a good one.”

After squandering an early scoring opportunity, the Grizzlies’ Nick Abramson scored the only touchdown of the first half in the second quarter on a nine-yard romp to give North Woods a 6-0 lead at the half. Chiabotti got 98 of his total yards through the air, including a seven-yard swing pass for a touchdown. He gained a season-best 227 yards on the ground, with two of those runs capping good fourth-quarter drives for touchdowns of five and 15 yards.

See **FOOTBALL...**pg. 2B

VOLLEYBALL

Nighthawks top Hilltoppers in three

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

BABBITT— The Nighthawks notched a straight set victory over Duluth-Marshall here on Monday, 27-25, 25-18, and 25-19. Maizy Sundblad led the way for Northeast Range, with ten kills, 13 set assists and two aces, while Else Bee notched seven kills and two aces. Senior Morgan Bush, in her final home game, tallied seven digs and six aces, while Allison Flug added eight digs and six ace serves. Peyson Roseth added eight digs and three aces, while Danica Sundblad went 19 of 19 from the serving line and added nine digs. Monday’s win came on the heels of last Thursday’s loss to Hill City, 25-8, 25-15, and 28-26. Bee tallied six kills and served 100 percent, while Flug posted three kills and nine digs. Maizy Sundblad added four kills on the night.



VOLLEYBALL

Ely dominant at Mesabi tourney

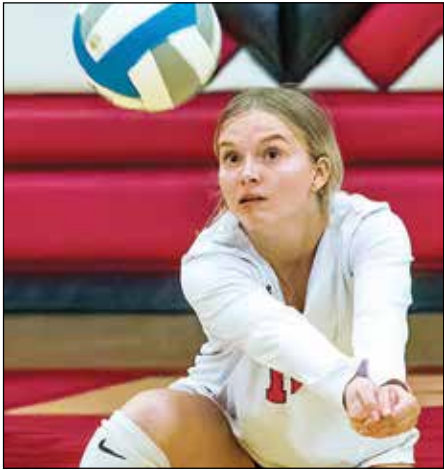
Undefeated Wolves now the team to beat in Section 7A volleyball

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA- The Ely Timberwolves Express came steaming into Mesabi East High School last Saturday daring anyone to stop them. It turned out no one could as the Wolves kept their perfect season rolling with four match wins and the tournament championship. At 21-0 as of last Monday, the Wolves had still been flying under the radar of the Minnesota Volleyball Coaches Association, being snubbed all season long by the coaches in their weekly top-ten Class A rankings. But as the only undefeated team remaining among more than 150 Class A teams in the state, the Wolves earned a little more respect this week, placing just outside of the top-ten at 13th in the balloting. The Quality Rating Formula used to rank teams for the playoffs has Ely slated ninth best in Class A. The Wolves likely hadn’t paid any attention to such things as they took the floor Saturday against a tough Chisholm squad and doled out a 25-17, 25-13 pasting to the Bluestreaks. They rolled

over Two Harbors 25-11, 25-8 before lunch, then came back to face their stiffest challenge of the tourney against Floodwood. The overall tournament atmosphere lacked the usual intensity with few fans choosing to attend, giving the event the feel of a scrimmage among good friends instead of battles against deserving foes. That may have lulled the Wolves into a bit of a lull, as the Polar Bears put the big chill on them in the first set, capturing a surprising 25-16 win. But poking a sleeping wolf with a stick is never a good idea, and the Wolves responded ferociously, humbling the upstart Polar Bears by scores of 25-13 and 25-12 for their third match win of the day. The North Woods Grizzlies were looking to make a little noise of their own at Mesabi East, and they got off on the right foot by taking down Northeast Range 25-6, 25-16. Barnum was no match for the Grizzlies, falling 25-13, 25-12. After Ely defeated Floodwood, the Grizzlies took a crack at the Polar Bears, winning the first set 25-14. But North Woods ran out of steam

See **TOURNEY ...**pg. 2B



Top: The Grizzlies’ Hannah Kinsey goes up high for a kill, while Ely’s Lilli Rechichi (l) and Kate Coughlin defend at the net.

photos by D. Colburn

Above: Ely senior Courtney Eilrich focuses as she drops low for a dig.

Below: Ely junior Hannah Penke goes up for a kill.



TOURNEY...Continued from page 1B

in a close second set won by Floodwood 25-21 and suffered their first loss of the tourney after losing the score-shortened third set 15-7.

North Woods was then the last team to try to knock off Ely, and they gave it a good shot in the first set, erasing a big deficit but coming up just short of the win, 25-23. With the tourney championship squarely in their sights, the Wolves easily overpowered North Woods in the final set.

Saturday was a watershed day in the season of formerly winless Northeast Range, as the young Nighthawks pulled off their first victories of the season. First to fall to the Nighthawks was Wrenshall, with NER winning an extra-long 29-27 thriller in the first set and picking up a 25-20 win in the second. With newfound confidence, the Nighthawks upped their win total to two with a solid 25-18, 25-21 win over Two Harbors.

