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EIGHTH DISTRICT RACE

Plenty of sharp elbows in Eighth District forum

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The two leading candidates in Minnesota’s Eighth District congressional race held a spirited debate in Hibbing last Friday, sponsored by the Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce.

Both candidates came out swinging from the start. In his



Pete Stauber



Jen Schultz

opening statement, current U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber accused his DFL opponent, Jen Schultz, of

“voting with Twin Cities liberals to abolish our mining industry” and falsely stated that she was the chief author of a “prove it first” bill Stauber claimed was the most anti-mining legislation in the state’s history. “Unlike my opponent, I am the champion for mining on the Iron Range and in the United States. I am fighting for our families,” Stauber said.

Schultz, who has spent eight

years in the Minnesota House representing the Duluth area, fired back. “I’m running for Congress to solve problems and get things done and I’ve been a state representative doing just that, working across the aisle, working with all parties and what you’ve just heard are a bunch of lies,” she said. “It all makes a good sound clip for Pete’s campaign but a lot of that is not true.”

Schultz, an economist who teaches at UMD when not in the Legislature, offered a bit of her background, noting that she was raised by a single mother after her parents divorced when she was five years old. “And we struggled,” she added. “I know what it’s like to struggle, to not have money, to take government

See...FORUM pg. 10

Right: Cade Gornick and daughter Ada were out on the streets of Tower for after-school trick-or-treating on Monday.

Below: Olivia Horvat, at the Northern Tier Trunk or Treat event at Whiteside Park on Monday.

Below right: Faith Mickle attempts a grin while eating a hot dog at a party at Cook Community Center.

photos by Timberjay staff



‘Twas a Happy Halloween

Lizards, wizards & unicorns



GREEN JOBS ON THE RANGE

Mt. Iron solar panel plant expands

New facility dedicated to the late Sen. David Tomassoni

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

MT. IRON— More than 100 people, including both of Minnesota’s U.S. Senators turned out here to pay homage to the past and highlight the future of green energy employment on the Iron Range late last week. It was the official ribbon-cutting of a major expansion for Heliene, a Canadian-

based company that manufactures solar panels, otherwise known as photovoltaics, from its plant in Mt. Iron. The expansion, which was dedicated last Thursday to the late Sen. David Tomassoni, includes a much larger and more advanced solar panel assembly operation that will vastly expand the plant’s production.

See...SOLAR pg. 10

Right: Dante Tomassoni, the son of the late Sen. David Tomassoni is flanked by Sens. Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar in front of a plaque dedicating the new Heliene expansion to his father. Also pictured are Heliene CEO Martin Pochtaruk, Sen. Tom Bakk, and IRRR Commissioner Mark Phillips.

photo by M. Helmlinger



ELECTION 2022

Tuesday’s ballot offers lots of choices for voters

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL— North Country voters will head to the polls on Tuesday to cast ballots in a number of closely contested races at both state and local levels.

Nearly 550,000 Minnesotans have requested absentee or mail-in ballots, the lowest number since the 2014 midterm election, and about four times less than the 2.2 million during the COVID-impacted 2020 election.



State office contests

Topping the statewide ballot is the governor’s race between incumbent DFLer Tim Walz and Republican challenger Scott Jensen. Recent polls suggest this race is a virtual dead heat going into Election Day.

Attorney General Keith Ellison appears to be fighting an uphill battle against Republican Jim Schultz, who held a five-point edge over the DFL incumbent in the latest polls.

DFL Secretary of State Steve Simon looks to hold a slight edge over Republican candidate Kim Crockett.

Eighth District

Current Eighth District

See..ELECTION pg. 12



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Community notices

Embarrass Region Fair Association to host "A Very Special Pancake Breakfast" on Nov. 5

EMBARRASS - The Embarrass Region Fair Association is sponsoring a pancake breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 5 at Timber Hall from 8 – 11 a.m. The breakfast is intended to serve three purposes: to honor veterans, all of whom will be served breakfast free of charge; to recognize Roland "Charlie" Fowler's 90th birthday; and an opportunity to check out the talents of local crafters who will have items on sale from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Breakfast includes all-you-can-eat pancakes, choice of ham or sausage links, fruit cup, juice and a bottomless cup of coffee. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children aged 6-10, and free for children five and under.

Linda Grover will speak at Mesabi Unitarian on Sunday, Nov. 6

VIRGINIA- On Sunday, Nov. 6, Linda LeGarde Grover Ed.D. will present a program on "Vermilion Lake Boarding Schools, A History in Prose and Poetry" at the Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church. Grover, an Anishinaabe novelist, short story writer and poet, member of the Bois Forte Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Professor Emeritus of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, will share her writings to display truth through stories and poems. The service is at 10:30 a.m., the church is located at 230 7th Street S, Virginia and the building is handicap accessible. More information is available at <http://www.mesabiuiu.info/>.

Ladies and Knights of Kaleva to meet

VIRGINIA- The Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 and Knights of Kaleva will be meeting Thursday, Nov. 10, at 6 p.m. at Kaleva Hall. The program will be on Aarikka Jewelry. Sandra Markovich will highlight the history of the company; how it has evolved and its uniqueness. Please bring pieces of Aarikka Jewelry or other products from the company if you have any. We would like people to share the beauty and distinctiveness of these 100-percent Finnish crafts. Coffee and goodies will be served. Everyone is welcome.

DINNER THEATER

"A Cornucopia of Song and Dance" dinner theater on Nov. 11 and 12 at Giants Ridge

BIWABIK- Mesabi Musical Theatre (MMT) will present a fall dinner theatre revue, "A Cornucopia of Song and Dance," on Friday, Nov. 11 and Saturday, Nov. 12 at the Giants Ridge chalet in Biwabik. This fundraising event will replace Forever Plaid, the musical MMT had previously planned for November.

"Our organization sees this as an opportunity to focus our financial and human resources on our summer 2023 musical," said producer Tucker Nelson. "We were excited to perform Forever Plaid, yet we know audiences will enjoy this evening of delicious food and entertainment by talented local performers."

MMT is hosting the event with Giants Ridge golf and ski resort. On both nights, dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., and performances will begin at 7 p.m. Three entree choices are offered: wild rice meatloaf: wrapped in house-made bacon and served with scalloped potatoes and



fresh seasonal vegetables; yurkey breast: slow-roasted and hand-carved and served with roasted sweet potatoes and fresh seasonal vegetables' vegetable lo mein: fresh vegetables sauteed and tossed in tangy garlic ginger sauce with lo mein noodles. All entrees are served with a tossed salad and fresh-baked dinner rolls.

Giants Ridge is also giving away a date night package (two lift

tickets and a \$25 Burnt Onion gift certificate) each night.

General admission tickets are \$33, and tickets for students and senior citizens are \$31. To reserve tickets, visit <http://www.mesabimusicalthatre.com/current-show> and fill out an online reservation form, or call 218-404-5349. A limited number of show-only tickets will be available at the door.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Arrowhead Transit director Larson recognized for years of service

VIRGINIA- Arrowhead Transit Director Jack Larson received the distinguished career award during the Minnesota Public Transit Conference on Oct. 24 in St. Cloud. He was recognized for his more than 20 years of service to public transportation. Larson will retire at the end of December. Arrowhead Transit is owned

and operated by Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA).

Vermilion Fine Arts Theater hosts "A Night At the Theater" Nov. 4, 5

ELY- The public is invited to enjoy "A Night at the Theater: A Showcase of Scenes, Stories and Monologues" on Friday, Nov. 4 and Saturday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. This event is held in the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater on the MN

North Ely Campus. This performance is a pay-what-you-can event. Seating is limited, reserve your ticket online at northernlightsarts.org.

Hometown Holiday Choir rehearsals begin in Ely

ELY- You are invited to join in joyful harmony and sing with our Hometown Holiday Choir. Rehearsals will start Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 6:30 p.m. They will rehearse weekly at that time until the Hometown Holiday Concert, which will be at 7 p.m. on Dec. 17 at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater.

Tickets are on sale for our Holiday Hometown Concert. This is a one-night-only event with local singers ringing in the holiday season with an evening of Christmas songs, caroling, and much holiday frivolity. They are \$10 and are available on the website or at the door.

There is only a one-night showing of this event.

Youths Art Show Reception at Ely State Theater

ELY- The public is invited to the opening reception for the Celebrating Our Youth art show on Monday, Nov. 7 from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Ely State Theater. Please come and support your area youth and their art!

New resident potluck at the Ely Folk School

ELY- Boundary Waters Connect is hosting a New Resident Potluck Meeting on Monday, Nov. 14 from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Ely Folk School. The potluck will be a fun way to connect with new people, process your new resident experience, and learn about Boundary Waters Connect's programs (including our forthcoming community-themed book-club-type program!) Bringing a potluck item is encouraged, but not required.

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COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

Revenue center vacancy offers chance to revive community complex

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— Longstanding plans for a recreational and wellness center here took a hit from the COVID-19 pandemic. But one of the side effects of shutdowns sparked by the initial arrival of the disease here in the North Country may have created the opportunity to resurrect that original dream.

The state Department of Revenue's collections center in Ely was one of many workplaces around the state that sent workers home to do their jobs remotely. It proved popular with the state workers, who never came back to the 16,000-square-foot officespace, now for sale, located on Miner's Drive. The Ely City Council, on Tuesday, approved a purchase agreement under which it would facilitate the purchase of the building by the Ely Area Community Foundation, or EACF.

The nonprofit EACF hopes to convert the now vacant building to a recreation and wellness center, as well as a childcare center. "We're still working out the details," said

EACF board chair Jeff Sundell, who hopes to have a deal and much more information about the group's plans within a few weeks.

While the plan only recently came to light during a meeting of the Ely City Council, Sundell said the EACF has been conducting its due diligence and working to arrange other possible tenants for the site for months. Among the tenants they hope to have in place is a childcare provider, which could provide services for up to 40 kids. "It would be one of the main drivers for the facility," said Sundell. "There is a great need for it," he said. "Our largest employers, in particular, are really in need of daycare."

Sundell said the initial phase of the project will include the renovations necessary to create a fitness and wellness center in addition to the childcare facility. "The idea behind it is a gathering place for health and wellness," he added. As part of a second phase of the project, Sundell said the group hopes to add a pool, which would be housed in an addition to



The Minnesota Department of Revenue building on Miner's Drive could possibly serve as the long anticipated rec center.

the building. The current site has sufficient room for that addition as well as needed parking, according to Sundell.

The EACF had been ready to move forward with a similar facility near the Ely hospital back in 2019. "We had a memo of understanding with the hospital and the YMCA, and then COVID hit and destroyed all that," said Sundell.

The organization has had

resources to continue to pursue the project thanks to a \$5 million donation made several years earlier to support the concept. While those funds are still available to the EACF, Sundell said the current project will require additional fundraising to complete and that the group will be reaching out to government agencies and the public to bridge those funding gaps. Sundell said the organization

is wrapping up the pre-design phase to ensure that there is sufficient room for the project and to determine where the facility will need to be subdivided. The original space is mostly open, since the state employees worked from cubicles that have since been removed. It does have a conference room and a few other administrative offices. "We're working through how extensive the renovations would need to be," said Sundell.

Assuming the details are ironed out, the project would be a major accomplishment for the EACF which took on the task of developing the Ely Regional Community Complex after the agreement with the hospital fell apart.

Sundell, who had led that earlier effort, has continued to work on the idea, and now is hopeful that the concept will finally be able to move forward. "This project has been years in the making and I really think the community and the area will be very pleased with what it will bring to the area."

Cook bypassed again for LP Solutions siding plant expansion

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK— Manufactured wood products company LP Solutions announced plans for continued expansion at an investors meeting Monday, but once again the company's Cook facility wasn't in their immediate plans.

Instead, to more quickly meet rising demand for its increasingly popular SmartSide siding, company CEO Brad Southern said LP Solutions will install a second production line at its Houlton, Maine plant. Southern said the

plant is positioned well to take advantage of the extensive presence of aspen trees in the region and can more readily facilitate distribution to East Coast markets for remodeling and repair of houses, along with outbuildings, which now comprise around half of SmartSide sales.

A second new facility planned for eastern Washington won't be a siding production facility. Rather, it will produce a new product, ExpertFinish, by taking primed SmartSide and painting one of 16 colors designed for home markets.

Since 2016, when Southern

became the company's chief operating officer, manufacturing plant conversions have been a critical component of a long-term strategy to shift the company's product mix more toward siding and specialty products and away from reliance on oriented strand board. Adding another production line to its recently converted Houlton facility is a quicker and more cost-effective fit with that strategy.

And with new home starts falling, it appears the strategy is paying off.

"Comparing only the third

quarter (2022 to 2021), single family starts were down 18 percent compared to last year," Southern told investors. "The siding sales grew by 27 percent, with SmartSide and ExpertFinish both setting new records for volume and price in the quarter."

The long-shuttered plant south of Cook has become less of a retooling prospect over time, but last February Southern said the site was being considered for a possible greenfield development, a new production facility that would feature the latest technological developments. With

greater expense and longer lead time to come into production, the Houlton expansion was a better option for the company's current needs, he said.

The Cook site's location in the middle of northeast Minnesota's aspen basket still makes future development of the site for siding production a possibility, but as in the past, if or when LP Solutions does something with the property remains unclear. The *Timberjay* reached out to LP Solutions by email on Tuesday for additional information but had not received a response by press time.

Minnesota is offering free CNA training through February

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL— The Minnesota Next Generation Nursing Assistant initiative, a program which provides free training, books, uniforms, and exams for aspiring Certified Nurse Assistants, will continue to be available through February 2023 thanks to an additional \$2.4 million allocation

from THE state's COVID-19 Management Appropriation fund.

Colleges in the Minnesota State system and some private training providers are offering CNA coursework on-site and through hybrid and online options. Hybrid options are primarily delivered online with a minimum number of on-campus attendance required.

As of Tuesday, 11 of the 19

classes listed on the Minnesota State website were full, had waiting lists, or required approval for enrollment. No on-campus training is currently being provided in the North Country region. Potential students are encouraged to frequently search the Minnesota State website for "Next Generation" to view available classes, as new courses are being added.

To be eligible for the free Next Generation program, students must be at least 16 years of age and able to work in the U.S. Some institutions may have their own enrollment requirements and may require background checks. All employers, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, and veterans homes will require background checks and up-to-date vaccinations, including COVID-

19 vaccinations. In addition to the coursework, students must successfully complete a skills test and a knowledge test to be certified.

For additional information about the Next Generation Nursing Assistant initiative, including links to training and testing opportunities, visit www.ohc.state.mn.us/CNATraining/.

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Buyck-\$589,000 19.87-acre Echo Trail off-grid property with a 2,900 sq ft custom Timber Frame home has wrap-around deck, granite and ash flooring, custom cabinets and in-floor heat. **MLS#143246**

Elbow Lake-\$159,000 530 ft of shoreline on 3.83 acres with towering pines. Road-access! **MLS#136256**

Lake Vermilion-\$125,000 Pine Island 3.5 +/- acre lot with 205+/- Lake Vermilion shoreline. **MLS#137634**

Pickerel Lake, Effie-\$69,900 4.13 acres with 422 ft of shoreline on Pickerel Lake near Deer Lake. **MLS#141001**

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Editorial

Consider the future

Only one party has demonstrated an interest in helping our communities

One of the questions that every voter should be asking themselves as they head to the polls next Tuesday is whether to vote on the status of the country, the state, or their community today, or on where they would like things to be in a year, in five years, or a decade from now.

The future is the only thing that those we elect this Tuesday can control, and that future may well look different depending on the decisions we make. We should be asking, what are the challenges facing our communities and which party's candidates are most likely to positively address those issues?

When we hear local leaders in our communities, we hear about the lack of affordable housing. We hear about the lack of access to childcare, which is keeping many parents from entering a job market that is desperate for workers. We hear about the need for good jobs, mental health care, quality schools, and a high quality of life that will attract new residents and new businesses to the area.

All of these things require investment to address and given the continuing lack of much private investment capital in our region, that means investment by government sources. As we reported recently, public and private investment is likely to help significantly increase childcare slots in Ely, perhaps as early as next spring. Public investment made it possible for Ely to complete a major upgrade to the public schools and is funding a new trailhead facility to welcome visitors. Public and private investment in Tower has brought big improvements to the city's Main Street and helped a promising manufacturing company expand and nearly quadruple its work force. Public dollars, along with volunteers, have created awesome new trails that improve quality of life and boost visitation.

Public and private investment has brought, or is in the process of bringing, ultra-fast broadband to many parts of our region and is upgrading infrastructure in numerous other communities here in the North Country.

These major new investments were made possible by the political decisions we've made in the past. Whether such investments are made in the future will depend on the choices we make on Tuesday.

There's been a lot of political noise and spin tossed at area voters during the campaign, and more than the usual amount ended up in our mailboxes this year, virtually all of it intended to distract us from the things

that really matter.

The price of gas at the pump is one such example. Given that none of our leaders, either at the federal, state, or local level, have any significant control over the price of a global commodity like oil, no informed voter would base their vote on such an indicator. It's like voting based on the wind direction on Election Day.

