



Early Deadline:

Articles and ads for the Nov. 25 issue need to be submitted by 9 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 21. Watch for our special Thanksgiving issue and North Country Christmas magazine delivered to local readers on Nov. 23

the TIMBERJAY

Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1⁵⁰



CITY OF TOWER

Council inks union deal with ambulance director

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— Nearly a year and a half since filing for union representation, Tower Area Ambulance Director Dena Suihkonen has a contract with the city. The city council here, on Monday, gave its approval to the new deal in a 3-1 vote, with council member Kevin Norby voting no.

Council member Tom Suihkonen was absent.

Hires Karen Schultz as city's new assistant ambulance director

The 0.8 FTE contract includes a salary of \$38,000 a year, with a three percent increase in 2023 and 2024, although it does not include any health or dental benefits. The schedule includes a four-day work week, during two of which the supervisor will be on-call for ambulance coverage. Outside of her regular hours, she may respond to additional ambulance calls when no other staff is

available and be paid her regular EMT wages.

Approval of the deal didn't come without considerable discussion. "I don't think it's the right time because of all the expenses of running the service," said Norby. "It's a hard thing for me to agree to."

"What are the alternatives?" asked Mayor Dave Setterberg. "Do you have any suggestions?"

Setterberg noted that the salary amount was similar to what Suihkonen had been paid as a non-union hourly employee.

"You guys did a great job of getting the cost of this down," agreed Norby. "It still seems like the wrong time to deal with this." He said the supervisor should have been focused on increasing revenues rather than joining a union.

But Setterberg said the union deal shouldn't hinder Norby's work with the ad hoc ambulance committee to improve the service's finances. Council member Joe Morin agreed. "This doesn't hinder in any way the ability to evolve the ambulance service."

Later ambulance discussion pointed to disagreements between

See...COUNCIL pg. 9

GREENWOOD

Township won't fund ambulance purchase

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- Greenwood Township won't make its annual contribution to the Tower Area Ambulance Service's ambulance replacement fund for 2022. The town board voted unanimously last Wednesday to reject the agreement, between the city of Tower and townships and other entities served by the ambulance service, which calls for a \$15 per capita annual payment to help fund the purchase of new ambulances.

Greenwood was expected to pay \$15,615 to the ambulance replacement account in 2022. The agreement also calls for a double payment in 2023, which was agreed to by all other members of the Tower Ambulance Commission, the group that oversees

See...GREENWOOD pg. 9

VERMILION RIVER

Keith Roy death ruled accidental drowning

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The Sept. 10 death of Keith Roy, 43, of Orr, has been ruled an accidental drowning, according to information provided to the *Timberjay* by St. Louis County Sheriff's Office Supervising Deputy Nathan Skelton this week.

"My investigators have completed their investigation and the final ME (medical examiner's) report has been received by our office. The matter has been ruled an accidental death by drowning," Skelton said.

See...DEATH pg. 10



FALL MUSICAL

They're all together ooky

Addams Family sheds new light on what makes a family normal

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

ELY-Snapthosefingers! "They're creepy and they're kooky, mysterious and spooky, they're altogether ooky, the Addams family." It's one of the most recognizable theme songs from the 60s, and it's coming live to the stage in Ely this weekend.

The original Addams Family was a half-hour comedy and ran for two seasons on ABC, based on cartoons created by Charles Addams. But the characters have never left the popular imagination, inspiring four movies based on the same characters, and more recently a Broadway show.

The Ely High School is producing the school version of the Broadway musical this weekend, with performances on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 18 and 19 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. All performances are in the

Top: Uncle Fester, played by Ruby Milton, dances with a chorus line of ghosts during a dress rehearsal of the Addams Family last Sunday. Ely High School performers will present a school version of the Broadway production this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in Washington Auditorium.

Right: Wednesday, played by Chambriel Ridings, tortures her brother Pugsley, played by Alison Poppler.

Bottom right: The character Alice, played by Anna Hammond, looks nervous as she and Morticia, played by Juliet Stouffer, peruse an Addams Family scrapbook.

all photos by J. Summit



Washington Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 and available at the door.

The production embraces the wackiness in every family, features an original story, which is every father's nightmare. Wednesday Addams, the family's daughter, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family— a man her parents have never met. And if that wasn't upsetting enough,

See...ADDAMS pg. 10



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Community notices

First Lutheran Church Ladies of Ely host annual Cookie Sale and Dessert Social

ELY - First Lutheran Church Ladies of Ely will host the annual Christmas Cookie Sale and Dessert Social in the Fellowship Hall of the church on Saturday, Dec.10 from 1 - 3 p.m.. Cookies will be sold for \$8 per pound. Dessert and Coffee is \$3 per person. Join us for a cup of coffee with dessert while we help you with your holiday baking.

2022 Festival of Trees runs Wednesday, Nov.16 through Sunday, Nov. 20

VIRGINIA - The Laurentian Chamber of Commerce kicks off the Festival of Trees with “Business After Hours” from 4-7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov.16, hosted by Iron Trail Motors. More information on this event can be found at <https://business.laurentianchamber.org/events>.

On Thursday, Nov. 17 and Friday, Nov.18 the Virginia Community Foundation is holding Designer Handbag Bingo. This sold-out event will be an evening of fun for those who purchased tickets in advance.

ReVive Virginia has an afternoon of family fun planned for Saturday, Nov. 19. Family activities are scheduled from 2-5 p.m. at the Elk’s Lodge and will include bingo, face painting, and more. Lunch will be available for purchase. Mr. Ed’s Farm will be at Veterans Park with the animals and kids of all ages will enjoy wagon rides with Due North Haflingers in Downtown Virginia. More information can be found at www.VirginiaMN.us/ReVive. Also on Saturday is the Twilight Holiday Parade which starts at 5:15 p.m. on Chestnut Street. Fireworks follow at 6:15 p.m. on the shores of Silver Lake. Live music starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Lyric Center with Steve Solkela and Horse Fzce at 7 p.m.

Santa will be stopping by Sunday’s pancake breakfast on Nov. 20 from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. This event is sponsored by Essentia Health’s Virginia Regional Foundation and Shannon Gunderson’s piano students will provide music. The cost for the pancake Breakfast is \$8 for adults, \$5 for kids, and free for those 5 and under.

Family holiday photos by Cathy Kishel will be available at the Sunday Pancake Breakfast for \$15. Sign up in advance to guarantee an appointment by calling 218-749-2253. Silent auction and raffle items will be available for viewing anytime the Elks Lodge is open. All bids and raffle tickets must be placed by 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20 and picked up by 4 p.m. at the Elks Lodge on Sunday. All details on this community-based event can be found at www.virginiafestivaloftrees.com. Most events will take place at the Virginia Elks Lodge (220 N 5th Ave. W) except where noted above.

Application period for \$20,000 Alworth Scholarships now open

DULUTH – The annual application period for northern Minnesota high school seniors hoping to be awarded \$20,000 Alworth Scholarships began Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 15, 2023.

To be considered, current high school seniors (including those who are homeschooled) must have an interest in pursuing a bachelor’s degree in studies related to mathematics, science, research and medical fields. Applicants must also reside in one of these northern Minnesota counties: Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Lake, Itasca, Koochiching and St Louis.

Application forms and full eligibility criteria, including the types of majors for which Alworth funds are provided, may be found at www.alworthscholarship.org.

“Our region has many academically talented young people who are perfect candidates to receive \$20,000 Alworth Scholarships,” said Patty Salo Downs, Executive Director of Duluth’s Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth Memorial Fund. “We make the application process straightforward to encourage widespread interest, and we also host online sessions to give students and their parents tips on how to apply.”

Online sessions start Nov. 21 to assist students and families with the application process. The Alworth Foundation is partnering with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation for three live, online sessions to cover application best practices:

- Monday, Nov. 21 – 7-7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 12 – Noon – 12:30 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 9 – 7 – 7:30 p.m.

People are invited to participate in as many sessions as they wish, each 30 minutes in length, by sending an email to alworth@alworthscholarship.org to obtain the Zoom meeting information. Those selected to receive Alworth Scholarships will be notified in Spring 2023.

AAUW AND EMPOWER

Program focuses on awareness, then change

Grassroots organizerDani Pieratos to speak at Tuesday Group on Nov. 22

ELY - The American Association of University Women, Ely Branch, in collaboration with Ely EMPOWER, invites community members to a presentation on Tuesday, Nov. 22, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge (400 Pioneer Road) to learn about the intersection between local economy building for indigenous populations and the food sovereignty movement. Dani Pieratos, a grassroots organizer from the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa will speak about her commitment to food security in the community.

Dani is working to build a movement to localize the food system in the Bois Forte community in order to stimulate local economic development. She is spearheading the development of the Bois Forte Food Sovereignty and Sustainable



Artwork by Shaun Chosa

Agriculture Community Group, a small grassroots initiative. In addition, Dani is creating an indoor, aeroponic, CSA farm to run year-round called Harvest Nation, Inc.

A graduate of Stanford University in 2012, Dani has previous experience working in a tribal housing program and government program administration before turning her attention to the issue of food justice work. She is the parent of two young sons.

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

'TIS THE SEASON

“Small Town Christmas and Shop Local” weekend begins Friday, Nov. 25

ELY - The holiday season is almost here, and the Ely Chamber of Commerce has been busy planning holiday events. Things will kick off Thanksgiving evening, Nov. 24 with “Shine Bright Ely.” Although stores will not be open for shopping, participating businesses up and down Ely’s main street will welcome folks out for a stroll with sparkling lights, animation, and holiday themes turning Ely into a winter wonderland that shines bright.

“Small Town Christmas and Shop Local” weekend commence on Friday, Nov. 25 so get ready for some power shopping in Ely’s friendly, relaxed, and fully stocked stores. Well known for its locally made, unique products Ely offers a wide array of items for everyone on your gift list, including yourself! From delicious treats such as tasty granola, Dorothy’s



root beer, Gene Hicks, and Northern Grounds coffee, to outdoor clothing and winter-specific gear including knives, bags and packs, toboggans, snowshoes, sleds, dog harnesses, and collars. From Northwoods style gifts such as original artwork and artist-made cards to home improvement tools and supplies, self-care goods and services, and a lot more. Shopping local means going home with your purchases, not waiting to see “IF” your online purchases arrive on time. More importantly, shopping local keeps your hard-earned dollars in your community! Shop Local Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for special sales and

discounts, and continue to shop locally year-round to support your friends and neighbors.

Watch for the holiday event map available online at www.ely.org or the Ely Chamber of Commerce office (1600 E Sheridan St., Ely), starting Monday, Nov.21.

There will not be a holiday parade this year, but if your business or organization would like more information about coordinating this holiday event, please contact Eva Sebesta at 218-365-6123 or director@ely.org.

GIVE A LITTLE BIT

Annual Lights of Love campaign underway



REGIONAL - The 32nd annual VHHP *Lights of Love* campaign begins in Nov.to commemorate National Hospice Month and National Family Caregivers Month. Last year’s Lights of Love raised just more than \$7800. Fundraising goals are achieved through the dedicated efforts of the Board of Directors working together with a community of supporting individuals and businesses. We invite you to continue the tradition of remembering and honoring loved ones by supporting VHHP through this Lights of Love campaign.

The mission of this campaign is to bring comfort care services to enrolled hospice patients and their families as well as hospice eligible patients in our local communities. VHHP sponsors two education scholarships for students enrolled in the North Woods School and Tower enrollment area, pursuing a medical career and one scholarship for a college student.

Tax-deductible donations will help light the trees at the holiday celebrations in Cook, Orr and Tower in support of local hospice patients & their families. Donations may be given in honor or memory of a loved one. All Lights of Love contributions and dedications will be published in local area newspapers during the month of January, unless otherwise indicated.

Three Lights of Love tree light-

ing ceremonies along with caroling will take place at the Cook Gazebo on Friday, Dec.2 at 5:30 p.m., Orr Center on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. and Tower Civic Center at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4..

For more information about Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, visit www.vhhp.org or contact Becca Bundy, Program Director at 218-780-5423 or Ivette Reing, Chairperson at 218-290-6177. To make a donation, use the form on the website or mail donations to VHHP LOL to PO Box 244, Cook, MN. Venmo is available during our campaign using @VHHPInc.

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Support the businesses that support our community.

NOVEMBER 25 - NOVEMBER 27

MAPS AVAILABLE ON NOVEMBER 21

AT: ELY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ELY.ORG

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Stop in & help us Celebrate One Year of being in business on Tower's Main Street!

Sales • Coffee An' Vendors, Antiques & Cook's Country Connection will be here with Animals from the Farm!!

SENTENCING

Miller sentenced in death of Joni Dahl

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Under Minnesota law, justice was served Monday when the man responsible for the drunk driving accident in Embarrass Township in August that killed 39-year-old Joni Dahl, of Gilbert, was sentenced to one year in the county jail and seven years of probation for criminal vehicular homicide.

But for those most deeply affected by Dahl’s death, the sentence handed down to 40-year-old Michael Kenneth Miller, of Virginia, in St. Louis County District Court did little to bring justice to the enormity of their loss.

Dahl’s longtime partner and fiancée Matthew Lenci, of Tower, talked with the *Timberjay* on Tuesday about his reaction to the sentence. “I just feel like I got punched in the stomach and I’m worse off than I was before,” Lenci said. “It feels like I got slapped in the face like, oh, her life didn’t matter that much. I was already down and that was the last final kick.”

Plea and sentencing

When Miller pled guilty to the criminal vehicular homicide charge on Oct. 13, he admitted that on Aug. 12 he had been out drinking to celebrate his 40th birthday at area bars before driving home. When Miller’s truck crashed into Dahl’s car at about 11:30 p.m., killing her instantly, he had a blood alcohol content of .195, well over double the legal limit.

Under Minnesota law, the presumptive sentence for criminal vehicular homicide for a first-time offender like Miller is a prison sentence of 48 months, according to a post-sentencing press release from St. Louis County Attorney Kim Maki. Assistant St. Louis County Attorney Aaron Welch, who prosecuted the case, asked for the maximum four-year sentence to be imposed.

