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the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1⁰⁰

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Bois Forte broadband project will have major impact

Expected to cover much of Lake Vermilion and Orr area

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The \$19.8 million high-speed broadband grant recently awarded to the Bois Forte Band will have impact far beyond the borders of the reservation, allowing the Band to extend the benefits of high-speed connections to residents, businesses and services along the south shore of Lake Vermilion and around the

community of Orr.

Bois Forte Information Technology Director Randy Long said the expansive project was possible because the scope of the federal Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program allowed for development in lands adjacent or near to reservations when tribal members would benefit.

“We had a really strong interest in trying to build up the area surrounding

Right: The cross-hatched portion of this map of Lake Vermilion encompasses areas potentially served by a major new Bois Forte broadband project recently approved for funding.

the reservation as well as the reservation itself to support a lot of our teleworkers,” Long said. “Bois Forte

See...**BROADBAND** pg. 10



BUSINESS NEWS

Timberjay hires new Ely editor

New full-time staff member to start Dec. 1

ELY—The *Timberjay* has hired a new full-time Ely editor to replace Keith Vandervort, who died suddenly last August.

Catherine “Catie” Helm-Clark is a research geologist who turned to newspapering several years after retiring early from the Idaho National Laboratory, serving most of her time in journalism as an award-winning staff writer for the *Idaho Business Review*. Before that, she worked for a small, community-oriented daily newspaper in Blackfoot, Idaho, covering topics like local government, agriculture, and rural health care. She’s worked in both print and online reporting.



Catie Helm-Clark

She has been a prolific writer for years, having maintained a website (wordsmithing.work) and blog that provides science-based content for a wide range of publications and companies.

“Her writing is detailed, factual, and engaging,” said *Timberjay* Publisher Marshall Helmberger. “We’re excited to have Catie on board. While no one can replace Keith, Catie will bring her own significant skills and experience to the job and will undoubtedly make her own mark in Ely.”

See...**EDITOR** pg. 11

PUMPKIN SEASON



Jack-O-Lanterns galore

Community pumpkin carving event draws a big crowd

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Valerie Turnbull is a nurse by day, but somehow this mother of three has been finding time to organize community events for area families. Her latest success was a free community pumpkin carving activity, last Sunday. She recruited friends and family to help out and put out a request for donations on

Above: Haley Glatch appears pleased with her pumpkin's scary grin.

Right: Nash Lenci and Dylan Crego inspect their own carved pumpkins.

photos by J. Summit

Facebook.

The Herb Lamppa Civic Center was full of families carving pumpkins, thanks

See...**CARVING** pg. 11



MENTAL HEALTH

Ely man jailed for social media death threats

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ELY— A 47-year-old Ely man is facing criminal charges after posting multiple death threats against law enforcement officers on social media in response to an imminent eviction notice delivered on Thursday, Oct. 13.

Ely Police and St. Louis County Sheriff’s deputies arrested

John Melvin Fenske on Oct. 14 after he posted a flood of messages to his Facebook account threatening to kill law enforcement and “commit mass murder,”



John Fenske

according to Ely Assistant Chief of Police Mike Lorenz. Fenske was booked into the county jail in Virginia and arraigned on Monday for making terroristic threats, a felony that carries maximum penalties of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Escalation to violent intent

Community Loan Servicing, LLC bought the residential property at 615 E Wilson St. in Ely

at a St. Louis County Sheriff’s tax sale in February after John and Tracey Fenske defaulted on their mortgage. The couple was reportedly separated at the time.

John Fenske was given six months to bring the payments current but failed to do so, and formal eviction proceedings were initiated in August.

Fenske vented his increasing angst with the situation on

his Facebook account. Facing possible disconnection of his utilities last week, a post on Oct. 12 warned, “So if my electricity gets Shut Off I can almost GUARANTEE my sturdy built House will accidentally Burn down to the Bedrock ground.”

But after a notice to vacate the property within 24 hours,

See...**THREATS** pg. 10



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Community notices

The Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 and the Knights of Kaleva to meet Oct. 27

VIRGINIA - The Oct. 27 meeting will take place at 6 p.m. at Kaleva Hall. The program will be about the Finnish Education system and why it is one of the best in the world. This will be an interesting program for all. Coffee will be served after the program. Everyone is welcome.

Ely Weavers and Fiber Artists to meet Nov. 7 at the Grand Ely Lodge

ELY – The Ely Weavers and Fiber Artists will meet at the Grand Ely Lodge on Monday, Nov. 7, at 11 a.m. We will have lunch and share our interests with a show-and-tell. This month there is a small project. Our members weave, knit, spin, do basketry and quilt just to name a few of our interests. We welcome guests who share common interests. Please bring a sample of your work for show-and-tell. If you have questions, call Kathy Lovgren 218-753-2413.

Mesabi Symphony Orchestra 2022-2023 Concert Season - Italy Featuring Lyric Opera of the North Soloists

REGIONAL - Mesabi Symphony Orchestra will feature Lyric Opera of the North Soloists on Saturday, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. at Hibbing High School Auditorium and Sunday, Oct. 30 at 2:30 p.m. at Virginia Goodman Auditorium. Both concerts are free to the public.

Citizens Concerned for Labor will host forums, “Strong Unions = Strong Middle Class”

REGIONAL - Citizens Concerned for Labor will present a forum entitled, "Strong Unions=Strong Middle Class." This forum gives a brief overview of the labor movement and its importance in today’s uncertain economy. Forums are scheduled for Oct. 22 from 1:30 - 3 p.m. at the MN Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party office in Ely, 1311 E Sheridan St., and Oct. 24 from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Tom & Jerry’s Bar, 201 W Lake Street, Chisholm.

Union members, retirees, and non-union workers of all ages are invited to join the discussion. Both events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Mary Louise Icenhour, 919-452-2810 or icenhour22@yahoo.com.

Arrowhead Transit to provide free rides to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 8

REGIONAL - Arrowhead Transit will be providing free rides to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 8, for anyone who lives within a Dial-A-Ride service area. That includes:

➤Ely

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

➤Floodwood

9:45 a.m.-11:25 a.m.

➤Grand Marais

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

➤Grand Rapids

7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

➤International Falls

7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

➤Mt. Iron

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

➤Two Harbors

7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

➤Virginia

7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Please call at least one day in advance to schedule a ride. When you call, please provide the dispatcher with the following information:

➤Where to pick you up.

➤The location of your polling site.

➤When you would like to get there.

➤When you would like to be picked up for your return trip.

To schedule a ride call 800-862-0175. Be sure to let the dispatcher know you want to receive a free ride to the polls.

THE ART SCENE

Downtown Arts Virginia to hold free open art, artist reception, and open mic Oct. 27

Future programming includes an evening with Paul Metsa Nov. 17

VIRGINIA - The Lyric Center for the Arts, a subsidiary of the Laurentian Arts and Culture Alliance, continues their Downtown Arts Virginia programming, in conjunction with REVIVE Virginia, on Thursday, Oct. 27.

Activities kick off with Open Art Club from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Art supplies such as canvases, paint, crafting components, chalk, etc. are provided free of charge during this popular program, and people of all ages are encouraged to attend.

Ecologically-minded fiber artist Kristen Anderson will be at the Lyric Gallery for an artist reception from 5-7 p.m. She will also be conducting a fiber arts demonstration.

“My curiosity with the natural world unfolds into imagery that becomes designs in felted wool. The fibers of the wool mimic many of the subjects I explore in my study—from tiny root hairs to the strong layers of earth or bark. I am interested in how felt can tell these stories in a unique way,” Anderson said. For more information about Anderson’s work, visit cardamomstudio.org/bio.

Following Anderson’s artist reception, select area musicians will be in attendance as part of the Lyric’s free monthly Open Mic event from 7-9 p.m. in the Lyric Annex.

“These Downtown Arts Virginia events have been immensely popular this fall. Our sincerest gratitude goes out to REVIVE Virginia for allowing us the opportunity to provide free, community centric arts programs that are open to people of all ages,” said Lyric Executive Director Paul M. Gregersen. “It’s been so much fun watching these events grow in popularity over the past month. There is room for everybody within the arts community, and this inclusive programming reflects this mission.”



Above: Becky, Ben and Tom Frichek perform as a family at the September Open Mic festivities at the Lyric.

Below: Numerous artists of all ages have participated in open art time from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. every Thursday at the Lyric. Art supplies are provided to all participants and the program is made possible by REVIVE Virginia.



Downtown Arts Virginia programming takes place from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. every Thursday at the Lyric, and on select evenings, programming is followed by concerts, performances, and more.

“We look forward to finishing October in a strong manner and look forward to November, including a unique book reading and small performance by local music legend Paul Metsa on Nov. 17. Tickets are available at lyriccenteronline.org. The event will be a fundraiser for the Mesabi Humane Society at the request of Mr. Metsa. “It will be a great way to kick off Festival of Trees events that weekend,” Gregersen said. Advanced tickets for the Metsa event are available at lyriccenteronline.org or by calling the Lyric at 218-741-5577.

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Greg Dostert

2142 School Board
Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022

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➔ Will work to support and grow Tower-Soudan Elementary

➔ Retired union member

paid by the candidate on his own behalf

EMERGENCY MATTERS

Future of ambulance tops special meeting agenda

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — How to maintain local ambulance service here was top of the agenda at a packed special meeting of the Ely Ambulance Joint Powers Board this week. As previously reported, the Ely Area Ambulance Service has been hemorrhaging funds for the past few years as costs of operating the service have jumped sharply.

The big problem? “It’s called paid on-call,” said Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, noting that a major jump in salary costs for the service was the primary factor pushing the service’s operating budget deep into the red. According to a 2022 financial report, through Aug. 30, the ambulance service’s staffing costs alone topped \$380,000, or nearly \$80,000 more than the total revenue taken in by the service during that same eight-month period. That doesn’t include the cost of ambulance supplies, fuel and other vehicle costs, or the expense of operating the ambulance service’s facilities.

Through the first eight months of the year, the service has lost \$174,164, and that loss was expected to grow to approximately \$260,000 by the end of the year.

The service, which had enjoyed a \$355,000 cash reserve as recently as January 2020, is expected to be out of funds to pay its bills before the end of the year. The city of Ely and Ely-Bloomenson Hospital had already agreed to contribute \$62,500 each to the service to help keep the bills paid and the ambulances running. At Tuesday’s special meeting, Morse Township agreed to fund its share, after Lake County agreed to contribute on behalf of Fall Lake Township. Ely, Winton, and the two townships make up the ambulance joint powers board and comprise the bulk of the ambulance’s service territory. The city of Winton agreed to chip in \$3,380, based on a per capita payment of \$20. That was less than the \$11,000 the city’s mayor had agreed to seek at a joint powers board earlier in the month.

The additional financial assistance won’t come without a few strings. The city of Ely will be responsible for billing and collecting the payments from Winton

and the townships, as well as the hospital, and those funds will go into a dedicated account overseen by the joint powers board. The private, nonprofit board which directly oversees the ambulance service will have to make formal requests to tap funds from the account and will need to provide the joint powers board with an explanation of how the funds will be used. Langowski said he also be expected to develop a budget for needed renovations to its new ambulance hall and quarters as well as its operations.

While the contributions will help the ambulance service pay its bills this year, local officials are still trying to chart a path forward that will sustain the service well into the future.

At this point, that’s almost certain to include higher taxes, in some form or another. Currently, Ely, Winton, and the two organized townships pay \$10.10 per capita to the service, which generates a little over \$50,000 a year, well short of what’s needed to cover the annual shortfall the service has experienced over the past two years. Joint powers members have discussed increasing the per-capita payment to \$20, which would raise about \$108,000 for the service.

But city officials in Ely are pushing for a per-parcel rate, which would tap the considerable property wealth in the outlying townships. City officials have complained that the current approach essentially exempts property owners who don’t live year-round in the coverage area and leaves Ely to pay the lion’s share of the annual ambulance subsidy. Township officials have resisted a per-parcel approach since it would substantially increase their required contribution.

One other option, that has been discussed, is the creation of a taxing district, similar to the one created for the Cook Hospital, which would allow for a general property tax levy that could support the ambulance service.

Hospital changes weighed on ambulance finances

Not long ago, the Ely Ambulance Service, which was



The former Kondos building was purchased to house the ambulance service in Ely.

formed as a nonprofit in 2008, was in solid financial shape, thanks to an arrangement with Ely-Bloomenson that helped to staff the service without the current high cost. Under state law, ambulance services are required to have a written on-call schedule, seven days a week, 24-hours a day. For years prior to 2008, Ely’s ambulance service was run by the hospital and was able to make use of hospital staff who were able to respond to 911 calls. “It was perfect when EMTs could work the floor and then go out on calls when they came in,” said Langowski. “When the hospital could no longer staff it, that’s when things started going south.”

The hospital severed its connection to the ambulance service when it became apparent that Medicare payments to the hospital were being reduced by the presence of the ambulance bay within the hospital.

For a time, the hospital did make unused rooms available for quarters to house on-duty ambulance staff, but when the hospital ran out of extra space, it forced the service to rent its own quarters elsewhere.

“We had to rent a house for \$1,200 a month and outfit it,” said Chuck Novak, board chair of the nonprofit that operates the ambulance. “We had to pay for all the utilities, that was a lot of additional expense that started to erode away the fund balance that had accumulated.”

The COVID pandemic provided a financial hit to services

all across the country, and those problems were exacerbated, according to Novak, when the service fell behind on its billings, which affected the operation’s cash flow.

Novak said the board was unaware of the extent of the service’s financial and revenue processing issues until the service’s longtime director Geoff Galaski quit suddenly last year. “He just left his keys on the desk and hasn’t talked to anyone about it since,” said Novak.

The service’s board has since brought on Dustin Moravitz to try to get things back on track. Novak said the board was surprised when they finally got a clearer picture of the administrative problems the service was experiencing, which was affecting the service’s financials. “We have a billing company but you have to give them the data,” said Novak. “It shows that things can go to heck in a handbasket overnight if you don’t keep up with the billings.”

For now, on-duty ambulance staff, who are paid between \$18-\$23 an hour depending on qualifications, are handling much of the administration, including maintaining drugs and various supplies, updating records, and submitting run data to the billing company.

Novak said the board is working on a turnaround plan, although the specifics aren’t yet available.

It’s apparent that all of the local units of government in the

Ely area are in agreement on the importance of the ambulance. As part of their commitment, the local units of government chipped in a combined \$465,000 earlier this year buy the former Kondo’s building at the intersection of Central Ave. and Camp St. to house the ambulance and its crew.

That’s eliminated the need to rent quarters elsewhere, but the building still needs to be renovated before it can fully meet the service’s needs. Local officials have a \$1.5 million appropriation request for emergency response facility improvements before Congress, but Langowski said it’s unclear when or even if the funds will eventually be appropriated. For now, he said, both of the state’s U.S. senators are behind the proposal. “But we still don’t know if it will make it through.”

Regardless, local officials seem intent on finding a solution. Hospital officials, as well, indicated a willingness to be part of any solution, including contributions to an operating fund. The hospital has also offered to bring in a consultant to assess the situation and make recommendations.

Langowski said it’s encouraging to see the cooperation from all the local units of government. While they may differ on the path forward, he said all parties agree that failure isn’t an option. “It seems like we’re all in lockstep to keep this going,” said Langowski. “I think everyone can agree that ambulance service is essential.”

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Editorial

Phony GOP finger-pointing

State officials were quick to raise concerns about Feeding Our Future’s abuse of federal funds

The Walz administration, and by extension DFL candidates around the state, have taken heat in the wake of the scandal over Feeding Our Future. Republican candidates have raised the issue time and again, suggesting that Gov. Walz and his fellow DFLers are somehow soft on corruption, having allegedly allowed approximately \$250 million in federal COVID funds earmarked to feed hungry children to go to an organization that used the money to vastly enrich a handful of officers.

The story certainly deserves the coverage it’s received in the media and it’s worth taking a closer look to better understand how such a crime was allowed to continue for more than a year and a half, despite the concerns of officials at the Department of Education, who flagged Feeding Our Future within weeks of the start of the program.

What we know from a timeline prepared by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), which processed the Feeding our Future claims for the federal government, as well as from court records reviewed by the *Timberjay*, is that MDE tried to put the brakes on Feeding Our Future from early on. The program started in June of 2020 and within weeks MDE had reached out to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversaw the program, seeking advice over how to address its concerns about the organization. During this time, Feeding Our Future was seeking approval for hundreds of feeding sites across the Twin Cities and had dramatically ramped up its billings through the program. The year prior, Feeding Our Future had received \$3.4 million for the food programs it was administering, apparently legitimately. In 2021, however, the group received nearly \$200 million, very little of which appears to have gone to feed kids.

By October of 2020, MDE reached out to the USDA Inspector General with its concerns about what was happening. The following month, after MDE raised more concerns, Feeding Our Future sued the department, which began a year-long slog through the district court. In the meantime, MDE took additional action, ending approval of new sites by December. By January of 2021, MDE had declared the group seriously deficient due to incomplete financial audits. By March, they declared them deficient on performance stan-

dards and issued a “stop-pay” order that halted all payments to the group until MDE could verify their claims were valid. The department also halted approvals of any new sites.