While some have blamed President Biden for his decision to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline, that decision had no impact on the price of oil, the price of gas at the pump, or U.S. oil production. Those are facts. The pipeline, which never operated, was built to ship Canadian tar sands oil to refineries on the Gulf Coast, two-thirds of which was destined for export. It had no impact on U.S. production of oil, which has recovered to pre-pandemic levels. The U.S. remains a net exporter of petroleum despite the empty political rhetoric to the contrary.

The bottom-line question, though, is which party's policies will lead to improvement in our communities—now and in the future. We know that Democratic candidates have and will continue to support the kind of investments in our communities that have brought recent improvements and will continue to do so, despite the global challenges posed by a pandemic and a major war in Ukraine.

Republicans have made it clear what they support—tax cuts for corporations and the rich, at the expense of public investment. But don't take our word for it. GOP leaders have already said that's a top priority even though tax cuts are a pump-priming policy that will worsen inflation and the deficit, while doing nothing for our communities. Republicans have no ideas for improving northeastern Minnesota, just empty rhetoric about "fighting for our way of life." So, they try to distract low information voters with gas prices and their interminable, phony culture wars.

We have one party, despite its flaws, that's demonstrated a legitimate interest in governing for the betterment of our communities. A party that doesn't bury its head in the sand when it comes to climate change or pretend that putting ever more guns on the street is the solution to gun violence. A party that believes medical decisions should be between you and your doctor, not up to politicians. Consider the future—all of our futures, when you go to vote next Tuesday.

MAGIC 8 BALL



Joe Heller 2022
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Letters from Readers

Grant Hauschild will just deliver for our communities

Grant is running for state Senate because he wants our state to be better for our kids, our workers, and our seniors than it is now.

Grant has a wide range of federal, state, and local experience.

He has worked in rural economic development for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA), assisted with administering grants and loans for rural small businesses, energy cooperatives, broadband expansions, and rural housing projects and will support projects like these statewide.

He served as a labor policy aide to U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, helping to draft U.S. Postal Reform legislation to keep our rural mail service intact and helped deliver pay raises for hundreds of civilian Air Force employees.

Locally, Grant serves as a Hermantown city councilor. He works at improving the community and understanding issues that matter most to people, from things like local infrastructure, to complex challenges like childcare issues, and workforce shortages.

Grant serves as the executive director of a healthcare foundation where he raises money for patients and families who can't afford the costs associated with their care and he believes that around the Northland, people go out of their way to have each other's back. He supports affordable healthcare for everyone and will work to hold insurance and drug companies accountable for skyrocketing costs. He will protect women's healthcare rights!

Grant is a common-sense, moderate, pro-labor, Democratic candidate who is pro-mining, who supports our trades, forests, green energy, and tourism industries here in the Northland and will help move them forward in an environmentally responsible way!

Grant has the backing of Steelworkers, Nurses, 49er's, Teamsters, Firefighters, Plumbers, Pipefitters, Ironworkers, Carpenters,

Laborers, Duluth Bldg. Trades, MAPE, AFSCME, Education Minnesota, Farmers, Native People's and Veterans caucuses. He will support you and labor issues!

As a state Senator, Grant will focus on bread-and-butter economic issues and keep us safe by working to increase public safety funding for police, mental health services, and fix the funding gap for rural EMS.

He supports eliminating state income taxes on retiree Social Security benefits.

He will work to fully fund our schools with state funding to help keep property taxes from continuing to rise, provide childcare tax credits for families, not tax cuts for millionaires.

Join me, Rep. Tony Sertich, Sen. Doug Johnson, and others in electing **GRANT Hauschild** as our next state Senator!

Bill Erzar
Ely

Zupancich is the best candidate to replace me

I have served for 28 years as a member of the Legislature representing northeastern Minnesotans. In that time, I have fought hard for our values at the Capitol and learned how to navigate the difficult legislative process to benefit my constituents. I have been elected and re-elected ten times by large margins because the voters know I put their interests over partisan interests.

I also know for a fact that Andrea Zupancich is the best candidate to replace me in the state Senate. She, like me, understands northern Minnesota. She's a long-time resident, Mayor, and small business owner who understands our values and knows how to get things done. She's ready to hit the ground running to support workers, combat inflation, and improve our children's education.

I know Andrea Zupancich won't back down to the political extremes. She's promoted Minnesota mining to both President Obama and President Trump, putting the needs of the district first. She is someone who will put northeastern Minnesotans above political

party and who will have the ability to sway her colleagues to help our interests. She will be a new face in the Senate, but her knowledge and experience as a Northern Minnesotan will make her a leader on day one, something most first-time candidates don't have.

Please join me in voting for Andrea Zupancich on or before Nov. 8 because she is the best candidate to fill my shoes. She can work collaboratively with Democrats and Republicans to deliver on lowering costs, improving our children's education, and tackling crime. She's done a fantastic job as Mayor of Babbitt, and she deserves the opportunity to carry on the legacy of strong independent-minded Northern Minnesota legislators who deliver for our region.

Sen. Tom Bakk
Cook

Retired law enforcement back Ramsay for Sheriff

As retired law enforcement officers and deputies from across St. Louis County we wanted to express our unanimous support for Gordon Ramsay for Sheriff. Ramsay clearly is the most qualified candidate and has an incredible track record that will greatly benefit St. Louis County. As past President of the Minnesota Police Chiefs Association and endorsed by the Iron Range Police Chiefs Association, he will bring people together to focus on the drug and crime issues and ensure accountability in the criminal justice system. This is an important vote, so please join us in voting for Gordon Ramsay for Sheriff.

Tim Harkonen
Steven Steblay
Tim Koivunen
David Akerson
Dennis Benz
Larry Cuffe
Roger Waller
Terry Switajewski
John Saw
Jim Christensen
Mark Steel
Archie Manning
Brad Wick
John Lahtonen
Brian Lillis

Our country needs us now more than ever!

For the past few months, as the country has slogged through the murky waters of mid-term election campaigning, I've struggled with a frequent need to "do something!" I guess the hyperbolic rhetoric circulating around us has convinced me that this could be the most important election of my lifetime.

I'm swamped by emails and media messaging from candidates (and their vaguely identified



**KATHLEEN
MCQUILLAN**

backers) all painting a doomsday prediction for "our way of life" or for "our very democracy". My mailbox overflows with attacks on opponents who, if elected, bode disaster. The actual contents of these eye-catching, melodramatic campaign mailings are mostly fatuous and obnoxious. Much of

them are printed on non-recyclable paper bound for our already taxed landfills and, IMHO, a squandering of precious natural resources. They do little to inform or prepare us for casting our

ballots and are a prime example of wasteful campaign spending.

Pollsters constantly tell us that every candidate is running neck and neck. And then we are pressed to send another five, or fifty or five hundred dollar donation "by midnight", or else we will surely lose and that would trigger the forewarned devastating consequences.

No doubt, there is a lot at stake in this election. Increased funding from Congress for initiatives designed to address climate change are finally gaining some traction. We still have huge inequities in our education and healthcare sectors that require greater investment. Threats to

our Social Security and Medicare benefits continue. Challenges facing working families are still crying for attention. And at the State level, there are efforts to undermine the electoral process itself. In this age of misinformation, it's getting harder and harder to discern fact from fiction. So, who we vote for does matter!

Another serious concern are the candidates themselves. It's shocking to see how far some have travelled down the campaign trail despite their questionable competency, insufficient knowledge of how government works, or major signs of insufficient moral and ethical integrity. Then there are those who publicly

spew unacceptable expressions of disrespect and outright hatred for constituents who don't look like them or don't share their religious or political philosophies. In previous elections, they seldom survived the primaries.

Despite the failures in recent decades to become a more inclusive pluralistic society, comprised of people with varied origins and personal profiles, we now allow political leaders (and those aspiring) to renege on our nation's commitment to tolerance and opportunity for all. To abandon these core tenets of our democracy is alarming. Past and

Why has Hauschild attacked our business?

The Zup's board of directors would like to respond to numerous negative comments made about us by Minnesota Senate candidate Grant Hauschild. As president of the company, I am wondering why Mr. Hauschild continues to attack a business in northeast Minnesota that has been selling groceries for the past 106 years.

Andrea Zupancich may share the same last name and be married to one of our board members, but she does not make decisions for Zup's Incorporated. Mr. Hauschild's attacks against her make as much sense as attacking me based on a decision my wife makes at the business she runs. I don't know how they do things in North Dakota but in northern Minnesota we don't attack someone for something their spouse does.

There are two attacks I would like to respond to so we can set the record straight. The first was our decision to close the Zup's grocery store in Aurora. We kept that store open for 16 years after LTV closed. That was the beginning of the end for our 46 years of serving customers in the Aurora-Hoyt Lakes area.

When we closed, the union took us to court even though we offered every employee a job in any of our other stores. We were told the union pension was unfunded by \$130,000 due to a shortfall in the pension fund. The union forced us to make up the difference, even though we paid in full as agreed for 46 years. So, we paid an additional \$130,000 for a pension deficit that we had no part in creating.

When our grocery store in Cook burned down, all full-time employees continued to have their wages paid for an entire year. We also paid for their health insurance as well. Nobody missed a paycheck. We did the same when the Babbitt store burned. In Cook, there was an issue over pension funding. We disagreed with the union that pension payments should still be made even though people weren't working. We could've just not paid anyone but these are our friends and neighbors, so we paid them even though they weren't working while the store was being rebuilt.

We've been in business for 106 years and we have always tried to make the right decisions. Apparently, Mr. Hauschild enjoys attacking businesses in northeast Minnesota and making fabricated accusations. How many more small

businesses will he attack if elected? We understand he has never employed people. We've employed tens of thousands over the past 106 years. Our company is well respected and strong supporters of our communities. No matter what happens on Nov. 8, we will continue to employ people at our grocery stores where we are known for our great service, competitive prices and our world-famous sausage.

We look forward to serving northeast Minnesota for another 106 years.

**Ed Zupancich,
President
Zup's Incorporated**

Helpful information for absentee voters

I am writing this article to let everyone know you have three options for securely sending your official mail ballot to your County Auditor.

Through the mail, you can bring your ballot to your local post office and mail it. You can also place your ballot in your mailbox to be picked up by your mail carrier. I want to encourage people to keep in mind, outgoing mail your mail carrier picks up from your mailbox will go out the next day. Saturday mail that is picked up will go out on Monday. In 2015, smaller U.S.P.S. mail processing centers in Duluth, Bemidji, St. Cloud and Mankato were closed. Minnesota now has one centralized postal processing center in Minneapolis. Thus, many U.S. Post Offices changed the times of mail dispatch (sending off) from late afternoons to mid-late morning times. Almost all mail carriers return from their appointed rounds in the afternoon.

Drop off your sealed mail ballot in person at the County Auditor's Office.

The closest one to our area is located at the Virginia Government Services Center, 201 S 3rd Ave W in Virginia. Hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

You can vote by machine through Monday, Nov. 7. Voting on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8 will be conducted by official absentee ballot sealed envelope. Extended hours include: Saturday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m., Monday, Nov. 7, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 8, 7 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Please remember to have a witness complete and sign the signature envelope before voting.

To track your absentee ballot through the Internet: Go to: vote.org. Select: TRACK YOUR BALLOT, which will list states in alphabetical order. Select the Option: Track Your Minnesota Ballot. Follow the prompts: Name,

Date of Birth, Identification Number (driver's license number, social security number, or U.S. Passport for military and overseas voters).

**Deborah L. Saarinen Fosso,
Cook/Lake Vermilion Absentee Voter for 38 years**

We need leaders who tell the truth

I own a powerful picture book, a book for all ages, "Americans Who Tell the Truth," by Robert Shetterly (2005).

"After Sept. 11, artist Shetterly was inspired to draw strength from Americans, past and present, who have made our country strong. A single portrait grew into a powerful series. Now these paintings of fifty great Americans offer examples of what it means to have the freedom to speak the truth, while they remind us of our responsibility to make sure we are told the truth."

In a few days, this nation holds its mid-term elections. On the ballots are those who tell the truth and those who promote the big lie, conspiracy theories, and disinformation. Never has an election mattered as much as this one. This nation must not be held hostage by those who refuse to tell the truth.

Vote as if your life depends on it because it does.

**Ellie Larmouth
Tower**

Ranked choice voting would improve our politics

I don't believe in single-issue voting, but a big reason I am voting for Grant Hauschild for State Senate and Rob Ecklund for Minnesota House is that among their many other admirable qualities, they are advocates for ranked choice voting.

Ranked choice voting, a simple change in how we conduct elections, has the near-magical ability to return government to what it is supposed to be doing: Solving problems.

Currently, divisiveness, rancor, and gridlock plague our legislatures. Finger-pointing and divisiveness are rampant, and troubling problems go unaddressed. But ranked choice voting tends to put into office candidates who are willing and able to find common ground in a sincere effort to create solutions to the many problems that vex our society.

With the traditional voting system, we just pick one candidate and that's it. But that's really not how most of us think about political candidates. We

may like candidate A the most (even if we think she has no chance of winning), could tolerate candidates B and C, but would hate to see candidate D win the election. Ranked choice voting is thus more natural — because with ranked choice voting we get to list our candidate choices in order of preference (first choice, second choice, third choice, etc.)

The ranked choice voting system has several advantages. These include: allowing people to vote for who they truly support without having to worry about "throwing away their vote," ensuring that those who get into office truly have majority support, bringing minority perspectives into the conversation, and making campaigns much more civil.

Ranked choice voting offers a way out of the current political quagmire. Candidates who endorse it — like Grant Hauschild and Rob Ecklund — deserve our support.

**Charles Hathaway
Grand Marais**

Accident suggests why Tower ambulances don't last long

City Councilman Kevin Norby's letter in the 10-28 edition says that the TAAS ambulances wear out faster than Virginia's do because the TAAS ambulances go down "Greenwood, Embarrass, bike trails, logging roads and gravel driveways."

I received a recent photograph of the newest TAAS ambulance disabled and damaged, bottomed out in what looked like woods to me. It had to be transported for repairs to significant damages. A rescue ATV with a patient trailer probably should have been used to transport the patient to the ambulance. That's common practice. We have that equipment in Greenwood. Does Tower? Maybe a little common sense needs to be applied. No wonder that an ambulance with only 130,000 miles on it is deemed, as Norby wrote, "only usable in a dire emergency."

Regardless, Norby sure does unintentionally make a strong point for the need to raise the outdated \$1.65/per transfer mile payment to the vehicle fund. With that kind of mileage, the replacement cost for a \$230,000 ambulance would be \$1.53/mile. Add in another \$1.50/mile for tires, maintenance and fuel and the cost of operating and replacing the vehicle climbs to \$3.03/mile. Norby writes: "We haven't formally approved the [business] plan at the council level." In reality, the business plan for 2022 was a require-

ment of the now expired 2021 TAAS Ambulance Vehicle Replacement Aid Agreement. Greenwood expected the 2021 agreement to be followed. The city didn't, and there presently isn't an agreement for 2022, let alone for 2023 as far as Greenwood is concerned.

In a separate 10-28 *Timberjay* article concerning TAAS at the Eagles Nest Town Board meeting, Supervisor Frank Sherman is quoted as saying "Somebody might have to make an intervention to have Greenwood live up to their commitments." That's quite a threat. I guess Sherman's remark is a sign of the times. The same article reports that Eagles Nest is considering merging their Fire Dept. with that of Morse/Fall Lake. That probably makes sense. If I were a resident of Eagles Nest, I would encourage the board to also look into working with the state to change ambulance district boundaries and be included in the Ely Area Ambulance Service, which is made up of Ely, Winton, Morse and Fall Lake. Ely has an excellent hospital and the ambulance service has paramedics on it. Advanced Life Support is a good thing. It's what Greenwood is striving for.

**Lee Peterson
Greenwood
Township**

Retired undersheriff says Lukovsky has what it takes

I retired from the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office last year, having begun in 1989 and serving the last 18 years as Undersheriff.

I came to know Jason Lukovsky when I was a newly promoted Sergeant and he was assigned as a patrol deputy to my crew. I watched Jason rise through the ranks as

an Investigator, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Supervising Deputy and now succeeding me as Undersheriff.

Over the years Jason stood out as a tenacious investigator and skilled law enforcement professional. He simply excelled in all aspects of his assignments. Over time, he willingly took on positions and earned promotions, a track that gave him skills and insight into how to help manage an agency with so many moving parts: Jail, 911 Communications, Patrol, Investigations, Civil Warrants, Emergency Management, and Rescue Squad.

As a leader, Jason has a reputation for being honest and fair. He has a great attitude and an unwavering commitment to staff and St. Louis County. It is no wonder that unions within Duluth Police Department and the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office have endorsed him. He is the real deal, and those who work with him know that. The only thing that has taken priority over his career has been his devotion to his family- they are priority number one.

When I was preparing for retirement last year, Sheriff Litman and I discussed my replacement and one name floated to the top. On my last day of work, I was beaming with the knowledge that my position would be filled by someone so competent and who had proven he had the skills and leadership ability to do the job.