Right: Skyler Yernatich goes up for a kill during Saturday's tournament play at Mesabi East. The Grizzlies finished 2-2 in the day's contests.

photo by D. Colburn



VOLLEYBALL

Ely routs MI-B to improve to 22-0

MT. IRON — The indomitable Timberwolves volleyball team made short work of the Rangers here on Tuesday, winning in a straight set rout, 25-9, 25-4, and 25-12, to keep their perfect season intact with just three regular season contests yet to go.

Ely is now a virtual lock for the top seed in the Section 7A tournament, which gets underway late next week.

Tuesday's easy win was a chance to give younger players more time on the court. "It was nice to get everyone on the floor," said Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum. "We even got to work on some new skills."

Sophomore Clare Thomas had a strong outing, posting six kills and as many digs, while junior Hannah Penke tallied six kills, five digs, and three aces. Senior Rachel Coughlin had a big night from the line, notching 10 aces along with nine digs and three kills. Senior Madeline Kallberg posted five kills, four digs, and 15 set assists, while Natasha Fulkrod added six kills, three blocks and two digs. Junior setter Sarah Visser added four digs and 19 assists.

The Wolves were set to take on Nashauk-Keewatin on the road on Thursday. They'll host Cook County on Monday and wrap up the regular season on Tuesday at Bigfork.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

opportunity. The Wolves were able to move the ball again but faced a fourth down at the North Central one-yard line with just thirty seconds on the clock.

"I opted for the field goal attempt," said Head Coach Louie Gerzin. But when the snap went awry, an anticipated win turned

into the second heartbreaker of the season.

"The guys were pretty upset about that one," said Gerzin. "But I have to give credit to North Central. They stopped us on the run all day." In total, the Wolves managed just 78 yards of total rushing. Kerntz, who has been a rushing power-

house most of the season, led with just 32 yards on the ground, followed by Erron Anderson who posted 30 yards rushing along with a two-point conversion.

Anderson also had a big day defensively, notching five tackles, the interception, as well as a fumble recovery. Kerntz tallied six

tackles, including one for a loss, a forced fumble, and a broken pass. Senior Jakson Hegman added 7.5 tackles and broke up a pass. Junior Gavin Marshall posted 6.5 tackles, while junior Chase Anderson tallied 5.5 tackles and forced a fumble. Junior Deegan Richards added 5.5 tackles and sophomore

Alex Merriman added five. Hart added a fumble recovery.

The Wolves' prospects aren't likely to improve when they head to Cherry on Friday to take on the 5-1 Tigers, whose only loss this season came against Mt. Iron-Buhl.

The Wolves return

home on Wednesday, Oct. 19, to take on Hill City/Northland. That game could provide Ely with its best chance to avoid a winless season.

FOOTBALL...Continued from page 1B

The offense benefitted from a change in the game plan at halftime. Anderson said that he noticed that the Raiders' defensive tackles were taking wider splits, and at the half he asked his interior linemen to pick it up and open up the inside game. The Grizzlies' backfield took full advantage of the line's efforts, with quarterback Jonah Burnett successfully

running numerous keepers right up the middle, gaining 38 yards on seven carries. Burnett was also successful with the short passing game, hitting ten of 17 passes for 112 yards and one touchdown.

Tommy Debeltz was a stalwart on the defensive side of the ball, leading the team with 12 tackles, one sack, and two tackles for losses. The secondary got

burned in the third quarter when a shift in positions left a Raiders receiver wide open for an easy 68-yard score, the only touchdown of the night for the hosts. Defensive back Mason Rutchasky shut down any chance Mille Lacs had of coming back through the air, snagging three interceptions to kill drives.

"Mason has been playing better and better

for us," Anderson said. "He understood the sets, he recognized what guy was going to be his, and he made good plays on the ball. Tommy's got great instincts. If we can get him in space and get him moving forward, he's a great tackler. He played a fantastic game."

Like North Woods, the Raiders came into the game winless on the season, but

Anderson said it wasn't for a lack of any talent.

"They've got three very good levels of defense that teams have had a hard time breaking long plays against," he said. "They tend to play their spots very well. They made it a challenge."

It was a challenge North Woods passed, and the much needed win comes with only two games left

before sectional playoffs begin. Anderson said the Grizzlies have a shot at picking up two more wins, the first today with a road contest at Mesabi East. The Grizzlies and Giants have identical 1-5 records. The regular season finale will be next Wednesday, Oct. 19 against East Central, also currently 1-5.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

\$97 million in small business support coming to Minnesota

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- With White House officials reporting that more people than ever before are starting new businesses, the U.S. Treasury on Tuesday announced the release of up to \$1 billion for small business development in 11 states, including \$97 million for Minnesota entrepreneurs.

"We are thrilled," said Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Commissioner Steve Grove. "This funding allows DEED to carry out its commitment to helping small businesses across the state grow and succeed."

Grove explained that the Minnesota award represents a multi-year investment in supporting entrepreneurs throughout the state.