That prompted the group to go back to court seeking a temporary restraining order and a Ramsey County judge told MDE it lacked authority to stop the payments, which then resumed. By June, the same judge slapped MDE with fines and fees totaling more than \$45,000 for its efforts to halt Feeding Our Future’s abuses.

As a result, the organization continued to receive payments until the FBI executed search warrants on the group in January 2022, at which time MDE took immediate action to terminate its agreements with the company, as it had tried to do for more than a year.

Much of the \$250 million paid out to Feeding Our Future was issued in 2021, when the group took in over \$180 million between two programs it was operating. Yet, MDE had notified the feds of the problem back in 2020. Feeding Our Future, by audaciously using the courts as a shield, was able to continue their illegal activity for another 14 months.

We agree that it’s legitimate to ask what other steps MDE might have taken, but it is entirely inaccurate and unfair to suggest that there was a lack of due diligence or concern by the Department of Education. MDE had been raising red flags about the organization almost from the beginning.

One could ask why federal officials didn’t respond more aggressively, but with trillions of dollars in COVID relief being shoveled out the door in 2020, it’s not a surprise that the feds were a bit slow in their response. Yet, before the GOP tries to use it all for politics, it should be noted that the federal system which failed to respond in a timely manner to concerns raised almost immediately by MDE was established and operating under the Trump administration. It was under the Biden administration, which took over in early 2021, that the feds finally took action to put a halt to the abuse.

What’s more, the judge who blocked MDE’s attempts to clamp down on Feeding Our Future more than a year earlier was appointed by GOP Gov. Tim Pawlenty.

This certainly was a shameful scandal, but it’s one where Republicans have no business pointing fingers. There’s plenty of blame to go around.



Letters from Readers

Rather than fight, Stauber should try doing something for the district

Pete, what’s with all the fighting?

Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber used the words “fight” or “fighting” seven times in the last campaign flyer I received.

But what has he delivered to his constituents? He never talks about what he has actually achieved, yet he still wants us to send him back for another two years to keep on fighting.

Stauber is best known around my neck of the woods for voting against the largest bipartisan jobs bill passed in decades—a bill that creates good paying jobs and brings needed infrastructure improvements for highways, bridges, and ports, not to mention \$65 billion for broadband, something direly needed in our rural communities.

After voting against the bill, Stauber even tried to burnish his reputation by bragging about federal airport grants to our district, even though he voted against the bill.

In his flyer Stauber lauds the “very first bill” he introduced, not mentioning that the bill has only been referred to committee—no hearing, no further action since February 2019.

So, that’s our current Representative—a “fighter” but not a winner. A backbencher following the commands of his party leader but bringing home pretty much nothing for his constituents in return for his loyalty.

Looks like Pete should come home and pick fights he can actually win.

**Fred Schumacher
Gheen**

I have met with Grant and know of his strong support for mining, logging, and tourism.

Grant has received endorsements from numerous labor organizations including the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA). Grant Hauschild will be great for our area.

**Former Senator
Doug Johnson
Lake Vermilion, Tower**

Grant Hauschild a great pick for our area

On Oct. 12 at the last Jan. 6 Committee hearing, Rep. Liz Cheney made a sobering request asking listeners to consider “where we are in our nation’s history.” Voters will soon be casting ballots in perhaps the most important election in history. If, on Nov. 8, Republicans win a majority in Congress, it will bring an end to the investigation of the assault on our nation’s Capitol and embolden those attacking our democratic system.

Minnesotans will be choosing political leaders for nearly every seat of power that governs us—all members of the Legislature and state and local officials from the governor right down to county commissioners and sheriff. Our votes carry a lot of weight. Rep. Cheney was asking all of us to take this responsibility very seriously.

These are turbulent times. As hopeless as the state of the nation might feel, we hold the power to choose the direction our country will go next. This realization can be both empowering and scary!

No political party, or person running for office, can perfectly match our expectations. So, we’re required to suspend our judgments on some opinions and style differences that may bug us in order to stay focused on who will best represent us — common people working hard to provide necessary goods and services, raising kids and grandkids, struggling to pay the bills — all the while worrying about preserving what’s left of the planet. As I ponder this, I recall the “mornings after,” waking to election results, sometimes joyful, sometimes horrified!

I know that I want winners who will 1) defend an electoral system that allows every eligible voter to safely and easily cast their ballot, 2) protect the rights of women to make their own health and reproductive choices, 3) support funding schools, child care, and a safety net for Americans in need, 4) face the threats of our chang-

ing climate and invest in bold actions to reduce them, and 5) foster inclusion, unity and community by addressing root causes of poverty, hatred and violence.

November 8 is when the rubber meets the road. History tells me that voting blue is our best path forward. Make a stand for truth over lies, people over profits, and continued forward progress toward a more just society.

**Kathleen McQuillan
Cook**

Greenwood Oct. Town Board mtg., correction

In the Oct. 14 *Timberjay* article “Fire department concerns top town board agenda”, I did question “why the TAAS needs to replace an ambulance with only 130,000 miles on it when other area services like Virginia put many, many more miles on their rigs before needing to replace them”. (Virginia typically gets 350,000 miles out of their rigs). The *Timberjay* got that correct, but the paper also wrote: “He blamed the move on the department accepting too many calls for hospital-to-hospital transfers.” I did not say that. In fact, I explained that the City of Tower’s inter-hospital transfer business won’t be able to get enough transfers, for obvious reasons including the fact that other area ambulance services that are based where there is a hospital are doing their best to take all of the profitable transfers and they will be gearing up to take more of them. I also mentioned that the City didn’t produce a “business plan” for the TAAS, which was a requirement of the expired “AMBULANCE VEHICLE REPLACEMENT AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ENTITIES SERVED BY TAAS”. The business plan would’ve detailed and justified the need for a new ambulance, the type of ambulance needed, and how much, if any, a voluntary vehicle subsidy from the served entities should be.

I also stated that the \$1.66/mile charge the City pays for use of the ambulances in the City owned transfer business does not cover the actual cost of fuel, maintenance and replacement of the one ton, four wheel drive ambulances. That gets us back to the missing business plan and the expired AGREEMENT.

**Lee Peterson
Greenwood Twp.**



Voting blue is our best path forward

I was honored with voter support to serve 32 years in the Legislature.

The 2022 elections are critically important for our region. I strongly support Grant Hauschild to be our new Third District State Senator.

Grant is especially qualified for this position. He has worked on the staff of a U.S. Senator and for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). He worked on issues like rural small businesses, broadband expansion projects, and rural housing.

My wife Denesse and

The whole truth & nothing but the truth

At this time, our democracy stands on a dangerous precipice. The mid-term elections will determine the trajectory of our nation. Will we stand for justice and freedom for all? Will we value the rule of law as it applies to each and every one of us, even those in high offices? And most importantly, will we value truth?

The investigation by the Jan. 6 Select Committee presented the details of all that occurred on that horrible day when the angry mob, incited by Donald Trump’s big lie, stormed the nation’s Capitol in an attempt to prevent the U.S. Congress from certifying the election. We watched the onslaught, the violence, the trump flags mingled with confederate flags waving. We watched law officers, sworn to protect the Capitol, fall, many of them injured, a few died. We heard the chants, a call to murder Mike Pence and Nancy Pelosi.

FAKE electors were poised to replace valid electoral votes with false ones. Militia groups such as the Oath Keepers and Proud Boys were heavily involved. We heard warnings from Steve Bannon, Roger Stone, and Donald J. Trump as they called out to their minions to be there on Jan. 6 for a wild ride. We also watched a number of congressmen refuse to certify the electoral votes as many displayed “Stop the Steal” on masks and personal items. It is these same individuals who still refuse to acknowledge the severity and danger of that day.

The Capitol was breached as violence ensued. We watched as congressmen and women were rushed to places of safety as the mob chanted murderous rants. Months later, we listened to detailed accounts by Republicans, many who were in Trump’s inner circle, as they testified to the Jan. 6 Select Committee. Their reports were chilling.

What is even more chilling is the number of candidates currently running for elected offices

who continue to promote the big lie or who refuse to acknowledge that they would accept the results of an election. The predominance of election deniers in the GOP bears alarming similarities to the authoritative movements in other countries all which begin with efforts to delegitimize election results. These dangerous politicians must not be elected to office.

As the mid-term election nears, we must remember that our government will only function well when all leaders understand the oath they take, to honor the U.S. Constitution and function under the rule of law, grounded in facts. Our nation will survive only when above all, we each value truth.

“Some things are believed because they are demonstrably true, but many others are believed simply because they have been asserted repeatedly and repetition has been accepted as a substitute for evidence.” (Thomas Sowell.)

I reached out to Rep. Pete Stauber about the work of the Jan. 6 Select Committee. His response was dismissive and called it a political ploy, which it was not. The details that emerged from the investigations of the committee are alarming. All persons involved in the attempted coup must be held accountable for their actions, including the main player, Donald J. Trump whose playbook was to claim victory even when he had not won the election.

This nation was under the siege of lies and conspiracy theories. Those who continue to promote those lies must not be elected. That includes those running for office at all levels, federal, state, and local. We must elect those who understand the rule of law and respect the oath that they take, to uphold the U.S. Constitution.

Ellie Larmouth Tower

A open letter to Rep. Pete Stauber

So, Pete, imagine while you were still a St. Louis County Commissioner, there was a boisterous, rowdy protest at the county courthouse in Duluth about

a controversial timber sale. And as we all know a version of this has happened in this county.

A prominent leader of the anti-logging movement gets up and gets the crowd whipped up and then steps away while the crowd turns into a riot, they ransack the courthouse and a law enforcement officer is killed.

Was that citizens exercising the right to normal political discourse? Or were crimes committed?

Where would you stand on finding out the truth of what happened and who is to be held responsible?

I don’t think the citizens of the Eighth District need much more than what I have set out here to know what I’m asking, Pete. What’s your position on what happened?

Do you have an evolving position on what happened on Jan. 6 as more information comes to light? I sure hope so. If not, that really calls into question your judgment.

Do you think you could take time out of your busy schedule to address this question?

Thanks for your prompt response to our normal political discourse.

Pete, I think you owe it to the citizens of the Eighth District to provide a clear logical response. So, it is becoming more and more apparent that a vote for Pete Stauber is a vote for lies and lawlessness unless your one of Pete’s buddies?

Tim McKenzie Ely

Not hitching to this horse

As a consummate non-party affiliated voter, I watched the Senate District 3 candidates’ debate on PBS North last week. There was a stark difference in depth and quality of responses and understanding of issues between the two candidates. Illustrative of this difference, when moderator Heidi Holtan asked which non-mining sectors of the economy the candidate would focus on strengthening, Grant Hauschild’s response was thoughtful and spanned support for health care, small business, and entrepreneurs. Andrea Zupancich, in her response, reiterated the importance of mining and then first

mentioned large animal vets as a top priority. Yes, large animal vets. District 3 may indeed need more large animal veterinarians, but for this small impact sector to be the very first industry on the mind of a candidate that will be at the helm of steering the economic future of the district is very concerning. This was not just a misstep. If you did not watch the debate live, I would encourage readers to catch it online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhjVIC15k-FY> before deciding which candidate has the skills to best represent ALL areas of concern for District 3. I believe it was helpful in deciding which candidate demonstrates an ability to manage the reins and which is riding solely by the seat of their pants.

Victoria Ranua Tower

Vote for moderation, not the freak show

There might be a way to understand Donald Trump’s popularity with a large minority of our population.

I’m old enough to remember seventy years ago when the carnival came to town and the main street would be blocked off for the booths and rides and other attractions. At one end of the midway there would often be a trailer with a freak show advertising the bearded lady and the lobster boy and other human anomalies of interest.

Like Donald Trump, the freak show never attracted a majority, but it often had a large crowd. As a Vietnam combat vet, I could never understand how a draft dodger like Trump could have any public support but if you consider that he’s a draft dodging, adulterous, financial chiseler then you might understand how the American fascination with freaks made him a viable candidate.

Let’s hope that in this election voters will support mainstream leadership rather than right wing showmanship.

Bob Tammen Soudan

Greenwood board should recognize maintenance need

Thanks to Jodi Summit for the coverage of the Greenwood Township Fire Department informational picket on Tuesday, Oct. 11. I found it accurate and comprehensive.

I did not see any mention, however, of the department’s thoughts on the apparatus maintenance issue. I personally feel that all of the town boards elected since the Township’s Maintenance Director retired should be held equally responsible for any perceived failures regarding apparatus maintenance. We should all remember that for over 30 years, all our fire department maintenance was performed by him. When he left, the town boards contracted cleaning, lawn mowing, tree trimming, building maintenance, etc, but there was no discussion about fire department maintenance. Negligence is a term used by a supervisor for the purpose of inflaming the issue, and it was never the case on either side.

Firefighters obviously recognize the need for well-maintained equipment, so some of our members with high mechanical aptitude volunteered to step up and perform maintenance as best they could, at a mere \$20 per hour, in an attempt to save the Township money. More serious issues were contracted with other sources that varied due to availability. The recent malfunction of Engine 1 was immediately addressed. When the problem occurred again, there was speculation that it could be an electrical control issue, and professional help should be consulted. Before that could happen, all officers were fired, and I will add that the board did not know about the second occurrence until the night of the firing, when the officer issue was already on the agenda.

This situation would have been better handled by some respectful dia-

logue with the officers, resulting in a coordinated effort by the department and the board to identify and solve the problem, instead of a punitive action that has caused severe collateral damage. That very act puts on display the attitude of disrespect. Our knowledge and ideas are seldom solicited by the board, our capabilities are put in question by board members and some citizens, board members and those citizens sit in at our meetings, and members no longer have any input as to department operational policies. Additionally, a new board supervisor came on board with a ‘there’s a new Sheriff in Town’ attitude and announced things will be done his way. These things have never been done in the over 30 years that the department has existed. The end result of all of this is deflated morale. Then, our officers, whom we respect and trust, are axed without warning and we are told we will have no say in who the new leader will be. We are not an ‘old boys club’ as one supervisor described us. We are ordinary citizens, stepping up to help our community in a way that we all may have some small talent for. We give what time we can. We know it is dangerous. We know it is unhealthy. We know we need to train to stay proficient and try to continually improve. We know we need to take care of our aging and underused apparatus, because without it we cannot perform our duties. We need to have assistance from the board to do this, not resistance.

Under Chief Fazio, this department has more members than ever, 50 percent of whom are EMS first responders. By utilizing new technology and improving our leadership and teamwork skills, we are able to deliver a faster and more effective response. Our veterans agree that the department is the best it has ever been.

Rick Worringer Greenwood Twp

Conservative Duluth News-Tribune breaks with Stauber

Eighth District’s largest newspaper endorses

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The Eighth Congressional District’s largest newspaper has parted ways with Rep. Pete Stauber, endorsing his DFL opponent Jen Schultz, in the hotly-contested race.

The Duluth News-Tribune, part of conservative-leaning Forum Communications, had endorsed Stauber in his two previous races for the seat he’s held since 2018, but the newspaper parted company with the congressman over his increasingly partisan approach in Washington and his lack of responsiveness to his constituents.

“Stauber is no longer the same devoted representative Northeastern Minnesota first sent to D.C. on our behalf in 2018,” wrote the News-

Tribune in its earlier this month. “He’s become unresponsive to constituents and the media alike. He seems to only attend events populated by supporters.”

In Congress, the paper wrote, “Stauber’s votes increasingly have become partisan rather than what’s in the best interest of Minnesota and his constituents. He voted against lowering pharmaceutical and insulin costs, against an independent investigation of Jan. 6, against equal pay, and against grants to make needed repairs to regional airports, as just a few examples. Despite voting against the airport grants, he attempted to publicly tout them anyway.”

The newspaper noted that Stauber declined to participate in the candidate forum that the newspaper has

DFLer Jen Schultz

co-hosted with the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce for years. He was the first candidate ever to decline to participate and he even declined to sit for a traditional editorial board interview with the candidates.

Meanwhile, the paper was highly complementary of Stauber’s opponent, state Rep. Jen Schultz, touting her bipartisan success in the Legislature. “This year, while not much was reaching the finish line in St. Paul, Schultz was key in passing a bipartisan human services and policy bill that included investments to help those with mental health challenges and drug addictions. She also pushed for the passage of a bipartisan mental health standalone bill that included \$100 million in badly needed spending,” noted the News-Tribune.

“A year ago, as just another example, her advocacy was key in the approval of a bipartisan omnibus bill that directed \$700 million in federal relief for things like public health, drug abuse, mental health, homelessness, and public safety,” noted the newspaper, which serves the Eighth District’s largest city. “Perhaps no legislation was more important during her four terms than the 2019 law to begin the state licensing of assisted-living facilities. Schultz helped carry the cause in the DFL House while Republican Sen. Karin Housley of Stillwater led the way in the Senate, producing a bill that created needed oversight and helped end years of horrific reports of abuse and inadequate care at far too many senior homes.”



the TIMBERJAY

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DON'T INVESTIGATE
THE JANUARY 6TH RIOT?
VOTE STAUBER

Paid for by the Superman PAC, 19614 N Whiterock Dr., Sun City West, AZ
(for truth, justice, and the American way)

Week of Oct. 24

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 Nov. 15.