The residents of St. Louis County have been well-served by Jason Lukovsky's service as a top-notch public safety professional. I ask for your support in electing him on Nov. 8th as St. Louis County Sheriff.

**Dave Phillips
Saginaw**



the
TIMBERJAY

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COUNTRY...Continued from page 4

recent history provide us with numerous examples of societies who've suffered when they've sacrificed their values — whether to salve fears, justify greed, or manipulate their citizens. Some assert election contributions from "big money" and "dark money" are to blame for the decline in America's domestic and international standing. This reinforces the notion that this election may be the last chance we have to reset the bar for decency.

America has always had its share of extremists in government. Perhaps it serves the purpose of periodically testing our rationality and love of country. But things have felt different in recent years. Unbridled hate speech, spreading of conspiracy theories, lying, and violent threats toward political leaders and people

peacefully demonstrating on issues or responding to significant events are now commonplace in our political discourse. They have even interfered with our ability to carry out necessary functions of governing.

Growing numbers of people report doubt in the veracity of scholarship and science, in our press and broadcast media, in the judicial system (including the U.S. Supreme Court), and the electoral process itself — all cornerstones of a democratic society.

Throughout these days of consternation I, along with many other Americans, have sought to bolster our hope for the future by becoming more politically engaged. In a few days, we'll be watching to see if our actions have made a difference.

We'll see if our efforts to increase voter turn-out worked? Or if the Letters to the Editor that turned up in news outlets around the region stirred deeper thinking? What about those many Fridays when our small group stood on the street corner holding signs, urging people driving by to think about the issues and vote? Did our messages resonate? We may never get clear answers to our questions. But we'll know at least we did something.

Until Election Day, I'll still make a few more calls to encourage new voters, informing them on how to get registered and when and where to vote. I may ask about their transportation and, if appropriate, childcare plans? (Just to get them thinking ahead.) I'll also mention the State of MN website (see below)

with helpful information for any of us.

It's true that our votes will never be all that is needed to solve the big problems facing our nation, but I do know that our democracy thrives on more participation! Voting is the single most powerful contribution we can make to shape the future direction our government will take.

We're now in the home stretch of this election cycle. Let's prove Tuesday that our democracy is alive and well! Won't it be grand to wake up on Wednesday, pleasantly surprised that brighter days are ahead! Remember to vote November 8th. Your country needs you!

For more information, visit mnvotes.gov.

Letters from Readers

Jen Schultz will deliver for our region

Lonnie Stephenson, President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), writes in their October 2022 newsletter that the Biden administration, and Congressional Democrats, have fought for American workers: delivering massive federal funding for jobs and wage security for all American workers, including electrical union workers, through landmark legislation improving America's future.

Stephenson writes: "President Biden has delivered the biggest boost to organized labor since Roosevelt, the largest infrastructure plan since Eisenhower, the second largest health care bill since Johnson and the largest climate change bill in history. Many politicians have promised to deliver for working families. This one did."

IBEW's Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth Cooper said, "We have and will support any Republican who supports the IBEW. The problem is, there aren't that many of them these days."

Please read their article: <http://www.ibew.org/articles/22ElectricalWorker/EW2210/YearOfUnionWorker.1022.html>.

It cites, among other things: The Inflation Reduction Act, (August 2022), invests enormously in our clean energy future; lowering costs to power our homes, businesses, transportation and much more.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (November 2021) contains historic investments modernizing our transportation, broadband, and water infrastructure; without raising taxes on everyday Americans while creating good-paying union jobs.

The CHIPS Act (July 2022) brings important technology manufacturing home to America, creating jobs and improving security for critical components in US manufacturing.

Also important is the American Rescue Plan Act (March 2021) "... (providing) direct relief to Americans by rescuing the economy...to beat the (COVID-19) virus."

Every Congressional Republican, including Rep. Stauber, voted against the American Rescue Plan. Rep. Stauber voted NO on the Inflation Reduction Act, the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act, and the CHIPS Act.

We cannot afford Rep. Stauber's NO votes damaging the economic future of NE Minnesota. We need a strong new voice in Congress supporting good union jobs and working families. Jen Schultz will deliver for us.

**Michael Overend
Two Harbors**

Fact-checking Republican lies

We now endure the last stretch of the 2022 "rigged election" terrorist campaign. Once, the politicians would just lie and expect us to vote for them. Then a sore loser started the "rigged election" terror campaign in 2020. Anyone that had not voted for him had committed "election fraud."

I'm old-fashioned because I'm grounded in reality. I still react to

political lies with a critical mind. In 2022, there is a ripe field of Republican lies to go after:

► Biden and Democrats caused inflation.

"Trickle-down" economics is creating this 10% inflation. In fact, Wall Street corporations are exploiting consumers to generate massive revenues. Otherwise, inflation would be based on Trump's tariffs.

► Biden and Democrats are causing high gas prices.

No. It once was political suicide to overturn a 40-year ban on oil exports that created "energy independence." In 2015, to help oil producers with oversupply, Republicans forced Democrats to end the oil export ban to pass a tax and spending bill and avoid a government shutdown. Biden has met with Saudi Arabia and is negotiating to reinstate the Iranian nuclear ban treaty, which could bring Iran's oil back onto the market to replace Russian oil.

► Biden and Democrats want to "defund the police."

No. Democrats want funding that makes the police more effective. Poverty caused by Republican "trickle-down economics" and racial bias creates distrust in the police, the justice system, and the government. For those at the economic bottom, the choices are often despair, crime, or suicide.

► Biden and Democrats want open borders.

No. Democrats want to keep our wage gains. Republicans have severely cut back foreign aid. With MAGA tariffs, corporations abandoned cheap labor. We can intelligently ease inflation in essential jobs if Republicans would take the opportunity these immigrant refugees present.

► Biden and Democrats won't cut back tax-draining Social Security or Medicare.

Warning. Besides the Affordable Care Act, House Republicans have targeted Social Security and Medicare as part of debt ceiling discussions to cut taxes. If Republicans regain House control, they will again risk government shutdown and default on the national debt. Such default would make the depression of the 1930s look like a minor league game.

► What's the Republican plan for inflation and the economy?

Besides obstruction and tax cuts for the wealthy, they have none.

**Erwin R. Rud
Fosston**

Ask yourself which candidates support God's plan

Our family had the privilege of hosting foreign exchange students from Holland, Czech Republic, and Croatia. One of their many questions was "You have so many different cultures and religions. How is it that you all get along without killing each other?"

I explained that our founders came here to have a better life, freedom of religion, and freedom from dictatorship. They wrote the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. We believe all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Now some of our leaders are trying to change the laws of our land which give us the freedom our country was founded on. Many have forgotten freedom comes from God Himself, our Creator.

We pledge allegiance to our Flag, and sing "God Bless America." Why would God go on blessing America? We have thrown out His Word in our homes, schools, colleges, and yes, our government.

How do we put God back into our country? Desire to know the truth "and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. America has lost its way and we need to understand and believe His word. Yes my friend, God's word is like a compass enabling us to find our way and not be lost.

Let me ask you a question. Do you have a personal relationship with God? If not, likely you're not saved or born again. John Chapter 3 says, "Except a man be born again, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

The message is simple. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Take the gospel personally: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. That "Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and arose again on the third day, according to the scriptures." It is Christ alone, not Christ plus anything. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but HAVE Everlasting life."

We seriously ask that you consider your personal relationship with Jesus Christ. And then think over how each person running for office fits in with your desire to have God's blessing on our country.

**Kathy Bukovac
Sandnas
Britt**

Vote Lislegard because experience matters

I am writing this letter in support of State Rep. Dave Lislegard, who is running for re-election to District 7B. Dave has a proven record of delivering for the Iron Range. With the loss of two senior senators in our region, it is imperative to re-elect Dave Lislegard who has not only served as the Vice Chair of the Tax Committee, but also on the subcommittee on Legislative Process Reform, Climate and Energy Finance and Policy, Commerce Finance and Policy, and Industrial Education and Economic Development Finance and Policy. Experience matters! Dave not only has the experience, but he is diligent, results oriented, and has been a strong proponent of ferrous and non-ferrous mining in our region.

Dave has been responsive and committed to addressing the issue of mental health and the implementation of new programs in our region. He has been a strong advocate for our region in supporting labor, unions, and the many people who work hard each day to maintain our way of life in Northern Minnesota.

Dave is pro-labor, pro-business, and pro-jobs. He strongly believes that this approach will build strong and healthy communities. Dave is committed to the Iron Range and our way of life. He has been a strong advocate for our region since first being elected and I know that he will continue to provide the leadership that the Iron Range deserves. Please join me in voting for Dave Lislegard for District 7B State Representative.

**Kathy Vake
Chisholm**

It's us versus them in the State Senate

I am supporting Andrea Zupancich, to become the next Senator in Minnesota Senate District 3. She is running as a Republican.

Grant Hauschild is also running to be the next Senator in Minnesota Senate District 3. He is running as a Democrat (DFL).

Hauschild has no real local connections to Cook, Koochiching, northern Itasca, and portions of North and East St. Louis County. He grew up in North Dakota, ran for political office there, and then worked for the North Dakota Democratic U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp

in Washington, D.C. He moved to Hermantown in about 2019 where he bought a house.

Look up the definition of a "carpetbagger" in any dictionary. A carpetbagger is defined as a "political candidate who seeks election in an area where they have no local connections."

If Hauschild wins he will caucus with the Democrats in the Minnesota State Senate.

Why am I supporting Andrea Zupancich?

Her Zupancich family has been here for more than 100 years, she has lived here her entire adult life, been involved in raising her family, operating her own business, been elected the mayor of Babbitt, and is part of our community and way of life.

She is one of us. She is running as a Republican because our Minnesota Democratic Farmer Labor Party (DFL) has become a voice for the Twin Cities politicians. Remember what the DFL Senate leadership did to our Senators Tom Bakk and David Tomassoni!!

Andrea Zupancich will represent our local values and traditions. Remember who cleans up after the carpetbaggers leave. We do. We need Andrea to protect us from the Twin Cities DFL politicians who claim to know more about what's best for us than we do.

**Mike Forsman
Former county
commissioner
Ely**

Vote Hauschild and Ecklund to deliver on core northland values

Some of our friends and neighbors see the political landscape and civic engagement differently than we do. We proudly admit that we lean "Blue", but we have foundational beliefs for why we lean that direction. We believe that our votes count not only for us, but for others who have similar life circumstances and needs. We believe strongly that all people deserve dignity, good jobs, affordable health care, and freedom of expression in their 'being'. We believe strongly in the need to address controlled substance abuse, mental

health, and suicide—a current epidemic made worse by substance abuse, and to a great extent contributed to by the political environment our country is currently facing.

The billions of dollars spent on hateful, dishonest political posturing is disgraceful and most of the mailers sent out should go straight to the recycling bin. But it's important for people to consider that candidates themselves are not in control of many ads and attacks that are done on their behalf by special interests. We were featured in one positive mailer this month and agreed to do so because the candidate, Grant Hauschild, expresses the beliefs that we addressed above. Grant has run a grounded, uplifting and positive campaign that speaks to the everyday concerns of struggling people. We need to elect a well-rounded, multi-faceted candidate who will address the issues for which most of us are concerned. Grant Hauschild is part of a new generation of leadership that will get the job done.

We also want to encourage research on the positive work and productive outcomes of Rep. Rob Ecklund, who for six terms has worked for the people, not special interests. Rob Ecklund has addressed the most important issues we in northeastern Minnesota need to provide workforce development, and services that WE need to thrive.

**Orlyn and Marit
Kringstad,
Tower**

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I will work to provide an adequate and equitable education resulting in high school achievement.

Paid by the candidate on his own behalf

I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for everyone who has played a positive, supportive role in my run for St. Louis County Sheriff, and am humbled by the undivided encouragement you have extended to me.

I pledge that as your St. Louis County Sheriff, I will listen to community concerns and will put the best interests of the people first. I will always work on a foundation of respectable values — **accessibility, responsibility, and accountability.**

I look forward to your ongoing support and vote on November 8. Your vote can make a difference and will help to facilitate beneficial changes in St. Louis County.

Paid for by the Ramsay for Sheriff Campaign, Ron DeGrio Campaign Chair, PO Box 3236, Duluth, MN 55803

VOTE NOVEMBER 8

VOTERAMSAY.COM

DON'T SUPPORT WOMEN'S RIGHTS?

VOTE STAUBER

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

I LOVE YOU DOG!

Lion Heart Experience gives SEL a rad vibe

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

ELY – Kids these days face challenges that those of us over the age 30 of might not understand, so speakers from the Lion Heart Experience brought their message of hope and self-acceptance to Ely for two shows held in the Washington Auditorium on October 25. Sixth, seventh and

eighth graders were invited to the afternoon show for a performance that got the crowd to their feet. The show that night was open to the public.

The Detroit based Lion Heart Crew led by Joe Vercellino bring their high energy performances to schools and according to their promotional material “infuse young people with a sense of self-worth and purpose.”



Above: From left, Selam Houle and Presly Marzella hold up hand hearts in response to the message about loving yourself and others.



On left: Lion Heart Experience founder Joe Vercellino (left) along with Lion Heart Crew member Tazeon Bradely rapped, sang, danced and spoke to Ely students about belonging and self-acceptance.

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:

► 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. Anthony's Church and ARDC.

► Nov. 22: Grassroots Crossroads, Sitting at the Yellow Light, Dani Pieratos.

► Nov. 29: End of the Road Film Festival, Jacob White & Lacey Squier.

SOUNDS FROM THE GRID IRON



Above: Raymus Cavalier and Morgan McClelland on flutes.



Left: Madlyn Tome represents the eighth grade on the sax.



Right: Morgan Lassi on the baritone.

Ely Marching band joined by junior high for first fall concert

ELY- The Ely Marching Timberwolves fully outfitted in marching attire were joined by the seventh and eighth grade band on Tuesday, Nov. 1 in the Washington Elementary Auditorium to showcase songs more frequently heard at pep band performances like football and volleyball games. Band director, Karl Kubiak led the students through modern songs like Ke\$ha's "Timber," as well as standards that included the Star Spangled Banner and the Ely School Song. The next scheduled band concert is the upcoming holiday concert entitled, "Traditional with a Twist!" scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 15.

MORE SPOOKY FUN

Northern Tier High Adventure - Boy Scouts of America 'Trunk or Treat' at Whiteside Park appeals to very young and very old



Left: Braden Jonas and Bodin Devine slowly make their way through Whiteside.

Below: Emilia Boedeker gets "Moo-ving" in search of Halloween treats.



Local students named to University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) 2022 Spring Semester Dean's List

DULUTH, - The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) has announced its Dean's List for Spring Semester 2022. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while earning a minimum of 12 letter-graded credits.

Local students who earned Dean's List honors include:

James Schwinghamer, a junior from Ely, Swenson College of Science and Engineering (SCSE), Physics B S

Zachary Spicher, a freshman from Ely, Swenson College of Science and Engineering (SCSE), Computer Science B S

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



a sliver of moon hanging high in the night sky on to November

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.

NOVEMBER 8 ELECTIONS

Six candidates for three seats on Cook Council

Three incumbents running again, three newcomers hoping for a win

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- In some election years, the number of candidates for Cook City Council have only equalled the number of seats available. But this year, six candidates are vying for three council positions.

The seats currently held by Jody Bixby and Kim Brunner are up for re-election, and both are running. They face a challenge from Ivette Reing in a three-way race for those two spots.

There's also a special election to fill the unexpired term of former councilor Karen Hollanitsch, who resigned this past summer. Her temporary replacement until the election, Dave Danz, is running for the seat, as are Erin Danielson and Liza Root.

The *Timberjay* contacted each candidate and asked them the same series of questions. Recaps of those conversations are printed below.

Jody Bixby

Jody Bixby moved to Cook in the eighth grade and graduated from Cook High School in 1979. Bixby is running for re-election because she believes there's more for her to accomplish.

"I've been working on the blight ordinance and we're very close to having that done," she said. "That's really important for the town because I take pride in living here. I've also helped with hiring and employee stuff with (City Administrator) Theresa Martinson, which I really enjoy. I'm a big one for the parks, the arts people, and the library is wonderful, so I just want to keep things going."

Bixby, first appointed and then elected to the council in 2010, believes she's qualified for another term because of her council and community experiences.

She's a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, vice-president of the church council this year, and helps with the community meal. She's the city council representative to the Cook Housing and Rehabilitation Authority board. She also works at the food shelf and oc-

asionally works in the Cook Care Center beauty shop fixing clients' hair.

If re-elected, Bixby's top two priorities would be housing and new business development.

"I want our town to keep growing," she said. "Cook has a lot to offer. Small towns can struggle, and I think we should always have goals for the future on how we want to look and what we want to leave to our children."

Bixby's had a two-fold message for Cook voters. Get out and vote, and get out and volunteer.

"When you volunteer, you actually get back more than you give. There's a lot of places looking for help," she said.

Kim Brunner

Kim Brunner is a lifelong Cook resident who has been serving on the council since 2010. Brunner had previously served a single term on the council that ended in 2004.

Brunner said she's running for another term in part because she wanted to ensure that voters had a choice, and because she wants to continue to add to the council's accomplishments.