"Minnesota will receive these State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) funds in three disbursements over several years. The initial disbursement from the Treasury is approximately \$29.5 million. In the weeks ahead, DEED will share details about the six Treasury-approved programs under the SSBCI initiative to benefit small businesses."

Specific details are yet to be announced but the Treasury Department provided a preliminary outline of how the funds are intended to be used:

➤ Minnesota will operate a new loan participation program with an allocation of \$12.5 million that provides loans to businesses purchasing machinery, equipment, or software to increase productivity and automation.

➤ \$12.5 million will be allocated to a multi-fund program, the Growth Loan Fund, that will invest in Minnesota-based venture capital funds that will target seed and early-stage investments in start-ups related to key sectors such as information technology, software, life sciences, agriculture, clean technology, and manufacturing.

➤ Two additional venture capital programs, administered by the University of Minnesota Office of Investments and Banking, have a combined allocation of \$34.5 million. The funds provide equity support to small businesses by co-investing in early-stage funding rounds alongside private investors and to small businesses by investing SSBCI capital in venture capital funds.

The existing SSBCI program was expanded by

the Biden Administration's American Rescue Plan to provide nearly \$10 billion to states, territories, and Tribal governments to increase access to needed capital, especially in underserved communities. The fund is intended to be a catalyst for

up to \$100 billion of private investment, yielding \$10 of private capital for every dollar SSBCI provides. Overall, 31 states have received awards totaling \$4.8 billion so far.

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar participated in

the announcement.

"We must continue to rejuvenate our economy," she said. "Minnesota is going to be getting a significant amount of funds to leverage millions of dollars for small businesses and entrepreneurs. So much of

this early capital money has been going to the same places, to Northern California, to New York, and it is time to make sure that the rest of the country continues to have startups as well."

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Bois Forte awarded \$20 million broadband grant

BOIS FORTE- Over 3,000 homes and businesses in Bois Forte Band communities will be getting high-speed broadband after the Band was awarded a \$20 million grant for the project on Tuesday.

The award comes from the federal NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

Minnesota-based broadband provider CTC assisted with the grant and will oversee the construction of a project that will boast 375 miles of fiber optic cable in the region.

“The project will turn a vision into reality by connecting tribal members, businesses, and operations that are critical to the economic success of the region to a world class broadband network,” said Bois Forte Information Technology Director Randy Long. “All of our families will be better connected to our schools, medical facilities, and cultural activities, as well.”

A date for the start of construction has yet to be announced.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Maxine J. Sandberg

Maxine Joan Sandberg, 70, of Cook, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022. A visitation will be held on Saturday, Oct. 15 from noon to 2 p.m., followed by a Celebration of Life at 2 p.m. at the Cook Community Center in Cook. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

Maxine was born to Archie and Clara (Barrett) Kersting on March 11, 1952, in Grand Rapids. Maxine grew up in Bear Lake and attended Bigfork High School. She was united in marriage to Merl Sandberg on April 26, 1969. They lived in Bear River where they raised their three children, Sheldon, Brad and Stacey.

Maxine worked various customer service jobs until she and Merl built the Viking Bar in 1984. Her personality attracted countless amounts of people from near and far. After retirement, her inability to sit still led her to cleaning cabins where customers became family. Maxine was known for her upbeat, kind and caring nature. Even during her struggle with cancer, she was always positive and never gave up. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends. For years she never missed an event, from her oldest son to her youngest grandchild. Her favorite pastime was traveling, which included numerous Mexican adventures and winning big in Vegas or pretty much anywhere she went.

Maxine is survived by her husband, Merl; son, Brad (Dee Ann) Sandberg; daughter, Stacey (Steven) Ratai; daughter-in-law, Taryn Sandberg; brother, Joe (Arlayne) Kersting; sisters, Nancy (Roger) Kjendle, Sharon (Ike) Nelson, Arlene (Gene) Chilman and Judy Geisen; grandchildren, Jaret (Destinie) Sandberg, Alli Sandberg, Jahna Sandberg, Hanna Sandberg, Regan Ratai and Kaden Ratai; great-grandchildren, Grayson and Leah Sandberg; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Archie and Clara; son, Sheldon; and brother, Jerry Kersting.

Nathan A. Ehrich

Nathan Allan Ehrich, 40, of Cotton, died on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, near his home. A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 17 at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Duluth, followed by a celebration of life at his home at 6818 Comstock Lake Road. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the American Heart Association or Disabled American Veterans. Arrangements are by Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home of Gilbert.

Survivors include his wife, Haley; sons, Gunnar, Griffin and Gage; mother, Roxi Jensen of Hoyt Lakes; father, Alan (Debbie) Ehrich of Tower; sisters, Nicole Ehrich of Duluth and Brandi (Kenneth) Hascall of Wright; grandmother, Eldwin Haskell of Redfield, S.D.; nieces and nephews; in-laws, Ralph Hall and Kitty Hall; sister-in-law, April (Josh) Lewis; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends; and his military family.