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

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

Breitung Town Board- 12 noon on Oct. 27

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

Free meal at Immanuel on Wednesday, Oct. 26
TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran will be serving a free meal with sarmas, mashed potatoes, gravy and green beans on Wednesday, Oct. 26 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Fire department hosting Halloween meal
TOWER- The Tower Fire Department will be serving free hot dogs and chips to area children and their families on Monday, Oct. 31 from 3 – 5 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Trick or Treat on Main Street
TOWER- Area children are once again invited to come trick-or-treat on Tower's Main Street on Monday, Oct. 31 after school. Area businesses participating will have signs on their doors welcoming in children. Treats will be available until the end of the businesses regular business hours or the treats run out!

St. Martin's Mass
TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower will have an All Saints Day Mass on Nov. 1 at 5:30 p.m., and an All Souls Day Mass on Nov. 2 at 9 a.m.

Clarification
As reported in the Oct. 14 issue on the Greenwood Town Board meeting, the Greenwood Fire Department officials were not removed from the department, they just lost their leadership roles.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

New leaders take helm at the Tower Food Shelf

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Starting in November, Tower residents Hugh and Frannie Wood will be taking over the leadership role at the Tower Area Food Shelf from long-time volunteer Marge McPeak.

McPeak took on a leadership role at the food shelf about 25 years ago, shortly after she and her late husband Rod retired and moved to the area. Longtime resident Theo Sigford, who passed away recently, also was instrumental in getting the food shelf opened at its current location in the basement of the Timberjay building, along with Richard and Kay Hanson, who both are still food shelf volunteers.

Hugh and Frannie moved to Aurora five years ago, and they both volunteered at the food shelf there. Two years ago, they moved to Tower and began volunteering here, and now are ready to take on the organization's leadership duties.

The job has changed a lot since McPeak started out.

"Everything is on the computer now," she said, "not just on paper."

McPeak said she will miss working with the families who use the food shelf.

"A lot of them have become my friends," she said.

The food shelf receives a monthly order from the Second Harvest Food Bank in Duluth, where they can order food by the case at low or no cost. But recently, McPeak said, Second Harvest has been running low on many staple items the food shelf clients rely on, which means they purchase more items at retail from the local grocery store.

Cash donations to the food shelf are



Outgoing Tower Area Food Shelf leader Marge McPeak (at left), with new leaders Hugh and Frannie Wood. photo by J. Summit

used to purchase food bank and other needed items, as well as providing a monthly voucher for families to use at Zup's Grocery in Tower, to purchase perishable items like milk, eggs, and fruit.

The Tower Area Food Shelf is open the third Tuesday of each month from 2:30 – 5 p.m. The entrance is on the back side of the Timberjay building (parking available at the rear of the building). The food shelf can also be visited on an emergency basis by calling

Hugh or Frannie at 218-721-2368. Families are allowed to access food shelf services one time each month.

Anyone interested in learning more about volunteering at the food shelf can call Hugh Wood at 218-721-2368. Non-perishable donations for the food shelf can be dropped off at the Timberjay office during regular office hours. Monetary donations can be dropped at the Timberjay, or mailed to Tower Food Shelf, PO Box 533, Tower, MN 55790.

Y Store fueling infrastructure project underway

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Folks who have driven past the Y Store last week may have noticed that gas costs 0.00. But they've also noticed that the fuel pumps have been removed and the area is undergoing some major excavation.

"We are updating the infrastructure," said Fortune Bay's marketing manager Brian Anderson. "There weren't any leaks, but there was some electrical rewiring that needed to be done, and some of the pipes needed to be replaced as well."

The convenience store and liquor stores are both open during the renovations.

In addition to the infrastructure work, the store's parking lot will be repaved once the project is completed.

"The parking lot was also getting pretty rough," said Anderson. "So rather than just make some minor repairs, Bois Forte decided to repave the main parking lot. The overflow parking lot was still in good condition, so that



will not be repaired at this time."

The entire project is expected to cost around half a million dollars. Bois Forte Enterprises has received a \$99,000 grant from an Underground Storage Tank System (UST) Alternative Fuel program. The remaining dollars are being funded by Bois Forte.

If the weather cooperates, the project should be completed by the end of October.

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

History, music, and food at LVCC on Tuesday, 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 "The Sleeping Giant," featuring the Iron Ranges of Minnesota with an emphasis on the Vermilion Range.

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

A light supper will be served at 6 p.m. in the Halunen Lobby at no charge. At 6:45 p.m., The Sectionals, an octet of Iron Range voices, will present a concert.

The Sectionals filled St. Mary's Hall a month ago and are returning by public demand.

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

The evening event is being dedicated to the memory of Brian Murphy, whose family asked that memorials to him go to the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. His niece Danielle Young will be attending, representing his family. Brian grew up in Tower and on Birch Point and even though he was an engineer in Arizona most of his adult life, Lake Vermilion was always home to him. He was the first major donor to the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center and was extremely excited to see the progress that has been made recently.

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.

NOTICE

RESIDENTS OF SOUDAN

- Proper -

SNOW PLOW ASSESSMENT

DUE NOVEMBER 1, 2022

\$10

MAIL PAYMENTS TO:

Breitung Township

Box 56

Soudan, MN 55782

Attn: Snow Plow Assessment

or drop off in the Township Water Payment Box.

This ensures that the \$10 goes to the Township.

If paid through Property Tax Statement,

the County takes a portion.

★★★THANK YOU★★★

The Breitung Police Department extends a special thanks to the Phyllis Burgess family, Sulu's, Zup's, Frandsen Bank, & all of the many donors and attendees who helped make the Breitung Police Tacos with Cops Event & Fundraiser a success. The event, was held from 1pm to 5pm on Saturday October 8th. It was fun for all involved. We ran out of the tacos in under 2hrs. We are already planning for a 2nd annual Tacos with Cops and will make it bigger but still just as delicious.

Chief Reing and the Officers would like to thank everyone that contributed to the fundraiser we had over the weekend. It was an honor to represent Breitung, Tower, Cook and surrounding community at this event. Another special thank you goes out our families for also helping us make this possible. Ivette and Dianna, thank you for making the wonderful food. Thank you to the Tomsich family and Gornick family for the treats. We were able to fundraise for training and equipment.

We would not have been able to do this without the help and support of the great community we work for. We are truly blessed to serve the people. We are humbled by the generosity and kind words.

Thank you again and stay safe,

Chief Daniel Reing and fellow Breitung officers.

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.

HUNGRY FOR A GOOD BOOK

Hungry minds and starving artists

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

ELY- The Ely-based nonprofit Story Portage is setting out to “introduce hungry minds to starving artists.”

“We hope to bring people together through story,” said the organization’s director Jeanette Cox. “Our stories have value. Our storytellers have value as well. We need to come together as a community in new ways to support storytelling. It is not what divides us but rather what unites us.”

This past year, Story Portage wrote grants to purchase books from local writers and then distributed copies of these books to local public and school libraries. The group’s next partnership will be with the Ely Area Food Shelf.

“This Local Authors in the Ely Area Food Shelf is part of our creative economy solutions,” said Cox. “A creative economy is designed to not only bring awareness to the economic struggles

of local writers and artists, but to also connect them to consumers of their work.”

Cox said that artists and writers are some of the first people asked for donations for area auctions and fundraisers.

“We want to honor their generous contributions to their community, by ensuring that writers and poets receive fair compensation for their creative talents during this campaign,” she said.

Story Portage will purchase books directly from the writer whenever possible. Books that the group cannot purchase directly from the writers will be purchased at a local bookstore or publisher, keeping the funding dollars local.

The group has reached out to area poets, writers, librarians, teachers and readers to identify titles. Story Portage received a grant from Lake Country Power’s Operation RoundUp program to purchase books, including children’s books for this holiday season.

This community

awareness campaign not only informs the general public of Ely’s “Story Rich History,” it also, obviously, gets books into the hands of individuals who may not have expendable income for books.

“We invite area individuals and organizations to participate in any way you feel inspired to do so,” Cox said. “The more people we get reading local authors the more rural voices are respected. The more young people see the value in other people’s stories, the more they see value in their own. The manifest intention of the project is to bring awareness about our local writers, the latent functions are to increase readership of books by local authors and to share stories.”

Cox sees this model as something that can be expanded to other communities and other artists.

“Rural stories matter and are worth reading and sharing,” she said.

In addition, Story Portage is continuing the Maud Hart Lovelace



Just a few of the area’s many authors include: Becca Brin Manlove, Vince O’Connor, DyAnn Korda, Sarah Guy-Levar and Terri Schocke.

Children’s Choice Book Award program by providing books to Washington Elementary School Library. Another project is working with the Behavior Health Network to host a community screening of a film focused on healing from trauma.

For more information

on any of these projects, or to see how others can contribute, please contact Story Portage, at PO Box 286, Ely, MN 55731. The mission of Story Portage is to promote personal narrative and to empower people to share their stories because sharing is caring and rural stories matter.

ART & THEATER

Ely’s Historic State Theater shows more than movies

ELY - In an effort to make art more accessible to all ages and audiences, the Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA) in cooperation with Ely’s Historic State Theater is presenting monthly art exhibitions in the theater’s lobby. August Lah’s “Paper Cuts” exhibition just closed on Sunday, October 16. Next up is “Celebrating Our Youths” Youth Art Show that kicks off with an opening reception on Monday, Nov. 7 from 4-6 p.m. and runs through Sunday, Nov. 13. Each month features art from a different artist or artists.

August Lah’s “Paper Cuts” exhibition in October displayed possibly the first mosquito someone might not want to swat.



Local sponsors make book possible for Washington Elementary students

ELY- Six-year-old students at Washington Elementary will soon receive a new book entitled, *My Favorite Book*. The book which is distributed to thousands of children in hundreds of communities statewide is provided free to Ely students thanks to the generous sponsorship of area businesses that include: Ely Auto Services, Essentia Health, Ely Family Dental, Frandsen Bank & Trust, Ely-Bloomenson Hospital, Lindsey Keen State Farm and Ely Area Credit Union. *My Favorite Book* teaches positive citizenship values to children that include the importance of family, taking personal responsibility, the need for compassion and kindness, and the value of cooperation, honesty and gratitude. *My Favorite Book* includes a strong anti-bullying message and comes with an accompanying parent guide. Recipients of *My Favorite Book* will also have access to an interactive website at www.myfavoritebookland.com.

ALTRUISTIC ENDEAVORS

100+ Ely Women Who Care to hold fundraising event



ELY – On Sunday, Oct. 30 the 100+ Ely Women Who Care will gather at the Ely Senior Center from 4-6 p.m. for their next event aimed at supporting Ely charities through the power of numbers. Previous recipients include Veterans on the Lake Resort, Happy Days Preschool, Ely Folk School, Northern Lakes Arts Association, Ely Community Resource, Ely Area Food Shelf, Northern Lights Clubhouse and Northwoods Partners. For details and to register visit 100ElyWomenWhoCare.org. Those unable to attend in person can still contribute to the selected charity by making their donation online.

The 100+ Women Who Care chose the Ely Senior Center to be the recipient of their Spring 2021 donation.

WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?

“Dollars for Doggies” kickoff party set for Saturday, Oct. 22

ELY – Ely has long been known as the “Sled Dog Capital”, and while it may still feel like fall outside, planning is well underway for the 2023 WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race scheduled for Feb. 26, 2023. On Saturday, Oct. 22, the Ely Chamber of Commerce will host the “Dollars for Doggies” fundraising kickoff party at Grand Ely Lodge. The event will feature live music from Van & the Free Candies. The evening begins with a social hour with appetizers and a cash bar from 5-6 p.m. followed by live music and cash bar from 6-9 p.m.

Throughout the evening there will be drawings for door prizes and special auction items to bid on as part of the silent auction. An online auction that runs through Nov. 5 will also be launched during Saturday’s event. Tickets are \$25 and on sale now at wolftrackclassic.com/store. Click on the “Dollars for Doggies” Live Music event to purchase. For more information call Ellen Cashman at 218-365-6123 or email wolftrack@ely.org.



Eliza Vistica runs her 8-dog team from Hauling Dogs Kennel in the 2022 WolfTrack Classic 50-mile race.

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. 25: Friends of Flathorn-Gegoka trails, Ben Wolfe
- Nov. 1: Meet New Elyites.
- Nov. 8: Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability, Kes Ebbs.
- Nov. 15: Helping Ely-Area Seniors Age in Place, Representatives from Northwoods Partners, EBCH, Essentia, ECHC, St. Anthonys Church and ARDC.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



indian summer approaches this coming week
last of the warm days

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

Monday 10 am-6 pm
Tuesday 10 am-6 pm
Wednesday 10 am-6 pm
Thursday 10 am-6 pm
Friday 10 am-6 pm
Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous

OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.
SUNDAY NIGHT AA - at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church is canceled.

ELY WOMEN’S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.

BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.

AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely.

For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.

BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.

CO-DEPENDENTS’ 12-step support group, 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Wellbeing Development, 41 E Camp St. Ely.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living. Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Ambulance service future hinges on volunteer EMTs

Staffing adequate now to cover shifts, but service can't afford any losses

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Since taking over as director of Cook Ambulance Service this summer, Roland Shoen has been getting a handle on what the service has and what it needs for continued vitality, and his conclusions are in line with most of the small-town rural volunteer services across the country: retain the current volunteers, recruit more EMTs, and increase revenue.

“We have 10 EMTs, 10 first responders, and we just had two new EMTs apply this week,” Shoen said on Tuesday. “We’ll get the background checks done and that will hopefully bring us up to 12. First responders do help, but you can’t move the rig without an EMT.”

With some taking on-call hours in excess of 200 to 300 hours and others covering the minimum required 24 hours, Shoen has enough staff to cover the schedule to typically provide service 24/7, although occasional gaps mean an ambulance from Tower, Orr, or Virginia has to step in to take a call.

“There are sporadic days when there’s no one available,” Shoen said. “You hope and pray that nobody needs it then. It could happen once in a month, or it could happen six times in a month.”

While Shoen has a committed group of volunteers, he’s knows that circumstances could change at the drop of a

hat. Volunteerism is down in general across the country, and thousands of EMTs didn’t renew their certifications in 2020-21, Shoen said. And he cited a national survey of emergency medical services that showed the turnover rate for EMTs is a whopping 36 percent, meaning that within a four-year period a service would have to replace its entire workforce.

“If we lost over a third of our people right now, I’d be left with 11 or 12 people, and I don’t know how we’d survive with just 12 people,” Shoen said. “When I first joined (in the 1980s), people came out of the woodwork because it was a brand new idea. It was a way for them to give to their community. We had the baby boomers who were all about giving – they had the volunteer itch. You don’t find that so much anymore.”

Shoen said that the on-call hourly rate of \$4 that Cook Ambulance Service pays isn’t competitive with towns such as Tower and Ely where EMTs can make almost four times that amount, and even some Cook EMTs have been splitting hours by taking shifts in Tower. The Cook service has tried to enhance its compensation by raising the rate for transfer runs to \$2 per loaded mile, that translates into pay of around \$160 for a transfer to Duluth, Shoen said.

Increasing the number of transfer runs is a



Cook Ambulance Service is recruiting volunteer EMTs to ensure adequate coverage and increase transfer runs. file photo

strategy Shoen said the service is using to generate more revenue, with the intent that those patients with private insurance that pays more than Medicare/Medicaid will help overall receipts.

But transfers aren’t a sure-fire fix, either.

“You’re hoping that you’re getting a balance or at least a balance to break even, you know, get good insurance transfers, get Medicare transfers,” Shoen said. “If we take more Medicare transfers and get the low reimbursement for Medicare, you could end up losing in the game. We’re trying our best to encourage taking transfers to give our crew a little bit better pay than the \$4 an hour.”

A contributing factor to the transfer game is that a temporary raise in the Medicare reimbursement that has been in place for

the past five years is set to expire at the end of this year, slicing the margin for success even thinner.

And yet another consideration in increasing transfers is that the service uses its expensive full-size rigs to do the runs, increasing the miles they run and shortening the time until they have to be replaced. Full-size rigs can cost up to \$250,000, but alternative smaller ambulances designed just for transfers come in at under \$100,000. The city has already solicited bids for a full-size ambulance to replace its aging second rig, and Shoen hasn’t yet determined if the funds saved by getting a transfer ambulance instead could be used to increase pay. Ambulance staff have also expressed concerns about the safety of the smaller transfer ambulances, a possibly valid consid-

eration given that emergency medical personnel are at the highest risk of being in an accident when compared to other first responders.

“Ultimately, at some point the amount of money you take in has to match the amount of money you put out,” Shoen said. “I’ve told the crew that if we’re going to keep going for these \$200,000-\$300,000 ambulances, they’re going to be staying at \$4 an hour.