"The three times that I did run, there was nobody else in the running, ever," she said. "It didn't seem like anybody was interested, so I threw my hat in there. And through 12 years we've, we've accomplished a lot."

Brunner didn't add much to her qualifications for the position beyond her years on the council, noting she's served on a few community committees in the past.

"I'm just a behind the scenes kind of gal," she said. "And I love my city."

A priority for Brunner if she's re-elected would be street maintenance, including North River St. and 1st Avenue S by the Cook Public Library. As for a second priority, Brunner was nonspecific, saying that "we just have to keep moving forward."

And Brunner's message to Cook voters?

"I would say vote for me," she said. "I've gotten a lot done and continue to get stuff done. We're doing the best we can do. Hopefully I'll get elected again, and if not, good luck to the next guy."

Ivette Reing

It was a family connection, her marriage to Dan Reing, that brought Ivette Reing to Cook in 2015.

Reing believes that a different generation should be represented on the Cook City Council.

"I think it's time for people in our generation to step up," she said. "If we want change or we want to impact the community, we can't always leave it up to the people that have been there and served their time for years. We have to help out."

As a former member of the Los Angeles Police Department, Reing gained grant writing experience that she would apply as councilor. Past experiences in nonprofit management and social services, and her current work as board chair for Vergie Hegg Hospice Partners have given her additional skills that qualify her for the council, she said. And Reing emphasized personal qualities that she believes would make her a good council member.

"I think I'm qualified because I'm motivated, I'm willing, and I'm not afraid to take on a challenge," Reing said.

A priority for Reing as councilor would be to bring more revenue into Cook by tapping both public and private sources, noting the recent fundraising successes of the Friends of the Parks with Veterans Riverfront Park. A second priority would be the city's emergency services. Reing served for a period of time as a first responder for the ambulance and is pursuing certification as an EMT to return to the service.

"The fire department, the ambulance, they need a lot of support," Reing said. "I know the Cook Ambulance has missed calls and that makes me sad. I don't know that the city council can do much, but from my perspective I feel like I could do more."

Reing's message for Cook voters was in part one of gratitude.

"I already feel like I'm a part of Cook. I have worked and volunteered in different ways, and I want to say thank you to the people of Cook for being with me and trust-

ing me. People have been very open and welcoming. And I also want to say go out and vote, practice your rights."

Erin Danielson

Erin Danielson was born and raised in Cook, graduating from Cook High School in 2002. After living elsewhere, she returned to the Cook area in 2015 to be near family, and took up actual residence in Cook last February with her two sons, both students at North Woods School.

Danielson said she was encouraged by friends to run for council, and she readily took up the challenge.

"I want to have a voice, I want to be part of the change that's inevitably always happening," she said. "I want to be part of that decision-making."

Danielson said that wanting to improve communication between the city and the public also motivated her to run.

Community engagement is one thing Danielson cited as a qualification for office. She said she's volunteered for Timber Days, is a member of the Cook Lions Club and was engaged this past spring in efforts to improve behavior issues at North Woods School, where she's now a member of the Positive Behavior and Intervention Support committee. Her personal experiences as a member of a younger generation would also add a new perspective to the council's work, she said.

A priority for Danielson would be housing. She noted that affordable housing of different options to meet various needs is in short supply in the city.

"If we don't have places for people to live, why would they come here," she said. "And isn't that what we want so that we grow?"

Beyond that, Danielson said she would listen to constituents for ideas to keep people here in Cook.

"I feel like there's something we need to try and I don't know what that is yet," she said. "But I think people would be more open to talking about it if the issues were brought up, and I want to be that person to say yes, I will help you, let's see

what we can do."

Danielson's message to the city's voters was simple and direct.

"Even if you don't vote for me, go and vote," she said. "Your vote really matters."

Dave Danz

Dave Danz has been a resident of Cook for about 20 years, and previously served on the city council.

After finishing out the balance of the unexpired position on the council over five months, Danz is eager to continue.

"Why not finish out the term?" he said. "Hopefully I have something to contribute."

His potential to contribute is evident in his work history of four decades in development work, primarily with tribal organizations, pointing to two developments for workforce rental housing in Grand Portage as examples of his experience.

"I'm familiar with development work and working for and with elected officials, so I understand government," he said.

Not surprisingly, Danz said that affordable housing would be a priority if he is elected.

"It's just difficult to find a place to live in town or near town, and I think that goes for the whole region," Danz said. "There just aren't any vacancies."

Danz has already actively raised the issue with the current city council and would support a targeted study that would determine what mix of various housing options would be suitable for Cook.

A second priority for Danz is to limit the number of rules and regulations imposed on people by government.

"Government plays an important part in providing services that are essential to a good quality of life," he said. "But I don't want to see us overburdened by more rules and regulations we have to live by. I want to ensure that if we pass any more rules that they benefit the community as a whole and are necessary."

His message for the voters of Cook was simple.

"Choose who you prefer, and may the best person win, whether that's

the most qualified or the most popular," Danz said.

Liza Root

Liza Root has the distinction of being one of the last babies to be born at Cook Hospital, she said, and she grew up on a farm seven miles out of town in a house built by her great-grandparents from Finland. Root graduated from Cook High School in 1999. Having moved to Alaska, Root returned to Cook during the pandemic and worked remotely and ended up relocating here.

Root said she wanted to run for city council because, "It's an exciting time to get involved in the community. Having lived away I have a lot of skills to bring to the city and I want to share them and give back to the community that gave to me."

Root said her qualifications stem from her work in public health, which began working at a federally qualified community health center in Alaska. Transitioning to the Alaska Primary Care Association and later the state of Alaska, Root supported community health centers through policy and advocacy work and facilitating access to grant money. Work with various levels of government, Root said, provided valuable experience that would inform her work as a councilor. She currently owns a consulting business that includes the state of Oregon and state of North Dakota as customers.

Securing funding opportunities to update and expand affordable housing is Root's top priority.

"One of the issues we experienced moving back here was access to housing," she said. "It's a challenge." Dovetailing with that is a second priority focused on supporting growing businesses and neighborhoods. "I'm interested in continuing to preserve that small town character while maintaining attractive and safe residential spaces," she said.

Root's message to voters was in line with that of a traditional candidate.

"I'm really interested in serving as your community city council member and I hope you'll consider me when you go to the polls to vote," she said.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Book club to meet on Tuesday

COOK- The Cook Area Book Club will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 1 p.m. in the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook. The book for discussion this month will be "Their Eyes are Watching God," a 1937 novel by American writer Zora Neale Hurston. It is considered a classic of the Harlem Renaissance and Hurston's best known work. The book is the "epic tale of Janie, whose quest for identity takes her on a journey where she learns what love is, experiences life's joys and sorrows, and finally comes home to peace."

Gallery exhibit to honor veterans in November

COOK- During the month of November, Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook will host a special exhibit

honoring the members of the Cook VFW Post 1757 and the Honor Guard specifically.

Photos of the Honor Guard receiving Quilts of Valor will be on exhibit at the NWFA Gallery during open hours in November.

On display with the photos will be exhibits and personal stories of six Honor Guard members who served during the Vietnam War years. The NWFA Gallery is located at 210 S River St. Winter open hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Free Veterans Day lunch to be offered at Trinity church

COOK- Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook will be hosting a Veterans Day luncheon on Friday, Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

This free lasagna lunch is in recognition of

the service and dedication our veterans have given for our country. All area veterans and their family members are welcome to attend, as well as surviving spouses of veterans.

Any questions may be directed to the church office at 218-666-5965. Trinity is located at 231 2nd St. SE. Handicapped parking is available in both the north and south parking lots.

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.

HALLOWEEN FRIGHTS



Spiderman Bradley Winans and a ghoulish Julie Lesemann take a moment to pose for the camera during a community Halloween party at Cook Community Center on Monday. The event, sponsored by the Cook Lions Club and Cook VFW, was an indoor "return to normal" after the COVID pandemic forced the event to be a candy-only drive-through the past two years. Games, art activities, and food were all part of the fun. Elsewhere in town, Cook Ambulance and Cook Fire Department personnel had their rigs outside with the lights flashing as they welcomed trick-or-treaters. photo by D. Colburn

Week of Nov. 7

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.

Election Day- Get out and Vote! Local polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Find your polling place at www.mnvotes.gov.

Wednesday
Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 9. Change of date due to the election.

Thursday
AA Meeting- Lake Vermilion 12x12 (Open) 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower.

Elementary students to prepare gifts for Veterans

TOWER-SOUDAN- Tower-Soudan Elementary students will be preparing gifts for area veterans in honor of Veterans Day. Area veterans are asked to call the school at 218-753-4070 with your name and address, so a gift can be delivered. The school will not be holding a Veterans Day program this year, but will be travelling to Northeast Range to attend the Veterans Day program in Babbitt.

St. Martin's Christmas Bazaar set for Nov. 5

TOWER- St. Martin's invites you to their Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There will be vendors, crafters, Bucket Raffles, a Silent Auction, the Christmas Elephant table, a Kid's Shop for kids to do their own shopping, a Make and Take table for the kids, a Quilt Raffle, and door prizes. The Cookie Patch returns again this year - let St. Martin's do your Christmas cookie baking for you. Of course, the St. Martin's Cafe will be open serving fresh caramel rolls, a variety of soups, and bars. We hope you'll make plans to attend; if you are not interested in shopping, stop by for a delicious lunch.

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.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Above: Third-graders showed off their costumes before heading to a school-wide carnival. Left: Margie Johnson stops by for treats at the Timberjay with her daughter Courtney and some of her grandchildren. Below left: Vermilion Country School students competed in a mummy contest. Below: VCS was decorated with skeletons, all set to help teach some classes.



VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8

Four seats on the ballot for the Tower City Council

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- There are four open seats on the Tower City Council for Tuesday's election, but only one seat, the open two-year term, has more than one candidate running.

Current Mayor Dave Setterberg, who was appointed to the seat after the resignation of Oryn Kringstad is the only one who filed for the four-year mayor seat. Setterberg had previously been elected to the city council.

"I am running again because I feel I can help keep moving Tower in a positive direction," he said. "I am also looking forward to working with the next group of councilors that remain in or are running for office this November. Each one is dedicated and brings a different set of skills to the table and will be a pleasure to work with until the next election."

Setterberg said the city will be facing some challenges in the upcoming term. These will include keeping up with the rising costs of maintaining the ambu-

lance service, adding personnel to the fire department, and working on water and sewer concerns.

"And as always, making sure our financial position is being managed continuously especially with the drop in the amount of disparity funding for next year's budget," he said.

Setterberg said the city's financial position has improved but it is still tight. And while ambulance funding is a concern, the department is able to staff all the required shifts.

City projects the past couple of years included the upgrade to Pine Street with new utilities and access for growth at the Harbor area. He also noted the city has partnered with other area groups to make improvements, including the construction of new trails, continued work on the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, the restoration of the old fire hall building.

"We have worked with other committees that have made a positive impact on Tower by means of new trails, businesses, activities taking place at the cultural center and historical society.

"Many things take place because of these other groups and as a city we are working to support them the best we can," he said.

Joe Morin and Robert Anderson, both currently members of the council, have filed for the two open four-year seats. Anderson was recently appointed to fill the vacancy from the death of long-time council member Sheldon Majerle.

Joe Morin said he thoroughly enjoyed his first term on the board.

"I was completely engaged on matters both big and small, and thought council members worked extremely well together," he said. "I chose to run for another term in order to keep serving the citizens of Tower through doing good work with my fellow council members and city employees. And I want to continue learning about all aspects of city governance to best prepare myself in the likely event I will run for Mayor at some point."

Morin also sees some challenges ahead.

"I think it's generally agreed there are a handful of challenges we must get a handle on sooner than later," he said. "The ambulance service, fire department, housing shortage for singles, families and seniors, and residential blight."

Bobby Anderson has only served a few months on the board.

"I do want to keep working on the council," he said. "I am really hoping we can sort things out and make things boring."

Anderson sees the city's financial picture as a major challenge for the council. But he also hopes to see the city work on long-range planning.

Tom Suihkonen and Joshua Zika have both filed for the single open two-year seat. Suihkonen was appointed to fill the seat held by Setterberg, when he was appointed as mayor. Neither responded to the *Timberjay's* request for a short interview before our deadline.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Election day chili feed at St. Paul's

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Soudan is holding their Annual Election Day Chili Feed on Tuesday, Nov. 8 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Cost is \$8. Meal includes chili, bread, beverage, and dessert. Take-outs are available. Proceeds will go to Operation Santa, the toy drive for families who use the Tower Area Food Shelf.

Correction

The story about short-term rentals in Eagles Nest Township misquoted short-term rental owner Addie Wales. Wales said that "she knows of some very responsible and long-time hosts who just recently found out that a short-term rental permit was required."

Wales' own rental property has been permitted by the county and state since the summer of 2021 when she began renting out her cabin to guests.

Lunch Bunch to meet Nov. 17

TOWER- The Lunch Bunch will meet for lunch at Good Ol' Days on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Kathy at 218-753-2530 by Monday, Nov. 14. The group welcomes everyone, including new and old members.

Students named to University of Minnesota Duluth Dean's List for Spring 2022

DULUTH, - The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) has announced its Dean's List for Spring Semester 2022. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while earning a minimum of 12 letter-graded credits.

Local students who earned Dean's

List honors include: Maude Lenz, a senior from Embarrass, Swenson College of Science and Engineering (SCSE), Civil Engineering B S C E Sophie Lenz, a senior from Embarrass, Swenson College of Science and Engineering (SCSE), Civil Engineering B S C E Mia Severson, a senior from Tower, College of Education and Human Service Professions (CE-HSP), Psychology BA Sc.

SOLAR...Continued from page 1

When an earlier company, Silicon Energy, set up shop in the building more than ten years ago, it had the capacity to build about three megawatts worth of solar panels in a year— enough to power about 1,800 homes on average. The expanded plant, made possible by a \$45 million investment, including \$21 million in state funding and \$1 million in St. Louis County funds for construction of the building and other improvements, will now be able to produce up to 900 megawatts worth of panels in a year, or enough to power 540,000 homes. That will make the Mt. Iron plant by far the largest of Heliene's three manufacturing facilities, the others located near Sudbury, Ont. and in Florida. Employment at the plant will increase from the 65 workers currently on staff to about 100 by the end of the year.

The ramp-up in production comes at a time of extraordinary growth in the photovoltaic industry and has the potential to position the Iron Range as a leader



The new plant, now fully equipped, will be able to produce about 900 megawatts worth of solar panels a year. That's equivalent to the electricity needed to power over half a million homes. photo by M. Helmberger

in the production of solar panels in the U.S., said Sen. Amy Klobuchar who spoke at the event. "The fact is, we'll now have the second biggest solar panel facility in the United States of America, right here."

Sen. Tom Bakk said that was Sen. Tomassoni's vision for the plant site, built more than a decade ago atop wasterock from the adjacent Minntac mining operation and that his experience and seniority

in St. Paul made it possible to finance the original site work even before there was a plan for what might eventually come of it. "Let me tell you when you're in St. Paul and you want money for a project that doesn't exist. It's not that easy," Bakk said.

The site first became home to Silicon Energy, which later went out of business, but Heliene—a company with a longer track record— has since

taken over the facility and now appears poised to dramatically increase solar panel production at the site. That increase, which is happening globally, has brought panel prices to a point where they can now power most homes at a cost equal to or cheaper than traditional power sources, particularly once solar tax credits, which were extended as part of the Inflation Reduction Act, are

factored in. And, according to PV Tech News, the tax incentives created by the Inflation Reduction Act is prompting the company to start planning additional buildout of its manufacturing capacity in the U.S.

Sen. Tina Smith said the transition to renewable energy is already well underway and that the Iron Range can play a major role in fostering the new energy future. "This transition to a clean energy future is going to happen," she said. "The only question is whether we lead or whether we follow and today we are showing that we are going to lead the way from Minnesota's Iron Range. This project is about building the American supply chain for the solar panels that will power our transition to energy independence and a clean energy future."

Smith, who was closely involved in the drafting of the Inflation Reduction Act, noted that the new law will directly benefit the new facility "through incentives for domestic manufacturing and development of domestic content."

A company with a mission

In his opening comments last week, Heliene CEO Martin Pochtaruk spoke to his company's stated commitment to healing the planet, and he paid homage to the Anishinabe. "We are located on land ceded in the 1854 treaty between the Chippewa of Lake Superior and the federal government," he said. "By acknowledging that we are on indigenous land, we recognize the truth of the land, allowing us to move in a path of truth and reconciliation."

He said that the company's mission is focused on healing and that "by assisting in the transition to affordable, sustainable, renewable energy, we make a commitment to pursuing equity."

The company's website cites the ancient Hebrew concept of Tikkun Olam, which in modern times refers to the responsibility all humans share to pursue social justice.

FORUM...Continued from page 1

assistance for a short time to have housing and food." She said voters in the Eighth are looking for a member of Congress who will show up and bring results, and she accused Stauber of being captured by Washington lobbyists and his party at the expense of his district.