Richard Niemi

Richard (Richie, Rich, Papa Roach) Niemi, 59, of Babbitt, loving son, father, grandpa, brother, uncle and nephew, went to sleep at his home and never woke up on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022. A celebration of life will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12 at Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass. Visitation will be at 2 p.m. Burial will be at the Waasa Township Cemetery. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home of Virginia.

He is survived by his daughter, Ashley (Dustin) Finner; son, Benjamin Niemi; granddaughter, Keira Finner; mother, Ellen Joyce Niemi; sister, Carol (Tom) Sundberg; and nephews, Leighton and Ian Sundberg.

Leo A. Kainz Jr.

Leo “Cubby” Andrew Kainz Jr., 66, of Ely, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022, at his home in Ely. Funeral services were held on Thursday, Oct. 13 at First Lutheran Church in Ely with Pastor Zach Burgdorf officiating.

He is survived by his stepchildren, Brandi (Kevin Kovall) Richards of Babbitt, Bill (Jeff Junczewski) Richards of Sauk Rapids and Brittany (Eric) Howe of Nisswa; daughter-in-law, Tracy Anderson-Zupancich of Tower; grandchildren, Michael Berger, Sydni Ross, Lilli Berger, Nikolas Berger, Kael Richards, Ty Richards, Madelyne Roderick, Rustin Carlson and Miley Schwarz; great-granddaughters, Paisley Berger and Kaia Richards; nephews, Barney Swanson and Jeremy Swanson; aunt, Doreen Bistis; many cousins, nieces and nephews; close friends, John Lincicome and Dave Moats; and his Jack Russell Terrier, Martha.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 707
NETT LAKE
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 707,(Nett Lake), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 8th day of November 2022 for the purpose of electing one school board member to fill vacancy in term expiring January 6, 2025.

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: 

School Board Member
Vote for One

☐ Candidate S

☐ Candidate T

☐ Write-in, if any

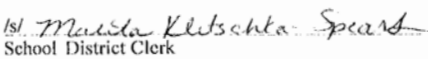
The combined polling places for this election and the precincts served by these polling places will be as follows:

MAIL BALLOT AND Auditor's Office—Virginia Government Services Center 201 South 3rd Avenue West Virginia, MN 5572 AND Auditor's Office—Duluth Courthouse 100 N. 5th Avenue W. Room 214 Duluth, MN 55802

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place or combined polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will open at 8:00 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: 7-11-22 BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD



School District Clerk

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 707
NETT LAKE
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District NO. 707, (Nett Lake), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 8th day of November, 2022, for the purpose of electing (three) school board members for four year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: 

School Board Member
Vote for Up to Three

☐ Candidate S

☐ Candidate T

☐ Candidate U

☐ Candidate V

☐ Candidate W

☐ Candidate X

☐ write-in, if any

☐ write-in, if any

☐ write-in, if any

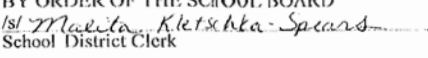
The combined polling places for this election and the precincts served by these polling places will be as follows:

MAIL BALLOT AND Auditor's Office—Virginia Government Services Center 201 South 3rd Avenue West Virginia, MN 5572 AND Auditor's Office—Duluth Courthouse 100 N. 5th Avenue W. Room 214 Duluth, MN 55802

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will open at 8:00 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: 7-11-22 BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD


School District Clerk

Notice of General Election

TOWN OF MORCOM

State of Minnesota, County of St. Louis

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Election will be held in all election precincts in the above named city or town at The Bear River Community Center located at 12512 Highway 22, Cook, MN 55723 From 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Polling places will be open from 7:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M., with the exception of townships having less than 500 inhabitants that have opted to establish a later poll opening, but in all cases no later than 10:00 A.M. (M.S. 204C.05).

FEDERAL OFFICES

• One United States Representative, District 8

STATE OFFICES

• State Senator Districts 3, 8, 7, 11 (offices will appear on ballots only in their respective districts.)

• State Representative Districts 3A, 3B, 8A, 8B, 7A, 7B, 11A (offices will appear on ballots only in their respective districts.)

• Governor and Lieutenant Governor

• Secretary of State

• State Auditor

• Attorney General

JUDICIAL OFFICES

• Supreme Court Associate Justices- Two (2) Seats

Seat 3 (Incumbent: Moore)

Seat 6 (Incumbent: Hudson)

• Appeals Court Judge – Ten (10) Seats

Seat 1 (Incumbent: Gaitas)

Seat 5 (Incumbent: Bjorkman)

Seat 7 (Incumbent: Segal)

Seat 8 (Incumbent: Reilly)

Seat 10 (Incumbent: Frisch)

Seat 11 (Incumbent: Larkin)

Seat 16 (Incumbent: Reyes Jr.)