With the financial challenges already facing area ambulance services, Shoen said considering moving up to an ALS service staffed by paramedics isn’t doable. “The going rate for a paramedic is in the mid to high \$30s per hour range,” he said. “We’re paying somebody \$4 an hour now and we’re barely making it.”

Shoen pulled out a calculator and ran the

numbers for providing 24/7/365 service staffed with the required one paramedic making \$38 an hour. “That’s \$332,880, plus benefits, he said, noting that that was more than the cost of replacing an ambulance.

The key for Cook Ambulance Service right now is recruiting more EMTs, Shoen said. With more EMTs, the service could assure 24/7 coverage. With more EMTs, the service could take more transfers, increasing the chances that strategy will increase revenue.

The city will cover the tuition cost for a Cook resident who takes the semester-long EMT certification course, Shoen said. In return, the new EMT has to commit to a minimum of 18 months with Cook Ambulance service. If he could get 12 interested people, Shoen said, that certification class could be held in Cook. He also said he would be open to working with the Orr Ambulance Service to recruit the 12 people necessary to hold the class, perhaps holding it at North Woods School.

“We need to have the community feel the urgency,” Shoen said. “Even if ten more people in the community had 24 or 48 hours that they could get out of a month for their local EMS. Those are the people we need. We need them to be EMTs because without an EMT we’re not going to roll an ambulance.”

North Woods grad Shuster nabs volleyball honor

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- When Minnesota North-Mesabi Range Head Volleyball Coach Sara Matuszak took in a North Woods home volleyball match in the fall of 2021, the solid but unassuming play of senior Abbigail Shuster caught her eye.

“She only played front row in that game, but I saw her play a little bit of defense,” Matuszak said. “I talked to her after the game and I thought she could probably help us out.”

But when Shuster got to campus, Matuszek realized she’d gotten more than she bargained for.

“Within the first week of practice I knew I was going to have her be our libero, our player that was going to play mostly defense,” Matuszak said.

Shuster repaid that confidence in her defen-



Abbigail Shuster

sive abilities in a big way the first week when she earned Defensive Player of the Week honors in the North Division of the Minnesota College Athletic Conference.

Shuster’s shining moment that week came against nationally-ranked Central Lakes. Mesabi Range hadn’t beaten third-ranked Central Lakes in 12 years, but fueled in part by Shuster’s 33 digs and three service aces, Mesabi

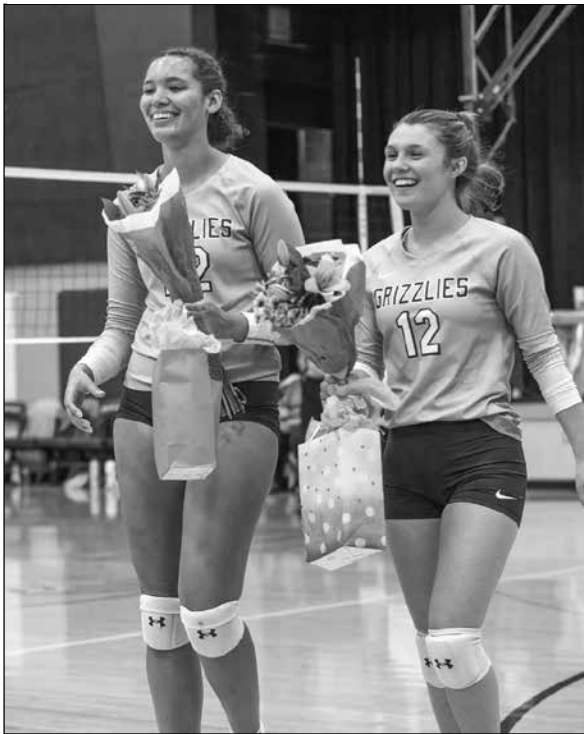
Range pulled off the 3-2 upset.

“She had the game of her life,” Matuszak said. “She was in the zone, she could not miss a ball. It was just perfect defense, perfect passing.”

A key to Shuster’s growing importance in the team’s schemes has been her growing ability to convert digs into opportunities.

“With Abbigail’s digs in the last three to four weeks, she’s able to get digs that we are able to get counter attacks and score points. That’s what makes her one of the better liberos in the conference,” Matuszak said. “We couldn’t be happier. I knew she could be a solid player, but I’ve been more than pleasantly surprised with the growth that she’s had and her ability to com in and play at the level she’s playing at right now.”

SENIOR NIGHT



After receiving flowers and gifts from their coaches and teammates, North Woods senior volleyball players Hannah Kinsey, left, and Karah Schofield head to the stands with their goodies before taking the court on Monday against Chisholm. Seniors Silkyler Yernatich and Cooper Antikainen were also recognized in pre-match activities. The senior recognition ceremonies proved to be the highlight of the evening for the Grizzlies, who fell 3-2 to the Bluestreaks in a hotly contested match.

Olson on golf team at U. of Jamestown

JAMESTOWN, N.D.- Coley Olson of Cook, a junior biochemistry major at the University of Jamestown in Jamestown, N.D., has represented the school this fall as part of the Jimmies’ women’s golf team.

Competing in several tourneys for Jamestown, Olson scored her highest finish of the season at the Spartan Invitational in Fergus Falls, where her 36-hole total of 182 placed seventh. Olson also scored well at the University of Jamestown’s home meet. Playing for the UJ Black team, Olson tied for 11th with a 64-over 280 in the 54-hole event.

Olson was a stand-out golfer and multisport athlete at North Woods School, participating in five state golf tournaments and earning all-state and all-state academic honors. Olson graduated in 2020.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Woodcarvers to resume Thursday meetings on Nov. 3

COOK- The Cook Woodcarvers Group that meets at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook is ramping up for its first meeting of the fall on Thursday, Nov. 3 from 6 to 8 p.m.

A talented group of carvers meet and share the joy of carving on wood and help beginners by sharing experience and know how. Beginners are welcome.

Meet at NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. For more information contact Howard at 218-290-1391.

Make a Saami bracelet at NWFA

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery will host a “Saami Bracelet Class” on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Create a traditional Saami-style bracelet with caribou hide, tin trod (pewter and silver thread) and antler or pewter buttons. Students will spend the day designing, stitch-

ing and finishing a soft and supple wearable bracelet. Registration is required by emailing nwfamn.org@gmail.com. For information about upcoming NWFA offerings, visit the website at nwfamn.org.

Fall bazaar coming on Nov. 5 at Trinity Lutheran Church

COOK- It’s almost time for the fall bazaar hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church of Cook.

The bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 5 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The

event includes homemade crafts, a bake sale, basket raffles, and more.

Church to host free meal on Oct. 27

COOK- Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook will be serving its monthly community meal on Thursday, Oct. 27 from 4-5:30 p.m. The menu will be chicken noodle soup, bread and dessert. Drive-through and eat-in options are available. The public is invited to attend this event free of charge.

NWFA ART SHOW



The Susan Martin Memorial Member Art Show at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook continues through the end of October. The exhibit is available for viewing and shopping during normal gallery hours.

DFLer Rob Ecklund • Int'l Falls

I also support the

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



I've lived in International Falls for over 57 years, and worked at the Boise paper mill for over 26. I'm committed to my family, my community, my District and state. I believe we deserve the best representation possible. It's an honor to be your representative, and I ask for your vote and continued involvement as we address the challenges before us. Thank you.

Republican Roger Skraba • Ely

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

This is a very difficult issue to solve because there are so many other issues attached to it. You need jobs for workers who need affordable housing who also need healthcare and safe transportation. I would promote building affordable housing as a region and not just a city or township issue. Perhaps we could get a developer to build twelve or more ten-unit apartment buildings throughout the region. Create a housing economic development area. That way a developer would be able build to a scale where they make money, employ local trades and we get affordable housing. We need to look at this issue with a broader focus. I will work with others to help solve this issue as I think we all want to grow our population in District 3A.



Please vote for Roger J. Skraba on or before Nov. 8.

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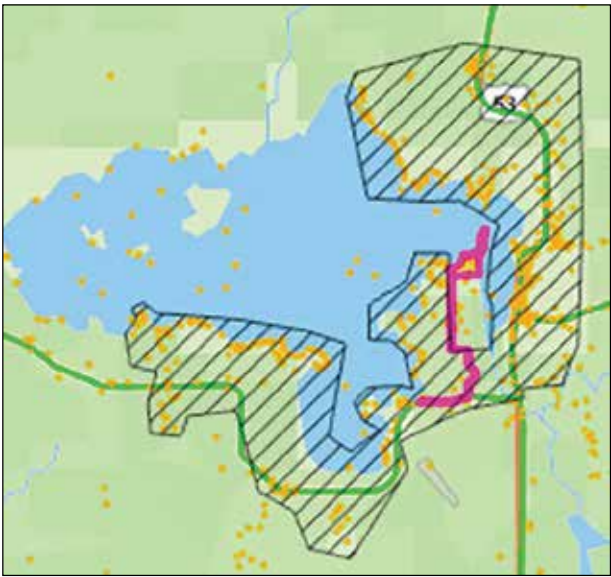
BROADBAND...Continued from page 1

has been actively going down the road supporting more and more teleworkers, and current bandwidth limitations in this whole area have prevented that. From an economic development standpoint, it'll be truly awesome for teleworking and distance learning for students. It's going to allow telehealth and an entire gamut of things related to broadband. And it will support tribal government and its programs and operations and the tribal casino."

The proposed service areas, which aren't set in stone yet, will encompass two major areas.

The first is the south shore of Lake Vermilion. Likely starting just west of Tower, fiber optic broadband will stretch all the way to the west end of the lake, wrapping around the whole of Head of the Lakes Bay. The southern border for broadband deployment would be Hwy. 115 up to about Wakely Rd, where it would then taper to the northwest and Head of the Lakes Bay.

The Orr portion of the development would include residential and resort areas along the northwest shore of Pelican Lake and west along Nett Lake Rd. to serve the major areas of



Left: The cross-hatched portion of this map of Pelican Lake encompasses areas potentially served by a major new Bois Forte broadband project recently approved for funding.

gigabyte per second.

The actual broadband hardware will be owned by Bois Forte, but the Band won't actually be running the system, Long said. The Band is partnering with Minnesota-based high-speed broadband provider CTC Telecom to oversee the operational aspects of the system, including signing up users. Based on recent experience with smaller broadband installations, Long said he expects interest to be strong. Band members have extra incentive to sign up as they can receive up to \$75 a month to defray the cost of a broadband connection.

"In a lot of our other projects, CTC has proven to be very dependable and very successful, and they fit the current business model that Bois Forte had," Long said. "We have the expertise, but we lack the number of staff to actually support the infrastructure. That's where CTC will come in. For us it's a win-win."

For prospective system users, the Bois Forte grant provides a viable alternative to the uncertainty created when LTD Communications, a small internet company with almost no fiber optic broadband experience, was awarded federal funding and exclusive development rights for much of the proposed Bois Forte service area. While companies and communities could explore other options if they wished, the inability to obtain federal FCC or state funding had made such projects largely unaffordable. Meanwhile, LTD Communications had up to ten years to install the projects it was awarded nationwide, leaving communities up in the air as to when they might see improved communications.

Being ready

The vision for the latest project was formulated about six years ago, Long said, and the Band had been working with CTC for three years on developing the comprehensive plan. When the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program opportunity came along, Bois Forte was already well ahead of the game.

"In conjunction with CTC, a lot of the engineer-

ing work that was involved was generated already," Long said. "We still have more to go, but we knew the baseline cost of developing the area and we knew the routes we needed to take ahead of time. So, before we even applied for the grant we had a lot of the legwork completed already."

Demand for the TBCP funding far exceeded initial expectations, Long said.

"This was very, very competitive," he said. "You had to have all your ducks in a row, everything critical to implementing a big project like this had to be listed as far as possible routes, rights-of-ways, and everything needed to make this thing go live."

But while Long was confident the application had a strong chance of being funded, few people knew of the application until the award was announced.

"There weren't too many people who knew about our application," Long said. "I wanted to keep it quiet. I didn't want a huge let-down from people if we didn't get it. But now that we've got it, we have our work ahead of us."

THREATS...Continued from page 1

or be forcefully removed if necessary, was posted on his door at 1:05 p.m., Oct. 13, Fenske's violent comments began to escalate. At 2:26 p.m. that same day, Fenske posted a picture of the notice along with the comment, "IHATE AMERICA AND EVERYONE IN IT. SEE YOU TOMORROW." The first general threat appeared an hour later: "Heads are gonna ROLL WHERE ARE MY GUNS WHEN I NEED THEM?"

His posts grew increasingly erratic with comments ranging from political conspiracy theories to Dr. Jack Kevorkian and assisted suicide to pictures of actor Ed Norton with a huge black swastika on his bare chest from the 1998 neo-Nazi-themed movie "American History X."

Then, early on the morning of Friday, Oct. 14, Penske posted his first direct violent death threat against law enforcement at 5:33 a.m.: "I really really wish I had my GUNS ID be on the Rooftop already Taking Aim at Law Enforcement coming to forcefully remove me." Four minutes later he posted, "I'm tempted to Booby Trap the Front Door So that guy dies first and then the rest will know I mean BUSINESS. Beware if there's a Swastika that will be your Warning Sign. Oh, look I'm way ahead

of you."

By the time Lorenz received a call from a concerned citizen at about 8:30 a.m. alerting him to the posts, Fenske had posted to Facebook around 60 more times, including more death threats and threats of arson directed at law enforcement. In one post, Fenske said he was "outta METH SO IM REALLY GONNA BE ON EDGE to hurt someone." In another he wrote, "Sorry I have to hurt you I'm just doing God's work."

Shortly thereafter, Fenske said he was going to sleep, and when he resumed posting shortly after 1:30

p.m., he appeared resigned to his eviction.

"I'm civilized I just need to ask for a little time," he wrote in one post. At 6:27 p.m. he wrote, "I waited around all day and nobody showed up. I'm not gonna pack up my sh_t if I don't have to leave and I need more time to get out if I do have to leave. I need to run some errands. Get myself out of this house for awhile. Maybe tomorrow I'll get my answer ORE Maybe NEVER."

Ely Police and St. Louis County deputies arrived at the residence at 9:15 p.m. and took Fenske into custody without inci-

dent.

Additional information

At Fenske's initial hearing on Monday, Assistant County Attorney Christopher Florey asked that Fenske's bail be set at \$40,000, asserting that despite his minimal criminal history "public safety concerns exist - including concerns for the Defendant's well-being."

Florey noted an ongoing review by unspecified "state" officials seeking harassment charges against Fenske for social media

posts targeting two teenage girls and Fenske's desire to date or have sex with them.

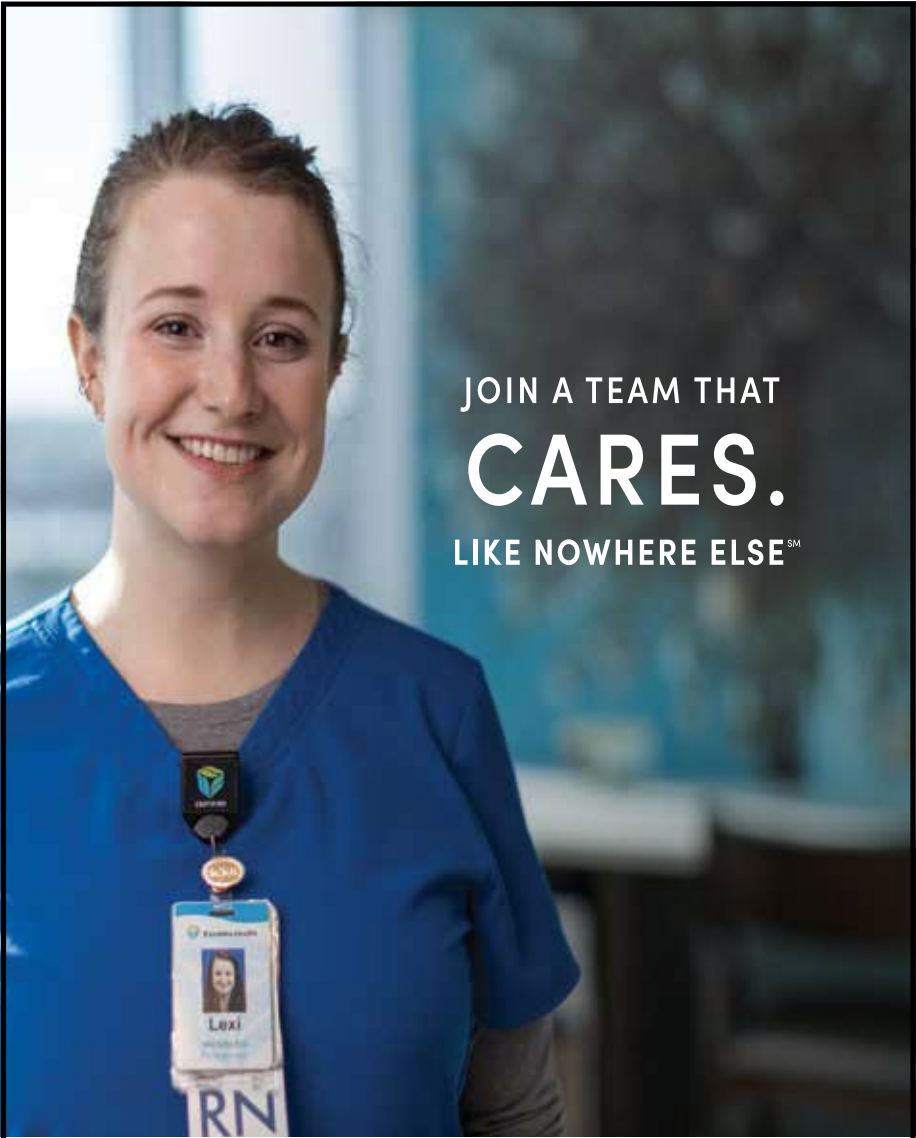
In a conversation with a deputy, Fenske allegedly said he was not interested in chemical dependence intervention despite daily marijuana and methamphetamine use. He also allegedly said he had contemplated suicide, which is backed up by multiple posts on his Facebook account.