The two candidates had an equally sharp exchange when asked to grade Joe Biden on his job as president. Stauber, who appeared angry at times, said he'd give Biden "an F with a red circle around it" accusing the president of sparking the worst inflation in 40 years. "It's caused gas prices to go through the roof, energy prices through the roof, groceries three and four times what they should cost."

While Stauber repeatedly sought to tie Schultz to Biden, Schultz kept the focus on Stauber, giving him an F on his work in Congress. "They passed the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package, that's \$7 billion for Minnesota and 100,000 jobs. Stauber voted against it. They passed the bipartisan Safer Communities Act to invest in youth mental health and our schools. Stauber voted no. They cut child poverty in half with the American Rescue Plan and Stauber voted no. They kept prescription drug prices at \$2,000 per year for seniors on Medicare. Stauber voted no."

Stauber said Schultz, who gave Biden a B for his job as president, had told an MPR interviewer that she was "so impressed at 40-year high inflation, so impressed with open borders, so impressed with a foreign policy that has been a disaster, so impressed with five dollar a gallon gas."

"Stop misrepresenting what I say," responded Schultz. "People are tired of the lies that you tell them in your newsletters and on your website. I have no reason to lie to you because I'm not bought by corporate interests. I am not taking corporate PAC money. Stauber gets over a million dollars from corporate interests. He has gone D.C."

Stauber repeatedly hammered on the cost of gas and blamed Biden for the rise, ignoring that energy prices have risen globally. Schultz pointed to economic data that suggests over half of the increase in prices is going to fund record corporate profits.

"The largest oil companies are making over \$20 billion in profits this quarter," she said. "They're buying back stock and their shareholders are gaining wealth on the backs of working people."

She said much of the legislation passed in Washington in the past year was designed to reduce the cost of many of the things that families buy, such as prescription medication. She noted that while Congress and the president signed a big increase in heating assistance dollars for low and moderate-income families, Stauber opposed that assistance. "There's a lot more we can do and I want to do it," said Schultz.

Stauber said the best way to reduce inflation is to "stop the reckless spending" and what he called "Christmas gifts to other politicians." Stauber blamed spending in Washington for ongoing inflation, which is affecting the entire globe, and attacked Schultz for backing what he called "Biden's war on American energy," even though the U.S. remains a net petroleum exporter. "Five hours after being sworn in, he killed the excellent Keystone pipeline," said Stauber. That pipeline was built to ship Canadian tar sands oil to Gulf Coast refineries, primarily for export.

On student loan forgiveness, Stauber said he opposed Biden's decision, calling it political. "People who didn't go to college

should not be forced to pay student loans for those who did," he said, and he encouraged a greater focus on getting young people into trades rather than in college.

Schultz agreed with part of Stauber's answer. "I'm 100 percent behind the trades. That's why I'm endorsed by almost every labor union and I'm proud of it," she added. Schultz said the state needs to provide more funding for higher education to bring down the cost of tuition, which is the other way to help students afford a four-year degree. She also called out Stauber for hypocrisy, noting that he had received tens of thousands of dollars in PPP loans for his hockey business, loans which were ultimately forgiven.

When asked about the three most important issues facing Congress, Stauber said it would be reducing wasteful spending, strengthening the economy, and improving public safety. "We're going to put legislation together that keeps our cities and our communities safe, that fund the police and not voting to disarm and defund the police like my opponent," he said. "We're going to make sure that Biden has a foreign policy that puts America and our allies first," he added.

Whether Stauber considers Ukraine an ally remains unclear, however, as he declined to answer whether he would support continued military and economic aid to the country.

Stauber accused Biden of punishing Americans, but Schultz argued it was Stauber who was punishing the Eighth District by putting party over his constituents. "Stauber is punishing us by not representing us in Congress and not helping our communities." She noted that Republicans, like Stauber "only care about national debt and deficits when there's a Democratic president. "When our former president was in office, we added over \$7 trillion to the debt," she said, adding that Biden had brought the deficit down by \$1.4 trillion in the 2022 fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30. It was the largest drop in the deficit in a single year on record.

On supporting the mining industry, Stauber said he's been promoting copper-nickel mining and said the region's minerals are critical to America's security and accused Schultz of not supporting the mining industry. "If we've learned anything involving COVID in our supply chains, we cannot rely on foreign adversarial nations for these critical minerals," he said.

Schultz denied Stauber's charge. "I'm 100 percent for our miners and our mining industry. That is a fact and it's why I'm endorsed by the U.S. Steelworkers and many other groups that work in the mines." Schultz said Stauber has given lip service to the mining industry, but has voted against a

number of bills that would have benefitted miners on the Iron Range. "He voted against [the mining industry] when he voted no on the CHIPS Act, which provides incentives to use U.S. domestic minerals to

make computer chips. He voted no on the Inflation Reduction Act that has incentives to make electric vehicle batteries. He hasn't passed one pro-mining bill."

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CITY OF TOWER

City recreation plans get a public review

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— About 15 people came to the civic center here on Thursday night to weigh-in on different options for walking connections and potential recreational improvements around the city's train depot and mini-park. The city is looking for input as it works to finalize a plan for ongoing and future improvements around the civic center, train depot, and mini-park, as well as connecting trails to the harbor and Hoodoo Point.

Grant funding from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) is, among other things, paying for site design for the overall project, some of which is currently funded, some of which will be dependent on future grants. Current funding includes \$461,900 from the IRRR, which is slated for repaving a portion of Main Street that will provide improved road and trail access to a new canoe and kayak launch and



Tower City Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz discusses four alternatives developed as part of a recreational plan being developed for the area between the civic center and the harbor. photo by M. HelMBERGER

trailhead kiosk on the East Two River. The launch and trailhead project, which include a paved trail connection between the harbor and Hoodoo Point, is being funded with \$600,000 from the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources, or LCCMR.

About \$250,000 of the IRRR funds are earmarked for the installation of a so-called "green flush" toilet somewhere near the civic center, but that concept ran into questions about whether it was a good use of funds. Victoria Ranua noted that the civic center already has bathrooms and that

the city had recently invested in security doors there to allow for bathroom accessibility.

There were plenty of alternative uses proposed for the funds. Among the options being considered is an expansion of the existing playground at the city's mini-park. Local resident Amy Banks suggested installation of a splash pad, which is like a mini-water park with spraying water accompanied by other climbing devices and toys. The pads, which have become very popular in many communities, eliminate the risk of drowning because they have little or no standing water. Others present at the meeting said they were familiar with splash pads and expressed support for the idea, although the cost of such an installation is unclear.

Others suggested moving forward with the welcome park that had been designed for the open area on the west side of the civic center. Others suggested covering a portion of the area with

a roof to allow for picnic tables or a place for the farmer's market.

How much of the IRRR funds will actually be available for bathroom facilities or other improvements will be dependent on what's left after ongoing work for the kayak launch and trailhead project is completed. The contractor on the project has run into more soft soils than expected, among other problems and Tower City Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz said the project has gone significantly over-budget. He said the city and contractor have been making adjustments along the way to try to keep costs in line, so it's not clear what the final expenses will be. That means some of the IRRR funds could be used to pay for completion of that project, which would limit what's available for other improvements in the vicinity.

CITY OF ELY

Council OKs acquisition of Revenue Building for new community complex

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— The city council here gave the green light to the acquisition of the state Department of Revenue building on Miner's Drive, marking a major step forward toward a new childcare center and fitness and wellness facility.

City Attorney Kelly Klun presented the purchase agreement, totaling \$1,035,000, and noted that the city was only facilitating the transfer of the property from the state of Minnesota to the Ely Area Community Foundation, which plans to renovate the 16,000 square-foot building to make way for the new childcare center as well as the fitness and wellness facilities.

Klun said a second purchase agreement, which would transfer the property from the city to the foundation would "piggyback" the

purchase agreement with the state and be executed on the same day. Klun said she hoped to have that agreement ready for approval at the council's next meeting. She said a donation to the EACF would actually finance the city's purchase of the building, so city funds would not be needed. Under the agreement approved by the council this week, closing is set for Dec. 8.

City Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski said the city will likely be making some limited and temporary financial commitments toward the project. "It's not open-ended," said Langowski. "We're going to keep the heat on and provide access to the

building appropriate for fire protection."

While the plans for the revenue building have been in the works for months, it first came to the council's attention last month and Klun said she was looking for a sign that the council was on board with the plan to help with the acquisition. Council members made it clear that they were, quickly approving the arrangement.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a note and mortgage for a \$7,000 residential rehab loan to Doug Scheibe to pay for the installation of a subfloor drainage and discharge system.

- Approved a residen-

tial rehab loan for \$10,000 for Sandra Thom and Jay Pohlman for a furnace changeout and other energy-related improvements to their property.

- Approved a residential rehab loan totaling \$6,745.74 to Mary Lou Korpela for the demolition of a trailer at 1815 E Chapman St. pending completion of needed paperwork and the payment of fees.

- Set its Truth in Taxation hearing for 6 p.m. on Dec. 6 in the council chambers.

- Set a special meeting for 5:15 p.m. on Nov. 15 to canvass the result of the Nov. 8 general election.

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- Volunteer for community boards and organizations

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CITY OF ELY

Omerza and Kess share views in Ely mayoral race

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

ELY – The primaries held back in August narrowed the field to two well-known Ely names vying to be named the next mayor of Ely in next Tuesday’s election. Both Heidi Omerza and Paul Kess have served on the Ely City Council for several years. Both Omerza and Kess hope to replace current mayor Roger Skraba, who is making his own bid for the district 3A seat in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

In a recent interview with the *Timberjay*, the two candidates were asked the following four questions with their answers to each included below:

What one thing do you want people to remember about you as they cast their ballot in



Heidi Omerza



Paul Kess

the upcoming election?

Kess: “I want them to know that I’m the best candidate for mayor.” Kess noted his long resume that is filled with leadership experience that includes, in part, serving on the Ely City Council, his work as President of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS), as well as union leadership roles. “I’ve committed to the people of Ely,” he added.

Omerza: “The first thing that pops into my head

is that I’m the same now as I’ve always been. I’m steady, and I know what Ely wants and needs. What I voted for five years ago is likely what I would vote for today. This is how I show up; this is how I lead.”

What is an unexpected lesson you learned while campaigning for mayor?

Omerza: “You learn more about yourself. You learn how passionate you are about how you want Ely to be and how great it is already. I’m so proud of Ely and everything it’s accomplished.” Omerza cited the city of Ely’s ability to overcome obstacles, reinvent itself and “figure

things out” as reasons she’s passionate about serving as mayor.

Kess: Kess admitted that family commitments have kept him from doing much campaigning, but he’s still tried to communicate his message as best as he was able. Now with the election right around the corner, he said, “I’m going to get out and do some door knocking, but family is always first.”

What is your first priority if you’re elected as Mayor?

Kess: Referring to himself as a “budget hawk,” Kess said that he would create an action plan to address Ely’s significant lack of affordable housing. “Housing is a real critical issue for us.” He said that finding creative ways to fund housing development

would be key to success on this issue. “In a budget that’s tight for the city, that’s (finding funding) going to be harder.”

Omerza: Omerza cited what she called the “Trifecta” – childcare, housing and workforce. She said she will continue to work on these three issues and “continue figuring them out.” Omerza pointed to working on all levels – local, regional and state – to make strides on these three issues with which Ely continues to grapple.

If elected, how will you represent ALL people of Ely?

Omerza: “I talk to a lot of people. I see a lot of people. If I don’t hear from the opposition, I try to seek them out.”

Kess: “People speak with their votes, and I’m

comfortable dealing with people who are not of my political affiliation.”

Final thoughts to add?
Kess: “I hope voters will examine the candidates and make an intelligent choice.” He said regardless of the outcome, he’ll never take it personally. “I have a desire for good government.”

Omerza: “I’m excited. It’s been a great 16 years (on the City Council).”

The general election is Tuesday and early voting has already begun. For more information on how and where to vote please visit: <https://www.ely.mn.us> and enter “Election 2022” in the search bar located at the top right corner of the page.

ELECTION...Continued from page 1

Representative and Republican Pete Stauber, first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2018, is matched up against four-term DFL Minnesota House member Jen Schultz. Leading election forecasters have pegged the district as being solidly Republican, but Schultz hopes voters will turn it back to DFL control.

State legislature

Four contested races for area Senate and House seats are on the line Tuesday.

Babbitt Mayor and Republican candidate Andrea Zupancich and Hermantown City Council member and DFL candidate Grant Hauschild will face off for the District 3 Senate seat formerly held by retired Sen. Tom Bakk.

The race for the District 7 Senate seat pits DFLer Ben DeNucci, of Nashwauk, against Hibbing Republican Rob Farnsworth.

In House District 3A, DFL incumbent Rob Ecklund faces a challenge from Ely Mayor Roger Skraba, a Republican.

Virginia Republican Matt Norri hopes to wrest the House District 7B seat away from DFL incumbent Dave Lislegard, of Aurora.

County sheriff

In a three-way primary race, St. Louis County Undersheriff Jason Lukovsky and former Duluth and Wichita, Kan. police chief Gordon Ramsay won the right to be on Tuesday’s ballot. Ramsay polled strongest in the Duluth area in the primary, while Lukovsky performed well elsewhere. Part-time Moose Lake officer and gun shop owner Chad Walsh was the odd man out in August but has continued his campaign as a write-in alternative.

Mayoral races

With Skraba running for the legislature, Ely voters will choose between longtime council members Heidi Omerza and Paul Kess in that city’s mayoral race.

Orr will also choose a new mayor, with Rocky Hoffman and Robert “Bob” Antikainen running for the position.

Tower Mayor Dave Setterberg and Cook Mayor Harold Johnston are unopposed.

City council

In Orr, six candidates are vying for two seats on the city council, including Bruce Black, Ericka Cote, Joshua Gaskell, Jim Gray, Sean Luce, and Hannah Manick.

Cook voters will have

to choose among Cook City Council members Jody Bixby and Kim Brunner and challenger Ivette Reing for two positions on the council. A separate special election to fill the term of former council member Karen Hollanitsch features Dave Danz, appointed to the council to serve in place of Hollanitsch until the election, and challengers Erin Danielson and Liza

Root.

Three council seats in Ely and two in Tower have an equal number of contestants. Tower will have a special election for a third council seat with Tom Suihkonen and Joshua Zika squaring off.

Election day registration

Potential voters who have not yet registered may do so on Tuesday at their

local polling place. To find your local polling place, go to mnvotes.gov and type in your address.

Same-day registrants must present proof of residence, which can be one of the following:

- A valid Minnesota driver’s license, learner’s permit, or ID; or a receipt for any of these.
- Tribal ID with name, address, photo and signa-

ture.

➤ A combination of an approved photo ID (may be expired) and a document showing a current address.

➤ A registered voter who goes with you to a polling place and vouches for your address.

➤ A college ID with a housing list.

➤ Valid registration in the same precinct.

➤ Notice of late reg-

istration.

➤ A staff person employed by a residential facility where you live who can vouch for your address.

For complete information on same-day registration, go online to <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/register-on-election-day>.



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CROSS COUNTRY SECTION 7A FINALS

Ely girls team, other area runners headed to state

North Woods' Brodeen tops Section 7A girls field

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

DULUTH— Area runners made an impression at last week's sectional competition at Duluth's Lester Park Golf Course, and they'll have a chance to do it again as they head to the state cross country meet set for Nov. 5 in Northfield. Runners from Ely and North Woods qualified for the state meet on a nearly perfect day for running last Thursday, with cool and dry conditions and light winds.

A solid effort by the Ely girls

team qualified them for the bus ride to St. Olaf with a second-place finish just one point behind section leading Carlton. A second-place overall finish by eighth-grader Molly Brophy, with a personal record time of 19:45, helped Ely's cause. But she had plenty of help from senior Zoe Devine, who placed eighth with a time of 20:31 and Claire Blauch finished in 13th, with a time of 21:18.