However, District Court Judge Robert Friday instead granted a defense motion for a lesser sentence based on Miller’s presumed amenability to probation. That decision was likely influenced in part by five letters from family and

friends attesting to Miller’s overall character and his deep remorse over the accident.

Friday’s orders specified that Miller serve one year in the St. Louis County Jail or the Northeast Regional Corrections Center, with credit for 31 days of jail time already served. Following his release on supervised probation, Miller must annually serve an additional four weeks in jail around the anniversary of Dahl’s death through 2027.

Friday also sentenced Miller to seven years of supervised probation, to include no possession of alcohol, drugs, or firearms, random testing and searches, and compliance with the state Ignition Interlock Program. Miller must also make restitution payments totaling \$8,186 and pay a fine of \$1,000.

Miller, who was free on a \$30,000 conditional bond, was immediately taken into custody to begin serving his sentence.

Should Miller violate the terms of his probation he would be subject to imprisonment in accordance with the four-year maximum sentence.

Reactions

Lenci and Joni Dahl’s father, John Dahl, each submitted victim impact statements to the court, but Lenci said they apparently held little weight in Friday’s sentencing decision.

“I wrote that victim impact statement like it was a voice for her,” Lenci said. “And it almost seemed like it was just ignored and didn’t really have any merit on the case at all. I talked about how we were together, and we had planned to get married. She was already a stepmom to my three sons, even though we weren’t technically married, and we had this whole life planned and he ruined it.”

Lenci also described for the court that on the night of the accident Dahl didn’t arrive at his house when expected, and he became worried and went looking for her, knowing the route she would have traveled. “I came across the accident scene and all the fire trucks and tow trucks. I didn’t know the extent of what happened, but I knew it was her,” Lenci said.

Miller’s sentence just

doesn’t make sense to him, Lenci said.

“I don’t understand why the judge wouldn’t want to give the maximum sentence,” he said. “It wasn’t intentional, but still every decision that happened that night was on him and him alone.”

John Dahl said that he told the court that he lost more than a daughter when Joni was killed.

“I lost a friend,” he said. “I tried to explain it as such, because we did so much together. We rode motorcycles together, we went on trips together, we enjoyed doing the same things. And now I no longer have that person because she was taken away from me abruptly. And with her boyfriend, there were three kids there that would have become grandkids of a sort to me, and that’s not going to transpire. It changed our lives dramatically, and not for the better.”

Dahl said his attorney had prepared him for the possibility that Miller’s sentence would be less than what the state asked for, and was more measured.

“I think that the sentence was rather lenient,”



Joni Dahl submitted

Dahl said. “But seven years of probation and monitoring, it might do the job if he wants to straighten out his life. If he doesn’t, no matter how long you put him in there it isn’t going to help. If he has to be reporting his whereabouts and everything for seven years, that’s no small amount of time, and he’s going to have ample time to think about what he did.”

Another family member, Chuck Neil, an older cousin of Joni, also weighed in on the sentence.

“I had known Joni since she was a little girl,” Neil said. “She and her father, brother, and stepmom were sitting at our table having dinner with us just a few weeks before she was killed. This

See DAHL....pg. 5

BOUNDARY WATERS CARE CENTER

Grant to fund improvements for local nursing home

by Rachel Brophy
Staff Writer

ELY – Ely’s Boundary Waters Care Center (BWCC) recently received the good news that they’d been awarded \$95,000 in funding through a Blandin Foundation Rural Leadership Boost Grant. According to the press release provided to the *Timberjay*, “Leadership Boost Grants were launched to encourage Minnesotans living in rural and Tribal communities to be visionary and creative as they move their communities forward after two years of growing challenges

related to the coronavirus pandemic.”

BWCC Executive Director Adam Masloski said that the funding will be used primarily to make capital improvements to the facility.

He explained that as a stand-alone nonprofit facility, BWCC receives no corporate funding.

“Getting a grant like this is a big deal for us,” he said. “We’ve got kind of a laundry list of stuff (to improve) since it’s an older facility.”

Masloski said that once news came of the funding award the first thing to do was prioritize what to tackle

first. He said the 32 residents were asked for feedback, and they all expressed interest in a fully accessible whirlpool bathing system, or as Masloski put it, “tub room.” Additional improvements at BWCC will include smart lifts and stands, a new call light system, and various other needed facility updates.

Masloski said the funding will be a big help.

“I was surprised at the total amount (we received),” he said. “We would’ve been happy with anything, so we’re really excited.”



Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely was recently awarded \$95,000 from Blandin Foundation. file photo

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

The Arrowhead and Stauber

The congressman could do better by focusing on his district rather than his party

Rep. Pete Stauber should pay close attention to the returns from the Nov. 8 election, particularly from the traditional seven-county Arrowhead. While Stauber won re-election by a fairly comfortable margin across the Eighth, he lost in the traditional heart of the district to his DFL opponent Jen Schultz.

For a year in which the fundamentals should have allowed Stauber to coast to re-election, his political weakness in north-eastern Minnesota reflects the fact that voters here generally prefer results to rank partisanship. Stauber first ran for office touting a moderate agenda, but he’s become an increasingly extreme partisan over the past two election cycles. He has substituted empty “our way of life” rhetoric and political posturing for actual accomplishment in Washington. That’s the main reason he lost the support of major newspapers in the district this year.

Stauber racked up his win this year in the southern portions of the district that were traditionally part of either the Seventh or the Sixth Districts and that have long been Republican strongholds for reasons far removed from the political and economic realities here in the Arrowhead. He lost St. Louis County by more than 12,000 votes, a 13-percentage-point-spread and he lost both Lake and Cook counties as well. While he did better on the Iron Range than in Duluth, his margins were small in places like Hibbing and Virginia and he lost in places like Eveleth.

That’s not a surprise. While the Iron Range has been trending more red in recent years, it’s never adopted the anti-government “let’s burn it all down” mentality that’s been fanned by Trump and his mentors Steve Bannon and Roger Stone. Like it or not, an Arrowhead economy that has long been at least partially dependent on resource extraction, is going to be dependent on functioning government to help the area’s workforce weather the inevitable booms and bust, be it in the mining or wood products industries. Like it or not, the “way of life” Stauber and other similar politicians like to tout frequently includes periods of extended layoffs and reliance on various government assistance programs that allow laid off employees to keep a roof over their heads.

What’s more, a region that

relies on infrastructure spending to help fuel demand for the raw materials produced here hardly benefits from a member of Congress who refuses to vote for such spending.

With the GOP clinging to a razor-thin majority in the House following last week’s election, Stauber will have to decide how he wants to make use of the GOP’s renewed authority. Will he continue to act as a partisan, or might he start to hew a more independent path that’s more focused on the interests of his district?

With the party’s narrow majority, the most extremist House members are likely to hold significant influence in the new Congress and they’ve already promised endless investigations into the Biden administration, even possible impeachment for imagined “crimes.” Threats to shut down the government over whatever happens to trip their trigger at any moment are already flying.

Expect more brinksmanship over things like the debt ceiling as GOP House members suddenly resurrect “concern” over government spending given that there’s a Democrat in the White House.

None of this provides a scintilla of benefit to the Eighth District, but it will signal whether Stauber wants to be a productive representative who actually works for the good of his district, or simply a partisan who puts party over his constituents.

Stauber shouldn’t get too comfortable in the partisan role, since the voters can occasionally throw curve balls, as the right-wing starlet and QAnon promoter Lauren Boebert learned in Colorado. Voters in her solidly Republican district came within an eyelash of kicking her out of office after just one term as she put celebrity over the hard work that’s supposed to come with being a member of Congress.

With the right DFL candidate, particularly one who hails from the southern part of the Eighth, Stauber could have a real fight on his hands. Stauber could head off such a threat by taking his responsibilities seriously and working on behalf of the his district, rather than simply using his time to oppose legislation that benefits his constituents and issuing nonsensical Republican talking points. We suspect he’s capable of better. Maybe he should give better a try.



Letters from Readers

Voters were foolish to toss away Ecklund’s caring and experience

Rob Ecklund worked diligently for the best interests of his constituents for his entire career in the House. While I seriously disagreed with him on several issues, he was always gracious in disagreeing with me, and had reasons to do so. However, I recognized that he truly cared about the average person. If he could help, he would help.

Now, the DFL is in control of the largest surplus in history and the legislative agenda. Rather than having a representative with seniority and respect looking out for our needs, we have a person with no power, and, I believe, someone that nobody will even pay attention to. So, the voters traded their best hope at solutions to community problems for what? I would say, for nothing.

Thankfully, Senator-elect Grant Hauschild will be there to get the ear of the people who can help us. However, what a loss it is for the future of our communities to not have Rob in the House of Representatives. Beyond that, he is a decent and caring person who didn’t deserve this from the voters. It was foolish and is truly shameful.

Kelly Dahl
Linden Grove Twp.

Timberjay ambulance article correction

In last week’s article, “Ambulance Commission OKs purchase of new rig”, the *Timberjay* writes: “Damm said the city of Buhl can’t find any paramedics, and the private ambulance service they hired

to cover their community has since left.” Readers need to know that is an untrue statement. Unfortunately, both the *Timberjay* and Jeff Damm, who is a management person at Fortune Bay Resort and Casino Inc., should know better.

The reality is that the City of Buhl’s ambulance district is served by Essentia Health EMS and the city is very happy with it. In fact, in the 9-9-22 *Mesabi Tribune* article: “Buhl council supports ambulance service upgrade”, the details are quite simply laid out. It’s an interesting and informative read, showing how Buhl is working with Essentia EMS to upgrade its ambulance service from Basic Life Support (BLS) to a Part Time Advanced Life Support Ambulance Service (ALS). In the article, Buhl City Clerk-Administrator Ryan Pervenance states: “Upgrading to part-time ALS service and being able to provide this high level of care in partnership with Essentia Health EMS is another added benefit to our residents. There are so many small and rural ambulance services that are struggling for a variety of reasons just to provide basic services. Buhl is fortunate that we are in a position to offer more for our residents.”

Further down, the article states: “The Essentia Health EMS Buhl roster consists of six EMTs, two community paramedics and two paramedics, according to a copy of the roster” Also of interest and importance, the article states that “An agreement reached between the City of Buhl and Essentia Health EMS, effective April 22, requires the city to pay Essentia Health EMS \$1 each year on the anniversary of the effective date of the contract, which automatically renews for a five year period.” To be clear, the cost to Buhl for ambulance service is one dollar per year.

I would like to add that Greenwood Township has recognized that there are chal-

lenges to sustaining ambulance service and opportunities to make it better, working toward a modern ALS service with response times that are as short as possible. Greenwood has hired a professional EMS consultant to study the regional situation and to come up with suggestions. Results will be made public within a couple of months. We think it’s safe to say that anyone who is having a serious medical event or accident would be very happy to have a paramedic working on them.

That being said, I will send a copy of the 9-9-22 *Mesabi Tribune* article to the *Timberjay* and to Fortune Bay. It can only help. And I urge folks to fact-check questionable articles.

Lee Peterson
Greenwood Twp.

Editor’s Note: Jeff Damm’s comment from the recent ambulance commission meeting, as accurately reported by the *Timberjay*, was factual, although it did not reflect changes in the Buhl ambulance since its private operator, Meds-1, opted to discontinue the service earlier this year. As Damm correctly noted, Meds-1 officials indicated the decision was due to difficulty obtaining staff and lack of financial viability. The city is currently working with Essentia to staff their ambulance. Whether that is a viable option for Essentia or for any other area ambulance service is unknown since the arrangement has only been in place a few months. Only time will tell.

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Timberjay!



From nil to NIL, fortunes improve for amateur athletes

Who remembers the good old days when coaches would turn their collective heads the other way as star college athletes would get paid under the table for their talent by unscrupulous boosters who would arrange for them to get a sweet deal on a hot car, a cushy job that paid well without requiring any work, or just some extra cold hard cash?

And please, if you honestly believe there was



DAVID COLBURN

that a third of them admitted to receiving illegal payments in college. Seven out of ten players from

no such thing or that such graft was limited to only a few, pull your head out of ... the sand. A 1989 survey of NFL players found

Southeastern Conference schools—Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, and Tennessee — said they received illegal payments.

It was a time-tested game designed to circumvent the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s strict rules about amateurism. For well over a century, the NCAA has set caps on institutional scholarships and imposed countless rules on third party payments to ensure that college athletes are perceived as amateurs. A full or partial education in exchange for their talents

was all that was permitted.

But in 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court took a good deal of the subterfuge out of the game by declaring that a college player can make money on his or her own name, likeness and image. Unpaid amateur athletes were essential to the nature of their product, the NCAA argued, but in a unanimous 9-0 decision Justice Brett Kavanaugh called the NCAA out for what it was, an antitrust collective colluding to keep labor rates low while earning billions of dollars

in exchange.

“Nowhere else in America can businesses get away with agreeing not to pay their workers a fair market rate on the theory that their product is defined by not paying their workers a fair market rate,” Kavanaugh wrote. “The NCAA is not above the law.”

And with that, a common term for a score of zero, nil, morphed into NIL — Name, Image, and Likeness— a way for the game’s elite and not so elite to cash in on their abilities,

and a legitimized way for universities and colleges to pay for the best to play for their schools.

The top NIL earners have shredded the archaic notion of amateurism by selling their names, images, and likenesses to the highest bidders in the business world, earning money by using their products in advertising and social media posts. And some are hauling in over four times more than the base rookie National Football League

See FOOTBALL ...pg. 5

New round of free COVID tests ahead of holidays

REGIONAL- Four additional free at-home COVID rapid tests are now available to all Minnesota households in advance of the holiday season through the state’s online ordering program at mn.gov/covid19.

“These additional tests are free, easy to order, and will be delivered to your doorstep. Testing for COVID is one simple way to stay healthy around the holidays,” said Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan.

Minnesotans can also place orders through the Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 Public Hotline at 1-833-431-2053, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Language assistance is available.

Food banks, local public health agencies, community groups, and other community health organizations may also have free tests available.

Alternatively, over-the-counter at-home COVID-19 tests are now required to be covered by health plans



offered by Medicare, insurance companies, employers, and groups as a result of actions taken by the Biden Administration. In some circumstances, Minnesotans can receive free tests by showing their insurance card at a store. People should check with their health plan prior to purchasing at-home tests to ensure they are following the necessary steps to have costs covered.