Florey also said that, "Comprehensive and diagnostic assessments may be appropriate at this time,

which could aid in finding an appropriate placement for Mr. Fenske."

Fenske's next scheduled court appearance is Oct. 24, via Zoom.

(Information for this report was compiled from various district court case documents, an Ely Police Department press release, and a review of Fenske's social media account. Only one of Fenske's threatening posts had been flagged and blocked by Facebook community standards monitors.)



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CARVING...Continued from page 1

to generous donations by community members and area businesses for all the supplies needed.

Pumpkin carving is a bit messy, and the logistics of keeping up with the messy gourd innards and slimy seeds had been well thought out in advance. Pumpkin carving tools and scoops were on hand, plus bowls to collect seeds for those who wished to bring them home for roasting. There were garbage cans at each table to collect all the messy stuff, and a contingent of adult volunteers wiping down tables, and children’s fingers, as needed.

If the thought of as many as 40 children at one time wielding small knives seemed scary, the pumpkin carving tools had blunt edges with rough serrations, and no injuries were recorded.

Turnbull brought 80 pumpkins to the event, and all but five were carved or decorated.

This included enough pumpkins for everyone who participated, which kept the children and their parents busy as they created traditional, fanciful, and some rather scary designs. There were stickers and push-in decorations for the children not old enough to do any carving, but most of the older children were ready to dig in and create a traditional hollowed-out pumpkin design. There were Halloween tattoos, hot dogs and baked beans, plus plenty of well-frosted Halloween cupcakes.

The event would not have been possible without donations from: Orlyn and Marit Kringstad; Deb and Doug Siverhus; Terry Vagle; Laura and Mike Lenix; Sierra Jankowski; Jodi and Jim Hunt; Scott Swanson; Mary Batinich; DeAnn Schatz; Karen Crego; Amy Banks; Zup’s Grocery- Tower; Brooke, Leon, and Chloe Anderson; Cade Gornick; Shannon Match; Linda DiCasmirro; Brenda Winkelaar; Linda Haugen; Sulu’s Espresso Café; Amy Hinkel; Corky Hill; Darla LeDoux; Paul Radig; Marilyn Turnbull; Erik Lambertson; and some anonymous donors.

Special thanks to Sulu’s for donating and preparing the food served, and to Zup’s for donating gift cards for raffle prizes and cleanup supplies.



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EDITOR...Continued from page 1

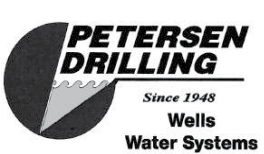
Catie brings a considerable skillset to the Timberjay. Given her extensive scientific background, she’s experienced in statistical analysis, database management, technical writing, and a wide array of publishing and research-related software. She holds a master’s degree in geophysics from the California Institute of Technology and a PhD in geology from UC-Davis and has written numerous scientific papers on highly technical geological research topics and concepts.

Due to previous commitments and obligations, and the time involved in moving, Catie won’t be able to start her work in Ely until Dec. 1. She and her husband Sean Clark are planning to move permanently to Ely and are in the process of buying a house in town.

Her husband works as an Internet registrar, assigning URLs to websites in other countries. It’s a remote-work occupation that allows him to live anywhere with a reliable broadband connection.

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2019 EQUINOX AWD LT



\$25,684 #7883A

2017 ACADIA SLE-2 AWD



\$25,478 #25216B

2019 ESCAPE SE AWD



\$17,954 #9499A

2013 F350 LARIAT DIESEL



\$34,472 #25170B

2011 TAURUS LIMITED 97K MI



\$12,490 #25285A

2012 CR-V EX



\$8,431 #7827A

2015 200 C



\$16,980 #7879

2018 F150 XLT V8



\$29,987 #25130A

2015 MKX AWD 92K MI



\$19,980 #25318B

2018 ESCAPE SE AWD



\$17,942 #7873

2015 EDGE SEL AWD



\$16,978 #7880

2014 ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD



\$14,980 #7866A

2013 EDGE SE 95K MI



\$12,980 #25302A

2015 TAURUS SHO AWD



\$21,978 #9493

2013 ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD



\$15,741 #7887

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ELY

Possible recreation center, childcare facility for Ely

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY — A new recreation center and childcare facility may be in Ely’s future if plans being developed by the Ely Area Community Foundation come together. Fire chief Dave Marshall informed the city council here on Tuesday that the foundation has been considering the former state Department of Revenue building as a location for a recreation center the group has been hoping to build for the past several years. “They would like to buy it and they have the funds to buy it,” said Marshall. The Revenue building has been for sale since the state closed the facility at the start of the COVID

pandemic. Marshall said the community foundation is hoping the city can help facilitate the sale of the building to the foundation. The building would then need to be renovated to meet the needs of the recreation center and other anticipated tenants. In addition to a recreation or fitness center, the building could also house a new childcare center that’s currently under development. “Childcare would be a big part of this project,” said Marshall. Mayor Roger Skrabba suggested that the city hold a public hearing on the project. “I wonder if we should have public discussion on this,” he said. “It’s a major change.” Harold Langowski

suggested holding a hearing on the issue in late November or December. In related news, Langowski told the council that the community’s ongoing shortage of childcare access is in the process of being addressed. “There is a group working very hard to find a solution,” said Langowski. “Expect a solution sometime in the spring.” Langowski said the plan is likely to have financial support from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation and possibly federal assistance as well for a plan to create as many as 40 childcare slots. **New police officers** In other action, police chief Chad Houde intro-

duced two new department hires, Daniel Mooers and Ryan Mahoney, both of whom will serve as uniformed police officers for the department. Mooers grew up in St. Louis Park but has been working for departments in northeastern Minnesota for the past several years. Mahoney, who grew up in Ely, majored in fisheries and wildlife management at North Dakota State University and completed law enforcement training in 2020. He most recently worked for the DNR parks and trails in western Minnesota but Houde said he was excited to have the chance to return home when the officer opening was posted. “They’ll both be a great addition to the de-

partment,” said Houde. Mayor Skrabba administered the oath of office to both officers during a brief ceremony. In other action, the council: ➤ Approved a recommendation of the city’s budget committee to reduce limit the increase in the city’s 2023 levy to no more than six percent. ➤ Approved a motion by Heidi Omerza to create a gravel parking lot on the east end of Miner’s Lake to provide better access to the lake and reduce on-street parking in the neighborhood. The area is used by canoeists, kayakers, and trout anglers to access the lake. Langowski said the project would likely get underway sometime next year and wouldn’t

involve a major expense for the city. “There will be some gravel, a culvert, and some in-kind labor,” he said. ➤ Heard from library director Rachel Heinrich that the library has free COVID tests available to give away to residents who need them. ➤ Had a discussion but took no action on the abundance of deer in the city. The issue was raised by Kess, who said he has had several city residents bring up their concerns about deer in recent weeks. The topic prompted several anecdotes from council members about their own encounters with deer. Skrabba offered a lengthy and rambling description on his experiences with wolves in the city.

Breitung considers options for ATV trail route in township

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- The Breitung Town Board, at their Oct. 13 meeting, discussed the pros and cons of three possible routes to bring off-road-vehicle (OHV) traffic from the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park through Soudan. The planned development of an OHV-centered campground near Jasper Peak and the ongoing development of the Prospector Trail is expected to bring increasing numbers of off-road vehicles through the area in the future. The area in question is between the Taconite State Trail by the Thompson Farm Road to the communities of Soudan and then Tower, south of Highway 169. Board members said a priority is keeping as much OHV traffic off the

highway rights-of-way, as well as off the gravel road that provides access to the township and a privately-owned gravel pit, because of the safety issues of mixing commercial truck traffic and OHVs. Town board members said they wanted to keep OHV traffic from crossing the existing gravel pit areas, also. The township is asking DNR Trails Supervisor Brad Dekkers to attend their regular meeting on Oct. 27 to talk about the best option for a route. Some options would involve private landowners, including the construction company that owns a gravel pit in the area. The cost of developing and maintaining the trail would be funded by the DNR. The board approved the low bid by Mesabi Bituminous, at \$361,640, for the McKinley Park

Trail Project. The project includes repairs to the existing bike trail, as well as the creation of a new spur from the trail to the campground area. The township has received a \$150,000 grant from the DNR’s outdoor recreation program and \$162,500 from the IRRR trail program for the project. The remainder of the costs will come from the township’s reserve fund. **Special Town Meeting** The township will be

holding a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. The meeting will take up some business normally part of the annual meeting in March that the board would like to see addressed now,

rather than later. Items to be discussed include updating the parking ordinance with new rules on winter-time parking on town streets, recording the recently paved portion of North Second Street as a

township road, and possible revisions to the blight ordinance that would add in fines for violating the ordinance, and other enforcement actions.

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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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SPORTS

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FOOTBALL

Mesabi East stomps on Grizzlies 42-6

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA- Any hope the North Woods Grizzlies had of putting together a winning streak this season were dashed when Mesabi East scored on their very first snap from center last Friday and rolled to a 42-6 beatdown.

With both teams entering the game with 1-5 records, North Woods fans were hopeful that the Grizzlies would be able to use their 34-6 win over Mille Lacs the week before as a springboard to another victory.

A Grizzlies defense that yielded

only one touchdown against Mille Lacs gave up four in the first quarter against the Giants, who caught the Grizzlies napping on the first play of the game with a 53-yard dagger from Landon Luke to Carter Steele. Dakota Kruse kicked the extra point and the Giants led 7-0 with only 15 seconds elapsed in the game.

The Giants mounted their only time-consuming drive of the quarter on their next possession after the Grizzlies turned the ball over on downs at the Mesabi East 38. Marching smartly down the field, Luke connected with Kruse again for an 18-yard touchdown, and the

Right: Senior defensive end Steven Sopoci applies pressure on the Mesabi East quarterback.

photo by D. Colburn

extra point kick was good.

The Giants ended up with a short field when they blocked an Anavay Goodsky-Spears punt and took over at the North Woods 12. One play later they were on the board again with another touchdown.

The Giants had their third one-play drive of the quarter on their

See **GRIZZLIES...**pg. 4B



FOOTBALL

Cherry sinks Ely 76-0

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

CHERRY — It was another dispiriting outing for Ely here last Friday as the Tigers shredded the Timberwolves 76-0 to drop Ely to 0-6 on the season.

“I think overall they were just faster and more athletic,” said Ely Head Coach Louie Gerzin.

The Wolves have shown spark at times against some of the section’s more middling teams, but they’ve struggled against the area’s top performers. Friday’s

loss was reminiscent of the team’s 84-0 shellacking at the hands of Mt. Iron-Buhl two weeks ago.

Gerzin said the margin for error is just that much less when playing against some of the section’s powerhouses.

“Seems to me with other schools, if you make a mistake on defense, it might go for ten or twenty yards. Cherry is so athletic that even a missed tackled can turn into a touchdown in a matter of seconds,” said Gerzin.

Cherry proved it time and again, particularly in the first half, when the Wolves simply couldn’t answer a powerful Cherry running attack that racked up over 500 yards for the game. The Tigers led 28-0 at the end of the first quarter and took a 48-0 lead into the break. They were up 62-0 by the end of three, as the clock went to running time.

If Ely’s defense failed to find its

See **FOOTBALL...**pg. 4B

SWIMMING

Nighthawks top Hilltoppers in three

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

HIBBING— Several Northeast Range-Ely swimmers notched strong performances in the Section 7A True Team meet held at the Hibbing High School natatorium on Saturday.

Senior Lily Tedrick finished third in two events among dozens of competitors who took part in the competition.

Tedrick finished third among 35 racers in the 200 IM with a time of 2:31.07, less than four seconds off the mark set by top finisher Alyssa Jackson of Grand Rapids. Tedrick also took third among 39 competitors in the 100 Breaststroke with a time of 1:15.17.

Senior Morgan McClelland finished 11th among 40 competitors in the 200 Freestyle with a time of 2:19.26. She

See **SWIMMERS...**pg. 4B



VOLLEYBALL

Perfection!

Wolves prove unstoppable as regular season winds up at 25-0

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

BIGFORK — It was after the second game of what looked to be just another easy match win for Ely’s remarkable volleyball squad that the weight of an unprecedented season just might have caught up to the Timberwolves.

After taking the first two sets 25-12, 25-9, and literally on the verge of clinching a perfect season for the first time in Ely volleyball history, it seemed that things fell apart — at least momentarily.

The Huskies played tight and it seemed the Wolves suddenly had the jitters in what should have been a routine match against a clearly

Above: Ely seniors Audrey Thomas and Natasha Fulkrod pair up for a block against Cook County on Monday.

Left: Senior Kate Coughlin goes up high for a kill.

photos by J. Greeney

weaker opponent.

“There was a lot of weight on everyone’s shoulders tonight,” acknowledged Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum after the match. Bigfork took the third set 29-27, but it was just the slap in the face that the Wolves might have needed to get back to business and close out a perfect 25-0 regular season with a 25-5 rout in the fourth set

See **VOLLEYBALL...**pg. 4B



VOLLEYBALL

Grizzlies limp into playoffs

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELDTWP- The North Woods Grizzlies volleyball team has been a bit of a puzzle of late. After a strong start to the season, the Grizzlies have had trouble holding onto the essential element that fueled five and six-game winning streaks this season — momentum.

That inability to hold

onto Old Mo’ was in evidence at Monday’s senior appreciation matchup against Chisholm, a scenario that usually gives the home team extra incentive to win for their outgoing seniors.

It was expected to be a battle of two evenly-matched teams, and it was all of that in the first set. In a contest that featured 11 ties, neither team led by more than three and no lead was safe. Trailing

Right: The Grizzlies’ Talise Goodsky focuses as she sets up a dig.

photo by D. Colburn

23-22, the Grizzlies drew even on a kill by Hannah Kinsey, took the lead on an errant set by the Bluestreaks, and then closed out the win on a good defensive play by

See **NW GIRLS...**pg. 4B





Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

WATER QUALITY

Boundary Waters algae blooms prompt study

SMOKE LAKE— A recent story on Minnesota Public Radio sounded the alarm about a robust algae bloom on two Boundary Waters lakes, suggesting the outbreak of cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, was potentially linked to climate change or other human factors.

From the photos included with the online version of the story, the bloom

did appear to be surprising, with pea soup greens, mixed with stripes of neon teal blue.

The concern about the bloom, experienced on Smoke and Burnt lakes near the end of the Sawbill Trail, was raised by a pair of researchers who said the outbreak was worse than any they had experienced in their previous works on

shallow lakes in southern Minnesota and Iowa, which had been heavily impacted by farm fertilizers.

Finding such an outbreak in the middle of the wilderness left them stunned and they now plan to do more research to better understand the cause.

Their findings may be both interesting, and possibly surprising.

For one thing, I spoke with Clare Shirley, who operates Sawbill Outfitters with her husband Dan. The business was formerly run by her father Bill Hansen and before that

by her grandparents Frank and Mary Alice Hansen. In other words, there are many decades of familiarity with the surrounding lakes, including Smoke and Burnt. According to Shirley, the two lakes, both of which are shallow with muck bottoms, have had algae blooms in late summer every year since at least the 1930s.

“The oral history on those lakes is very clear,”

Right: Lienne Sethna collects an algae sample on a lake in the Boundary Waters last month.
photo by G. Seitz



said Shirley. “It happens every year, like clock-work.”

She said she was disappointed to see that researchers were approaching it like it was something new, or indicative of a problem. While excessive algae growth can be an issue,

See ALGAE...pg. 3B



THE SPOOKY MONTH

October memories

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

When I was a kid, late October was a time of anticipation. While most kids love Christmas most of all, I looked forward to Halloween at least as much. But Halloween wasn’t just a night for me and my occasionally delinquent friends growing up in the Twin Cities suburb of Bloomington. It was a whole month of after-dark carousing when our imaginations ran wild.