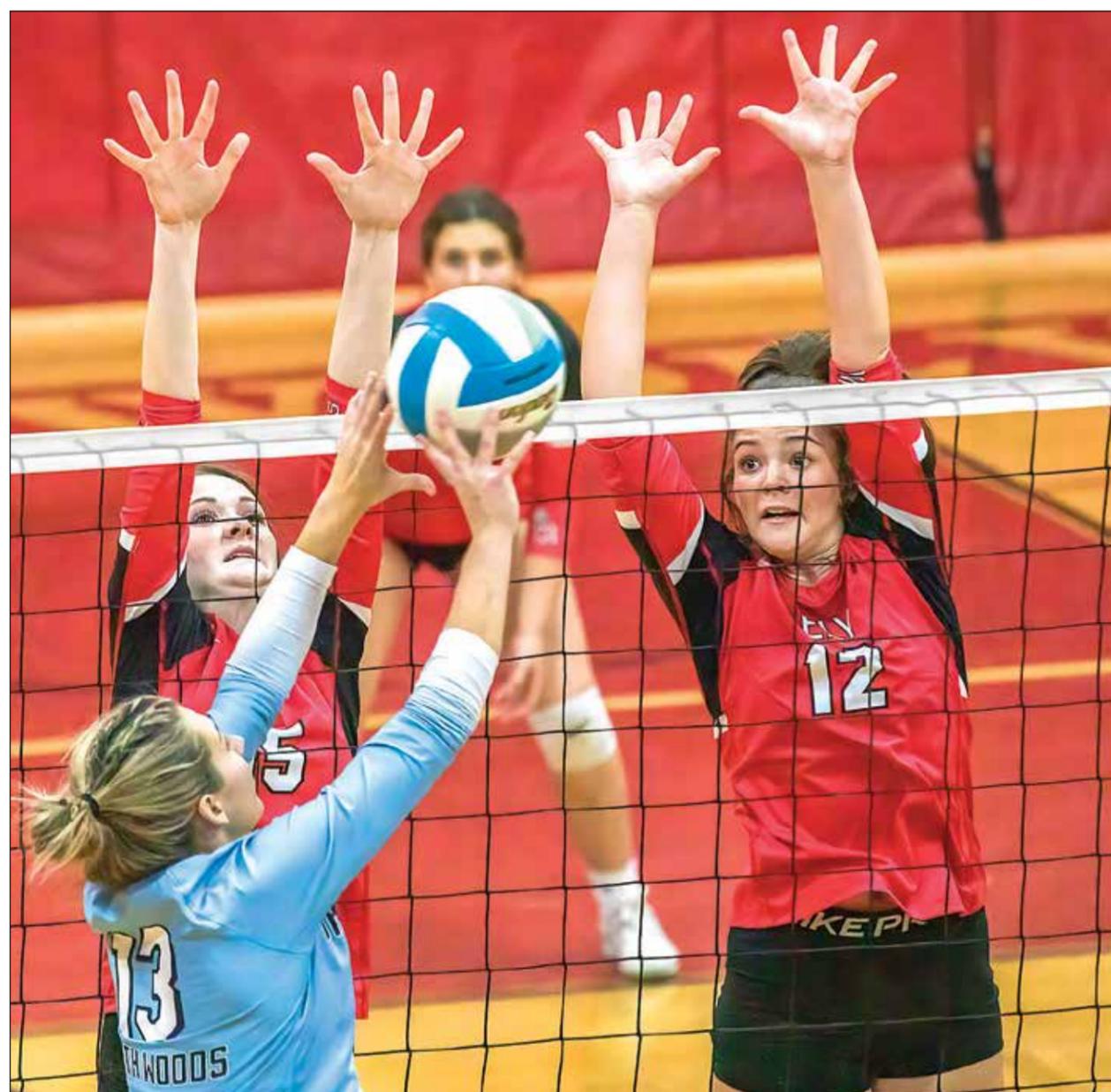
Meanwhile, North Woods junior Evelyn Brodeen (see related story below), who runs with the combined South Ridge team,

Right: Evelyn Brodeen of North Woods, running for South Ridge, comes into the finish just ahead of Ely's Molly Brophy. Brodeen and Brophy finished first and second in the Section 7A finals last Thursday to qualify for the state meet.

photo courtesy J. Peterson
Pine Knot News

notched her own personal best in the 5K race, as she topped the entire girls' field to win the Section 7A

See **RUNNERS...**pg. 4B



SECTION 7A VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

Ely tops scrappy Grizzlies

Wolves eye semifinal tilt against South Ridge

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ELY—Earlier this year, the North Woods volleyball team was the first team to win a single set against Ely, ending a run that had lasted for the first several matches of the season. Last Friday, the Grizzlies entered the Memorial High School gym resolved to end an even bigger streak, Ely's perfect 26-0 match record for the season.

But the Timberwolves weren't about to let that record end in front of a raucous home crowd, and while North Woods gave their all, Ely claimed their 27th match win with a 3-0 victory over the Grizzlies.

The Grizzlies put the Wolves on notice that they were in for a fight by taking an 11-7 lead in the first set on clever push shots by Hannah Kinsey, and Kinsey gave Ely fits all night in the middle of the net. But with Ely's Sarah Visser at the service line, Kate Coughlin and Madeline Kallberg picked up scores to knot the

Top: The Grizzlies' Skyler Yernatich attempts to steer a shot around the blocks of Ely's Madeline Kallberg and Lilli Rechichi.

Right: Ely's Sarah Visser is all concentration as she sets the ball for a teammate.

photos by D. Colburn

set at 11-11. Unfazed, North Woods went back up by three, 15-12, but the Wolves pulled even again at 15-15. The Grizzlies went up by two, 17-15, but Ely's Hannah Penke hammered a kill to put the ball in the hands of Kallberg at the service line. Penke scored again on a clever loft shot that gave Ely a lead they wouldn't relinquish at 18-17. The Wolves went up by four, and a Grizzlies' rally came up short as Ely claimed the first set 25-22.

The second set was another neck-and-neck battle, with the Grizzlies' getting a big block from Karah Scofield on a Penke kill attempt to

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



Evelyn Brodeen smiles as she displays her first place medal.

CROSS COUNTRY

Brodeen is Section 7A champ

North Woods' Burckhardt takes second in boys contest

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

DULUTH— North Woods runner Evelyn Brodeen, competing with the South Ridge Panthers, turned in the race of her life last week, winning the Section 7A cross-country meet and qualifying for state competition.

Brodeen, who two weeks earlier won the Polar League championship, was primed to contend for the championship, staged at the Lester Park Golf Course in Duluth. Her pre-race strategy for the 5K race was to stay in touch with the lead pack of runners early, forge to the lead late, and use a strong kick at the finish. It worked like a charm.

"We got to mile two and I was in the pack," Brodeen said. "And then with one mile left I was in front of the pack. With 800 meters left it was me and that Ely girl (eighth-grader Molly Brophy). In the last 400I was able to stride out and pull ahead."

Brodeen crossed the finish line barely two seconds ahead of Brophy, winning with a time of 19 minutes, 42.8 seconds. That was 39 seconds faster than her seventh-place finish in last year's Section 7A meet.

So how did Brodeen go from seventh to first? Lots of hard work in the off-season, she said.

Her close friend and teammate, and last year's 7A champ, North

See **NORTH WOODS...**pg. 4B



Alex Burckhardt



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

HUNTER SAFETY

Deer hunting is much safer today than in the past

It's the opening of the regular firearms deer season in our area on Saturday and, like most recent years, the Department of Natural Resources is putting out its annual safety message. I know some folks like to pooh-pooh such things. It's become fashionable to dismiss those "nanny state" messages as just another example of government



**MARSHALL
HELMBERGER**

overreach.

But here's the thing. All that nanny overreaching has made a huge difference when it comes to your odds of being shot while out in the woods this deer season.

In years past, heading out in the woods on the deer opener was akin to entering a warzone and it took a serious toll on hunters. I never realized just how

much of a toll until I was paging through one of my mother's scrap books and found a small clipping from the 1930s, naming one of her uncles as the victim of a deer hunting accident in northwestern Minnesota. He was one of the 11 reported fatalities just to that point in the season.

It wasn't an anomaly. The DNR, it turns out, began keeping track of hunting accidents and fatalities back in the 1940s. The numbers in the past were simply shocking. In 1961, the year I was born, 29 deer hunters died in the

field. And that was with about a quarter of the number of legal hunters out there today.

Granted 1961 was a bad year for deer hunters, even though the number of hunting accidents was relatively low. It was just that they were all fatal.

But throughout the 1960s and 70s, the number of hunting accidents was astonishing. In 1969, there were 140 hunting accidents reported, with 18 fatalities. In 1975, 14 hunters died out of 102 accidents.

In the 1960s alone, 142

hunters died in a total of 1,030 separate hunting accidents. It was a bloodbath out there and it finally prompted a sustained push for more hunter safety training. I remember taking the training myself back in 1975, with instructors from the National Rifle Association. That was back in the day when the NRA was interested in promoting gun safety rather than just guns. Back then, hunters ages 12-15 had to have a firearms safety certificate to

See SAFETY...pg. 3B



2022 REGULAR FIREARMS DEER SEASON

A tough season ahead?

Hunters will find lower deer numbers in much of the region

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Deer hunters will have their work cut out for them when they head to their stands for Saturday's opener of the regular firearms deer season.

"It's going to be another hard year for our deer hunters," said Jessica Holmes, Tower area wildlife manager for the Department of Natural Resources. "It will probably be similar to last year, in some areas maybe a little worse," Holmes predicts. "We had a moderate-to-severe winter last year in most of the area," she said, noting that winter severity plays a major role in deer survival here in the North Country.

A lower deer population is only part of the challenge. Given the low numbers, hunters will be limited to bucks-only in many permit areas in northern St. Louis, Lake, and Koochiching counties. While the DNR did issue a limited number of antlerless tags in permit areas 176 and 177, the combined 950 permits between the two areas were well below recent allotments.

Holmes said the best deer numbers are found in those agricultural pockets, like west of Cook, where deer forage is better than in heavily forested areas to the east. She said large tracts of forested public land seem to be holding the fewest deer.

"I spent three or four days on the Echo Trail recently and didn't see a deer the whole time," said Holmes. "I

did see some moose sign, which was good news."

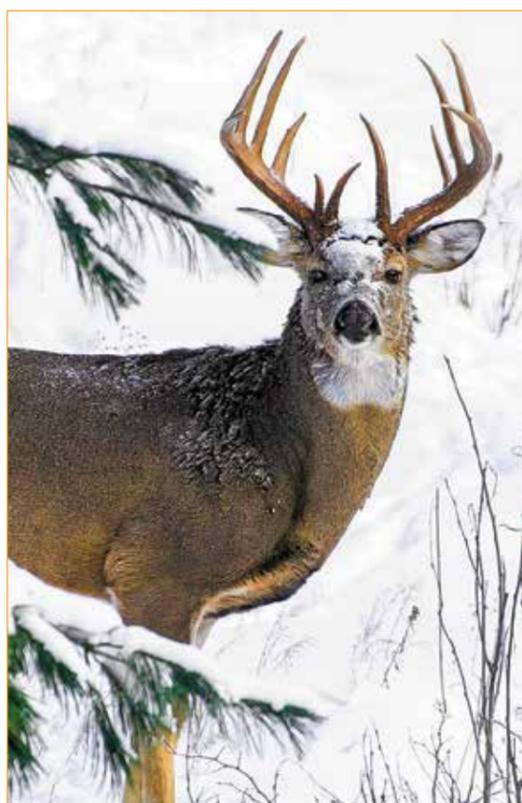
Abundant snowfall during the second half of winter last year, combined with a late melt, made it difficult for deer to forage, particularly in the border country. Holmes said permit areas 118 and 119 saw a significant amount of surplus killing of deer by wolves during the late winter and early spring, when crust conditions and an already-weakened herd made deer especially vulnerable. "Last winter was rough," said Holmes.

Deer activity

Exceptionally mild weather in the past couple weeks has kept the rut fairly low key so far, although Holmes said she expects that to change with cooler temperatures and a chance of mixed precipitation, which is currently forecasted to hit the region over the weekend. Temperatures are expected to return to more seasonable levels, with highs in the low-to-mid 40s over the weekend, cooling into the low-30s by the end of the week, with on-and-off snow chances. Holmes said next Wednesday through the second weekend of the season should be peak for deer activity, based on both the calendar and the weather forecast.

While bucks would normally be fully in the rut by now, Holmes said the exceptionally warm temperatures earlier this week likely kept buck activity down. She said the bucks can quickly overheat in such temperatures if they're too active. Whitetails in the North Country

See DEER HUNT...pg. 3B



Reminder: Register your deer

REGIONAL — Hunters are required to register every deer they harvest before processing, before antlers are removed and within 48 hours after taking the animal. Hunters can register deer online, via phone or in person.

Information from deer registration is essential for the DNR to track and manage deer populations. Detailed registration instructions for all methods are available on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/Hunting/Deer/HarvestReg.html).

TRADITIONS



Send us your hunting stories

REGIONAL — Deer season is a time of tradition, family and fun. It's also a time for great outdoors stories and we'd like to hear yours — so we can share the best with our readers.

We're looking for stories and photos from this year's hunt. Whether it's an interesting encounter in the woods, a monster buck, a funny story about life at deer camp, or a young person's first deer, we want to hear about it. Don't worry if you're not a writer. Just tell us the story over the phone — we'll write it for you. Or email us with a few details and we'll take it from there. And don't forget — nothing highlights the story better than some photos, so send them along as well.

Contact Marshall Helmberger at 218-753-2950 with your stories or email them to marshall@timberjay.com.

So go out and have a great time. And let us know how you did!

Outdoors briefly

Off-road use will be temporarily restricted on some forest trails

REGIONAL — Recreational use of off-highway vehicles will be restricted on some state forest trails and access routes during the upcoming firearms deer hunting season, according to the Department of Natural Resources. Vehicles affected by the restrictions include all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles and registered off-road vehicles, such as four-wheel drive trucks. At certain times of day (listed below), these restrictions do not apply to vehicles being used by a licensed deer hunter in conjunction with deer hunting.

The effective dates of the recreational riding restrictions are Nov. 5-20 for northeastern Minnesota.

The restrictions, which do not apply to state forest roads, aim to protect recreational

See OFF-ROAD...pg. 3B

Outdoors briefly

Tips for a safe hunt

REGIONAL— With many hunting seasons underway, and about 400,000 hunters set to converge on the state's fields and woods for the Nov. 5 firearms deer opener, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds hunters there's no such thing as a successful hunt if it isn't safe.

Done right, hunting is an exceptionally safe activity that brings families and friends together to create life-long memories, and it's up to every hunter to ensure that trend continues. Three of the main ways to ensure a safe hunt are to:

- Brush up on the key tenets of safe firearms handling before hitting the field.
 - Wear blaze clothing to ensure visibility to other hunters.
 - Practice climbing into and out of tree stands before the season starts.
- According to national data, as many as one in three hunters who hunt from an elevated stand will fall and sustain a serious injury. The number of hunting-related firearms fatalities has dropped significantly over the past 60 years — largely due to safety training requirements for young and new hunters — but even one fatality is too many.



Slough grass glistens white as the morning sun starts to rise. photo by M. Helmberger

FROSTY MORNING

DEER HUNT...Continued from page 2B —

are already in their winter coats, so temperatures in the 60s limit deer activity by necessity.

The opener coincides with a moon that's waxing toward full on Tuesday, Nov. 8, which means bucks will likely remain active throughout the night. While that means morning and dusk can be less productive, midday is often an excellent time for deer activity in the vicinity of a full moon.

The DNR will be updating registration numbers daily and posting comparison numbers from previous years on the deer reports and statistics page on the DNR website, at mndnr.gov/Mammals/Deer/Management/Statistics.html.

According to the site, hunters have already registered over 23,000 deer statewide, mostly from archery and youth hunters.

Tracking the season

The DNR will be offering a new way for hunters to keep tabs on the season

The 16-day regular firearms season runs through Sunday, Nov. 20.

OFF-ROAD...Continued from page 2B —

riders from potentially unsafe riding conditions and to minimize the potential for conflicts between deer hunters and recreational riders.

- From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- After legal shooting hours.

"It's important to always put safety first," said Joe Unger, OHV program consultant for the DNR. "We thank everyone, in advance, for their safety vigilance and for sharing space in Minnesota state forests."

Licensed deer hunters may still use restricted routes in conjunction with their hunting activity during the following time periods:

- Before legal shooting time.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
39 26					43 31					43 25					38 29					42 32				
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.
10/17	35	23	0.10	1.0"	10/17	36	26	0.08	0.1"	10/17	37	25	0.10	1.0"	10/17	28	25	0.18	tr	10/17	36	23	0.10	0.5"
10/18	35	22	0.00		10/18	30	23	0.00		10/18	29	24	0.00		10/18	36	21	0.00		10/18	30	22	0.00	
10/19	35	21	0.00		10/19	36	22	0.00		10/19	34	23	0.00		10/19	45	23	0.00		10/19	36	21	0.00	
10/20	44	24	0.00		10/20	44	19	0.00		10/20	47	25	0.00		10/20	52	27	0.00		10/20	44	21	0.00	
10/21	50	30	0.00		10/21	51	21	0.00		10/21	54	25	0.00		10/21	61	43	0.00		10/21	51	22	0.00	
10/22	59	43	0.00		10/22	59	40	0.00		10/22	62	43	0.01		10/22	61	43	0.00		10/22	59	40	0.00	
10/23	61	42	0.00		10/23	62	37	0.00		10/23	61	43	0.00		10/23	73	46	0.00		10/23	61	41	0.00	
YTD Total			23.20	2.2"	YTD Total			25.42	2.4"	YTD Total			23.22	4.0"	YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			30.82	2.9"

SAFETY...Continued from page 2B —

buy big-game licenses, but adults, trained or not, could still go out with high-powered rifles.

In 1990, the Legislature approved a law requiring anyone born after Dec. 31, 1979 to complete a hunter safety course to buy any hunting license.

Has it all made a difference? Big time. Consider the following trend data, according to the DNR.

- 1960s: 1,030 accidents, 142 hunters killed.
- 1970s: 414 accidents, 49

hunters killed*

- 1980s: 146 accidents, 45 hunters killed.
- 1990s: 319 accidents, 29 hunters killed.
- 2000s: 251 accidents, 17 hunters killed.
- 2010s: 142 accidents, 16 hunters killed.