Testing continues to be important for preventing the spread of the virus. It is especially important to get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or had close contact with someone who has COVID-19. For more details and additional information on when to get tested, see the MDH COVID-19 testing page, or direct questions to the MDH hotline mentioned above.

Birth and death certificates now available in Ely

ELY- People living in or near Ely now have a closer option for obtaining birth and death certificates. The St. Louis County Recorder’s Office now offers these services at the St. Louis County Service Center, 320 Miners Drive East in Ely.

“We’re happy to have

this added service available for our residents in Ely, Babbitt and the surrounding townships,” said Commissioner Paul McDonald, who represents the area.

Birth and death certificate services are available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to

4:30 p.m. Both certified and non-certified copies can be purchased. More information, including a downloadable application form, can be found online at stlouiscountymn.gov/recorder.

KKK literature reported in Babbitt area

BABBITT- Three incidents of KKK literature being left in area residents’ driveways were reported to the Babbitt Police on Nov. 2. More reports of the same literature were made to city hall. Area residents reported finding a package containing KKK literature that included

a web address. No specific targets were determined. The packets were dropped at the end of numerous driveways throughout the Babbitt community. Some reports indicate there may have been packets dropped in the Embarrass area as well. Babbitt Chief of Police,

Mike McGregor said, “We are asking people to call the police department and report if they have been targeted. We are also advising them not to visit the website that is contained in the literature.”

DAHL...Continued from page 3

is a shock to anyone who knew Joni and is an outrage to her family members. What kind of message is this to future drinkers celebrating whatever, who will be more tempted to drive drunk knowing that the consequences of even killing someone will likely be light?”

Light sentencing of

drunk driving incidents nationwide has long been of concern to the advocacy group Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Veronica Hawman, MADD’s Regional Executive Director for Minnesota, North and South Dakota.

“Justice was not served today in the case involv-

ing Mr. Michael Kenneth Miller and we are outraged,” Hawman said in a statement provided to the *Timberjay*. “Mr. Miller made a choice to drive under the influence of alcohol on Aug. 12, 2022, resulting in the death of Ms. Joni Dahl. Ms. Dahl’s family and friends will never be able to forget what

happened, and Mr. Miller should not be given a pass to forget either. Impaired driving is a violent choice that takes lives and inflicts lifelong injuries.”

Joni Dahl was among 18 Minnesotans who lost their lives in alcohol-related vehicle incidents in August, according to the Minnesota Department of

Public Safety. In 2022, through the end of October, there had been 97 alcohol-related fatalities on state roadways, 25 percent of all vehicle fatalities so far this year.

And while the lives of Joni Dahl’s family and friends have been forever changed, her father said that by sticking together,

life will go on.

“We’re going to get through this and the world is going to go on,” he said. “I lost, and other people lost a companion and so on because of this and we don’t like it. But we’ll get past it one way or another.”

FOOTBALL...Continued from page 4

salary of \$705,000.

In 2020, Alabama quarterback Mac Jones played for a full-ride scholarship, room and board. This year’s Alabama quarterback, Bryce Young, has NIL deals worth \$3.2 million dollars. You read that right - \$3.2 million. Every sponsored social media post Bryce Young makes brings in \$26,300, earning in seconds what an average retail cashier earns in a year.

And it’s not just football players who are working the NIL market for big dollars. Louisiana State University gymnast Olivia Dunne will pull in over \$2 million this year for promoting American Eagle Outfitters jeans and Vuori active wear to her

eight-million-plus social media followers.

Few deals are anywhere near as lucrative as Young’s, but it’s a stark illustration of what NIL’s are doing to college recruiting. Instead of top recruits asking about what kind of education or how much TV time they will get, the question is now “How MUCH will I get?”

It’s important to understand that these kids aren’t getting paid to play their sports by their universities and colleges. That would be illegal under NCAA rules. But institutions have found a way use NILs to their advantage by promoting the establishment of collectives. Rather than make deals with individual athletes, a collective

commits an overall pool designated for NILs for their university’s teams. They can’t designate it for Player X, it has to be for the school. Then a school can tell athletes they have so many millions of dollars in NILs available, and they’ll get their fair share of those. Ohio State football coach Ryan Day told donors this past summer his football team would need \$13 million in NILs to be competitive for top talent. With NILs, the talent-rich programs will get richer, and the talent-poor ones will get smaller.

Any college athlete at any level is free to try to swing NIL deals of their own. A pole vaulter at an NAIA or NCAA Division III school probably won’t

make much, but might make a little spending cash from a local business if they’re a popular player in the community. And for those thousands of collegiate athletes who aren’t star-quality players, there are well over a dozen online services they can go to that will help them try to line up some kind of NIL. Some are free, some take a percentage of the athlete’s deal as compensation.





Even high school athletes can try to get NILs. The Minnesota State High School League adopted relevant guidelines this summer. It’s not too likely we’ll see any of our local kids get NIL contracts, but for high-profile athletes in the Twin Cities area, a little something could be coming

their way.

Of course, there’s not space here to devote to the all of the other ways big money has taken over college sports, from \$10-million coaching contracts for football’s Nick Saban and basketball’s Bill Self to the \$7 billion media rights agreement the Big 10 Conference nailed down recently, just to name a few.

But a fine example of how academics takes a back seat to athletics today in NCAA Division I schools

is that aforementioned media deal. The Big 10 Conference, which used to have ten members, now has 14 because of how the conference can profit financially from the extra teams. But the Big 14 just doesn’t work for the sports marketing brand. So, for you “new math” fans, 14=10. For now. In 2024, it will be 16=10. First-grade teachers might as well surrender now.



Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union is once again partnering with our communities to help up to 100 local children in Northern St. Louis County, ages 0-18 years, who are in need this holiday season.

Everyone is welcome to participate!

Angel tags are ready to pick up at our Tower, Embarrass & Aurora Branches

Please return your tag and your unwrapped gifts to any of our branch locations

NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 2nd, 2022

so we may get them wrapped in time for a Christmas delivery!!!

Thank you for helping us make a child’s Christmas a little bit warmer & brighter!



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TIMBERJAY

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Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details and payment at www.timberjay.com.

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

Week of Nov. 21

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 Dec. 20.

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

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

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

Free community meal at Immanuel on Nov. 30
TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church is hosting a free community meal on Wednesday, Nov. 30 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., or until the food is gone. All are welcome to attend. Eat in or take-outs available. The meal will be scalloped potatoes and ham.

Little Church to hold service on Nov. 20
VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church of Vermilion Lake Township will hold a non-denominational church service on Sunday Nov. 20 at 4 p.m. Jon Salo will be officiating. Potluck and coffee an’ will follow the service.

All are invited to attend, plus the group is always looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. We have a men’s group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. The church is located on Co. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Any questions contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

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.

Quilting fabric needed

TOWER- Students at Vermilion Country School will be learning quilting skills in an upcoming class, and the school is looking for donations of fabrics suitable for quilting projects. Material can be dropped off at the *Timberjay* office in Tower.

COMMUNITY GIVING

Time to start thinking about Operation Santa

TOWER- Donations have started to come in for this year’s Operation Santa toy drive, but we still have a long way to go to reach our goal. We are expecting to at least match last year’s tally of 225 children from more than 50 area families. We are also hoping to be able to do our shopping online if possible, so early donations are especially appreciated.

Operation Santa is a local fundraiser that purchases Christmas gifts (toys, gift cards, and warm winter items) for children whose families use the Tower Food Shelf. Last year’s total of 225 children was a new record, and thanks to everyone’s generosity, we had gifts for all!

Take advantage of the great deals, many of which are being offered right now, to bring some joy into a child’s life. Supply chain issues are expected to cause shortages of toys this holiday season, so it is best to shop early.

We have started to receive some donations, but much more is needed to make sure every child in our community receives gifts and warm clothing this Christmas season.

The effort is organized by the *Timberjay* and the Tower-Soudan Civic Club, with help from many area groups, churches, organizations, and individuals. If your group or church is planning to donate this year, please contact Jodi at 218-753-2950. (This helps with planning!)

Lake County Power’s Operation

RoundUp® program has once again made a very generous donation to the Tower-Soudan Civic Club to help cover the cost of purchasing warm items for the children.

We are looking for donations of toys, games, art supplies, and sporting equipment for children, and gift cards to either Target or Walmart for our teenagers (\$10 or \$15). Stocking stuffer type gifts and holiday candy are also appreciated. We are always in need of gifts for infants and babies (must be labeled as safe for children under three). Gift ideas for children include games, action figures, building toys, dolls with accessories, craft sets, art supplies (including crayons and markers), sporting goods (basketballs, footballs, playground balls, sleds), puzzles, cars and trucks, and science kits. Please don’t worry about picking out the right gift; I promise there will be a child on our list who will love whatever you pick out!

If you purchase a toy that uses batteries, please also send a spare set! Donations of batteries (especially AA and AAA) are appreciated.

We also accept gently-used holiday decorations and gifts for the adults who use the food shelf. We do assemble gift bags for the senior citizens who use the food shelf, so small gifts for them are appreciated also, such as boxes of Christmas candy, candles, puzzles and puzzle books, holiday scented lotions and soaps, holiday



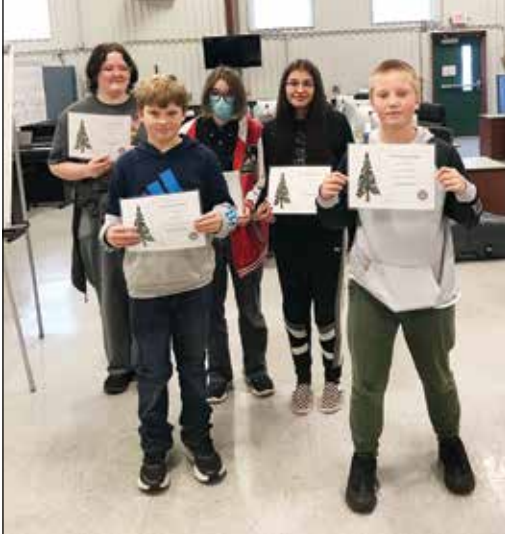
décor, and warm socks.

Donations can be dropped off at the *Timberjay* in Tower, and will be distributed at the food shelf on Dec. 20. Families who use the Tower Food Shelf and have not yet signed up, can call Jodi at the *Timberjay* at 218-753-2950, or email editor@timberjay.com.

VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL

VCS announces first quarter honor roll

A Honor Roll
Alyssa Costello
Bailey Pratt
Ally Heglin
Landon Wellander
Logan Kainz



A Honor Roll students

B Honor Roll
Ashton Cook
Annakeiah Chavez
Brody Anderson
Caleb Ramponi
Hailey Beise
Skylar Sainio
Jack Ranua
Amelia Hietala
Bentley Crego
Abbi Zapata
Lila Chosa



B Honor Roll students (not all pictured)



New associate pastor at Evangelical Free Church
EMBARRASS- The Evangelical Free Church of Embarrass is pleased to announce that Lawrence Klingsheim has been hired as the church’s new associate pastor. He will partner with Pastor Marlin Bjornrud in ministering to the church family. Pastor Lawrence’s ministry focus will be with families and young adults. He and his wife, Ashley, along with their five children, will be living in Babbitt. The church welcomes them to the Iron Range.

Lights of Love Tree Lighting set for Sunday, Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. in Tower
TOWER- The community is invited to come together for the *Lights of Love* tree lighting ceremony and caroling which will take place at the Sunday, Dec. 4 at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center at 4 p.m. The Tower-Soudan Community Choir will lead caroling, and there will be a story-time featuring a Christmas picture book, and a gift bag for all the children who attend, along with coffee and treats for everyone.

The event is the annual fundraiser for Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, which provides hospice services in our area. Last year’s *Lights of Love* raised just over \$7,800. Fundraising goals are achieved through the dedicated efforts of our Board of Directors working together with a community of supporting individuals and businesses. We invite you to continue the

tradition of remembering and honoring loved ones by supporting VHHP through this Lights of Love campaign.

For more information about Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, visit our website at www.vhhp.org or contact Becca Bundy, Program Director at 218-780-5423 or Ivette Reing, Chairperson at 218-290-6177. To make a donation, you can find a form on our website or mail your donations to VHHP LOL to PO Box 244, Cook, MN. Venmo is available during our campaign using @VHHPInc.

Tower Airport featured in Minnesota Flyer magazine
TOWER- The Tower Airport was featured as the “Airport of the Month” in this month’s *Minnesota Flyer* magazine. Each month, Tom Foster writes about the many small airports that dot Minnesota, and Tower was featured in the November issue.

“It’s a visual treat,” he writes, of the runways set next to a 400 foot-high pine-studded ridge, and “the A/D building (arrival/departure) is a genuine log structure with all the flight planning and weather facilities plus a loft for meeting space.”

The airport has 42 aircraft that call the airport home, and of those, 30 belong to commuters or seasonal residents. Recent improvements at the airport include the installation of a set of Precision Approach Path Indicators to assist in landings.

The article also discusses the adjacent seaplane base, for both water and ice landings.

Tower-Soudan Area Singers holiday caroling schedule
TOWER-SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan Area Singers will be caroling on Monday, Dec. 5 at the Breitung Community Center at 6:30 p.m., with coffee an’ served. A second opportunity to hear your favorite Christmas carols will be on Monday, Dec. 12 at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center at 6:30 p.m. with coffee an’ served. And the final performance will be on Monday, Dec. 19 at 6:30 at Sulu’s in Tower with chili served.

The Dec. 19 performances will be outdoors, weather-permitting, so please dress warmly!



98-year old World War II army vet Richard Helmberger was one of 13 area veterans who received a gift bag full of hand-made cards and treats from the students at Tower-Soudan Elementary School on Veterans Day.

Grief support group at Immanuel
TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower has a grief support group on Wednesdays, Nov. 23, and Dec. 7 and 21, from 6 – 7 p.m. Pastor Liz Cheney, a certified grief counselor, will be leading the group. Questions, call the church at 218-753-2378.

Tower-Soudan-Embarrass Bookmobile Schedule
REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmiles will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 21.