Seat 17 (Incumbent: Johnson)

Seat 18 (Incumbent: Bryan)

Seat 19 (Incumbent: Connolly)

District Court Judge - 6th Judicial District – Seven (7) Seats

Seat 3 (Incumbent: Lukasavitz)

Seat 7 (Incumbent: Peterson)

Seat 8 (Incumbent: Pearson)

Seat 10 (Incumbent: Radosevich Pattni)

Seat 11 (Incumbent: Cuzzo)

Seat 13 (Incumbent: Neo)

Seat 15 (Incumbent: Beiers)

COUNTY OFFICES

• One County Commissioner for Districts 1, 4, and 6 (offices will appear on ballots only in applicable districts)

• County Auditor

• County Attorney

• County Sheriff

North Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors for Districts 1 and 3 (offices will appear on ballots only in their respective districts).

South Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors for Districts 2, 3, and 5. Special Election for South Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors for Districts 1 and 4. (offices will appear on ballots only in their respective districts).

NOTE: Local city, town, and school district offices/questions may also appear on ballots within their respective jurisdictions.

Town Clerk: Sasha Lehto

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 14, 2022

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

WILDLIFE RESEARCH

VNP wolves rebounding as more pups survive

New report finds wolf numbers recovering from earlier decline

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK— Last year’s drought conditions didn’t seem to hamper the wolf population here, which grew 16 percent according to a report issued last week by the Voyageurs Wolf Project.

The increase was almost certainly driven by the remarkably high survival rate of wolf pups born in the spring of 2021, just over half of which (52 percent) survived through their

first year of life. The improved pup survival was the primary factor behind the increase in the wolf population estimated by researchers within the Greater Voyageurs ecosystem, or GVE. According to the report, the average pack size grew from 3.1 wolves last year to 4.7 this year.

It was only the second year that researchers at the park were able to get a clear picture of pup survival and last year’s result marked a dramatic turnaround from the survival of pups born in the spring of 2020, when only seven percent lived to the

Right: Wolf pup survival was remarkably high this past year at Voyageurs National Park, helping to boost the park’s wolf numbers by 16 percent.

photo courtesy Voyageurs Wolf Project

following spring. Tom Gable, lead researcher on the project said his team is still trying to better understand how and why the survival rate of pups could vary so dramatically from one year to the next. Since

See WOLVES...pg. 5B



LANDSCAPES

The season of gray

It’s a time of transition and anticipation of what’s to come

There are just a few points in time every year when the change on the landscape is both rapid and dramatic. The first snow that marks the start of winter. The first blush of green leaves in the spring. The fiery feel of peak fall color, which we enjoyed the first few days of this month.

And then, the fall of the leaves and our transition to the season of gray.

I find the freshness of each transition to be exciting, even the one that arrives here in the North Country every year about the end of the second week of October. To me, the fall of leaves marks the end of the season of light. Even though our nights became longer than our days in late September, there’s something about the brilliant leaves that seems to extend the light of summer. It’s a grace period before we head into the long darkness.

It’s a time when we know that things are getting serious. The languid days of summer are long gone. The unforgiving steel of winter is approaching, which means it’s time to get ready. In the yard, there’s the summer things to put away. The furni-

Above and right: The now mostly bare woods in morning fog on Monday, near Tower.

ture that sits on the patio. The hoses that watered the gardens now wilted after several killing frosts. There’s still firewood to be split, leaves to be raked, and anything that can’t freeze stored away indoors. The snowblower needs starting and probably an oil change as well. Lazy summer is over and all of its signs must be stored neatly away until the leaves emerge again sometime next May.

Yet it is not just a time for saying goodbye to our easy season. The graying of the landscape brings anticipations of its own, including the peak of the hunt. The grouse, now exposed, are easier prey for hunters. The deer hunt approaches, which means it’s a time for hunters to clear their shooting lanes and bolster their stands. On the edge of the Lost Lake swamp, we’ll also be out the next few weekends clearing trails for the coming snowshoe season.

For us here in the North Country, the fall of leaves brings us back to the familiar.

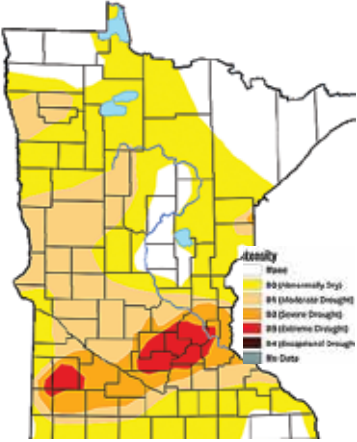


We live seven months of the year without leaves on our deciduous trees, so we’re used to this forest. Our vistas expand as the leaves fall, and our evergreens come into their own, now seeming to dominate the forest. Even the sound of the wind is different, dominated now by the thin rush of the breeze through

the needles of pine and spruce. The soft rustling of the aspen and birch leaves has faded.

The forest’s mood changes as well. All that spectacular fall color, which came and went far too quickly this year, lies forlornly on the forest floor.

See GRAY...pg. 5B



The latest drought map for Minnesota shows that drought has spread throughout most of Minnesota and is beginning to edge into the North Country. The National Weather Service is predicting continued dry weather through at least Oct. 24.