(*the deer season was cancelled in 1971 due to low deer numbers)

It's worth noting that even as the number of accidents and fatalities has been declining, the number of

hunters out in the woods has jumped sharply. In the 1970s, deer hunters in Minnesota purchased about 300,000 licenses on average. In 2020, deer hunters bought 883,323 licenses.

While any hunter fatality is too many, there's no doubt that the education efforts have made a tremendous difference. The same trend has also been experienced in Wisconsin, again thanks to hunter education and the promotion of safety. Perhaps a little nannying now and then has its rewards.

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RUNNERS...Continued from page 1B

championship with a time of 19:42, just three seconds ahead of Ely's Brophy. Brodeen's win obviously qualifies her for a trip to state, but she'll go it alone as her team narrowly failed to qualify.

On the boys' side, Ely's Caid Chittum finished fifth and qualified for the state meet with a time of 17:25.

For longtime Ely Head Coach Jayne Dusich, it was just another successful season — one of many — but that didn't dim her enthusiasm. "Well, it's always exciting when an individual makes it to state, but even more so when a team makes it," said Dusich. "The girls are so excited. This will be senior Phoebe's last race and Zoe's third and last state meet. They didn't have a state



meet in 2020, which she (Zoe) would have made it, and this is Molly's second state meet."

Dusich took home an honor of her own as she was named Section 7A



Far left: Ely's Caid Chittum with his medal.

Left: The Ely girls team flanks Head Coach Jayne Dusich holding their second-place trophy.

photos courtesy J. Peterson Pine Knot News

Coach of the Year, an honor that's voted on by fellow coaches at the section meet. Dusich has coached countless runners to individual state meet appearances and brought Ely's girls teams to

state in 2003, 2004, 2006, 2015, 2016 and the boys teams in 2015, 2016, and 2019.

"Working with Jayne has been a highlight of the season," said Sarah Spate,

assistant coach under Dusich. "Her 27 years of experience cannot be matched. I've learned a lot from her about what it takes to develop and maintain a successful team, and I look

forward to continuing on with her next season."

Dusich is optimistic looking ahead to Saturday's state meet. "Zoe and Molly know the course which helps, and it helps when the whole team goes out in the start." Spate also likes the Ely girls' chances at the big race, "I'm looking forward to State, it's exciting to have the girls' varsity competing as a team, and we have some individuals who we expect to do really well."

NORTH WOODS...Continued from page 1B

Woods sophomore Addison Burckhardt, was her summer training partner and an additional source of motivation.

"She was ahead of me a lot last year, then near the end of the year I got closer to her," Brodeen said. "This summer we trained together a lot, and she helped me set the pace. It was nice to run with her because it makes it easier to train."

The pair even trained

for and ran the Running the Rapids half-marathon in late August in Cohasset, a distance more than four times longer than the 5K races of prep cross country.

All the work certainly paid off, and to a degree that even surprised Brodeen a bit.

"I knew I was going to be a little better, but I didn't think I would improve as much as I did," she said.

Panthers Head Coach

Jeremy Polson said Brodeen may also have surprised her competitors.

"We put together a more competitive race schedule this year, so from the outside looking in, I don't think anyone but her inner circle figured she had a chance to win a section title and that is exactly what we wanted," Polson said. "She is a disciplined runner and uses her patience to work her way

up to the front of the pack. Once she breaks away it is very difficult for anyone to outkick her."

"The race didn't even go as planned," Polson continued. "We figured a girl from Mt. Iron would either control the lead pack or run away from everyone and Evelyn would have to try to catch her down the final straightaway."

Brodeen will have familiar company at this

Saturday's state meet. North Woods sophomore and teammate Alex Burckhardt qualified with a strong second-place showing in the boys' race, clocking in at 17:13.4. Burckhardt never finished lower than seventh in regular-season competition.

"On paper we had him finishing as high as second and he was able to achieve that," Polson said. "He went out in second place from the

gun and never let off the gas the entire race."

It will be the second trip for both to the state meet at St. Olaf College in Northfield. Brodeen went to the meet last year as part of the South Ridge team and placed 44th out of 156 competitors. Burckhardt qualified last year as an individual runner and placed 75th out of 157 runners.

VOLLEYBALL...Continued from page 1B

give North Woods a 6-5 lead. But Lilli Rechichi tied the score with a kill and then stepped to the service line to fire a couple of aces as the Wolves scored five consecutive points to that

a 10-6 lead. North Woods refused to go away, staying within two to three points and drawing to within on at 17-18 on a Tori Olson ace. But that's as close as it got as the Wolves closed

out set two on a 7-2 run to win 25-19.

Fighting for their playoff lives, the Grizzlies took a 6-5 lead with Kinsey controlling the middle and Lauren Burnett getting a big kill. But a confident Timberwolves crew snatched the lead back, and with Visser serving forged a 13-7 advantage. Kinsey got a kill to momentarily stop, but a Kallberg score gave the ball right back to the Wolves. Ely capitalized on a few Grizzlies miscues and got scores on a kill and a block from Rechichi to

take their biggest lead of the match at 17-8. While Olson fired three consecutive aces for the Grizzlies to pull within five, 18-13, North Woods simply didn't have the firepower to claw back any closer as the Wolves rolled to a 25-16 win and a berth in the Section 7A semifinals against South Ridge.

The Grizzlies presented a tough challenge that should help the Wolves as they advance, Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum said.

"North Woods always

puts up a really good fight," Wognum said. "It's great that we have a competitive game so that we kind of keep our feet grounded, and so that we're ready for the next game. There are learning opportunities in there. There's plenty of things I wrote down today that we're going to be working on on Monday."

A season-long strength of this Ely team has been their ability to celebrate their accomplishments while knowing that there's still room to learn and grow as a team.

"These girls have a huge passion for volleyball," Wognum said. "Focus comes along with that passion. You can't coach that, they have to learn that as they play, and they've really grown in that department this year.

Grizzlies Head Coach Kandi Olson praised her squad's effort.

"Our goal was to create chaos on their side, and I think we did that successfully for a long time, Olson said. "If we were going to go down, we were going to go down kicking and screaming. We were going to play our hearts out until the end and I think you saw that on the court tonight."

Olson also had good things to say about Kinsey's performance.

"The growth of Hannah in just the last two weeks has been tremendous," Olson said. "She kicked into a different mindset and you could see it out there. What a way to go out. I told her that was a highlight reel night."

North Woods ended its season at 15-10.

Penke topped the Wolves in kills with 13, followed by Kate Coughlin with nine, Kallberg with eight, and Rechichi with seven. Visser had 24 set assists, six more than Kallberg with 18. Kate Coughlin collected 13 digs, one more than the 12 picked up by Rachel Coughlin.

Ely was scheduled to be on the court again on Wednesday with a semifinal matchup against South Ridge in Hibbing. Ely defeated the Panthers 2-1 in a regular-season tournament match. A win would put the Wolves in Saturday's championship game on Saturday at Hermantown High School against the winner of the Floodwood-Nashwauk-Keewatin semifinal, both teams Ely defeated in the regular season.

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BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Breitung discusses OHV route through township

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- DNR Area Supervisor Joe Majerus met with the Breitung Town Board on Oct. 27 to discuss options for a new Off-Road Vehicle (OHV) trail spur connecting the planned OHV Campground in the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park and existing trails to Soudan and Tower.

The campground, which will be located on state park land off the Murray Spur Road, is in the design phase right now, he told the board, and should be built in the next two or three years. The Prospector Trail connects to the east side of the campground site.

“The idea is to connect the campground to Tower and Soudan via a new trail,” Majerus said. While the DNR would construct and maintain the trail at no cost to the township, the township needs to be involved in the planning of the route, which will mainly be on township land.

“Where do you want the trail to go?” he asked the town board.

The township’s preferred route will keep the ATVs off Jasper Street, they told Majerus. The route, identified as Option 1, crosses some private land, and the township would be responsible for getting easements or purchasing the small amount

of private land in question.

The township had concerns about the route because they may need access to that area sometime in the future to expand the township’s gravel pit.

Majerus said the trail can be moved at any time.

“The trail is just a minimal investment,” he said. “It is just a connecting trail.”

This route comes west from the proposed state park campground area to Thompson Farm Rd. and runs south on Thompson Farm Rd. for about 2,000 ft. until it hits the Taconite Trail.

Wastewater

A change in how the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board is charging the city and township for wastewater will result in some higher bills this year. The board had decided to charge both Tower and Soudan a variable rate based on the number of gallons sent to the sewer system. Tower and Soudan are already charged for each gallon of drinking water used.

The variable rate, Chairman Tim Tomsich explained, would give an incentive to reduce inflow and infiltration of non-drinking water into the wastewater treatment system. This would not only reduce costs for the board but would also free up more capacity in the treatment ponds.

But the first half of this year,

with plenty of runoff from melting snow and above average rainfall, meant a lot of excess water filtering into the system.

“Right now, our three-year average is good,” said Tomsich, “because of the drought. But if we get three wet years, the ponds could be over capacity.”

Tomsich said it is looking like the second half of the year will be drier, so the flows may average out. But he said a discussion of going back to the fixed-rate charges would take away the incentives for repairing old pipes and reducing other sources of inflow into the ponds.

Tomsich said the board was also concerned about a notice of violation from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding how the sewer hookup for the new RV park in Tower had been handled.

“The city was responsible for making sure things were being done correctly,” Tomsich said. “But the RV park didn’t have their MPCA permit.”

While the wastewater board had approved the RV park hooking into the system, the city was responsible for making sure the correct procedures were followed.

Tomsich said the permit is now in process and the issue was being resolved. But he said the wastewater board is asking the city to put together a corrective action report to make sure the issue does not happen again.

Other business

In other business, the town board:

► Accepted the low bid of \$346,215 from Mesabi Bituminous for upcoming infrastructure improvements. The only other bid came in at \$434,233.

► Heard that the Tower Ambulance Commission was going to ask the city to borrow approximately \$35,000 on behalf of the commission so that a new ambulance could be ordered as soon as possible. The commission would then pay back that amount in 2024. Delivery of a new ambulance will take at least a year. All the members of the commission, except for Greenwood, have agreed to make a double subsidy payment in 2023 only to help raise the funds needed for the new rig.

“Then we are not being held hostage by Greenwood,” said Supervisor Chuck Tekautz. “Right now, we are.”

► Approved a pre-application to the IRRR and CDBG for 2023-24 infrastructure projects.

► Made no decision on the installation of speed-control signage.

► Heard that Fire Department Training Officer Steve Burgess is requesting no pay for the rest of the year. Heard that the department has applied for grant funding to help pay the costs of new turnout gear for

their three newly trained members.

► Discussed the rates for the police contract with Tower for 2023. The cost will be increasing due to salary costs (wages increased by \$1.50/hour), increased fuel and insurance costs, and also due to a reduction in state aid the department is receiving next year. The new proposed rate is \$76,728, up from \$65,351 in 2022. The contract will cover 40 hours a week of coverage in Tower, with the city paying for any additional time for holidays/events such as the Fourth of July.

► Will advertise for winter-time rink attendants. The new lights have been installed at the rink, and over half the hockey boards have been repaired or replaced, with plans underway to finish the project. The board thanked Ken Hinkel and Charlie Winger for their help installing the new lights.

► Accepted a \$7,500 donation from Bois Forte for the fire department; \$3,000 from the family of Phyllis Burgess/Pat and Paul Kreig, for police department equipment and training; and \$1,755 from the police department taco fundraiser.

► Will hold a special board meeting on Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. The next regular board meeting will be held on Dec. 1 at 12 noon.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Franklin G. Gornick

Franklin Guy Gornick, 73, longtime resident of Soudan, died peacefully on Sunday, Oct. 30, 2022, in his home with family at his side. A family-directed celebration of life was held on Thursday, Nov. 3 at the Breitung Community Center. Family services were provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

Frank was born on July 8, 1949, in Biwabik, the son of Martin and Miriam (Sipola) Gornick. He was united in marriage to Jorgine Kregness on Feb. 1, 1975, in Tower.

Frank worked as a millwright for US Steel Minntac for 33 years. He was a member of the Breitung VFD, was a charter member of the Tower-Soudan Jaycees, the Vermilion Range Old Settlers Association, and he coached Little League baseball. He loved spending time with his grandchildren, and he enjoyed hunting, fishing, picking blueberries, walking his dogs, and making his daily rounds.

Frank is survived by his wife, Jorgine; mother, Miriam Gornick; children, Nichole (Bryan) Chiabotti, Aaron Gornick and Jillian (Mike) Anderson, all of Soudan; father-in-law, Warren (Kathy) Kregness; siblings, Martin A. Gornick, Bernadette Hendrickson, Carmen (Robert) Dale and Dominique Schumacker; grandchildren, Bria (Chase Kleppe) Chiabotti, Jared Chiabotti, Jacie (Brandon Sersha) Lakoskey, Joey (Brant Boutto) Lakoskey, Kaden Gornick, Kaleb Gornick, Chloe Anderson and Jack Anderson; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Barb (Steve) Burgess, Kar-

en (Ward) Patterson and Scott (Marilyn) Kregness; nieces and nephews, Cheri (Dean) DeBeltz, Alaina (Dustin) George, Allison (Ryan) Harasyn, Brynn Patterson, Sean (Allie) Kregness, Sara (Steve) Colberg, Jerry Hendrickson, Troy Hendrickson, Tara Schumacker and Brianna Schumacker; and extended family friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Martin; and mother-in-law, Rena Kregness.



David O. Ukkola

David O. Ukkola, 73, of Sandy Township, passed away at home with his wife by his side on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022. A celebration of life will take place at Range Funeral Home in Virginia on Friday, Nov. 18 with visitation at noon and the service at 1 p.m. Military Honors will follow.

David was born in Superior, Wis., on Aug. 23, 1949, and grew up on a small farm in Maple, the youngest of six children. He attended Northwestern High School and served in the Vietnam War from 1969-1971. After the war, his employer, US Steel, transferred him to the Iron Range to work at Minntac. He met the love of his life, Debbie, and became a father to two stepsons and fathered two daughters of his own, Stephanie, and

Sarah, who was lost at birth.

David was an outdoorsman, tending to his land, growing his garden, feeding the birds, picking berries, exploring the woods, hunting, trapping, fishing, or making repairs. He was proud to be a union member, working for US Steel for 35 years, before enjoying an early retirement at 54. He loved his Finnish heritage and enjoyed saunas, traditional meals and culture. He had a lot of sisu, bravely serving his country and later fighting cancer, never giving up hope. He was always thoughtful, choosing his words carefully before he spoke. He was optimistic, relaxed and full of joy.

David is survived by his wife, Debra Lords Ukkola; daughter, Stephanie Ukkola (Mack Swanson); stepsons, Joe Premo (Lindsay) and Jason Premo; brother, Gerald Ukkola; eight beloved grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Theodore and Irene Ukkola; siblings, Gladys, Patsy, Arnold and James; and daughter, Sarah Ukkola.

Carl Stone

Carl Stone, 87, of Babbitt, a proud U.S. Navy Veteran, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022, at his home. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Gary J. Metcalf

Gary Metcalf, 61, of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022, at Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.



Joyce B. Johnson

Joyce B. Johnson, 93, of Orr, passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022. There will be a private family interment at a later date. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Joyce was born in Fosston on June 24, 1929, to Roland “Bob” and Irene (Eidsvold) Agnew. She grew up on the farm in Fosston and was proud to be her dad’s best farmhand. Joyce was united in marriage to Elmer Johnson on Sept. 15, 1951, in Cook.

Joyce worked at Patten’s Café, The Glendale Inn and Mel’s IGA. She also worked hard at home for her family. Joyce had a natural talent and learned to be a seamstress, sewing many clothes, suits and dresses. She also upholstered, crocheted and

quilted. She was a very good cook and made the best donuts. She always looked forward to visits by family and friends. Joyce was loved by her children and grandchildren. She will be dearly missed.

Joyce is survived by her children, Warren (Janine) Johnson, Wes (Tami) Johnson, Mary (Mike) Setzer and Lester (Kathy) Johnson; brother, Robert Agnew; sisters, Fran Gustason and Judy (Ken) Frazee; grandchildren, Amber, Bobby, Nichole, Dusty, Dallas, Shana, Kyle and Melinda; and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Elmer; and brother, Gary.

Ann L. Sandys

Ann Lorraine Palo Sandys, 76, a lifelong Iron Range resident, originally of Soudan, died on Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2022, in Essentia-St. Mary’s Medical Center in Duluth. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5 at the Bauman-Cron Funeral Home Chapel in Virginia.

She is survived by her daughter, Mandy Palo-Sandys of Aurora; grandchildren, Tyler San-

dys and Julie Anna Sandys; siblings, Irene (Wendel) Wilson, Helen Huovinen and Melia (Anthony) Shikonya; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Donald R. Maroney

Donald R. Maroney, 87, of Babbitt, passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022, at the Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. A celebration of life and luncheon took place on Thursday, Nov. 3 at the Babbitt Municipal Center. Arrangements were with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Survivors include his wife, Florence Preblich Maroney; children, Sandy (Mike) Jaeger, Sharon (Brian) Hanson and Dave (Debbie) Maroney; eight grandchildren; fifteen great-grandchildren; brothers, Gale (Rosie) and Roger (Pat); and sister, Ruth Auguston.