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

More info online at alslib.info/services/bookmobile.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY

Students celebrated for respect, kindness and “Choosing to be Nice”

ELY - Washington Elementary students gathered in the auditorium on Thursday, Nov. 10 for the school year’s first character recognition awards. These awards recognize students for being positive role models for others and for making school a better place to be. At Washington Elementary school isn’t just about learning to read and think critically, but about becoming great people in the community.

For the older grades, each class votes for a winner for their class. Occasionally, “specials” teachers (PE, music, art, library & computers) award students also, which has resulted in students receiving two awards.

5th: Elsie Mattila (two times), Hokan Lunn, Violet Franciskovich (two times), Raegan Borchert,

Natalie Bermel, and Jacob Vanderbeek

4th: Aspen MacCoy, Jenna Bermel, Mason Lee, Brody Anderson, Anna Fedders, and Kate Hammond

3rd: Olivia Johnson, Ruby Ice (two times), Fletcher Chopp, Fiona Olson, and Brynna Cook

2nd: Sammy Peterson, Kenzie Kahle, Nola Wohnsen, Caden Fitzgerald, and Rune Lunn

1st: Ariss Jensen, Tanner Champa, Ava Wiener, Ella Huberty, and Vincent Vesel

K: Kayla Larsen, Chloe Callen, Jade Peace, and Joanna Hall (two times)

Congratulations, students! Thanks for making our school fantastic.



Above: Principal Oelke presents an award to Aspen MacCoy



Left: From left -Tanner Champa, Kayla Larsen, and Chloe Callen.



Bottom left: From left - Jenna Bermel, Olivia Johnson, and Ruby Ice.

Below: From left - Sammy Peterson, Kenzee Kahle, and Ariss Jensen.



HONORING OUR VETERANS

ISD 696 honors veterans during program on Monday, Nov. 14

ELY - Students, faculty, and community members gathered on Monday, Nov. 14 to celebrate the service of area veterans. The program included music from the Ely Timberwolves band and high school choir as well as several songs song by Washington Elemenatry students. Patriotic art was created by Kelly Chick’s art students.

On Right: From left, Dale Franks, Bruce Bach and Mike Pope, who all served in the Navy, salute during a medley of songs put together by Mike Rouse and performed by the third - fifth graders that Rouse calls “Medley For Our Veterans.” The medley consists of the following songs:

Veteran’s Salute
Semper Paratus (Coastguard Song)
Wild Blue Yonder (Air Force Song)
Anchors Aweigh (Navy Song)
Marines Hymn
The Army Goes Rolling Along
You’re A Grand Old Flag



Above: Washington Elementary students “stole the show” accodring to Principal Anne Oelke. Front row (from left): Hannah Gams, Caden Fitzgerald, Samantha Petersen, and Arrow Halbakken. Second row: Brynna Cook, Fletcher Chopp, Rylee Kerntz, Ruby Ice, and Sadie Nelson. Third row: Eleanor Nyquist, Beck Sponholz, and Kenzee Jauhola. Back row: Jessi Zobitz, Jacob Vanderbeek, Natalie Bermel, and Hayden Weidemann.



Above: Ashlynn Gerlovich, Chezne Nickelson, and EmilyAnn Bialik also contributed their voices to singing tribute to area veterans.

Dental hygiene services offered

ELY – The Ely Community Health Center in the ECR building, (formerly AFU) is providing free dental hygiene services to anyone in need.

Call 218-365-5678 or email DentalECHS@gmail.com and they will get back to you. They can also make an appointment for you to see a dentist who will be available in the Ely Senior Center one day per month.

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

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

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



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.



Members of the Baytree Field 4-H chapter have been busy creating table decorations and crafts for the annual Thanksgiving community meal.

Community Thanksgiving meal makes return to Cook

COOK- After a forced hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, Cook’s Community Thanksgiving meal is back again this year at St. Mary’s Church Social Hall on Thursday, Nov. 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

And while that’s indeed welcome news, volunteer Robin Athmann said there’s an even better story behind the 36th edition of the beloved event.

“The real story about the dinner is all the businesses that really donate to pay for the food, and any

excess donations collected go to the food shelf,” she said. “Everyone is so very, very generous and it’s an amazing, wonderful thing to do.”

Athmann said this will be the 16th year that Norene and Roger Butalla have spearheaded the event.

“They’re in their mid-eighties and they’re still very dedicated to making the dinner, serving the dinner, and doing everything that goes into it,” Athmann said.”So this is also about the volunteers

who have done this for many years, and especially the couple that’s done it for the last 16.”

It’s difficult to know how many will attend this year, but past meals have drawn around 200 people, Athmann said. Meals are also delivered to home-bound people who aren’t able to come to St. Mary’s. Athmann said that people who need to have meals delivered should make arrangements prior to Thanksgiving by calling Norene at 218-910-8336.

VETERANS DAY AT NORTH WOODS



There were no crowds or speeches last Friday for Veterans Day observances at North Woods School, and that was fine for all involved. The school has switched from an assembly style recognition to a more casual reception format where veterans are able share their stories with North Woods students. Top: From left, students Emily Grahn and Grace Koch with veterans Les Holm and Darrel Lindgren. Bottom: Veteran Richard 'Ozzie' Leciejewski poses with students Alex Woittala, middle, and Kohen Briggs. submitted photos

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL 1ST QUARTER HONOR ROLL

A Honor Roll

Seniors
Cooper Antikainen
Kohen Briggs
Brielle Hujanen
Kiana LaRoque
Anya Pearson
Kaden Ratai
Karah Scofield
Steven Sopoci
Emily Trip

Juniors
Evelyn Brodeen
Jonah Burnett
Annabelle Calavera
Addy Hartway
Evan Kajala
Helen Koch
Riley Las
Autumn Swanson
Trinity Vidal

Sophomores
Addison Burckhardt
Alex Burckhardt
John Carlson
Ella Cornelius
Ryder Gibson
Aidan Hartway

Brielle Lindgren
Louie Panichi
Sierra Schuster
Amber Sopoci
Lydia Trip

Freshmen
Lincoln Antikainen
Isaiah Briggs
Lauren Burnett
Brynn Chosa
John Danielson
Isabelle Koch
Victoria Mathys
Isabel Pascuzzi

Eighth Grade
Presley Chiabotti
Abigail Dargontina
Emarie Gibson
Andrew Hartway
Carson Johnson
Sophia Mathys
Kaycee Zupancich

Seventh Grade
Gage Aune
Sophia Bangs
Zoey Burckhardt
Carsyn Burnett
Colt Chosa

Kayson Gaskell
Sawyer Glass
Johnathon Hampson
Rainer Jacobson
Cyrus Johnson
Brittan Koskela
Joshua Long
Evangelina Mathy
Kalle Nelson
Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg
Vincent Pascuzzi
Cassidy Pinski
Alice Sopoci
Evalyn Thiel
Nevaeh Wipf

B Honor Roll

Seniors
Brenden Chiabotti
Jared Chiabotti
Kia Deegan
Hannah Kinsey
Lane Kneen
Grace Koch
Loren LaFave
Garrett Lappi
Dillon Musakka
Olin Nelson

Saul Roach
Elias Smith
Madison Spears
Brian Swinson
Avery Thiel
Alexandria Whiteman

Juniors
Hannah Cheney
Brandon Cook
Madison Dantes
Sean Drift
Alexandra Holm
Cynthia Kirkman
Zefrym Mankowski
Cadence Nelson
Victoria Olson
Jessy Palmer
Cole Rabas
Ella Smith
Madison Taylor
Jacob Whiteman
Luke Will

Sophomores
Nicholas Abramson
Trajen Barto
Kalvyn Benner
Rory Bundy
Aliya Ehrbright
Nia Gaskell

Nevada Gauthier
Talen Jarshaw
Vincent Kajala
Cody Kirkman
Jaida Lambert
Jay Mattson
Ethan Ploof
Sheyenne Schuster
Dakota Schwarzenberger
Richard Swinson

Freshmen
Josephine Carlson
Levi Chaulklin
Marriah Glowaski-Kingbird
Mya Goggleye
Brittin Lappi
Blaze Markwardt
Matthew Miller
Anna Nelson
Rogelio Noyes
Payton Scofield
Sadie Spears
Megan Taylor
John Warren

Eighth Grade
Alethea Bangs
Makayla Benner
Corralyn Brodeen

Grace Bundy
Kate Cheney
Kaelyn Ehrbright
Khloe Holland
Ella Kruse
Barbara Littlewolf
Aiyeshia Mohamed
Michael Nuthak
Victoria Phillips
Caleb Rutchasky
Cash Rutchasky
Hunter Schwarzenberger
Merilee Scofield

Seventh Grade
Matthias Boshey
Memphis Goodsky
Lilee Harrenstein
Felicity Hoagland
Sophia Hoffman
Cedar Holman
Rebecca Koch
Tysen Lenzen
Nathan McLain
Omari Mohamed
Lila Pearson
Peyton Swanson
Donelle Villebrun

GUEST COMMENTARY

New volunteers are vital to preserve rural EMS

Area service director offers comments on changing landscape nationwide

by ROLAND SHOEN
Cook Ambulance Director

COOK- Times they are a changing. There is another pandemic in the U.S., a systemic issue affecting towns and cities across the country: The declining numbers of people willing to be volunteers for their local Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

I have been in EMS for almost 38 years, most of them as a volunteer, some of them as a manager, and more recently as an employee. I have seen many changes in the system over the years and until recently it has been a self-sustained, life-giving, tax-saving silent partner in many of your lives until you needed to call 911 for the vital services local volunteers could provide in your time of need. I say self-sustained because most of the EMS personnel in small town America do it as volunteers aside from other full-time jobs and families. Tax-saving because it is estimated that volunteer EMS saves taxpayers millions of dollars every year in property tax levies – EMS, unlike fire

and police, has never been considered an “essential service” and therefore is not funded by local taxes. Life-giving because when that call goes out for someone in need, these volunteers drop everything and leave families to answer the call. When you are having your worst day, they are doing their best to mitigate the problem for you.

Many things go on “behind the scenes” to make volunteer EMS service in a small community happen. In the 1980s there was a plethora of people who were willing to step into the role of EMT/First Responder and some small communities still have a few of these dedicated folks around, although those numbers are dropping fast. But we have seen many changes to EMS and healthcare and they are having a direct effect on your ability to get a local ambulance when you call 911. The COVID pandemic has taken a lot of the older volunteers out of EMS due to underlying conditions, age, and the fear of getting sick while caring for a stranger. Younger generations

aren’t as willing or able to give up their personal time for a few bucks an hour to be constantly prepared to respond to a call. Coupled with wage hikes for jobs like fast food workers, volunteer EMS personnel have been left feeling that they are worth more than \$3 or \$4 an hour.

The last ten years have been marked by other demands on EMS teams, some good, some not so good. Good is that these volunteers have stepped up to take on more clinical care aspects in a prehospital setting. Currently your local Basic Life Support (BLS) service can administer medications and/or treat for certain ailments like chest pain, allergic reactions, diabetic issues, chronic lung, and heart problems, including sudden cardiac arrest, and the ever-rising number of opioid overdose victims. They can also call for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit (bringing the ER to you) or even a helicopter if they feel your condition needs the higher level of definitive care at a major hospital. BLS also performs some diagnostic testing such as an

EKG-12-Lead heart monitor to see if you are having a heart attack and can transmit that info directly to the ER so they can prepare and have whatever is needed for your best care waiting in the ER on your Arrival. They can also provide testing for blood sugar, oxygen levels, blood pressure and capnography. Most of these used to be done only in a doctor’s office or in a hospital.

In Minnesota, the Emergency Medical Service Regulatory Board (EMSRB) inspects ambulance services every two years checking their ambulances, equipment, and their personnel rosters. As it gets harder to find people to step up to these volunteer positions it gets tougher to fill those rosters, and therefore may have direct effect on the inspections and the ability to maintain the license to run the ambulance.

With the growing shortages of help/volunteers, many services are forced to provide tuition for certification training on budgets that are already strained by lack of payment, insurance denials,

rising costs of new ambulances and equipment, vehicle maintenance, tires and fuel, and no other source to draw funds from, because it lacks the special title of “essential Service” and therefore are not supported through local tax.

If this was any other business the doors would have closed a long time ago, but due to the many people over the years who have come forward to be volunteers, you still have a local ambulance service even if you live in a small town. But times are changing and if small town volunteerism continues to drop it could be the end to what started so strong almost 40 years ago. I am not sure what a life is worth, but it is certainly more than three or four bucks an hour. We are doing everything we can to keep small services going, there are many conversations being had across the country over this issue and talks with insurance companies and Medicare continue in an effort to get higher reimbursements, so we make this more sustainable while trying to keep and

add to the staff we have. This could be too little too late, unless we get more people interested in helping their local agencies even if they can only do a few hours a month-every hour can help carry this through.

Every volunteer service in the nation needs help right now, in order to keep those ambulances coming when you dial 911. If you have any free time each week/month you could be the one who answers the call and quite possibly the only thing between keeping and losing a local service. Contact your city hall for information on how you can help their local EMS before the wounds are too deep to recover. Many cities will pay for your training and right now your local college has full state/fed grants for anyone who is willing to step into the role of EMT. It has been a rewarding volunteer career for me over the past 38 years and continues to be a passion of mine to be sure.

GREEN ENERGY

MPUC backs MP plan to boost renewables

Company cites new federal incentives for wind and solar expansion

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Minnesota Power will be producing 70 percent of its electricity from carbon free sources within just eight years and will be producing electricity from 100 percent carbon-free sources by 2050, while providing continued reliability and affordability.

That’s according to the company’s final integrated resource plan, or IRP, which the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission unanimously approved late last week. All investor-owned utilities in the state are required to submit an IRP periodically to outline how the company plans to meet the energy needs of its customers over the next 15 years, making it a useful tool for state regulators.

Under the latest plan, the company proposes to

reduce its carbon emissions dramatically, by increasing its power production from wind by 400 megawatts (MW) and its production from solar photovoltaic panels by 300 MW. That’s nearly double the amount from these sources that the company had proposed in its initial IRP filing in February 2021. At the time, the company had proposed 200 MW from wind and 200 MW from solar. The company also plans make a significant investment in energy storage capacity, to take greater advantage of its renewable power sources, which tend to be intermittent.