WEATHER

Dry spell drops area water levels

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Don’t look now, but the North Country is experiencing a dry spell that’s sent river and lake levels tumbling the past couple weeks. The region, which experienced record-setting flooding this past spring, saw plentiful rainfall through much of the summer, which had boosted soil moisture and kept water levels at or above average.

That’s been in marked contrast to much of the rest of the state of Minnesota, where drought has been intensifying the past couple months.

While the North Country has avoided a return to drought, the recent dry trend is beginning to add up, with most area weather stations running about two inches below average on rainfall since Sept. 1. And area rivers are now running below their October Q75, which means that flow is lower than at present only 25 percent of the time. On the Vermilion River, for example, the flow had dropped to 164 cubic feet per second (cfs), slightly below the Q75 threshold.

The Little Fork River’s flow fell twenty percent over just the past week, falling to 179 cfs, well below October’s Q75 mark of 211 cfs.

While there are moderate chances of rain and snow over the weekend, extended forecasts call for only negligible amounts of precipitation. The National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center is forecasting below normal temperatures and precipitation in both the 6-10 day and 8-14 day forecast issued Monday, Oct. 10.



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER

FADING FALL



A lone maple leaf stands out in the October fog along a beaver pond in Lake Vermilion State Park. The leaves of a short but spectacular color season are now mostly on the ground.

photo by V. Ranua

Outdoors briefly

Youth deer season starts Thursday

REGIONAL — Minnesota’s youth deer season will take place state-wide 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 or blaze pink clothing requirements.

GRAY...Continued from page 4B

As the summer ferns and flowers die and the trees and shrubs make their own preparations for winter, we recognize the death of summer. That’s especially so this year, when our abundant precipitation produced a season of lushness unlike any we’ve seen in several years. But even the most verdant landscape eventually meets the reality of the changing seasons in the north. But there are welcome changes ahead. As the temperatures get colder, we shift our lives increasingly indoors. It’s the season when the wood stove begins crackling in earnest and a cup of coffee or tea becomes a welcome hand warmer as well as a drink. The garden’s harvest is in, save for the parsnips and rutabagas, which will only sweeten with the colder weather ahead, and the smell of roasting winter squash fills

the kitchen again. The wine from last year’s chokecherries is bottled and ready for drinking during the long evenings ahead. Through this season of gray, we’ll be anticipating the next milestone in our circle of the seasons. The first real snow that tells us winter is setting in. The first ice on the ponds, and finally the larger lakes. Strapping on our skates and finding that river that we can skate away on. And people still wonder why we live up here? I wonder how we could live anywhere else.



LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
39 27					41 30					36 23					36 23					39 23				
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.
10/03	65	46	0.00		10/03	64	44	0.00		10/03	60	44	0.02		10/03	68	54	0.00		10/03	63	44	0.00	
10/04	69	54	0.00		10/04	71	53	0.00		10/04	68	51	0.00		10/04	68	55	0.00		10/04	69	52	0.00	
10/05	68	53	0.06		10/05	69	51	0.00		10/05	66	54	0.02		10/05	70	46	0.42		10/05	67	47	0.00	
10/06	68	35	0.00		10/06	70	39	0.24		10/06	67	42	0.06		10/06	48	32	0.32		10/06	71	36	0.20	
10/07	44	29	0.00		10/07	45	26	0.00		10/07	44	30	0.08		10/07	46	28	0.00		10/07	44	31	0.03	
10/08	43	31	0.02		10/08	44	29	0.00		10/08	45	30	0.00		10/08	57	34	0.00		10/08	44	30	0.00	
10/09	55	27	0.00		10/09	55	27	0.00		10/09	58	32	0.00		10/09	55	28	0.00		10/09	55	27	0.00	
YTD Total 22.47					YTD Total 24.52					YTD Total 22.77					YTD Total NA NA					YTD Total 29.60				

WOLVES...Continued from page 4B

the young pups aren’t collared, it’s difficult for researchers to locate pups when they do die, so determining a cause of death is almost impossible. Gable is hoping that tracking pup survival rates in the future will eventually provide enough data to possibly tease out environmental factors that influence pup success. The wolf population does vary from year-to-year, as do virtually all wildlife populations, and it was declining as recently as 2019-2020, when it fell to the lowest level in the nine years since the wolf project began. Since then, the population has rebounded substantially and is now close to the population’s nine-year average. The varying rates of pup survival do suggest one way that nature regulates the populations of top predators like gray wolves.

In a natural setting, like the park’s Kabetogama Peninsula, wolves and deer have managed to sustain healthy populations, as is typical of predator-prey relationships allowed to operate without human interference. Indeed, Gable’s report notes that the park’s wolf population has sustained itself more-or-less at equilibrium since the 1980s, based on earlier records that preceded the Voyageurs Wolf Project. “Our assessment suggests the current wolf population size is relatively similar to what it was 25-35 years ago, suggesting that the GVE has supported a relatively stable, high-density wolf population for decades,” writes Gable. That fact doesn’t appear to have hampered the whitetail deer or beaver populations, both of which appear to remain healthy on the Kab peninsula, which is the primary land mass within the

park. Such data may run counter to prevailing views locally on wolves and how they function in the ecosystem, but Gable said his research hasn’t found evidence to suggest wolf numbers are increasing outside of normal fluctuations in a predator population. “People think wolf populations will always grow exponentially as if they’re some kind of super predator,” he said. “But there is no animal I’m aware of that can continue to increase its population while eliminating their food source.” The continued survival of healthy numbers of deer and beaver, two of the park wolves’ primary prey species, is evidence that the predator populations are much more regulated by environmental factors than many in the public believe.