Back in those days, daylight savings time ended in October, so it was dark by suppertime. And that left us with two or three hours after supper to lurk about our neighborhoods or explore the nighttime woods along Nine Mile Creek, guided only by the moonlight.

As younger kids, before our teenage years, we invented our own world, which was full of ghosts and ghouls of all shapes and sizes. We had stories of “old Lady Kelly” an early settler in Bloomington who we understood still lived in an old house set back from most other houses in the neighborhood, along the edge of Nine Mile Creek. We had never seen old Lady Kelly,

Above: A fog shrouded moon glows through bare branches.
photo by M. HelMBERGER

but when I was very young, I remember she had kept a cow occasionally tied to an old pump house that later became our backyard when we moved a few blocks to a bigger house in 1972. Perhaps because we had never met her before, it was easier to convince ourselves that she ate children whenever she got the chance. There was another older house in the neighborhood as well, home to old folks we never saw and every night in October we could plainly see the elongated and oh, so ghostly face of the old man peaking out from an upstairs window. We would get goosebumps just walking past the place.

These were places where none of us would ever set foot, which gave them a sort of immunity, even in our later years, from the October pranks we sometimes perpetrated on neighbors we didn’t particularly like. These were all pranks of the usual sort. I confess that we lacked imagination as miscre-

“As younger kids we invented our own world, full of ghosts and ghouls.

ants, confining ourselves to the occasional egg, toilet-papering, or, most commonly, ringing a doorbell and running away. We usually didn’t run far, since half the fun was watching from a hiding spot as the neighbor answered the door and looked around for a few seconds, before figuring out what had happened. One of these a night was usually enough, since it meant we would spend the rest of the evening trying to avoid imaginary police officers who undoubtedly had nothing better to do than chase us down.

What was odd is that these are deeds we would only undertake in October. It was as if the moment the calendar flipped to our favorite month, the normal rules that governed our childhood really didn’t apply. Because it was the suburbs, we had just enough glow from the occasional streetlight for us to see what we were doing, while there were still plenty

of shadows to hide out or imagine that something else was hiding, just waiting for us to get too close. It was a time when every dog bark, every cat scurrying across the street, every gust of chilly fall wind, was a portent of something dark and ominous. The bare and gnarled branches of the big bur oaks that still graced our neighborhood, remnants of the extensive oak savannah that once covered much of southern Minnesota, were always spookier in October. I imagined the gnarly claws of witches as those branches waved in the breeze, backlit only by the moon and the ever-brightening skyglow of the metro.

October, to be sure, wasn’t always about witches and other spooks, or tormenting the neighbors. The yard at the new house where we moved in the early 70s was graced by four sprawling bur oaks and the leaves fell in October by the truckload. We raked them into huge piles, big enough to hollow out as little forts and hideaways, or simply as piles to leap upon.

And when we tired of playing with the leaves, we could usually pressure my Dad to come out and start a bonfire. There was nothing so pleasant to my young nose as

Nature Notes

This week’s feature
GREEN ELF CUPS



Anyone who has spent time tramping through the woods here in the North Country has probably noticed the teal-green stain that shows up on well-decomposed logs on the forest floor. It’s a fungus known as *Chlorociboria aeruginascens* that causes the staining and it’s generally not too hard to find in the deep woods of the North Country.

A far rare find is the fruiting bodies of this fungus, which are known commonly as green elf cup mushrooms, in recognition of their stunning teal-green color and their tiny size. None of the mushrooms pictured above were over half an inch across, a size that makes them tough to spot.

Outdoors briefly

Whitefish netting opens on area lakes

REGIONAL—The Minnesota DNR has set dates for recreational netting of whitefish and cisco on seven lakes in the Tower fisheries work area. These lakes are Schedule I waterbodies, which are more susceptible to sudden changes that impact water temperatures and are opened and closed on a 48-hour notice posted on the DNR website and other public places.

The following lakes: Vermilion, Basswood, Fall and Newton will be open to netting Friday, Oct. 21, through Sunday, Nov. 6 (minimum 3.5-inch mesh size for Vermilion and Newton lakes and minimum 1.75-inch mesh size for Basswood and Fall lakes).

Shagawa will be open to netting Friday, Oct. 28, through Sunday, Nov. 20 (minimum 3.5-inch mesh size).

Bear Island and Ojibway lakes will be open to netting Friday, Nov. 25, through Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023 (minimum 1.75-inch mesh size).

Vermilion, Basswood, Fall, Newton and Shagawa lakes are designated as infested with spiny waterflea so netters should review rules that help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

See MEMORIES...pg. 3B

FIRST SNOW



A few snowy mornings this week left trees covered in this view overlooking the Lost Lake Swamp. photo by M. Helmberger

ALGAE...Continued from page 2B

it doesn’t seem to have diminished interest in the two lakes, both of which are very popular with walleye anglers.

At the same time, it would not be a surprise if this year’s bloom was more pronounced than usual. Algae abundance is controlled by several factors, but the level of nutrients is a big one. In our region, phosphorus is typically the limiting nutrient for algae. Add more phosphorus to a lake and you’ll generally get more algae growth. On developed lakes, phosphorus typically comes from leaky septic systems, municipal sewer discharges, or lawn fertilizers, but even in the wilderness, there are sources of phosphorus. Decaying vegetation, the breakdown of rock, even concentrations of birds, like gulls or cormorants, can increase the phosphorus loading into a lake. Wood ash from wildfires also contains some phosphorus and I’m just going to guess that these two lakes, Smoke and Burnt, experienced wildfire sometime in their relatively recent past that may have added phosphorus to their watersheds.

Weather events over the past year and a half may also have played a role. Runoff from the surrounding watershed largely controls nutrient levels in lakes and last year’s extreme drought likely reduced the amount of runoff significantly. At the same time, we had extensive wildfires around the region, which added a lot of smoke to our air. That smoke is comprised of very fine ash particles and as that ash settles out over time, it spreads the nutrients contained in that ash across the landscape.

Then, add in this past spring’s unprecedented runoff from snowmelt and heavy spring rains and it almost certainly increased the amount of nutrient runoff from lake watersheds all across the region. For most wilderness lakes, it probably wasn’t enough to spark a noticeable algae outbreak, but in shallow, already eutrophic lakes like Smoke and Burnt, it could have kicked a typical late summer bloom into overdrive.

The recent story on the two lakes made the connection to climate change, suggesting that warming waters in area lakes would increase algae growth. While that’s likely true, there’s no evidence that warming waters had any connection to this year’s algae bloom on Smoke and Burnt lakes. In fact, water temperatures in area lakes were generally colder this summer than last, due to a late spring and generally cooler summer temperatures than in 2021.

While I certainly agree that climate change is altering the North Country in many ways, I’m always hesitant to blame climate change for every change we see.

At the same time, I’m very curious to see what the researchers discover in this case. I reached out to researcher Adam Heathcote, who is the director of the Department of Water and Climate Change at the St. Croix Watershed Research Station. He indi-

cated that his research team is looking at, among other things, the role of fire in transporting nutrients. This research he said is being done on remote lakes all over the country. They’ve also been gathering water quality data on several lakes in the region, with readings taken automatically every 30 minutes all summer. The team will also be back at the study lakes this winter to take sediment cores that should help give a long-term view. Lake sediments can be almost like tree rings and researchers can search for algae remains and use DNA testing to determine species and their abundance. They hope to re-create a history of algae growth going back at least 200 years to see what changes, if any, can be detected over time.

It promises to make for interesting findings and I hope to follow up when they have results to report.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
53 34					57 45					65 48					55 33					42 29				
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.
10/10	54	30	0.00		10/10	56	24	0.00		10/10	55	30	0.00		10/10	63	25	0.00		10/10	55	24	0.00	
10/11	60	32	0.00		10/11	62	32	0.00		10/11	60	30	0.00		10/11	77	46	0.00		10/11	62	29	0.00	
10/12	74	43	0.25		10/12	76	42	0.50		10/12	76	45	0.03		10/12	55	36	0.00		10/12	77	42	0.52	
10/13	51	34	0.07		10/13	50	33	0.10		10/13	50	35	0.06		10/13	37	30	0.03		10/13	51	34	0.15	
10/14	39	30	0.07	0.1"	10/14	38	31	0.08	0.8"	10/14	37	30	0.12	1.5"	10/14	39	28	0.05		10/14	38	30	0.22	1.0"
10/15	39	30	0.09	1.1"	10/15	40	27	0.12	1.5"	10/15	42	30	0.09	1.5"	10/15	41	28	0.00		10/15	40	27	0.21	1.0"
10/16	39	30	0.15		10/16	40	27	0.02		10/16	42	32	0.04		10/16	39	28	0.00		10/16	40	32	0.12	0.4"
YTD Total				23.10 1.2"	YTD Total				25.34 2.3"	YTD Total				23.11 3.0"	YTD Total				NA NA	YTD Total				30.82 2.4"

MEMORIES...Continued from page 2B

the smell of burning leaves and the bonfire was one of the highlights of October for us, which was made all the better when Mom brought the marshmallows out for roasting. Eventually, the bonfires went by the wayside as the city instituted prohibitions on open burning, just another step in the urbanization of a suburb that still had cornfields at

the end of the block when we first moved there in 1963. Nonetheless, those are memories I’ll never forget.

And even today, when late October rolls around, I still have that urge to roam in the evening darkness, to look for those things that go bump in the night and to let my imagination run wild. And since I have two bur oaks in my yard

today, both of which I grew from acorns I gathered from the yard in Bloomington nearly forty years ago, I can still see the twisted fingers of imagined witches in the moonlight. When the wind blows just right, I can still feel the occasional October shiver up my spine.



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VOLLEYBALL...Continued from page 1B

of the match.

“To say I’m proud is an understatement,” said Wognum. “This team has proven to be a hard-working group of ladies with so much ahead of them both in volleyball and in their future careers outside of the gym.”

While the Wolves had the makings of a winning season, with a talented senior-dominated starting lineup, it was the intangibles that seemed to come together for Ely during their remarkable regular season. While most winning squads rely on a couple top players to carry the load, the Wolves were remarkable all season for their depth as at least a half dozen players shared the limelight on the stat board in any given contest.

Seniors Kate and Rachel Coughlin, and Madeline Kallberg, along



Left: Ely junior Hannah Penke goes up sky high as she pounds another kill, one of 13 she tallied Monday night against Cook County.

photo by J. Greeney

Even after a grueling 25 game season, Wognum was still continuously impressed at what her team was able to do. “They have talent, grit, and overall toughness to accomplish anything,” she said.

Tuesday’s regular season finale came on top of Monday’s convincing straight set victory against Cook County. After a routine 25-10 win in the first set, a momentary Ely lapse in the second allowed the Vikings to close the final gap to 25-21, but the Wolves proved that was a fluke as they clamped down in the final set, winning 25-8.

“We were really together as a team tonight,” said Wognum. “These girls have grown so much throughout the season. When they play with passion, they are unstoppable.”

Penke posted another strong performance, notching 13 kills and ten digs, while Rachel Coughlin posted nine kills, seven digs four blocks and four aces. Kate Coughlin added six kills, six digs, and four aces and Visser added nine aces and six digs on top of 20 set assists. Sophomore Lilli Rechichi added five kills and four digs.

In action last Thursday in Nashwauk, the Spartans made it a contest even as the Wolves won in straight sets, 25-13, 25-18, and 25-19.

“We had a very competitive game with Nashwauk tonight,” said Wognum after the game. “Our hitters

stepped up and found some open spots on the floor and used that to our advantage. We were also able to get some blocks up to help boost our momentum at times.”

Penke had another big night for Ely, posting a season-high 15 kills, 15 digs, and four aces. Rachel Coughlin added ten kills, 13 digs, and seven blocks, while her sister Kate added seven kills, 16 digs, and five aces. Kallberg tallied eight kills, three blocks and as many digs. Visser added 24 assists and eight digs, while senior Courtney Eilrich posted eight digs.

As top seed, Ely will host its first two playoff contests, with games set for next Wednesday, Oct. 26 followed by Friday, Oct. 28. Their competitors are yet to be announced.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

next possession when Ethan Murray rambled 41 yards for the score to put Mesabi East up 28-0.

North Woods got burned on another big play in the second quarter, a second-down, 54-yard scoring streak by Cooper Levander. As the Giants took a 35-0 lead into halftime, four of their touchdowns had come from only five plays.

Kruse picked up the Giants’ final score of the night on a nine-yard run in the third quarter. Working against the Mesabi East reserves, the Grizzlies’ Olin Nelson put North Woods on the board in the fourth quarter. Shedding and sidestepping tacklers, Nelson’s electrifying 26-yard touchdown run was of little consolation in the

42-6 loss.

“Our guys made some mistakes, mistakes we’ve been working on all season,” Grizzlies Head Coach Joel Anderson said. “We were able to move the ball, but we’ve got to sustain that. We’ve just got to do a better job of making sure that offensively and defensively we made our reads and we continue to

play until a play is over.”

In addition to his touchdown, Nelson carried the ground game for the Grizzlies after running back Jared Chiabotti left the game in the second quarter, picking up 73 yards on 11 carries.

“We didn’t come into the season thinking he was going to get a lot of carries in our backfield,”

Anderson said. “He hasn’t really run the ball since eighth grade. It was good to see him finding the holes and making the right cuts. He’s a big strong kid. He was really running the ball very well for us.”

It was a short turnaround for the Grizzlies, who were scheduled to close out the regular season at home on Wednesday

against East Central. Sectional playoff seedings and matchups were scheduled to be released later in the week, with first-round games slated for Tuesday, Oct. 25. Check timberjay.com or the *Timberjay’s* Facebook page for Section 7A playoff schedules and results.

FOOTBALL...Continued from page 1B

footing, it was no different on offense. “We pretty much tried everything,” said Gerzin. “We tried running, passing, even quick little passes, but nothing worked. Give credit to Cherry, they’re a really good football team.”

No stats were available as of press time, but Gerzin did make note of some younger players, who made a good showing as they got some playing time on Friday. “We had some young guys really step up,” he said. “I thought

Jesse Oelke, Tobin Bird, and Garrett Rohr all had a good game.

Despite last Friday’s pounding, Gerzin said the Ely squad was able to close out the contest without injuries, which he was hopeful would leave them at full

strength for their final game of the regular season, set for Wednesday evening (after the *Timberjay’s* weekly deadline), when they host Hill City/Northland. Gerzin remained hopeful that his team could avoid an 0-7 season with a win.

Looking ahead to the playoffs, Gerzin said the Wolves plan to take part even though it means stepping up to 11-man. Last year, the Wolves bowed out of the playoffs, due mostly to injuries, but this year, Gerzin said the team

is ready to make the switch. He said they expect to meet Deer River in the opening round.

SWIMMERS...Continued from page 1B

also finished 15th among 37 racers in the 500 Freestyle with a time of 6:31.37.

Sophomore Anna

Larson, meanwhile, finished 12th among 29 competitors in the 100 Butterfly with a time of 1:16.14.

The three swimmers, joined by senior Kelly Thompson took seventh among 34 teams in the 200

Freestyle Relay, with a time of 1:52.45.

As a team, NR-E finished in eighth place among

11 teams, with 1,058.5 points. Grand Rapids, which has had the region’s dominant swim team all

season, finished in the top spot, with 2,009.5 points.

NW GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

Kinsey at the net.

North Woods held a slim lead throughout most of the second set, and with Tori Olson at the service line built a five-point edge at 19-14. Chisholm closed to within two at 20-18, but the Grizzlies regrouped and won their second set of the match 25-20 on a kill by Lauren Burnett.

at them,” Grizzlies Head Coach Kandi Olson said. “We definitely lost our flow, and just couldn’t reconnect again. We’ve struggled with that in a few games recently and we just have to refocus and figure out how to get out of that funk.”

While extreme, the eight consecutive points the Bluestreaks reeled off in the third set was representative of how the Grizzlies have been letting momentum slip away recently.

“We come out so sharp, but once we let down we

give up too many points in a row and it changes the momentum of the game completely,” Olson said. “And then we’re playing catch up. That’s something that’s new for us. We haven’t been doing that except for recently. We

need to figure out how to get our momentum back.”

Over their last six matches the Grizzlies are 1-5, including a 3-0 loss to Floowood on Tuesday to close out the regular season. North Woods will have a chance to regain some of its

swagger as one of the higher seeds in this coming week’s sectional playoffs, which gets underway on Monday. The Grizzlies have the tools to make a deep run in the tourney if Old Mo’ swings back their way.

Memories of the Early Days

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

Written by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay

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PUBLIC NOTICE

LEIDING TOWNSHIP
Notice of Meeting Change

The regular monthly meeting of the Leiding Town Board will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the Leiding Town Hall. The meeting date is being changed due to the General Election on November 8.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 21, 2022

MORCOM TOWNSHIP
Notice of General Election

Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of Morcom Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota. General election will be held Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Bear River School, 12512 Hwy. 22, Cook.

Sasha Lehto, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 21 & 28, 2022

KUGLER TOWNSHIP
Notice of General Election

Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of Kugler Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota. General election will be held Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall, 9072 Hwy 135 N., Tower, MN 55790. Polls are open to elect the following:

(One) Board Supervisor c – four-year term
(One) Township Treasurer – four-year term

Please call the Kugler Town Clerk Christopher Suihkonen with any questions, 218-248-0606.