Incentives contained within newly-passed federal laws will be helping to accelerate Minnesota Power’s transition to carbon-free production. “We will leverage the opportunities now available with the recent passage

of the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that support lowering the cost of renewables and maintaining competitive rates for our customers,” said Josh Skelton, Minnesota Power’s chief operating officer.

The plan also calls for the company to cease coal operations at the company’s Boswell Energy Center Unit 3 by 2030 and Unit 4 by 2035.

According to a Minnesota Power press statement, the company has engaged a number of stakeholders during the development of the plan and that it reached a joint agreement earlier this month with advocates of clean energy, labor unions, the city of Cohasset and Itasca County, which are hosts to the Boswell facilities. The MPUC approved all elements of the joint

Right: Minnesota Power will be increasing its reliance on wind energy, like its turbines at Taconite Ridge, based on a new energy plan approved by the Public Utilities Commission last week.

file photo

agreement.

Company CEO Bethany Owen hailed the agreement and the MPUC’s approval of the plan. “In early 2021, Minnesota Power set forth its visions for a carbon-free energy supply by 2050, and today’s decision by the [MPUC] affirmed Minnesota Power’s state-leading efforts to shape a clean-energy future that benefits our customers, our communities, and the climate, while ensuring time to transition our employees,” she said.

The now-approved IRP is all part of Minnesota



Power’s EnergyForward vision under which the company has been transitioning to the production of power from renewable sources in order to combat climate change. Minnesota Power is a division of ALLETE Inc.

COUNCIL...Continued from page 1

Norby and Suihkonen that may have contributed to Norby’s reluctance. Norby said he is interested in being replaced as the council’s representative on the ad hoc committee. “I’ve done all I can with the service,” he said, saying that he found it difficult to work with Suihkonen. “Dena and I don’t see eye-to-eye on some things and that makes it hard to find agreement sometimes.”

Those comments came during a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion on the ambulance commission’s recommendation to order a new ambulance for the service, given the age and condition of the service’s existing second ambulance.

Norby said that Suihkonen and former

Eagles Nest fire chief Larry McCray were developing the specifications for the new rig.

Norby also addressed issues raised at the most recent commission meeting by an unofficial Greenwood representative. The township has refused to take part this year in the joint ambulance capital funding mechanism established years ago by the late Ballard Turnbull. Norby said the township is resisting participation over a couple issues, at present, including the commission’s reluctance to allow Greenwood to insert an indemnification clause in their contract that would protect Greenwood First Responders and the township from liability in the event of an accident.

Norby said any

indemnification should be a two-way street. “If Greenwood wants indemnification, it should be mutual,” said Norby. “We’re in a logjam over that one.”

Norby also suggested that the council give a final approval to its ambulance business plan, since that’s been another issue raised by Greenwood officials. Setterberg said the service has been operating based on the business plan for some time and that it’s been “a living plan,” that’s been adjusted regularly to try to reduce costs and boost revenues. “We’re using it now and I believe it has improved our costs over the past few months. I think we’re starting to see some improvements that are making a difference.”

Norby agreed to a point. “So, let’s just get it done and send it over to them.”

Setterberg noted that the business plan isn’t really something set in stone. “We can approve the plan, but it’s a living document that changes with the business,” he said.

“Well, this is the draft we have today,” responded Norby.

Setterberg noted that the Tower service has been breaking even of late, and suggested that’s doing pretty well compared to some other area services, which are losing substantial amounts of money. Morin said it really only matters how well Tower is doing.

“It’s a benchmark,” responded Setterberg, noting that breaking even

still doesn’t account for the cost of ambulance replacement.

Norby pointed to ongoing discussion of a possible joint powers arrangement at recent meetings of the ambulance commission. He said a property tax assessment that would cover the full range of the service’s costs would run about \$11 per \$100,000 in value.

He said if Greenwood refused to take part, that tax would jump to about \$30 per thousand.

“Would we just not respond to calls in Greenwood?” asked new council member Robert Anderson.

Other councilors jumped in, noting that the service would still need to respond even if Greenwood

refused to help fund the system, and that other townships would have to pick up that cost.

In other ambulance-related action, the council unanimously approved the hiring of Karen Schultz as part-time assistant ambulance director, at a cost in line with the previous assistant director. The new assistant will provide day-time administrative help, could help fill in for the ambulance director in the event of her absence, and would be considered on-call for ambulance runs while on duty at the hall. The position will pay \$17 an hour for 16 hours per week and includes no health benefits.

GREENWOOD...Continued from page 1

the subsidy account and makes recommendations on the purchase of new rigs and the disposal of old rigs.

“I told them it wasn’t going to work,” said John Bassing, the recently appointed alternate for the township’s seat on the commission. Bassing cited the removal of the indemnification clause and the lack of a business plan for his recommendation not to sign the agreement.

Greenwood Township has had 151 ambulance calls so far this year, with 44 to the township outside of Vermilion Reservation, 25 to Fortune Bay, and 82 to Vermilion Reservation. Bois Forte is a member of the commission and both the tribe and Fortune Bay make an annual donation to the subsidy account totaling \$7,500.

The township had insisted the indemnification clause go into the last contract, and the city had agreed, but after further consultation with their own attorney, decided that any indemnification clause needed to be mutual. And other representatives on the ambulance commission also decided such a

clause was not essential, because the commission has no authority over the ambulance service and just serves to contribute money for new rigs.

But Greenwood certainly did not agree with this argument.

“It’s simple,” said resident Lee Peterson, “when something bad happens, the attorneys go where the money is.”

Peterson also said the \$1.66 per mile that the city contributes to the ambulance subsidy fund for any non-emergency transfer funds was too low.

“That \$1.66 is a joke,” he said. “They want somebody else to pay, that’s the bottom line.”

The town board did express some concerns that they might be getting blamed for not having enough in the subsidy account to purchase the new rig that the commission wants to order.

“You didn’t give me money so I could buy a new Corvette,” quipped Supervisor Rick Stoehr.

Supervisor Barb Lofquist said she would be interested in starting to attend the ad-hoc com-

mittee meetings set up by the Tower Council, which has representatives from all the townships in the ambulance service area and are discussing options for management of the ambulance service in the future. Greenwood had previously decided not to attend those meetings.

Peterson claimed the ad hoc committee meetings are in violation of the open meeting law, but in the *Timberjay’s* experience, such committees are not subject to that law’s requirements.

The board heard that consultants from the McGrath Group will be in the area again this week to conduct more interviews. The township hired the group to study ambulance services in the area and look at options for providing a higher level of service. They expect to see the study completed by the end of the year.

“This study will benefit everybody and we are paying for it,” said Stoehr. The township has received a \$25,000 grant from the IRRR, but the total cost of the study is about \$55,000.

Other business

► Heard that the township pickup truck is being serviced for an engine issue.

► Heard an update on the broadband project recently approved in the township. John Bassing said the project will include most of the south shore of Vermilion, except for Isle of Pines, which was excluded because of its location, but there may be other options to be looked at. CTC will be sending emails to people who filled out the survey saying they were interested in broadband and will be holding public meetings in the area over the winter.

► Heard that the election went very well, with about 73-percent of registered voters casting ballots. There were 18 new voters registered on election day, and 110 absentee voters.

“The election judges barely had time for a bite to eat,” said interim clerk JoAnn Bassing.

Bassing told the board that she had received incorrect information on how to bring the election data to the county and had been initially told to drop the thumb drive with the data

at the Tower Clerk’s Office first thing in the morning.

“We got a call in the middle of the night from Phil Chapman, from the county auditor’s office,” she said, “and John and I drove it down at 2 a.m.”

► Approved transferring the township’s investment CDs to a new CD that will pay either 4.35 or 4.75-percent interest.

► Accepted a \$15,000 donation from Bois Forte for the fire department, and a \$525 donation from the Greenwood quilting group.

► Heard that the township will be receiving a new Brassmaster water treatment system, because of an apparent malfunction

with the system that was recently installed. While arsenic levels are still below the danger level, they unexpectedly increased after a couple of months of operation.

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ADDAMS...Continued from page 1

Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he’s never done before— keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. The show takes place on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday’s “normal” boyfriend and his parents.

As can be expected, delightful chaos ensues. And as the show unfolds, it is hard to decide which family can rightfully be called “normal.”

There is singing and dancing, a graveyard full of ghostly ancestors, some light-hearted torture, a hurricane, and a family dinner that goes hilariously wrong.

“It is a fairly ambitious production,” said Billie Rouse, all-around assistant as well as costumer. “There are lots of scene changes, and many rapid-fire scenes.”

Rehearsals got a late start due to the summer’s school renovation project, which forced a late school start, and a few other delays. So, the cast lost two to

three weeks of their usual rehearsal time.

“This is one of the most delightful casts we’ve worked with,” said Billie. “They are constantly developing ways to have their characters develop.”

Billie said the cast also came together as “one big family,” and welcomed the addition of the younger students, who have been very enthusiastic throughout the production.

In addition, she said, the stage crew, which also features some first-time and younger students, really took to their roles, and contributed lots of ideas.

“They were young and new at it,” she said. “But they wanted to learn about everything, how the lights worked, how the sound worked.”

In addition, designing the sets was complicated because of the lack of space in the backstage area.

“We had to be creative in how we planned everything,” she said.

The show features a live orchestra, something director Mike Rouse

figured he needed to get into place before next year’s blockbuster performance of “Frozen,” which required a live orchestra.

Director Michael Rouse recruited a half dozen well-known local musicians for the show, and the addition of live music really brings the show to life.

The cast includes over 20 students in grade six to twelve, and for the first time, has welcomed a student from Northeast Range, Ruby Milton.

“We are pairing and sharing for sports,” said Billie. “And we are hoping to increase participation from NE Range in upcoming productions.”

The cast includes Juliet Stouffer as Morticia, Gabe Mann as Gomez, Chambriel Ridings as Wednesday, Alison Poppler as Pugsley, Ruby Milton as Fester, ChloyAnn Ridings as Grandma, and Morgan McClelland as Lurch. The Beineke family features Anna Hammond as Alice, Olin Weise as Mal, and Black Walsh as



Wednesday’s suitor Lucas. The cast is joined by the family ancestors (summoned from the family graveyard at the beginning of the show) played by Emily Bialik, Natalie Johnson, Chantel Ridings, Moss Erzar, Aubrielle Poppler, Mattie Lindsey, Jackson Ridings, Lennon Brekke, Emory Hohenstein, Payson Kudinger, and Brandy Strange.

The cast was led by director Michael Rouse,

choreographer Crystal Poppler, stage designer Peter Kess, music director Elias Mokole, pit orchestra director Karl Kubiak, accompnianist Irene Hartfield, and costumers Laurel Poppler and Billie Rouse. Pit orchestra musicians are Karl Kubiak, Nina VanGelder, Lynn Evenson, Rich Dunstan, Irene Hartfield, and Michael Rouse. Other volunteer staff are Nick Holtz and Jane Dandron. The student stage

Above: Wednesday, Pugsley, and Fester strike the classic Addams Family pose with fingers clicking marked the show’s iconic opening.

crew is Maggie Fetterer, Abbey Johnson, Ambrose Richter, Tyler Hietala, Ray Cavalier, Olivia Hammond, and Anika Boerst.

DEATH...Continued from page 1

“The subsequent follow up investigation found no evidence of foul play and there was no evidence of any type of traumatic injuries to Mr. Roy, supporting the ME report’s findings.”

While Skelton could divulge the overall finding

of the autopsy report, specific details cannot be released to the general public under Minnesota law.

However, Skelton was able to provide some additional details discovered by investigators through

witness statements and interviews, information that was not part of the initial sheriff’s office press release on Sept. 11.

According to Skelton, on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 10, Roy and an unidentified partner left

the Orr Muni at 8:55 a.m. and drove directly to the Vermilion River Tavern near Buyck to purchase alcoholic beverages. They then drove to the Vermilion River access point at the Gold Mine Resort, about three miles upstream from

Vermilion Falls and five-and-a-half miles southwest of Crane Lake.

Skelton said that Roy and the partner were in a canoe together when Roy “intentionally flipped the canoe,” according to the partner. Skelton did not

provide any additional context indicating why Roy might have intentionally done so other than to say that “Intoxication was the driving factor.”

“The partner was picked up by another group,” Skelton said. “The partner swam to the other group’s boat and was given a ride back to the landing. That group stated Roy was in his swamped canoe bailing the excess water out when they left him. Roy’s canoe was discovered overturned by another ricing group later on.”

As initially reported in the *Timberjay*, authorities were notified of the discovery at 1:26 p.m. and rescue crews were dispatched at that time. St. Louis Sheriff’s deputies, the St. Louis County Rescue Squad, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement personnel searched the river until midnight, then recommenced their efforts Sunday morning. At about 4 p.m., the St. Louis County Rescue Squad located Roy’s body floating in the river channel.



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District sets sights on building project completion

“We had a construction meeting last week, Tim, Anne

The board voted unanimously to accept several donations

In other business the board:

- Approved the follow-

- Canceled the Dec. 26

►The next regular meeting of the board will be Monday, Nov. 28 at 6 p.m.

Details about the tentative agreement can be found at negotiations.uss.com.