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- 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



Current Openings
LICENSED TEACHER

Vermilion Country School is seeking to hire a full-time licensed teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. Position open until filled. Salary per established pay scale (available by request). Due to growing enrollment, we have openings in science, social studies and language arts. In our school's teaching model, teachers can teach across the curriculum.

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)

Nurse Practitioner

Closes: 11/07/2022

Position Purpose: The Nurse Practitioner provides diagnostic, preventative, and therapeutic health services to patients and family members at the Bois Forte and Vermilion Clinics; with the ability to function as an independent practitioner.

The Bois Forte Health & Human Services and IHS goal is to raise Indian Health status to the highest possible level.

Website Address: https://boisforte.com/jobs/ ** Excellent Benefits! **

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 14, 21, 28 & Nov. 4, 2022

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Super Crossword

Answers

REPS	UTERI	HAMM	HEATS
EDIT	TALON	ALOE	AGLOW
BULL	MARKET	LATE	IRINA
COUCH	WELSH	RARE	BIT
RATK	ANGAROO	SKEPTICS	
STEEN	UMA	STN	ARI
TED	GLINT	BOSTON	POPS
SNAPS	RESAT	SORES	
SCOTT	ISHSYMPHONY	WINE	
TOVAH	ESP	PIE	EGG
PREY	TIBET	ANYAKS	RAUL
DRE	EMU	TAE	MAMIE
RETD	YORKSHIRE	PUDDING	
ARAIL	RAISA	BASIE	
FOXNET	WORK	DOONE	SNO
CIA	THE	IOS	ACTES
ARB	ITERS	SILKY	SMOOTH
BORDER	STATES	LIARS	
ADAIR	HOME	TERRIER	MIX
SETON	IRON	ONTOP	SETI
HOSTS	PEST	ODETS	EDEN

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

ELECTION NOTICE

COOK-ORR HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

The election for the township open board positions listed below will be held in conjunction with the General Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022

- ❖ Beatty Township
- ❖ Field Township
- ❖ Leiding Township
- ❖ Linden Grove Township
- ❖ Camp 5 Township
- ❖ Kabetogama Township



Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 14, 2022

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

IPG RGQQJBQI EMBRKSJHQ

SLMYI IPG CJHW; IPG MRIJBQI

GARGEIQ JI IM EPSHUG; IPG

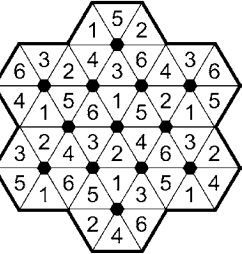
VGSKJQI SWOYQIQ IPG QSKJKQ.

— CJKKJSB SVIPYV CSVW

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SUPPORT GROUPS

Ely AA OPEN GROUP MEETINGS-

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

MS SUPPORT GROUP-

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

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

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS-

Meetings every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Virginia.

BABBITT AL-ANON-

meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the upstairs of Woodland Presbyterian Church.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP-

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

VIRGINIA AA WOMEN’S MEETING-

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

AA MEETING IN COOK-

Sunday Night Big Book Group meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, 231 2nd St. NE, Cook, at 7:00 pm Sunday. For information call 218-666-2820 or 218-780-7670.

AL-ANON MEETING IN COOK -

Ashawa Al-Anon Family Group meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, 231 2nd St. NE, Cook, at 7:00 pm Sunday. This meeting is for families and friends of alcoholics.

AA OPEN MEETING-

Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church, Acacia Blvd. and Central Drive in Babbitt.

ELY WOMEN’S OPEN AA MEETING-

Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Community Church, 1515 E Camp St., Ely.

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS,

give yourself a break. There is a way out with the help of other recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous. We have been there. For meeting or other information call 218-728-3199. (Narcotics Anonymous is a non-profit organization.)

HIV/AIDS?

For confidential compassionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS-

East Range meetings and information, call 218-749-3387 or www.district8online.org.

AA FRIDAYS-

7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 262 E Harvey St., Ely. Meets in the basement.