Published in the Timberjay, Oct 21 & 28, 2022

LEIDING TOWNSHIP
CAMP FIVE TOWNSHIP
Notice of General Election

Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of Leiding Township and Camp Five Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota. General election will be held Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Leiding Town Hall, 10707 Hwy. 53, Orr, MN 55771.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 21 & 28, 2022

Notice of General Election
TOWN OF GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP
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 3000 County Highway 77 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.)

CITY OF TOWER
Public Meeting
Site Plan

The City of Tower will be holding a public meeting at 5:30 on Thursday, October 27, at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center to review site development drawings for the Civic Center/ Depot area. The public will have the opportunity to review four site drawings and offer feedback and suggestions for future development. Please direct any questions to City Clerk/ Treasurer Michael Schultz at 218-753-4070.

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 21, 2022

CITY OF TOWER
2022 STATE GENERAL ELECTION
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Notice is hereby given to the voters of St. Louis County, Minnesota, that a State General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at the Tower Civic Center, 402 Pine Street, Tower, MN 55790. Polling place hours will be from 7:00am until 8:00pm.

City, Federal, State, County, School District, and Judicial offices to be elected at the State General Election are as follows:

City Offices

Mayor (4-year term), Two Councilors (4-year terms), One Councilor (2-year term)

Federal Offices

United States Representative District 8

State Offices

State Senator District 3, State Representative District 3A, Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, Attorney General

County Offices

County Commissioner District 4, County Auditor-Treasurer, County Sheriff, County Attorney, North Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor District 1 and District 3

School District Offices

School Board Member District 3

Judicial Offices

Supreme Court Associate Justices 3 and 6, Court of Appeals Judges 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, and 19, 6th District Court Judges 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 15

Michael Schultz
City of Tower Clerk/Treasurer
October 19, 2022

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 21, 2022

MORCOM TOWNSHIP
Meeting
Change
Notice

Morcom Township's November meeting has been moved to Monday, November 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Sasha Lehto,
Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 21, 2022

Bearville Township
Change of Meeting Notice

The November Bearville Town Board of Canvass will meet on Tuesday November 15, 2022 at 6:15 pm in order to canvass the results of the November 8th election and announce the winners.

The November Town Board of Supervisors Meeting will convene at 6:30pm for the regular Town Board Meeting. All meetings are open to the public.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 21, 2022

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY
TESTING

THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP ELECTION JUDGES WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF VOTING EQUIPMENT ON:

October 27 at 1:00 PM
At the Greenwood Town Hall Offices
3000 Hwy 77, Tower MN 55790

JoAnn Bassing,
Greenwood Township Interim Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 21, 2022

MORCOM TOWNSHIP
Automark Testing

Morcom Township will be conducting their annual Automark Test for elections on Nov. 1, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Bear River School. The public is welcome to attend.

Sasha Lehto, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 21, 2022

CITY OF TOWER SAMPLE BALLOT

Official Ballot		
State General Election Ballot Saint Louis County, Minnesota November 8, 2022		
		Judge _____
		Judge _____
Instructions to Voters: To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ●		
Federal Offices	State Offices	City Offices
U.S. Representative District 8 Vote for One	Attorney General Vote for One	Mayor City of Tower Vote for One
<input type="radio"/> Pete Stauber Republican <input type="radio"/> Jen Schultz Democratic-Farmer-Labor <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any	<input type="radio"/> Jim Schultz Republican <input type="radio"/> Keith Ellison Democratic-Farmer-Labor <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any	<input type="radio"/> David Setterberg <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any
State Offices	County Offices	Council Member City of Tower Vote for Up to Two
State Senator District 3 Vote for One	County Commissioner District 4 Vote for One	<input type="radio"/> Joe Morin <input type="radio"/> Robert Anderson <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any
<input type="radio"/> Andrea Zupancich Republican <input type="radio"/> Grant Hauschild Democratic-Farmer-Labor <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any	<input type="radio"/> Paul McDonald <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any	<input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any
State Representative District 3A Vote for One	County Auditor - Treasurer Vote for One	Special Election for Council Member City of Tower To fill vacancy in term expiring January 1, 2025 Vote for One
<input type="radio"/> Roger J. Skraba Republican <input type="radio"/> Rob Ecklund Democratic-Farmer-Labor <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any	<input type="radio"/> Nancy Nilsen <input type="radio"/> Victore I. IronCroft <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any	<input type="radio"/> Tom Suihkonen <input type="radio"/> Joshua Zika <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any
Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote for One Team	County Sheriff Vote for One	School District Offices
<input type="radio"/> Steve Patterson and Matt Huff Grassroots - Legalize Cannabis <input type="radio"/> James McCaskel and David Sandbeck Legal Marijuana Now <input type="radio"/> Scott Jensen and Matt Birk Republican <input type="radio"/> Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan Democratic-Farmer-Labor <input type="radio"/> Hugh McTavish and Mike Winter Independence Alliance <input type="radio"/> Gabrielle M. Prosser and Kevin A. Dwire Socialist Workers <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any	<input type="radio"/> Kimberly J. Maki <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any	School Board Member District 3 Independent School District No. 2142-3 (St. Louis County) Vote for One <input type="radio"/> Ron Marinaro <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any
Secretary of State Vote for One	North Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor District 1 Vote for One	
<input type="radio"/> Kim Crockett Republican <input type="radio"/> Steve Simon Democratic-Farmer-Labor <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any	<input type="radio"/> Margaret (Peggy) Pearson <input type="radio"/> Janet Sue Sevearid Humphreys <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any	
State Auditor Vote for One	North Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor District 3 Vote for One	
<input type="radio"/> Will Finn Grassroots - Legalize Cannabis <input type="radio"/> Tim Davis Legal Marijuana Now <input type="radio"/> Ryan Wilson Republican <input type="radio"/> Julie Blaha Democratic-Farmer-Labor <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any	<input type="radio"/> Frank Modich <input type="radio"/> Chris Freeman <input type="radio"/> _____ write-in, if any	
City of Tower	0940	Typ:01 Seq:0153 Spl:01

EMPLOYMENT

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.

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EMPLOYMENT



Vermilion Senior Living

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

Our Current Open Shifts Include:

- AM/PM Shift (7AM-3PM)-(3PM-11PM)
- Overnight (11PM – 7AM)

Including rotating weekends.

These positions are responsible for:

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

Benefits:

- CNA/NOC pay differentials
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- Insurances are available 30 days after full time employment.
- 401(k)
- Flexible schedules available

Requirements:

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

Please contact Hailie Brondum at 218-753-7788 or hailieb@mnsignaturecare.com

10/21

Substance Use Disorder Counselor

Closes: 10/26/2022

Position Purpose: The Substance Use Disorder Counselor is responsible for maintaining a supportive, therapeutic environment within the client group setting, providing individual and/or group sessions as needed, monitoring the client’s progress, crisis intervention, direct services, follow-up, and supporting the treatment program and plan in the recovery of substance use disorders.

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

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 14 & 21, 2022

POSITION OPENING

Ely Public Schools

Cafeteria Aide

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

Qualifications include:

- Must be able to lift 30 lbs. on a regular basis
- Must be able to work in a fast-paced setting
- Preferred experience working with school age children
- Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting.

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

A complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume
- 2 letters of recommendation

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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$15.85/hour

Hours: 2.75 hours/day; 5 days/week; student contact days

Deadline to apply: November 1st; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 21 & 28, 2022

Legal notices are online each week at timberjay.com and at <https://www.mnpublicnotice.com/>

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.

GWEC AWTBICGP. OJ OI

OLUWBJQFJ JW IJQA UWIOJOEC

DCVQTIC DCQTJA VWLCI PBWL

JNC OFIOHC WTJ.

— YCFF UBWIZC

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COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

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

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

Peshel Accounting

We’re Hiring Receptionist

Looking for a person who is:

- Proficient in all Microsoft Programs
- Organized and Innovative
- Has Customer Service Experience
- High School Diploma or equivalent preferred

Monday - Thursday

email resume to jpeshel@gmail.com

10/14c



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



Financial Worker

\$20.47 - \$24.45 Hourly

Apply by 10/28/2022

www.stlouiscountymn.gov
or call 218-726-2422

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POSITION OPENING

CITY OF TOWER

Seasonal Maintenance Worker

For position description and to apply, visit www.cityoftower.com/positions-available
Deadline Friday, November 11

Super Crossword

Answers

T	I	M	E	D	E	L	A	Y	C	A	B	P	A	J	A	M	A	S			
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COOK

HOSPITAL & CARE CENTER

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OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Environmental Services

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

Casual Laundry Aide (Wage starting at \$14.68/hr)

Hospital/ER

PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting at \$35.17/hr, \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

PT Unit Clerk/HUC (Wage starting at \$17.36/hr. EMT and/or NA cert. required)

Care Center

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

Laboratory

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

Radiology

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

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Casual Radiologic Tech (Independent Contractor)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

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Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 21, 2022

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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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.

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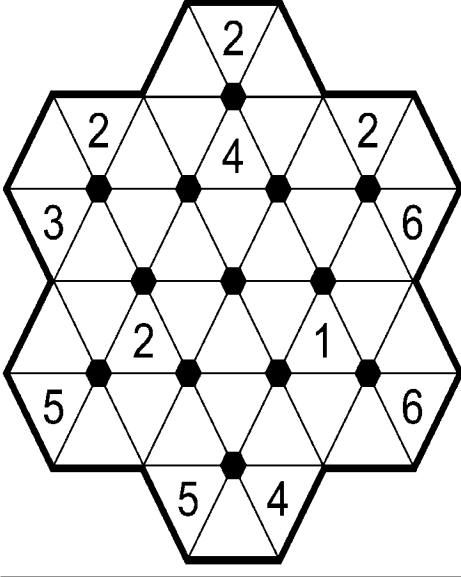
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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

AWOL

ACROSS

1 Lag

10 Hailed ride

13 Nightwear

20 Rust, essentially

21 Corrida cheer

22 Topped with ice cream

23 Katie Couric or Diane Sawyer

24 Spell-casting cartoon infant?

26 Commotion

27 Per unit

28 Brewskis

29 Chimed unstopably?

36 Unit of force

37 Turns inside out

38 Outback bird

39 Sarandon of “Alfie”

41 Put forward

42 Able to speak easily

45 Cheeky kid

50 Depose

51 Alice, for the Bradys

52 Where old Venetian magistrates dropped off their tots to be watched?

56 — -fi flick

57 One trying for strikes

59 Lawn tool

60 He has a famous lap

61 Stiller and Affleck co-hosting a New Year’s Eve special?

65 Really smell

66 Chaney of horror

67 Grazing field

68 Oolong, e.g.

70 Preminger of film

73 2 and 8, in Morse code?

83 Writer Kafka

85 Sources of 1-Down and 84-Down

86 Eye-irritating bulbs

87 “Kaboom!”

88 Boxer Spinks, to non-Americans?

91 Slimy garden crawler

92 With 94-Across, old hack paperbacks

93 Big name in canned heat

94 See 92-Across

96 Was sick

97 Hot winter quaff

101 Salty water

102 Snub

103 Move, to Realtors

107 Song about a fire breather who uses Apple computers?

111 Put on — (pretend)

113 One or the other

114 Child’s amuser

115 People who relax by listening to singer Johnny?

117 Calculated the total of

123 Honored academic retirees

124 Antique car

125 Medications taken by mouth

126 One backing up a soloist

127 Mem. of Congress

128 AWOL soldier ... or a feature of eight answers in this puzzle

DOWN

1 Element in bronze

2 Mad feeling

3 Groom grass

4 Nav. officer

5 The “D” of DJIA

6 Mass emigration

7 Highest or lowest point

8 “A Bell for —”

9 Hankering

10 Having two or more parts

11 “Mr. Klein” star Delon

12 Gives rise to

13 Toyotas of the 1990s

14 Boxing’s “Greatest”

15 Doorframe part

16 Fired (up)

17 Saunter

18 Ornament

19 Smell or taste

25 Tan shade

27 Highest point

29 Put on a blog again, e.g.

30 Affirm

31 Loch monster moniker

32 Bits of sand

33 Ex-Giant Mel

34 Quarreled bitterly

35 Tomb-raiding Croft

40 Antis’ votes

42 Doe’s baby

43 Cheery tune

44 Twister

46 Jewelry beetle

47 Rattan

48 Comedian Johnson

49 Pipe problem

51 Pitcher’s spot

53 Chatter idly

54 Squeak (out)

55 Bear’s retreat

57 Spooky cry

58 Applies, as some deodorant

62 One making an exact copy

63 Really small

64 Smarted

69 Gp. mobilized by a 911 call

70 Rip- — (filmlams)

71 Jogging pace

72 Weight deduction

74 Ending for buff or bass

75 Address for a techie

76 Apiary buzzer

77 Pant-length measurement

78 Money tray

79 Entre —

80 Literary last words

81 “Batman” actor Cesar

82 Ikea’s home

84 Element in bronze

89 Hair gel, e.g.

90 Eats as a snack

92 Actress Merrill or Spybey

95 Swerve

96 The “A” of USDA

98 Brings up to speed

99 “Don’t believe a word —!”

100 Dessert, to Brits

102 Rustic poems

103 Goes fast

104 As a friend, in French

105 Zapped with light

106 Earthy tone, to Brits

108 One more than a pair

109 Old game console

110 Soft drinks

112 Light haircut

116 Guess at Sea-Tac

117 Male turkey

118 Exiled Amin

119 Suffix with northeast

120 Used a spade

121 Fleece-lined boot brand

122 Chi follower

CryptoQuote

answer

Love yourself. It is important to stay positive because beauty comes from the inside out.

— Jenn Proske

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Obituaries and Death Notices



Carol M. Alstrom

Carol Marie Alstrom, 74, of Cokato, formerly of Tower, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022, at Cokato Manor. Carol will be missed by many, especially her former students and athletes with whom she kept in contact over the years. There will be a celebration of life in the spring of 2023 in the Tower area.

Carol was firstborn to Phillip and June Alstrom, on All Saints Day, Nov. 1, 1947, in Duluth. She was baptized and confirmed in her faith at Zion Lutheran Church. She attended school in International Falls, graduating in 1966. Carol was active in GAA (Girls Athletic Association), marching band, and had the wickedest slap shot at the 8th Street rink.

She continued her education by attending Bemidji State College where she got her teaching degree in physical education and health. While in college, she participated in field hockey, volleyball, softball and track. Carol was later inducted into the Bemidji State University Athletic Hall of Fame for excellence in athletics.

Carol started her teaching and coaching career at Tower-Sudan in 1970 and retired from Tower-Sudan in 2004. While teaching physical education and health, Carol started several girls athletic teams, including volleyball, basketball, swimming and track. She was passionate about keeping her students active and would earnestly pursue equipment so her students could try different activities, like rollerblades, unicycles and cross-country skis. Carol volunteered for various races and high school state tournaments. She was an excellent teacher and coach, getting the best out of her students and athletes.

In 2007, Carol moved in with her sister, Susan; they lived on a small lake

near Litchfield. She was an avid Minnesota Vikings fan, dressing in purple and gold from head to toe each and every game. Carol loved the Minnesota Gophers and reality TV shows as well.

Carol is survived by her brother, Dan (Barbara) of Glencoe; sister, Susan of Litchfield; cousins, Patty Ann (Andy) of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, Billy VanDyke (Carol) of Alexandria and Debbie (Geoffrey) of Osseo, Wis.; cats, Winnie and Shyloh; and nephew dog, Oliver.



Carolyn F. Donald, Ozhaawashkoozibiniisiik

Carolyn Faye Donald, 60, of the Bois Forte Vermilion Reservation, passed away on Monday, Oct. 10, 2022. Those who knew Carolyn also know that she valued her privacy and space. She will be greatly missed by many. Her final wishes were to not have a public funeral service; however, the family had a celebration of life at the Bois Forte Vermilion Social Center on Sunday, Oct. 16.

Carolyn was born on June 11, 1962, in Cook. She graduated from Tower-Soudan High School in 1980. After high school, she moved around the state and attended college at BSU and worked various places throughout the Iron Range, Twin Cities and Bemidji. Some of her favorite jobs were at the IDS Building in Minneapolis and Bemidji State University, where she took an early retirement for health concerns. She relocated back to the Vermilion Reservation where she lived out the rest of her days.

Those who knew Carolyn know that she loved singing, playing her guitar, listening to music, watching Tom Brady play football, going to concerts, being the family photographer, playing Scrabble, traveling, gardening, canning, hunting, fishing, parching rice, gathering berries and other medicines, cooking, and contributing to various community engagements.

But the thing she loved the most was her family, especially her nieces and nephews, whom she often cared for like they were her own children.