Clary W. Larson

Clary W. Larson, 88, of Ely, passed away on Monday, Oct. 31, 2022, at his residence. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

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218-365-5678 or email us
director@elycommunityhealth.org

EMPLOYMENT

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

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Paraprofessional

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

Qualifications include:

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

Benefits include:

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

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

A complete application must include the following:

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

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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$17.23/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: Open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 4 & 11, 2022

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.



COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

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

WANTED!

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



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 jsummit@vermilioncountry.org, or call 218-753-1246 (ext. 2 for office) or call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950

PT PARAPROFESSIONAL (afternoons)

Vermilion Country School is seeking to hire a part-time paraprofessional to work afternoons (M,Tu,Th, Fr 12:30-3:30 p.m., and 12:30-1:30 p.m. on Wed.) Please call the school office at 218-753-1246 ext. 2 for details.

PT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VOLUNTEERS IN EDUCATION

Volunteers in Education (VinE) has an opening for the position of Executive Director. VinE is a nonprofit organization that creates a bridge between communities and schools by tutoring students in our local schools.

The ED will have overall strategic and operational responsibility for VinE's staff, programs and execution of its mission. They need to have a passion for public education, the nonprofit sector, grant writing, core programs, operation and planning.

This position is part time with a flexible schedule, year-round commitment and competitive pay offered. VinE is well organized and positioned to accept a new ED. Bachelor's degree is preferred. Experience in nonprofit, education, management, grant writing is needed. Please send resume and inquiries to Bailey Conger at bailey.conger@gmail.com or Leigh Zika at zikaleigh@gmail.com.



Public Health Program Coordinator (Nutrition)

\$30.83-\$37.75 Hourly

Apply by 11/16/2022

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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 11/4

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Eagles Nest Township Public Notice Board of Canvass

Notice is hereby given to the voters of Eagles Nest Township that the Board of Canvass meeting will take place on November 15, 2022, at the Eagles Nest Townhall, 1552 Bear Head State Park Road, Ely, MN 55731 at 4:30 pm.

Keely Drange, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 4, 2022

KUGLER TOWNSHIP Notice of Meeting

The Kugler Town Board will meet on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall for the Board of Canvass. The regular board meeting will follow.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 4, 2022

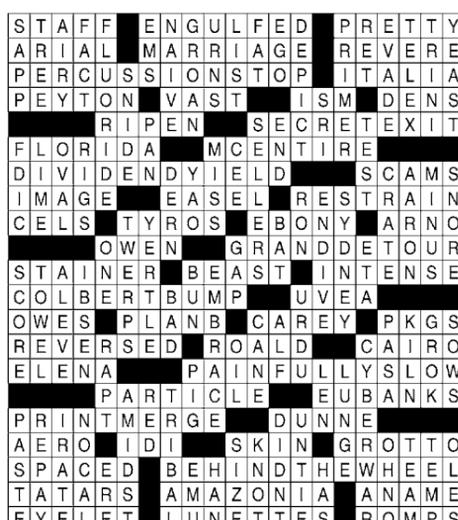
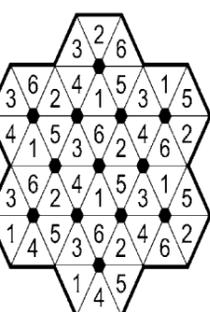
CryptoQuote

answer

Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music.

— Sergei Rachmaninov

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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)
Casual Ultrasound Tech (Independent Contractor)
Casual Radiologic Tech (Independent Contractor)

Dietary

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

TO APPLY:

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

More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220

humanresources@cookhospital.org

The Cook Hospital is an equal opportunity provider and employer

The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PERA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LODGING TAX FOR CERTAIN UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIPS IN ELY AREA

Notice is hereby given that, on October 11, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners of St. Louis County, Minnesota, commenced a public hearing on a proposed local lodging tax of up to three percent (3%) in unorganized townships: 61-12, 61-14, 63-14, 63-15, 64-14, 65-14, 66-12, 66-13, 66-14, 67-13, 67-14, and 68-14, and the public hearing will continue on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 9:40 a.m. at the McDavitt Town Hall, 9402 Zim Road, Forbes, Minnesota 55738.

Resolution 22-470 - Initial Determination on Imposition of Local Lodging Tax for Unorganized Townships in the Ely Area and Establishment of Public Hearing on Proposed Tax
WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 469.190 provides for imposition of a local lodging tax of up to three percent (3%) on the gross receipts from the furnishing for consideration of lodging at a hotel, motel, rooming house, tourist court, or resort, other than the renting or leasing of it for a continuous period of 30 days or more; and
WHEREAS, St. Louis County has received a request from representatives of the tourism and lodging industry located in the Ely area asking to expand the "Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for the Collection and Administration of a Local Lodging Tax in the Ely area" to include certain unorganized territories; and
WHEREAS, To begin the process of imposing a local lodging tax in the unorganized territory, the St. Louis County Board, acting as a town board, must make an initial determination that the tax is in the public interest and hold a public hearing on the proposed tax pursuant to the statute.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board hereby makes an initial determination that a local lodging tax of up to three (3%) in the following unorganized townships is in the public interest: 61-12, 61-14, 63-14, 63-15, 64-14, 65-14, 66-12, 66-13, 66-14, 67-13, 67-14 and 68-14.
RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Board establishes a public hearing on the proposed tax for Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 9:35 a.m. at the Ely City Hall, Ely, MN, to consider the proposed tax.

Adopted on: August 9, 2022. Moved by Commissioner Nelson, supported by Commissioner Jugovich Passed 7-0.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

NANCY J. NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER
By: Phil Chapman, Clerk of County Board

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

Considerations of personal privacy, time and resources prevent the newspaper from investigating ads placed in the classified section. If you respond to an ad, we urge you to use the same care and prudence that you would use when conducting business in any other situation.

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Langevin Auto & Truck Repair
Full Service
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Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F
2 Miles South of Tower
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Superior Quality
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• Trim
• One-Of-A-Kind Moldings
• Industrial Lumber
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8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

HAIR CARE

DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA- Open Monday-Friday 8:30 - 6:30. 218-666-5594. tfn

HOSPICE

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners can provide help for patients and their families in ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 or vhhpdirector@gmail.com. This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

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.

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard, AmEx, and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch" - please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today - 218-753-2950 or 218-365-3114

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218-666-2131
7401 Oak Narrows Rd - Cook MN

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Year round boat storage and dockage
Boat and pontoon rental
Convenience store
Gas, bait & liquor

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LAKE VERMILION
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Premier Pontoon Weeres
G3 Boats
SUZUKI YAMAHA
Sales, service, storage, boat lifts, docks, trailers and accessories

timbuktumarine.com

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franksmarine@centurytel.net
Hwy 53, Orr • Call 218-757-3150

MOCCASIN POINT MARINE

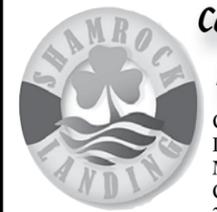
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Lake Vermilion
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Mechanic on Duty
moccasinpointmarine.com

ARONSON BOAT WORKS
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www.shamrocklanding.com

WANTED

SELIGA CANOES WANTED: We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

FOR RENT

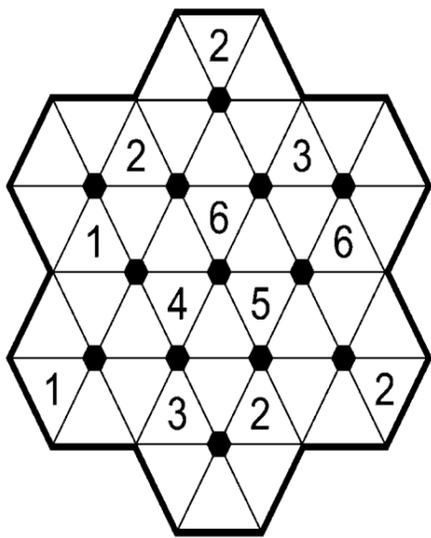
1 BR APARTMENT IN ELY- Walking distance from downtown Ely. Hardwood floors, off-street parking, on-site laundry, wi-fi available. \$675/month, includes heat and utilities. 218-235-8184 11/4

AUTOMOTIVE

2005 FORD F-150 4X4 for sale. 201,000 miles. 218-235-1925 11/11v

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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FUNERAL SERVICES

Range Funeral Home



Virginia 741-1481 Hibbing 263-3276
"Friends Helping Friends"

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7	4	3	9	6	2	5	1	8
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SIGN LANGUAGE

Super Crossword

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1 Work force | 1 Defensive tackle Warren | 38 Track shape | 78 "Qué —?" |
| 6 Swallowed up | 2 Willow or oak | 39 Road semis | 79 Brick-baking oven |
| 14 Beautiful | 3 Ethereal | 40 Fail to catch | 80 Totally understand, informally |
| 20 Popular type option | 4 Almanac item | 41 Passing mark | 81 Plants seeds |
| 21 Wedlock | 5 Drinking water additive | 43 "Wilson" actress Laura | 83 Absorbed |
| 22 Idolize | 6 Long dashes | 44 Basketballer Ming | 85 OPEC liquid |
| 23 Organ knob imparting a striking sound | 7 Innocent | 46 Shipping box | 86 Big hack attack |
| 25 Napoli's country | 8 Reaction to an awful pun | 47 Hitter Hank | 88 Sty dweller |
| 26 Quarterback Manning | 9 Big vases | 48 Negative | 89 Mystery writer Deighton |
| 27 Boundless | 10 Enumerate | 49 Sleep sound | 90 Sudden forward thrust |
| 28 Suffix with 12-Down | 11 Chubby | 52 "Backdraft" director | 92 In the thick of |
| 30 Jungle lairs | 12 Inflated sense of self | 53 Salad green | 93 Cardinal, e.g. |
| 31 Age, as cheese | 13 Portray | 54 Biggest city in Australia | 94 Clan-related |
| 33 Hidden way out in a haunted house | 14 First coat of paint | 56 Nudniks | 96 Sticky stuff |
| 36 Orlando locale | 15 Like many a sr. citizen | 57 Turtle in a Dr. Seuss title | 97 Reimburse |
| 40 Singer Reba | 16 Sidestep | 59 Belfry dweller | 98 Hopping mad |
| 42 Ratio of a stock share's return to its price | 17 Old-style messenger | 61 Small bill | 99 Like ultra-lite food |
| 45 Shell games | 18 Pop singer Lopez | 62 Hiatus | 100 Failed to |
| 50 Persona | 19 Brewer's fungus | 63 Homer's H | 101 Remove, as a 105-Down |
| 51 Studio stand | 20 Snarky | 64 Win a point | 104 Medium, e.g. |
| 52 Hold in check | 21 Lanka lead-in | 65 Sauna wrap | 105 Shoelace problem |
| | 22 Lousy review | 66 Tylenol rival | 107 "How awful!" holder |
| | 23 Vendors | 67 "Peer Gynt" dramatist | 108 Cardinals, e.g. |
| | 24 Snarky | 68 Sloppy Joe | 109 Office fill-in |
| | 25 Lanka lead-in | 69 Hug | 110 Corrida calls |
| | 26 Lousy review | 70 Defective | 112 Sooner than language |
| | 27 Vendors | 71 Pakistani language | 114 Big bush bird |
| | 28 Snarky | 72 Defective language | 115 Flying Solo |
| | 29 Lanka lead-in | 73 Pakistani language | 116 — -been |
| | 30 Lousy review | 74 Defective language | |
| | 31 Vendors | 75 Pakistani language | |
| | 32 Snarky | 76 Pakistani language | |
| | 33 Lanka lead-in | 77 '80s sitcom | |
| | 34 Lousy review | | |
| | 35 Vendors | | |
| | 36 Snarky | | |
| | 37 Lanka lead-in | | |
| | 38 Lousy review | | |
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| | 120 Snarky | | |
| | 121 Lanka lead-in | | |
| | 122 Lousy review | | |

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Enter to win each time
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ELY

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Zup's in Ely
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Wintergreen Northern Wear LLC
205 Sheridan St, Ely • (218)365-6602
Piragis
105 N Central Ave, Ely • (218)365-6745
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Feed for all your indoor and outdoor friends
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COOK

Meet the new Forest Supervisor and LaCroix District Ranger

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- An open house at the U.S. Forest Service's LaCroix District office in Cook held Thursday, Oct. 27, provided an opportunity for the public to welcome some recent additions to the Superior National Forest crew. New Forest Supervisor Thomas Hall and LaCroix District Ranger Sunny Lucas were joined by some familiar faces who were also on hand as the event featured numerous exhibits detailing various Forest Service activities, career information, and an appearance by the district's dog sled team.

Lucas has worked for the Forest Service for about 15 years, including stints in Asheville, N.C. and Minneapolis before coming to Cook just two months ago.

"I grew up in Wisconsin and my extended family is in Minnesota, so this is kind of coming back home," Lucas said.

In Asheville, she focused on forest health issues, and in Minneapolis she worked with the state and private forestry division, a job focused on coordinating with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other partners and grant management. "After 15 years I really wanted to work on a forest and get more connected to a land base," Lucas said. "I got to know some folks up here on the Superior and I did a four-month temporary assignment in Aurora and just fell in love with it. It just seemed like the right time when this job opened up to move up and get to know the Superior better"

As the district's top admin-

istrator, Lucas supervises seven people and different program managers, who in turn supervise program staff. She's responsible for ensuring that programs are working together, keeping communication going among staff and coordinating with partners.

"It's about making space for our employees to do what they need to do," Lucas said. "It's kind of my job to run interference, making sure things aren't going sideways, and I'm also the signatory for a lot of decisions."

For the first two months, Lucas has been focused on getting to know her staff and their different programs. As someone who sees staff support as a primary responsibility, learning about their needs has been a top priority.

"They're the eyes and ears out on the ground," she said. "There's an amazing amount of institutional knowledge here, and people who have been here a long time. I'm really passionate about what they're doing."

One project Lucas is looking forward to getting involved with is the LaCroix Landscape Project, a Forest Service initiative collaborating with the Arrowhead Landscape Collaborative Group to improve regional forest ecosystems by utilizing a variety of vegetative treatments in a flexible approach responsive to current conditions.

"We haven't started developing the different alternatives for different treatments, so we're going to be working on that," Lucas said. "I'm really trying to get up to speed on that, see what's been developed so far, see if there are any adjustments or course corrections that



Forest Supervisor Thomas Hall (right) and LaCroix District Ranger Sunny Lucas (left). photo by D. Colburn

I would like to see happen. It will be exciting to see how that moves forward. It's a big project."

Lucas also said she's ready to begin establishing relationships with partners throughout the LaCroix district, from ATV and snowmobiling groups to working with staff at Voyageurs National Park and interacting more with the community.

"I'm in the office five days a week, so anyone who comes in who wants to talk to me is always welcome," Lucas said.

With responsibility for all five of the Superior's districts, Hall's responsibility as Forest Supervisor is to establish vision and policies for what the agency hopes to accomplish and match that with relevant laws, regulations, policies, and the overall mission of the Forest Service.

Working with the Forest

Service is second nature for Hall.

"I actually grew up in the Forest Service in Colorado, sort of on the Rio Grande National Forest," Hall said. "My first job out of high school was with the Rio Grande National Forest. My dad retired a couple of years ago off the Rio Grande."

Hall has also worked for the Forest Service in northern and southern California, but his most recent experience was working in legislative affairs for USFS in Washington, D.C. for two-and-a-half years.

"It was fast paced and a big perspective, understanding how Congress interfaces with the agency," Hall said. "Understanding how all those pieces fit together helps to know how we can do better to maximize opportunities and look to do more good work here on the ground

for both recreation and vegetation management. I'm definitely looking forward to establishing what that vision looks like here to continue the great work already started. This is just amazing country, the resources we manage here on the Superior National Forest, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, all just amazing."

And while Hall is obviously enamored with the over three million acres he oversees, he's equally enthusiastic about the people he's encountered since starting work in mid-September.

"This is a great staff and great communities, all very engaged, very passionate about all of the forest's resources. And that's been amazing."

A forest management plan developed in 2004 sets the basic parameters of Hall's work, and one of his tasks will be to identify needs for changes.

"There's actually a national schedule of how frequently we're able to update those," Hall said. "Generally, we try for 15 years."

Hall said the Forest Service is currently working on the schedule for the next revision process, and he said that the process will accommodate synthesis of a wide range of inputs and possibly competing priorities.

"The fortunate thing of working for the federal government is that we have systems, processes, and regulations in place where we have to consider all of those perspectives, hearing from all of those people and understanding what laws and regulations we have to meet."

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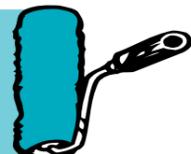
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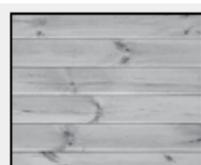
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