CryptoQuote answer

The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.
— William Arthur Ward

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Super Crossword

BEST OF BREED

ACROSS

1 Agents, informally

5 Wombs

10 Soccer great Mia

14 Warms up

19 Fix up copy

20 Condor claw

21 Emollient plant juice

22 Incandescent

23 Good occasion to buy securities

25 After-hours

26 Youngest of Chekhov’s “Three Sisters”

27 Davenport, e.g.

28 Dish of melted cheese on toast

31 Small marsupial with long hind limbs

35 Doubters

36 Dutch painter Jan

37 Actress Thurman

38 Depot. Abbr.

41 Financier Onassis

42 Rocker Nugent

43 Tiny flash of light

45 Light classical orchestra

51 Flips out

53 Met again, as a legislature

55 Painful spots

56 Mendelssohn orchestral piece in A minor

62 Merlot, e.g.

63 “Yentl” actress Feldshuh

64 Paranormal gift, for short

65 Prankster’s messy missile

66 Prankster’s messy missile

67 Hunt quarry

68 Pack animals around Lhasa

73 Actor Julia

75 “Dr.” of rap

76 Lean red meat source

77 — Bo

78 Eisenhower’s wife

79 On Soc. Security, say

80 Popover served with roast beef

86 Thin as —

88 Gorbachev’s wife

89 “Count” of jazz

90 “The Simpsons” airer

93 “Lorna —”

95 — -cone

98 U.S. spy org.

99 Part of OTC

101 Platform for iDevices

102 Entr’— (interludes)

104 Dispute go-betweens

109 Very sleek

112 Maine and Montana, to Canada

115 Fact fudgers

116 Firefighter Red

117 Residence

118 Crossbreed apropos to this puzzle (hint: see the starts of 10 long answers)

123 Resolved to accomplish

124 Fairway club

125 At the zenith

126 Org. looking for aliens

127 Party givers

128 Annoyer

129 Playwright Clifford

130 Eve’s garden

DOWN

1 Yank’s rival

2 Instruct

3 Flew, as a plane

4 Patron of physicians

5 Ogden native

6 Pothole filler

7 Lean red meat source

8 Fish spawn

9 Bisected

10 Corridor

11 “ ‘Tis so sad”

12 Fliers drawn to flames

13 African mongoose

14 Very sharp road curves

15 Heron variety

16 Cover story

17 Pick-me-up

18 Hits hard

24 Thom — shoes

29 Canon camera

30 Prefix with space

31 Q-U link

32 Big swallows

33 Mennonite subgroup

34 Oversaw

39 Recipe amt.

40 Ark builder

43 Moo goo — pan

44 Lovers’ get-together

46 “You can’t — train”

47 Sports drink brand

48 Art of paper folding

49 Waddling bird

50 Opposite of NNW

51 Didn’t leave the house

52 To the — degree

54 Ones who can sense others’ feelings, in sci-fi

56 Engine additive

57 Jockey Angel or baseballer Wil

58 Burden too heavily

59 Lay eyes on

60 Suffix with neat

61 “Absolutely!”

68 Novelist Josephine

69 “I believe ...,” in texts

70 Small donkey sign

71 Water nymph

72 “— darn tootin’!”

74 Chair piece

78 Roman 1,501

79 Brit. mil. fliers

81 Go- — (kid’s racer)

82 Certain Indian believer

83 Kindle buy

84 Violet variety

85 Purpose

87 Podiums

91 Stadium part

92 Frigate, e.g.

94 Engine additive

95 Really raged

96 Web location

97 — Kosh B’gosh

100 Suffix with Vietnam

102 Luc’s gal pal

103 Vulgar

104 Embarrass

105 Calf-roping competition

106 Little imps

107 — -proof

108 Place to shop ain’t so!”

111 Ice mishaps

113 “Famous” cookie guy

114 Teepee

119 Purpose

120 No. on a road sign

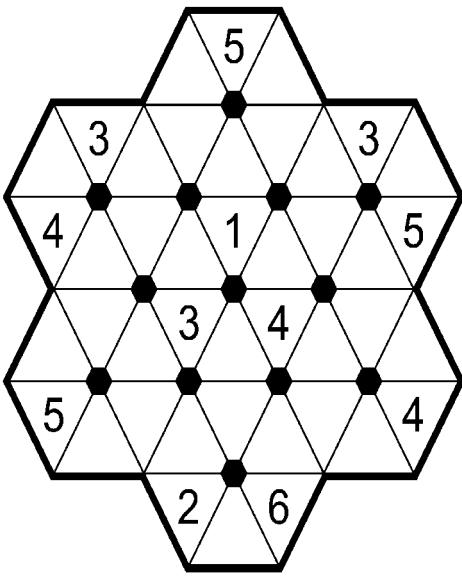
121 Decay

122 Mark, as a ballot square

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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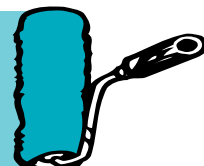
Answer

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18	
19					20						21					22					
23				24							25					26					
	27								28	29					30						
31							32	33	34				35								
36							37				38	39	40		41						
42					43				44		45		46				47	48	49	50	
			51	52					53	54						55					
56	57	58							59						60	61		62			
63									64						65			66			
67							68	69	70				71	72				73		74	
	75						76					77					78				
79							80				81	82			83	84	85				
86					87				88						89						
90							91	92											95	96	97
							98					99		100		101			102	103	
104	105	106	107						108			109	110					111			
112									113	114							115				
116							117								118	119	120	121			122
123									124						125				126		
127									128						129				130		



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