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Dealer Rep.	Type	Stock	Vehicle Line	Explorer	Order Code	07183	
Customer Name	Happy Customer	Priority Code	19	Model Year	2023	Price Level	315
DESCRIPTION	MSRP	DESCRIPTION	MSRP				
K800 EXPLORER XLT 4WD	\$40,570	RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY	\$0				
.119 INCH WHEELBASE	\$0	CV LOT MANAGEMENT	\$0				
FORGED GREEN METALLIC	\$0	50 STATE EMISSIONS	\$0				
ACTIVE SEAT MATERIAL	\$0	FUEL CHARGE	\$0				
EBONY INTERIOR	\$0	PRICED DORA	\$0				
EQUIPMENT GROUP 202A	\$3,540	ADVERTISING ASSESSMENT	\$0				
.18" S-SPOKE PAINTED ALUM WHLS	\$0	DESTINATION & DELIVERY	\$1,495				
REMOTE START SYSTEM	\$0		\$0				
HEATED STEERING WHEEL	\$0	*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY*	\$0				
8-WAY POWER PASSENGER SEAT	\$0	*TO DISCOUNTS/SAVINGS- BASED*	\$0				
2.3L ECOBOOST 1-4 ENGINE	\$0	*ON CUSTOMER ZIP CODE: SEE *	\$0				
10-SPEED AUTO TRANSMISSION	\$0	* DEALER FOR DETAILS. *	\$0				
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4WD REGIONAL DISCOUNT	\$0						
TOTAL BASE AND OPTIONS			MSRP				\$45,605

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Dealer Rep.	Type	Retail	Vehicle Line	Bronco Sport	Order Code	08103	
Customer Name	Happy Customer	Priority Code	19	Model Year	2023	Price Level	315
DESCRIPTION	MSRP	DESCRIPTION	MSRP				
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2019 JOURNEY

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Greenwood Fire Department ready for some changes

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- The Greenwood Town Board appointed Jeff Maus as the Greenwood Fire Chief on a split vote at their regular November meeting. He was the only person who applied for the job.

Maus is a longtime firefighter and First Responder, with over 16 years of experience, and was acting as the interim chief. He served as a captain in the department from 2010-2014. He also completed the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training's Officer Leadership classes at Camp Ripley, with coursework in leadership, human resources, marketing, and finance. He holds certifications as Fire Officer II and Fire Instructor II and is up to date on his EMR training and refreshers.

"How can we nominate someone who does not have the trust as respect of the department?" asked Supervisor Paul Skubic. Department members had picketed the town board meeting in October over the issue of department leadership.

Chairman Sue Drobac said that ten department members had shown up for training this month.

"I don't think it is a problem anymore," she said.

"It's been a change in the culture," added Supervisor Barb Lofquist.

"We don't have anyone with the credentials Jeff has," said Supervisor Rick Stoehr. "When I went to work at U.S. Steel, I didn't get to vote for my boss."

Stoehr said the department is working on training the newer and younger members with the skills they need to become leaders in the future.

"We are here for the common good," Stoehr said. "I am responsible to the people who elected me. This is a serious situation, and it is time to make corrections."

Supervisor Mike Ralston again brought up the issue that Maus has filed claims against the township.

"He still has two outstanding claims against the township," Ralston said. "He has filed six so far and four were denied."

Ralston said Maus should sign an affidavit stating he would no longer file any frivolous claims.

"He has cost this township a lot of cash and has never prevailed."

Drobac said Maus should not be penalized for trying to make the department safer. She also said the township had lost one of the claims and had paid a settlement to Maus.

"He is exercising his constitutional rights," said Stoehr.

Maus reviewed the history of his claims, not-

ing they stemmed from safety concerns he had raised as a department officer.

"I brought them to the attention of the officers," Maus said. "Shortly thereafter they decided to eliminate my position as captain and T.J. Kladio's position as assistant captain."

Maus said the department claimed it was consolidating leadership in the department to save money.

"I did the math and it cost more money, so it was a false statement," he said. Maus then filed a whistleblower type case with the state. "I prevailed because I had tape recordings of those meetings."

"That case had merit," he said. "And those cases are not easy to win. Greenwood was given the opportunity to settle but did not."

The case ended up being filed with the attorney general's office and Maus was awarded approximately \$18,000 for lost wages.

Additional claims were filed on related hiring issues, and Maus said he accepted the decision that came down from the state. The outstanding claims have to do with the department's denial of his mileage claim when he was eligible as a firefighter to get early access to the COVID-19 vaccine, and another dispute over denial of pension credits when he had missed one of the dozen meetings required, but felt he had a valid excused absence.

"My dad died of COVID during this time," he said. "It was clear to me that COVID was serious."

The vote to hire Maus was 3-2, with Skubic and Ralston voting against.

"I thank the board for

trusting me to be the fire chief," Maus said. "I will put forth my best effort to continue our proud tradition."

Fire Hall safety issues

Stoehr gave a detailed presentation on safety issues in the fire hall.

"I've been talking to OSHA and consulting with them," he said. "I'm not trying to beat up on the fire department, but we have over \$2 million of apparatus that needs to be tended to."

Stoehr said there are many safety issues with how equipment is being stored.

"The fire hall and storage building are total disasters," he said. "These are accidents waiting to happen. Things have gone to hell. There are things sitting around that shouldn't be sitting around, tripping hazards, and stuff all over the place."

Stoehr said his background working in industrial settings showed him the lack of training and care that has been taken with township assets.

Besides basic safety issues like tripping hazards, he pointed out, during a video walk-through he showed the board, how equipment is not being properly or safely stored, how excess unused equipment and supplies were not organized.

"We have a very nice building, and we are housing junk out there," he said. "We should be putting things up for auction."

"Taking care of this equipment is part of their fire department training," he said, noting that it should be part of their paid training time.

He also stressed that

department members need to have proper training, including the state firefighter I and II coursework.

Stoehr noted that when the township had a full-time maintenance person on staff, that person acted as the fire department's "valet."

"When you join the fire department you work as a team," he said.

Stoehr had briefly joined the department, but said he soon realized he wouldn't be able to make the obligation in good faith to be a good department member.

"It's a commitment," he said. "It is not a club."

Stoehr said the township had just spent \$7,500 getting the fire department trucks "back in line." And he again brought up the fact that when the previous department officials realized that the township's main fire engine was "limping along," that no one had done anything besides saying they were investigating the problem.

"I know they are good-hearted people," he said. "And we have a lot of young members who need to learn how to take care of the equipment."

Maus noted that the current guidelines for fire department members state that firefighters are responsible for keeping equipment clean inside and outside, and doing basic maintenance.

The town board decided to add additional language to the department guidelines clarifying that "township-owned vehicles, apparatus, and equipment" be kept in neat and clean condition at all times.

Maus said he was getting input from department members on some other equipment and equipment storage issues, including an issue with a suction hose that needs to be repaired.

The board also heard an update on the township's smaller fire boat, which experienced engine problems while responding to a call from hunters stranded on Pine Island. The St. Louis County Rescue Squad had asked if the department could pick up the hunters, whose boat had taken in water and were afraid to try to travel back to the marina. The hunters did not have a shelter or any place to stay overnight in the poor weather. The boat is now at Joe's Marine getting repaired.

Maus also told the town board he would be asking them to consider purchasing a more up-to-date GPS system for both fire boats. He said while he and another department member were trying to navigate the lake on a stormy and cold night, the GPS units they currently have are not able to correct the course in real time, and the boat was drifting off course in "the narrows" and they had to

take turns sticking their heads out the window to make sure they were safe.

"This was a non-emergency call," Maus said, so it didn't matter they were having to travel slowly.

Maus said the two hunters were very thankful for the rescue.

"They felt dumb," he said. "But we were just glad they were okay."

New GPS units would cost over \$2,000. Maus said he would bring more information back to the board on possible replacements.

Maus also asked the board for permission to sell or donate excess equipment. He said they will work on an inventory and bring that information back to the board next month.

The board also voted to advertise again for new fire department and first responders, as well as for an assistant chief, safety officer, and administrative assistant.

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SWIMMING

NR-E sets team records in strong sectional performance

Team achieves gold academic medal,
Section 7A Coach of the Year honors

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

HIBBING — The Northeast Range-Ely swimmers may not be headed to the state meet, but they left Saturday’s season-ending 7A sectional competition with heads held high.

“We had a great meet,” said Head Coach Cheri DeBeltz following the event

held at Hibbing High School. “It was our best finish ever at the section meet. Ninety-five percent of our swimmers had a lifetime or season-best swim. We also set three new team records.”

Two of those records came in relay events. The team of Kelly Thompson, Lily Tedrick, Anna Larson, and Morgan McClelland finished the 200-medley relay in

Right: NR-E senior Lily Tedrick performs during the individual medley at last Saturday’s sectional competition in Hibbing.

photo by M. Larson

2:01.07, a mark that left the team in fifth place among the 11 teams in the competition. The same swimmers set a

See SECTIONS...pg. 2B



Left: Ely’s Lily Rechichi and Madeline Kallberg combine for a kill against Mayer Lutheran in the opening round of the state volleyball tournament, held last weekend in the Twin Cities.

Below: Ely senior Courtney Eilrich keeps her eye on the ball as she dives for a dig against Mayer Lutheran .

all photos by
Cheryl Myers
MN Volleyball Hub

MINNESOTA STATE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

They made their mark

Wolves were in the hunt against the state’s top volleyball competition

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ST. PAUL- The Ely Timberwolves’ magical run of 29 consecutive wins this season came to an end last week at the Class A state volleyball tournament in St. Paul. Yet, Ely proved they belonged among the best in the state with a match win over Pine River-Backus and set wins against two of the top four seeds.

Defending state champion Mayer Lutheran, seeded second, was a tough draw for the Wolves in Thursday’s opener, and the Crusaders showed they had the guns to compete for the title again by winning the first set 25-15.

But it was a different story in the second, with Ely matching Mayer Lutheran blow for blow in the early going. Trailing just 12-9, Madeline Kallberg nailed a kill and Kate Coughlin served up consecutive aces to pull the Wolves even. A kill by Hannah Penke and an attack error by the Crusaders put Ely ahead 14-12. With improved defense and mixing up their shots, the Wolves kept the Crusaders off balance as they built a 20-17 lead.

Mayer Lutheran regained its footing, however, and looked to have the Wolves on the ropes at 24-23 and serving for the set. But Penke stepped up with a kill to

even the score at 24 and regain the serve for Ely’s Lilli Rechichi. Kallberg came up with a big block for a score on the next point, and

“Set three was a blockbuster marathon with each team refusing to yield an inch as the lead see-sawed back and forth.

the Wolves celebrated a 26-24 win when the Crusaders were called for a violation on set point.

It was a wake-up call for Mayer Lutheran, and the Crusaders snuffed out any thoughts of an upset by winning the next two sets 25-12 and 25-11 and dropping Ely into the consolation bracket. But the Timberwolves had put the rest of the field on notice that they weren’t just a starry-eyed team happy to make it to state for the first time in school history. They were there to compete hard and make a mark.

Ely’s next test was on Friday against Section 5 champion Pine River-Backus. Like the Wolves, the Tigers built their 27-4 record

coming into the tourney against primarily Class A schools and were on a 16-1 streak before getting knocked off by third-seeded Mabel-Canton in Thursday’s first round. Ely and PR-B were separated by just one spot in the statewide Class A Quality Ratings formula at 12th and 14th respectively.

Not surprisingly, there were nine ties in the first set as neither team held more than a two-point lead through 16-16. But a couple of ball handling errors by the Tigers and a service ace by Rechichi gave Ely a 19-16 cushion. Bolstered by the sudden advantage, Ely put together a 6-1 run that featured a pair of aces by Kallberg and three kills by Penke to nail down the 25-17 win.

Inexplicably, the Wolves struggled mightily early in the second set as the Tigers built a commanding 11-2 advantage. Ely fell behind by ten before a short rally closed the gap to five at 20-15, but PR-B evened the match with a 25-18 win.

Set three was a blockbuster marathon with each team refusing to yield an inch as the lead see-sawed back and forth until the Tigers were poised to capture the win with the score at 24-21. Rachel Coughlin staved off the first set point with a kill, and Kallberg followed with another. An error by PR-B brought

See WOLVES ...pg. 2B





Fresh off their strong performance in the 200 freestyle relay are team members Lily Tedrick, Anna Larson, Kelly Thompson and Morgan McClelland. photo by M. Larson

SECTIONS...Continued from page 1B

new school mark in the 200-freestyle relay, with a time of 1:47.65, to finish in sixth place.

Tedrick, a senior, set a new individual school mark in the 100-breaststroke with a time of 1:13.55, to finish in fourth place among a total of 16 swimmers.

Tedrick also took fifth in the 200-individual medley, with a time of 2:27.45.

McClelland, also a senior, finished eighth in the 200-freestyle with a time of

2:10.20.

Adding to the team's strong performance was its qualification for a gold academic award for its combined GPA of 3.81.

"The other very humbling and completely unexpected thing was that I was named Section 7A Head Coach of the Year and one of our assistant coaches, Lynn Gulbrandson, was named 7A assistant coach of the year," said DeBeltz. "What an honor for our program."

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

the teams even at 24-24, the 12th tie of the set. The Tigers took the lead back 25-24, but a Penke kill evened the score and the Tigers couldn't handle two tough serves by Rechichi, giving the Wolves a 27-25 victory and a 2-1 lead in the match.

The big win pumped up Ely and deflated PR-B as the Wolves took total command of the fourth set. A pair of aces by Penke forced PR-B to call a timeout trailing 12-6, but it was only a momentary halt to the Wolves' relentless offensive attack. Fueled by a pair of kills by Kate Coughlin and another by Clare Thomas, the Wolves extended their lead to 21-9, and a Penke kill put the exclamation point on a 25-12 win that gave Ely its first-ever state match victory.

On Saturday, fourth-seeded and fourth-ranked Badger/Greenbush-Middle River (BGMR) spoiled Ely's bid to win the consolation bracket with a 3-1 victory, but the Wolves left everything on the floor in this one.

Tied at 10-10 in the first set, a Kallberg kill gave the Wolves a lead they wouldn't relinquish until the Gators pulled even again at 24-24. Rachel Coughlin gave Ely a temporary 25-24 lead with a kill, but a Penke kill attempt on set point sailed wide, knotting the score at 25-25. Penke made amends on the next play, slamming a blistering kill off a BGMR block for a point, and a Gators error on the next point gave Ely a 27-25 win.

It was a tough grind for the Wolves in the next two sets. The Gators gradually pulled away in both for 25-18 and 25-15 wins and

Right: Kate Coughlin makes a dig during competition last Friday against Mayer Lutheran in the opening round of the state volleyball tournament.

photo by Cheryl Myers MN Volleyball Hub

a 2-1 match lead.

With their tournament lives on the line, the Wolves turned set four into a slugfest. After Thomas broke a 6-6 tie with a kill, a pair of slams by Kate Coughlin and a BGMR error gave Ely a 10-6 lead. The Gators fought back to go ahead 14-12, but kills by Penke and Rachel Coughlin gave the advantage back to the Wolves, who built the lead to 20-16. But the Gators pulled even at 20-20 on three Ely miscues and a kill by Jade Reese.