Carolyn will be missed by her father, Gary Donald; sisters, Gayle (Jim) Littlewolf and Leigh Donald; nieces and nephews, Wenona Kingbird, Jamie (BJ) Copenace, Andrea (Hershel) Gorham, Joanna (Tonya) Boyer-Knaak, Jessa (Ase) Boyer-Proulx, Emma (Levi) Brown and Gary Proudchief; numerous uncles, aunties, great-nieces and great-nephews; an abundance of close friends; and dog, Trigger.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Joanne Donald; sister, Coleen Jennings; nephew, Don Kingbird; and faithful cat, Freedom.



Allan L. Ehrich

Allan Lee Ehrich, 73, of Tower, died on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022, with his wife by his side, following a courageous four-year battle with cancer. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 24 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Aurora with Fr. Kristoffer McKusky officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Inurnment will be in the Forest Hill Cemetery Columbarium in Aurora. The family would like to thank the staff at East Range Hospice and Essentia Health-Northern Pines for the loving care Al received. Arrangements are with Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Aurora.

Allan was born on Aug. 14, 1949, to William and Agnes (Weideman) Ehrich in Redfield, S.D. While attending high school in Redfield, Al worked with his aunt and uncle on their family farm. He and a friend bought a baler and started a custom baling business. During his young adult years, he was also a truck driver. He moved to the Iron Range and began working at LTV Steel where he stayed until his retirement.

Al was united in marriage to Debbie Goette on July 26, 1991. He was an

active member of the Hoyt Lake JC's and the Tower Snowmobile Club. Al enjoyed farming, traveling, wintering in Florida for several winters, dancing, hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. Not only will he be remembered for his generosity and love for his family and friends, but also for his undying love for his John Deere tractors.

Survivors include his wife of 31 years, Debbie and her children, Sarah (Rusty) FitzGerald of Duluth and Emily (Tony) House of Hoyt Lakes; two daughters, Nicole Ehrich of Duluth and Brandi (Kenneth) Hascall of Wright; seventeen grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; three sisters, Connie Stewart of Abilene, Kan., Bonnie Boyd of Orient, S.D., and Sandy (Perry) Schmidt of Redfield, S.D.; daughter-in-law, Haley Ehrich of Cotton; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his son, Nathan Ehrich; two brothers, Larry and Jim Ehrich; two brothers-in-law; and his parents.



Brian H. Murphy

Brian H. Murphy, 75, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022, in Tucson, Ariz. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Lake Vermillion Cultural Center in his honor. This act of kindness will help to fund the restoration of the church he cared so much about. Mail to: Brian Murphy Memorial Fund, Lake Vermillion Cultural Center, PO Box 659, Tower, MN 55790.

Brian was born in Virginia in 1947 to Daniel J. Murphy and Ruth E. Murphy. He was a proud man in the construction industry. He dedicated 35 years of his life working with the fine men and women of Sundt Construction. Brian made regular donations to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, a church that was near and dear to him.

Brian is survived by his brother, wife, son, three daughters, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Marjorie J. Jackson

Marjorie "Mardy" Jean Reinertsen Jackson, The Loon Lady, 94, formerly of Lake Vermilion, left us quietly at home listening to sounds of the loons and the Northwoods, on Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022. A celebration of life will take place at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 23 at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel with visitation one hour prior. Interment will be at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 24 at Acacia Park Cemetery in St. Paul. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the International Wolf

Center in Ely or the Animal Humane Society. Arrangements are with Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel.

Who was she? A mom, a beauty, a traveler, a reader, an adventurer, a listener, a humorist, a cook, a perfectionist, a writer, a nature lover. She was filled with loyalty, integrity, class, and above all, love.

Mardy is survived by her favorite daughters, Leah (Brian) Woolsey, Kimberly (George) Miller and Debora (Tom) Bliss; seven grandchildren, Brian (Deb) Woolsey, Ben (Jennifer) Woolsey, Molly (Brent) Faul, Kelly (Chris) Blumberg, Alana (Joseph) Bliss, Kevin Bliss and Dustin (Betsy) Bliss; nine great-grandchildren; and wonderful sisters, Mary Erickson and Virginia Abrahamson.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Byrd Belle and Edgar William Reinertsen; brother, Robert Reinertsen; sister, Dorothy Doescher; and former husband, Robert Jackson.

Earl E. Hill

Earl E. Hill, 83, passed away on Friday, Sept. 2, 2022, at a care facility in Oregon City, Ore. A military service of burial was held on Monday, Sept. 26 at the Veterans Cemetery in Happy Valley, Ore.

Earl was born on Sept. 21, 1938, in Vermilion Lake Township. In his early years he lived in Virginia, moving back to the Tower area as a teenager, with his parents. He graduated from Embarrass High School. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he moved to Milwaukee, Wis., to work for General Electric as a technician in the x-ray division while attending the Milwaukee School of Engineering and subsequently Marquette University, pursuing an electrical engineering degree. He moved into sales, selling x-ray machines and equipment in the Portland, Ore., area. He left GE to start his own business selling and servicing x-ray equipment.

While business provided a good living, Earl's real passion was woodworking. Throughout his life he built beautiful furniture, cabinets, a sailboat, and a post and beam structure for a cabin on Lake Vermilion. All of his expertise was self-taught.

Earl is survived by his daughter, Kelly (George) Heiney of Milwaukee, Ore.; son, Jeffrey of Battle Ground, Wash.; granddaughter, Lacey Hill of San Diego, Calif.; brother, Jack of Minnetonka; one niece and two nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Kyllonen Hill; parents, Ernest and Madie Hill; and sister, Phyllis Hill Johnson.

Lillian I. Angelo

Lillian "Lil" Irene Linnea Niemi Angelo, 100, originally of Embarrass, entered Heaven on Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022. Many thanks to Edgewood Vista in Virginia and the HealthPartners Hospice team, especially Kim, Nikki, Sharon, Brenton and Pastor Phyllis, who assisted in continuing her quality of life. She will be cremated and join her husband.

band at Calvary Cemetery in Virginia. Memorials are preferred to a local food shelf or Second Harvest.

She is survived by her daughters, Patricia Blake and Barbara Angelo; sons-in-law, Ronald Blake and Butch Blawd; grandchildren, Christine Granlund, Paul (Amy) Grigal, Steve (Christy) Boho and Megan Grigal; great-grandsons, Ryan, Kyle, Kazimer, Nico and Gabe; great-granddaughter, Kelsey; great-great-granddaughter, Maya; sister-in-law, Joyce Niemi; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Joan L. Gustafson

Joan Lee Anderson Gustafson, 89, of Virginia and formerly of Lake Vermilion, passed away peacefully at Carefree Living of Virginia on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022, surrounded by her loving family. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22 at Range Funeral Home in Virginia with visitation one hour prior to the service. A graveside gathering will be held at 2 p.m. at the Greenwood Cemetery. The family is deeply grateful to the staff of Carefree Living of Virginia and Moments Hospice for their loving care and presence. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her son, Steven Ray Gustafson (Anne); daughter, Donna Lee Gustafson (John); grandson, Mike Gams (Michelle); great-granddaughters, Naveah, Hannah and Adrianna; and several nephews and nieces.

Paulette L. Tekavec

Paulette Louise Pishler Tekavec, 81, of Ely, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022, at Carefree Living in Babbitt. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with visitation held one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow at the Ely Cemetery. The family is thankful to Northwoods Partners, Meals on Wheels, and special home health nurse aide, Morgan, who all assisted Paulette so she could stay at home as long as she did. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her children, Deb Campbell of Ely, Denise Jordan (Brian Floen) of Jonesboro, Ark., and John Tekavec (Teresa) of Hinckley; grandchildren, Paul Starkovich (Tasha) Jr., Erica Starkovich, Nicholas Jordan, Sean Jordan, Clarence Jordan IV "Drew", Robert Tekavec, Dana Tekavec and Jenna Tekavec; three great-grandchildren; brother, Paul (Judy) Pishler of Soudan; sister, Jeanette Hutar of Minneapolis; and all her loving and caring friends.

Jan E. Lekatz

Jan Eleanor Johnson Lekatz, 77, of Ely, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, at the Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely from complications from hip surgery. There will be no service per her request. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her husband, Frank Lekatz; sisters, Diane Treno and Wendy (Russ) Meyer; sister-in-law, Louise (Andy) Kainz; brother-in-law, John (Mary Ann) Lekatz; and numerous nephews and nieces.

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Ely School Board candidates sound off at AAUW forum

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

ELY – Seven of nine candidates running for the upcoming ISD 696 school board election on Nov. 8 were present at the Minnesota North-Vermilion Auditorium on Oct. 11 for a candidate forum hosted by the Ely branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Ely Rotary Club. The questions for the night’s forum were submitted by Ely residents and covered a wide range of topics.

Current school board chair Ray Marsnik and Anthony Bermel are vying for the one available two-year term. The remaining five candidates in attendance included incumbents Tony Colarich and Rochelle Sjoberg, interim board member Chad Davis, Jeremy Engen, and Jennifer Westlund. All five are running for three of the available four-year terms. Also in the running for a four-year term are Claire High and Mike Scherbing, both of whom were unable to attend.

Each candidate was given an opportunity to introduce him or herself and give an opening statement.

The introductions began with Ray Marsnik who thanked the AAUW and Ely Roatry club for sponsoring the event and emphasized the importance of hearing from the candidates regarding their vision for the school district.

Marsnik, who was born and raised in Ely and a is graduate of Ely High School, went on to attend Ely Junior College which is now MN North. After this, Marsnick obtained a bachelor’s and master’s from Bemidji State and taught in the Lake Superior, Biwabik, and Mesabi East school districts for 35 years. After retiring from teaching, Marsnik ran for the ISD 696 school board and has served for the past 21 years. Marsnik stated that he believes his experience will be an attribute to his continued service on the board.

Anthony Bermel lives in Ely with his wife and three children in grades 5, 4 and 2 at Washington Elementary. He attended VCC in the mid 2000s. Bermel said, “I decided to run for school board because of what I believe was kind of a disaster to start the last school year. Regardless of what side of the COVID argument you’re on, I think that the beginning of the last school year was very poorly handed. I’ve also read a lot about agendas

creeping into to public education around the nation that have me concerned. I felt like if I didn’t try to get on the board and more of this comes into our school that I would kick myself for not having tried here.”

Bermel said that he is active in the community through his job in public service as a DNR conservation officer and that experience enables him to deal with adversity. He is also the current chair of the police commission, a little league coach, and an elder at the Embarrass Evangelical Free Church.

Tony Colarich is married and has three adult sons and is a graduate of Ely high school and VCC. He also obtained a degree from UMD in Business Administration and Economics and is a retired miner. Colarich said, “The school board oversees the workings of the district, provides leadership, takes care of the business at hand, and plans for the future. I will continue to do that if I’m elected. I would ensure that the district is a safe and secure school. I will strive to have every student graduate with a quality education. I would ensure that the district is financially viable and remains an independent school district while continuing to work on the building facilities plan. I want to continue to provide service to community and to the school board.”

Chad Davis was appointed to an interim seat on the board last May when it was vacated by former board member Darren Visser. Davis grew up in Illinois and earned a degree in architecture from Kansas State University. He is licensed in real estate and property and casualty insurance and owns and operates a couple of businesses in the Ely area.

“My parents and brothers moved up here to Ely nearly 30 years ago. About ten years ago, my wife Tiffany (who teaches second grade) and I decided to settle our family here as well,” he said. Davis has two children, one of whom is currently a sophomore at Memorial High School. Davis is a former vice president of the little league board and coach. “I first became interested in running for the school board after voicing my concerns on a few issues and learning about how certain decisions are made and why. I want to make sure that all voices are not only heard, but that different viewpoints are represented on the school board

and make sure that Ely schools provide the best possible learning environment for all students,” he said.

Jeremy Engen is a 1998 a graduate of Ely High School and 2017 Electronic Controls and Maintenance graduate from Mesabi Range in Eveleth. A union shop steward, Engen is also a volunteer assistant hockey coach and the father of a seventh grader and a fourth grader. “The main reason I’m running is for the best interest of them and all the students in the school district. In the 24 years since my departure from the Ely school, I have watched as taxpayer funds have been mismanaged and misused,” he said. Engen was critical of both the district’s building project, which he said wasn’t delivering what was promised, and last year’s decisions related to COVID.

Ely native and Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital Human Resources Officer Rochelle Sjoberg is a nine-year member of the board who is married and has two Ely High School graduates. Sjoberg said she spent several years living in California before moving back to Ely. “Over the last nine years, I started filling in on an interim position and with that really gained a passion for the district as a whole, the education of all students and really got to know a lot of our district staff, and that is why I am sitting here today. Certainly, everyone knows that the last two years has been the most challenging of the nine. My passion is still with the school, the amazing staff, and all students have to be represented.” Sjoberg noted that board members often have to make decisions that some will disagree with, but that they must make the best decisions they can with the available information. “I am proud of the things I’ve done with the current board,” she said.

Jennifer Westlund identified herself as an Iron Ranger who has lived in Ely for 23 years. She has used her bachelor’s degrees in biology and environmental studies as supervisor for Bear Head

Lake State Park for the past 15 years. She and her husband Matt have two children in sixth and tenth grades. “We’ve had great relationships with Ely school staff throughout the years, and I want to continue to support the wonderful work that they’re doing,” Westlund said. “I’m running because I’m a parent who cares about preparing our kids to enter the workforce or higher education set to succeed.” Westlund touted her experiences with policies, strategic planning, employee relations, budgeting, construction project oversight, and communication, and her service on numerous community boards, as reasons she is qualified for a position on the board.

Following candidate introductions, AAUW representative Kay Vandervort and Rotary representative Jeff Sundell asked the questions. Each individual candidate was asked a question about a specific topic, and all candidates were given opportunities to respond to answers given by other candidates in a response segment following each round. Following are the questions directed to specific candidates and their responses.

Question to Marsnik: If the budget has to be reduced, where would you look to make those reductions?

Marsnik: “We should be making our cuts as far away from the students as possible. In my tenure on the board, we went through some tough times where we did have to make cuts. That has always been my philosophy.”

Question to Bermel: If COVID cases within the community or school rise significantly, under what circumstances would you vote to return to remote learning or masking? What other measures do you recommend to protect the health of students and staff?

Bermel: “I would not at any point in time not do in-person learning, and I don’t believe masking was effective in any way, shape or form. Obviously, health and safety is extremely important. We all want our teachers, our stu-

dents to stay healthy. Stay home when you’re sick. Hand washing. There’s so many things that can be done, but I think that in-person education, being able to have parents help make health decisions for their own children, being able to have faces uncovered and being able to have real social interaction, all those things are just too important to risk going back the other way.”

Question to Colarich: As you know, Minnesota is an open enrollment state. How will you compete with schools that provide one-to-one technology for students to use and take home with them and how will you ensure staff members have the technological expertise to utilize technology to the best advantage of the students?

Colarich: “When COVID first came about, the board made sure that each student had a laptop to bring home, and with open enrollment, you can gain students. There is a program where 2-1/2 percent of a yearly budget goes into teacher training.”

Question to Davis: Is it important for Ely students to be taught a complete and accurate history of racial justice in the United States? Why or why not?

Davis: “Yes. One hundred percent it’s important. What’s equally as important is for our educational system to foster reciprocal discussion and allow an opportunity for our students to critically think through issues and problems in the classroom. As long as we’re doing that, I think we’re doing what we can and giving our students whether they decide to go on to college or they decide to be an electrician, plumber, any kind of skills, trades whatever the case is, we need to foster that environment for our students to critically think and be able to have civil discussion not only in the classroom but in the community as well.”

Question to Engen: School safety is a big issue in the United States today. In addition to the school building project, are there any measures you would propose to better protect our students?

Engen: “I do believe in having well trained teachers, possibly in conflict resolution, not necessarily armed, but not necessarily not armed. This whole school renovation was designed for a safe learning environment. With the money that was spent in all this we could’ve put armed retired military people at every door. I do believe having trained staff would be the start.”

Question to Sjoberg: There are always students who have difficulty learning in the traditional school environment. Do you have any thoughts about how to ensure the needs of all students are met?

Sjoberg: “The most important thing for this is going to be qualified staff. Part of what we can do as a board is support through policy enforcement that our teachers have the resources and the tools to work with each student. It’s good to be open minded and to bring forth ways that we as a board can support each teacher in setting up their classroom style for the students which they are teaching.”

Question to Westlund: Studies indicate that the skills most lacking in young people entering the workforce are communication, critical thinking and problem solving. What can the school board do to ensure Ely students are ready for the challenges they will meet as they strive for success?

Westlund: “The school board’s role I would see as encouraging teachers and staff to look at reports, see what is lacking or needing to be addressed, and the school board finding ways to give teachers the resources - be it professional development, opportunities to bring in outside resources, encouraging those political debates, encouraging outside viewpoints to come in.”

The forum concluded with closing remarks from each candidate.

To hear more of each candidate’s answers and rebuttals please watch the recording of the meeting on YouTube by searching “Ely MN School Board Candidate Forum, 2022.”

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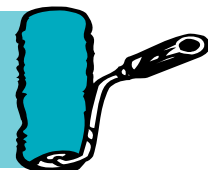
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