Two BGMR errors and a Kallberg kill gave Ely a three-point edge, and a Kate Coughlin slam put the Wolves on the precipice of forcing a fifth set at 24-23. But it was not to be, as the Gators reeled off three consecutive kills to close



out the set and the match 26-24, bringing to an end the best season ever turned in by a Timberwolves volleyball team.

According to tourney summary statistics provided by the Minnesota State High School League, Penke led the Ely scoring attack with 40 kills, followed by Rachel Coughlin with 25 and Kate Coughlin and Rechichi with 23 each.

Ely finished the season with a record of 30-2.

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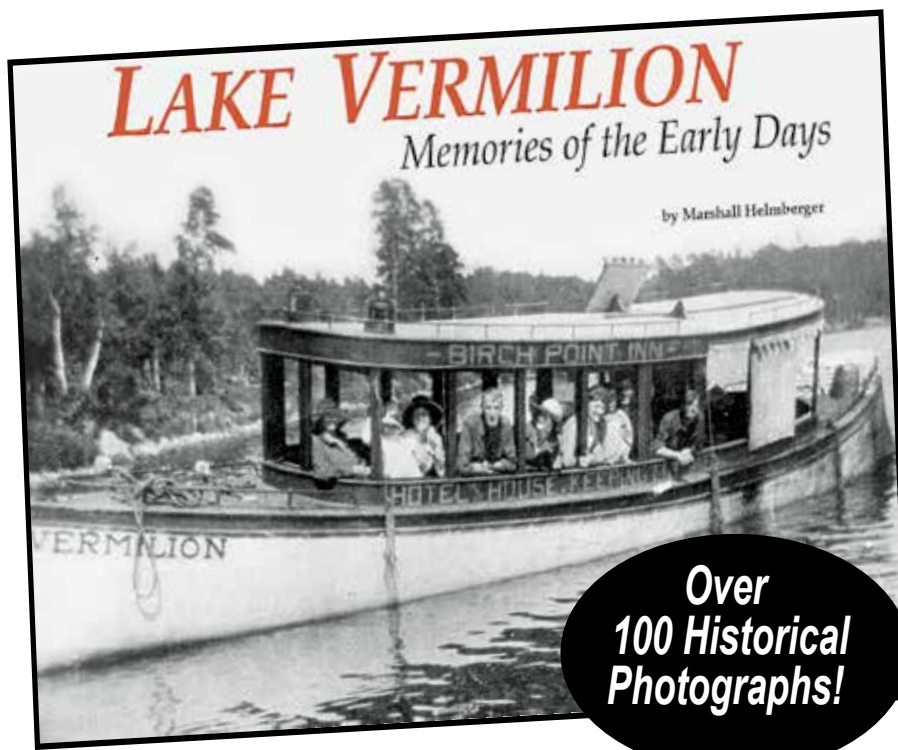
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TOWER FOOD SHELF



Pictured (from left) are Tammy Sheehan, Chaz Hanna, Frannie Wood, Hugh Wood, and Tower Farmers Market board member Mickey White. Frannie and Hugh are the new food shelf co-directors. Tammy Sheehan is a new advisory board member for the food shelf, and her husband Tom Sheehan (not pictured) is a new food shelf volunteer. Another new advisory board member is Larry Voss (not pictured). photo by J. Summit

Tower Farmers Market makes donation to Tower Food Shelf

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market made a donation to the Tower Area Food Shelf, with the proceeds from its Share the Harvest raffle. Shoppers had the opportunity of purchasing raffle tickets throughout the market season. Market vendors all donated items

to a large gift basket that was then raffled off during the last market day of the season. This year’s basket was won by Richard Hanson. The Tower Area Food Shelf is undergoing some renovations, with new shelving and a new computer system to keep track of clients and

ordering. Both the computer and printer were donated to the food shelf. New food shelf coordinators Hugh and Franny Wood are hoping the new set-up will make the food shelf space easier to navigate.

Call for submissions for “The Thunderbird Review” literary magazine

CLOQUET –The English Department at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (FDLTCC) is excited to announce *The Thunderbird Review* is now accepting submissions of high-quality creative work for its 11th edition. The deadline to submit is Dec. 15. *The Thunderbird Review* is an inclusive journal based out of FDLTCC. Each year, the journal looks for work that speaks to the human condition and that fulfills the College’s goal to create a union of cultures. “The journal is an outlet to showcase the wonderful creative work being generated by writers and

artists living in or connected to this area. One of the important functions of the journal is to publish the work of established and emerging writers and artists side-by-side,” says Darci Schummer, the journal’s faculty editor. Submission eligibility includes current residents or individuals with a strong connection to the Twin Ports area and the surrounding counties and tribal nations in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula in Michigan, plus current students who are enrolled at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, University of Wisconsin-Superi-

or, University of Minnesota-Duluth, College of St. Scholastica, Northwood Technical College, or Lake Superior College. Submissions must fall into one of four different categories: short fiction (3,000 words maximum), creative non-fiction (3,000 words maximum), poetry (three poems maximum, submitted in one document), or art (three works maximum; any media) . Written work may be in Anishinaabemowin or English and should be submitted as an attached .doc or .docx file. Art must be submitted as an attached jpeg file. Authors and artists may

submit one entry per category except as noted above. *The Thunderbird Review* selection committee will not accept work that has previously been published, is under consideration elsewhere, or has received an award. Submitted works must be sent via email to anthology@fdltcc.edu with the subject line “Anthology Submission,” and only email submissions will be accepted. With each submission, contact information including the submitter’s name, address, telephone number, email address, the title(s) of works being submitted, and a

50-word bio written in third person should be submitted. All contributors selected for the final publication will receive one complimentary copy. Any questions may be directed to Darci Schummer at dschummer@fdltcc.edu. Copies of the 10th anniversary edition of *The Thunderbird Review* can be purchased online through the FDLTCC College Bookstore or through Amazon.com.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Pearl E. Aronen

Pearl Esther Salo Aronen, 100, formerly of Lake Vermilion, originally of Embarrass, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022, at Edgewood Vista in Virginia, surrounded by family. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 21 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Virginia with Rev. Amy Janssen officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow in the East Pike Cemetery in Pike Township. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Caring Edge Hospice. Arrangements are with Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Gilbert. She is survived by three daughters, Sue (Mike) Blaeser of Virginia, Evelyn (Don) Ferguson of Gallatin, Tenn., and Lee (Terry) Croteau of Lake Vermilion; grandchildren, Kelly, Michele, Carol Anne, Paul, Theresa, Becky, Donny, Jason and Tara; brother, Jack (Joanna) Salo; numerous great-grandchildren; several great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Timothy E. Trygg

Timothy “Tim” Edwin Trygg, of Hibbing, a longtime resident of Cook, passed away on Friday, Nov. 11, 2022. A memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19 from 1-3 p.m. at Mlak-er Funeral Home in Cook. A reception and lunch will be held immediately after at the Old Muni in Cook. To honor Tim’s love of the song “Forever in Blue Jeans”, the family requests that attendees please wear blue jeans. He is survived by his mother, Lois Trygg; wife, Colleen Paolo; children, Scott (Nicole) Trygg and Tracy (Greg) LaPatka; grandchildren, Jasmine Trygg, Logan Luecken and Lexiss Trygg; sisters, Karen McCue and Harriet (John) Martinez; step-daughter, Kelly Leinonen Lind; step-grandchildren, Kaelea Leinonen, Jack and Ben Lind; and dogs, Richie, Maddie, Daisy and Pink.

Helen C. Miller

Helen Caroline Pederson Miller, 102, of Babbitt, died on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022, at Carefree Living. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19 at Lu-

theran Church of the Good Shepherd in Babbitt with visitation one hour prior. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely. She is survived by her children, Joyce (Alan) Berglund of Anoka, Linda (Bud) Conklin of Eugene, Ore., and Karen (Darryl) Cameron of Sartell; daughter-in-law, Nancy Miller of Hudson, Wis.; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren plus one on the way; nieces, nephews and cousins. **Joseph Baltich Sr.** Joseph Baltich Sr., 90, of Ely, a proud United States Veteran of the Korean War, passed away peacefully in the presence of his wife on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022, at Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 18 with visitation one hour prior at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. Lunch will follow. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home

of Ely. He is survived by wife of 63 years, Paula; children, Joseph W. Baltich (Annette), Bernie Baltich (Sally Schulz) and Sue Kittams (Fred); grandchildren, Ben Baltich (Morgan), Zack Baltich (Maggie), Danny Baltich, Cullen Kittams and Regan Kittams. **Marja L. Viikinsalo** Marja Leena Koskela Viikinsalo, 82, of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022, at Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely, after a long battle with dementia. The family would like to thank the wonderful staff at Boundary Waters Care Center and Carefree Living for the amazing love and compassion they provided in caring for her during her golden years. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, Nov. 16 at Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely with Pastor Craig Haberman officiating. She is survived by her son, James (Kellie) Viikinsalo of Trussville, Ala.; sister, Ritva Koskela of Rauma, Finland; broth-

er, Mikko (Riita) Koskela of Rauma, Finland and Fuengirola, Spain; grandchildren, Amanda Viikinsalo of Homewood, Ala., Nicholas (Samantha) Viikinsalo of Anoka, Emily Viikinsalo of Fresno, Calif., Alex Oman of White Bear Lake and Maya Viikinsalo of Trussville, Ala.; nephew, Otto Koskela of Barcelona, Spain; great-grandson,

Landry Macedo Jr. of Fresno, Calif.; and other dear family and friends. **Brian C. Bakk** Brian C. Bakk, 66, of Minneapolis, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022. Services are pending with Mlak-er Funeral Home of Cook.

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

2022 FIREARMS DEER SEASON

Harvest totals collapse in parts of the region

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Deer hunters across the North Country are reporting seeing fewer deer and hearing fewer shots than at any time in recent memory, and that perception is bolstered by some of the lowest deer registrations in years in the region through the second weekend of the regular firearms deer season in northeastern Minnesota.

While hunters still have

until a half hour after sundown on Sunday, Nov. 20, to bag their deer, the vast majority of deer are typically harvested in the first two weekends. And cold temperatures forecasted for the weekend, with highs in the mid-teens and lows around zero will likely limit the time many hunters will remain in their stands for the final weekend.

Through the second weekend, hunters had registered a total of 2,430 deer in the nine permit areas tracked

by the *Timberjay*. That’s down 31 percent over the same time last year and close to 50 percent below numbers from three years ago at this same point in the season.

Many hunters in the region say they have little doubt what’s behind the apparent decline in the area’s deer population.

“A conversation with any deer hunter in northeast Minnesota will bring up wolf

See DEER HUNT...pg. 5B



Area Deer Harvest

Results through Monday, Nov. 14

Year	Bucks	Antlerless	Total
2019	3,545	959	4,604
2020	3,048	764	3,812
2021	3,075	451	3,526
2022	1,966	464	2,430

Preliminary harvest totals for permit areas in northern St. Louis and Lake counties, including 117, 118, 119, 130, 131, 132, 176, 177, and 178.



NORTHERN FINCH FORECAST

Bird feeder bonanza?

Natural food supplies point to good numbers of finches in the region this winter

With snow on the ground, probably for the duration, and with the bears hopefully now in bed, the bird feeding season is getting underway in earnest in our area. And that means it’s time to take a look at the annual finch forecast to have some idea which of our favorite winter birds will be showing up at our feeders and how many.

The finch forecast is an annual thing, produced by the Canada-based Finch Research Network, which involves hundreds of observers throughout the forested regions of Canada, who keep close tabs on the abundance of the kinds of natural foods that northern finches like to eat. I know... it’s kind of a nerdy thing, but you know those Canadians.

Northern finches, in case you’re not a bird enthusiast like me, include birds like pine grosbeaks, evening grosbeaks, redpolls, pine siskins, purple finches, and red and white-winged crossbills. All of these birds subsist primarily on conifer seeds, although most of them will take advantage of other food sources as well, particularly in the warmer months of the year, when most birds eat a considerable number of

insects. Pine grosbeaks are also major consumers of the fruits of the mountain ash as well as the seeds of black ash, both of which we appear to have in some abundance this year, at least locally. Last year’s drought probably had something to do with that.

Northern finches are migratory, but not in the way we usually think about that. Here in the North Country, we tend to think birds head south in the winter, and that’s true of most birds—just not northern finches.

These birds follow their food sources across the landscape and can migrate hundreds of miles in any direction, even to the north, in winter, depending on where the best food sources are found at any given time. These are, obviously, hardy birds that can take exceptionally cold temperatures as long as they have a good food source.

By assessing the annual cone crop and the abundance of other wild foods, the folks who operate the Finch Research Network (FRN) can make informed predictions about where finches will head next. Exactly how the finches know where to go remains something of a mystery (I won’t go for

Above: Evening grosbeaks at a feeder near Tower this past week. Both evening and pine grosbeaks are being seen in significant numbers so far this winter.

Right: A male common redpoll rests on a balsam fir branch.

the obvious Twitter reference here), although it may be a case where they just keep moving until they find what they’re looking for.

The good news is that the conditions across Canada should make for a pretty good movement of pine grosbeaks into our area. Pine grosbeaks summer and breed just north of our area and they move into northeastern Minnesota in varying numbers every winter, depending on the food availability on their summer range. Readers might remember a couple years ago, there was a bumper crop of cones and mountain ash berries to our north and we saw only a handful of pine grosbeaks in our area as a result.

This will not be a repeat of that year. The reports from the FRN point to generally poor food crops in the boreal regions north and east of Lake Superior all the way to central Quebec, but that they improve as you head west—which would include northeastern Minnesota. These conditions should bring good numbers of pine grosbeaks to our area,



and I know I’ve been seeing flocks and regularly hearing their sweet calls when I’m out in the woods for the past month already. My guess is they might be a bit slow appearing at feeders this year, given that we have a pretty good crop of natural grosbeak foods, but they should be showing up in increasing numbers at feeders as the winter goes on... and on.

It also looks like we’ll be seeing at least a few more evening grosbeaks this year. The FRN is reporting that evening grosbeak numbers, which had fallen dramatically in recent years, appear to be on the increase, thanks to outbreaks of spruce budworm, which provide a good food source during their nesting season.

We’ve had some evening grosbeaks around all year—they were showing up occa-

See FINCHES...pg. 5B

PUBLIC SAFETY

Rescuers save hunter stuck in icy marsh

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

PORTAGE TWP — First responders and law enforcement officers were called to rescue a hunter here this past Saturday after the man became stuck in waist deep water in a partially frozen marsh. The hunter had been attempting the cross the marshy area just before dark when he broke through the thin ice and became mired in muck and couldn’t get out.

Rescuers were able to locate the hunter and rescued him utilizing an Argo operated by the Crane Lake Fire Department.

By the time of the rescue, the hunter was experiencing symptoms of hypothermia and was transported by ambulance to an area hospital for treatment.

Responders to the call included the Buyck First Responders and Fire Department, the Orr Ambulance, the Virginia Ambulance, the Crane Lake Fire Department, the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office and Rescue Squad.

As area waterways begin to freeze, the sheriff’s office is reminding the public to use good judgment and follow the DNR’s general ice thickness guidelines when venturing out this winter.

PERSPECTIVE

DNR biologists can’t discount the impact of wolves

by MIKE HANSON
Retired DNR Forester

In a recent article in the *Timberjay*, we again heard the DNR company line about bad winters and over-harvest of “snow shelter.”

Not once did I see a mention of predation by the gray wolf. I have no doubt that the deer suffered the past couple winters, I’ve lived here since 1977 and I have personally seen several bad winters, often times back-to-back (1996/97 and 1997/98 as an example), that have drastically dropped the deer numbers. The big difference between then and now is the higher wolf population. Back in the day the herd would take three to four years to recover and it always did. I think if you looked at historic harvest statistics compared to winter weather patterns it would be easy to see that. The deer herd has now been hit hard by winter snow the past two winters and the wolf population won’t allow the herd to recover like it used to. First they kill the winter weakened deer and then in the spring target the fawn crop. For some reason the DNR refuses to put that into the equation, apparently it’s a political stance they don’t care to take.

A conversation with any deer hunter in northeast Minnesota will

See WOLVES...pg. 5B

WOLVES...Continued from page 4B

bring up wolf numbers in their hunting area. The DNR calls this “anecdotal information” and seems to discount it but even if you took all those bits of anecdotal information and divided in half there would still be a wolf problem!

Don’t buy into the DNR company line on why the kill is low. They have taken stances before that may not be completely right and many of the reasons for that are generally politically motivated. The original company line on cougar sightings in Minnesota was: “Someone’s pet cougar got away”. They used that one for years before they were overwhelmed with documented sightings. Now the line is free ranging young males, which is more believable than “someone’s pet got away” but they refuse to acknowledge there may be a breeding pair somewhere in Minnesota. The Canadian Lynx is another example of the DNR sticking their head in the sand, the Feds proved them wrong on that one. Moose mortality? Their study showed that 50 percent of the moose calves were at least eaten on by wolves....do you suppose they killed them too? Politically it didn’t look good to have their study show wolf depredation was a significant factor so they just sort of ignored addressing it. Over harvest of our “snow shelter”? I’m not real sure what their agenda is on renaming and re-attacking this subject but being involved in the

forestry business for my entire career it strikes me as odd that right now logging is on a downslide in the area. Especially compared to the heyday of logging from about 1982 up to and shortly after Potlatch shut down. I very seldom even see a loaded pulp truck now-a-days as compared to that time and there is only one local logging company still left in the Cook/Orr area. Are we really over harvesting the winter cover faster than we had been? Do you suppose the budworm infestations a few years ago had anything to do with removing balsam fir from the landscape? I can personally attest to the fact that I lost virtually every mature and semi-mature balsam to the infestation on the 200 acres we own.

I mentioned before that it seems everyone has game cameras at their hunting locations. We do, too. In fact, we have cameras on three different properties separated by several miles. We’ve had plenty of photos of wolves at all three sites and we have discarded the majority of them. The adjacent attached photo I couldn’t discard because of the clarity and number of wolves. This camera was at my brother’s deer stand over east of Susan Lake and it’s been there since around Sept. 1.

In summary, the DNR’s explanation of why we have a low deer harvest is off base and the hunting population knows it. They are going to have egg on their face once again!

FINCHES...Continued from page 4B

sionally over the summer at our bird feeders and have been putting in regular appearances in recent weeks as well. Unlike pine grosbeaks, the noisy and gregarious evening grosbeaks reside in our region year-round, although their numbers can vary a lot depending on food crops.

We can also expect to see redpolls this year, and possibly in high numbers. The FRN reports that it’s a generally poor year for birch seed production and that’s a major food source for both common and hoary redpolls in winter. That means they’ll not only be headed into our region, they may even head further south this winter in significant numbers. Those who provide black sunflower and niger thistle seeds should be able to attract redpolls, although their numbers tend to build at feeders as the winter goes on. You might want to earmark some additional funds for bird seed this season. In a big year, the redpolls can consume a lot of bird seed, the price of

which has, not surprisingly, gone up over the past couple years.

We probably won’t see many pine siskins, however, since they are expected to head west to a major cone event in western Canada, where cone crops are said to be the best in recent memory. Then again, we have a decent cone crop in our area, so we could still hold some siskins as well as some crossbills in our area this year.

One thing is for sure... regardless of where the northern finches head this winter, we will still have plenty of activity at area feeders. We have a flock of 20 very hungry blue jays that descend on our feeders like a hoard every morning, interspersed with what must be close to a billion chickadees, which (I’m not kidding) could easily consume ten pounds of sunflower seeds a day just by themselves. I guess after 40 years of feeding birds up here, I’ve developed a bit of a reputation!



A trail cam image from last month near Susan Lake clearly shows seven gray wolves in the field of view.
photo courtesy M. Hanson

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
17 5					14 -2					18 8					24 7					27 17				
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.
11/07	41	29	0.00		11/07	42	29	0.00		11/07	44	31	0.01		11/07	36	30	0.00		11/07	41	30	0.00	
11/08	36	29	0.00		11/08	36	28	0.00		11/08	35	30	0.00		11/08	41	32	0.00		11/08	36	28	0.00	
11/09	41	35	0.18		11/09	42	36	0.22		11/09	41	35	0.04		11/09	43	36	0.15		11/09	42	36	0.35	
11/10	43	32	0.04		11/10	45	36	0.47		11/10	42	35	0.31		11/10	36	28	0.32		11/10	44	34	0.78	
11/11	33	25	0.92	1.5"	11/11	36	26	1.06	1.0"	11/11	36	28	1.03	2.0"	11/11	27	21	0.00		11/11	34	26	1.40	3.0"
11/12	20	18	0.03	0.4"	11/12	30	19	0.09	1.5"	11/12	28	21	0.02	0.2"	11/12	21	19	0.00		11/12	29	19	1.20	0.4"
11/13	23	18	0.01	0.3"	11/13	23	18	0.02	0.4"	11/13	23	18	0.02	0.2"	11/13	21	19	0.00		11/13	23	18	0.01	0.2"
YTD Total			24.59	4.4"	YTD Total			27.46	5.3"	YTD Total			24.81	6.4"	YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			34.55	6.5"

DEER HUNT...Continued from page 4B

numbers in their hunting area,” said Mike Hanson, a retired DNR forester in the Cook area. “The DNR calls this ‘anecdotal information’ and seems to discount it but even if you took all those bits of anecdotal information and divided it in half there would still be a wolf problem!”

DNR wildlife officials insist that the recent moderate-to-severe winters have taken the biggest toll on the deer population in the region. The lowest registration numbers do appear to track with those permit areas that experienced the highest winter severity index last winter. While deer registrations are down sharply in northeastern Minnesota, areas to the south and west, where conditions were somewhat milder last winter, the falloff in deer registrations is not as stark. That’s despite the fact that those areas are also located within the state’s primary wolf range.

Three of the permit areas that experienced the highest WSI last year have seen some of the most dramatic drops in deer registrations. Permit areas 130, 131, and 126, have seen a combined total of 141 deer

registrations through the first two weekends, according to data posted on the DNR’s website. That compares to a total of 423 registrations through the full season in 2021. And 2021’s total was far below the 1,157 registered deer in these same three permit areas as recently as 2017. Those three permit areas have seen three severe, one moderate, and one mild winter over the past five years.

DNR wildlife officials have also pointed to intensive timber harvesting, which they say has reduced the amount of snow shelter, or thermal cover, in many areas. But Hanson suggests that the impact of spruce budworm has probably played a bigger role in depleting balsam fir and spruce on the landscape than timber cutting.

Biologists acknowledge that wolf predation is part of the picture, but point out it’s not something they can currently control. Despite a hefty population in the state, gray wolves remain on the federal threatened species list in Minnesota as a result of recent court cases that overturned federal efforts to delist the species.

Wildlife managers say that deer

remain relatively abundant throughout a significant portion of the wolf range in the state and note that deer populations have shown an ability to bounce back fairly quickly as a result of mild winters and restrictions of deer harvest to limit population declines. Those restrictions include limiting hunters to bucks-only or to a limited number of antlerless permits, since deer breeding success is primarily dependent on the number of adult does.

“Wolves are not the sole contributor to deer population declines. However, their impact in combination with other factors, can contribute to local declines,” said Jessica Holmes, DNR Tower area wildlife manager.

This year’s exceptionally low harvest numbers in the region are likely to increase the pressure on the DNR to take steps to help the deer population recover, particularly in areas in the central and eastern portion of the Superior National Forest.

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- Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting
- Ability to perform job description duties

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Deadline to apply: Nov. 24, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 18, 2022



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PUBLIC NOTICE

**State of Minnesota
County of St. Louis
District Court
6th Judicial District
Court File No:
69HI-PR-22-104
Case Type: Probate**

In re: the Estate of
Saundra Gaylord, a/k/a
Saundra Leah Gaylord and
Saundra L. Gaylord,
Decedent

NOTICE and Order for Hearing on Petition for Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors

It is ordered and notice is given that on December 14, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. a hearing will be held at 1810 12th Ave. E, Hibbing, MN 55746 for the formal probate of a document that is claimed to be the original Will of the Decedent, dated January 26, 2004; and for the appointment of James Gaylord, 2133 Bel Aire Ave., Duluth, MN 55803 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition should be filed with the Court

prior or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT
Bhupesh Pattni
District Court Judge

Dated: Nov. 1, 2022

Personal Representative
James Gaylord
2133 Bel Aire Ave., Duluth,
MN 55803
218-343-9401

*Published in the Timberjay,
Nov. 11 & 18, 2022*

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Hospital/ER

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

Care Center

FT MDS-PPS Coordinator/RN Educator
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 & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PERA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Stitched
- 5 Bol. neighbor
- 8 Urban haze
- 12 Rue the run
- 13 Six, in Sicily
- 14 "I did it!"
- 15 Corp. VIP
- 16 Not on
- 17 Goals
- 18 Summer goal
- 20 See to
- 22 Coffee variety
- 26 Macadamized
- 29 Galley item
- 30 Old
- Oldsmobile
- 31 "Sad to say ..."
- 32 Director Lee
- 33 Tarzan's transport
- 34 Dress
- 35 Author
- Umberto
- 36 Wedding rings
- 54 Filming site
- 37 Rich coffee
- 55 Sicilian peak
- lightener
- 40 Coffin support
- 41 Serviette
- 45 No neatnik
- 47 Dos Passos
- trilogy
- 49 Early Peruvian
- 50 Actor
- Hackman
- 51 Computer key
- 52 Aussie
- hoppers

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19			20	21			
				22			23				24	25
26	27	28				29				30		
31					32				33			
34				35				36				
37			38				39					
		40					41			42	43	44
45	46				47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

- 53 Turner and Danson
- 9 Variety of orange
- 35 Needle hole
- 54 Filming site
- 10 Peculiar
- 36 Sheep call
- 55 Sicilian peak
- 11 Helium, for one
- 38 Feelings, informally
- DOWN
- 19 Succor
- 39 Put into law
- 1 Easy targets
- 21 Mess up
- 42 Shoelace snarl
- 2 Beige
- 23 Esteem
- 43 PC picture
- 3 Timely query?
- 24 Transmit
- 44 Houston acronym
- 4 Gets comfy
- 25 Low digits
- 45 Pvt.'s superior
- 5 For — (cheaply)
- 26 Walkway
- 46 Author Harper
- 7 Ump
- 27 Lotion additive
- 48 Away from NNW
- 6 Present
- 28 Wanderer
- 32 Amasses
- 8 Shorthand pro
- 33 "Twilight"

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD NOTICE This will affect your 2023 property taxes & eligibility for Property Tax Refund

Have you purchased or moved into a property in the past year?

Contact your county assessor to file a homestead application if you or a qualifying relative occupy the property as a homestead on or before December 31, 2022. You must apply for homestead; it does not happen automatically or at closing.

What is a qualifying relative?

For residential or agricultural property, a qualifying relative includes the child, grandchild, sibling, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece, parent of the owner or of the owner's spouse.

When do I apply?

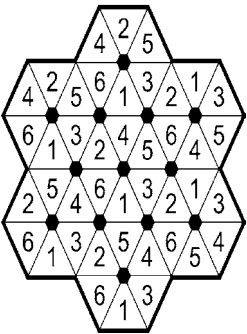
You must apply on or before December 31, 2022.

Contact the assessor by December 31, 2022 if the occupancy or use of the property you homestead has changed in the past year.

If you sell, move, or for any reason no longer qualify for the homestead classification, you are required to notify the county assessor within 30 days of the change in homestead status.

For information, contact one of the following County Assessor's Offices:
Duluth Offices...218-726-2304
Virginia & Cook Offices...218-749-7147
Hibbing Office...218-262-6089
Ely Office...218-365-8236
Long distance (within St. Louis County)
1-800-450-9777

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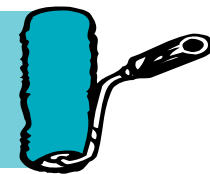


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