



Embracing winter...See /2B

Inside:
Ely School Board... See /3
Polymet back in court... See /9
Girls basketball begins... See /1B
Final deer hunt numbers...See /2B

The TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

VOL. 33, ISSUE 47 December 2, 2022 \$1⁵⁰

ICONIC BUSINESS

WELY sold to Wisconsin-based radio group

Station will go off the air until ownership change is approved by FCC

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

ELY — It's not the end of the road for WELY Radio after all, as the Bois Forte Band announced Tuesday that they have found a buyer for the iconic "End of the Road Radio," that's been a part of the fabric of Ely since

the 1950s. The station is now scheduled to go silent on Thursday, Dec. 1 as the transition to new owner Zoe Communications, Inc. of Shell Lake, Wis. began. The company owns 17 radio stations, including numerous outlets in smaller markets similar to Ely. "The FCC (Federal

Communications Commission) makes it complicated to keep the station on the air during a sale," said Zoe Communications, Inc. General Manager Mike Oberg. "We will return WELY to operation when the FCC grants the transfer, and that normally takes about 90 days."

Right: The company that purchased WELY radio did not purchase the station's commercial building on Chapman Street.

file photo

Oberg, a Minnesota native, said WELY has a lot of history that he'd like to

See...WELY pg. 9



MINING

Lawmakers seek extended UI for N'Shore mine workers

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Prolonged layoffs and the end of unemployment benefits for idled Northshore Mining workers in Babbitt and Silver Bay signal an uncertain future as two area legislators vow to press forward with relief as soon as the 2023 legislative session gets underway next month.

Last May, parent company Cleveland-Cliffs suspended operations at the Babbitt mine and shifted DR-grade taconite pellet production from Silver Bay to its Minorca facility in Virginia, idling that facility as well and resulting in more than 400 layoffs. Cliffs CEO Lourenco Goncalves said the moves were due to changes in the company's needs

See...BENEFITS pg. 10

NEW STAFF

Timberjay's new Ely editor now on the job

ELY — The *Timberjay's* new Ely editor will be on the job starting Friday, beginning her full-time coverage of news and events in the Ely area. Catherine "Catie" Helm-Clark and her husband Sean completed the purchase of their new home in Ely this week, having made the move from Idaho.



Catie Helm-Clark

Helm-Clark is a research geologist by training who turned

See...EDITOR pg. 9



STUDENTS PITCH-IN IN THE KITCHEN

Eats to be thankful for

Students at VCS prepare their own Thanksgiving feast

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Thanksgiving came a few days early at Vermilion Country School.

The meal was traditional: turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, cheesy potatoes, green beans, rolls, cranberries, and plenty of desserts. But the food was all prepared and served by students, with some help from school chef Chris Glazer and other staff members.

"The kids helped with all of it," said Glazer, who oversaw a kitchen bustling with helpers starting early on Tuesday morning, the last day of school before the Thanksgiving break.

"I got all the ingredients and gave the students the recipes," he said. Students learned how to roast a turkey (four in all), make mashed potatoes, keep homemade gravy from getting lumpy, and prepare green bean hot dish. The day before they had made cranberry sauce from scratch, and baked dinner rolls.

Above: Bentley Crego reacts with joy as Michelle Maki applies whipped cream to his pumpkin pie.

Right: Student Kai Contreras-Pieratos shows off the last remaining bite or two of his piece of pie.

Lower right: About 45 students turned out along with staff for their pre-Thanksgiving feast held Nov. 22 at the Vermilion Country School in Tower.

photos by J. Summit

Those not on morning kitchen duty helped in other ways.

Students arranged tables in a large circle, set out name tags and table decorations, and set the table with places for over 50 students, school staff, and school volunteers. Two students greeted guests and showed them to their seats. Others kept up with the piles of pots and pans in the kitchen, learning how to

See...STUDENTS pg. 10



SKI & Winter Camping Rentals
~Various Sales Throughout the Store~
GREAT NEW TITLES ON OUR BOOKSTORE SHELVES!
You'll find it all at Piragis Northwoods Company 105 N Central Ave.
piragis.com 218-365-6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950
editor@timberjay.com

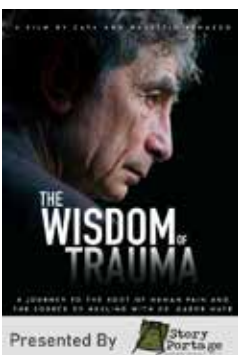


8 04879 35140 5

Community notices

EHST invites public to screening of "The Wisdom of Trauma" Dec. 9

ELY - The public is invited to attend a free event at Ely's Historic State Theater on Friday, Dec. 9. Story Portage, in partnership with the Behavioral Health Network, will host two screenings of the Wisdom of Trauma at 4 and 7 p.m. This is the second trauma recovery event in Story Portage's social justice series. The Behavioral Health Network will provide wrap around service information following each screening. A limited number of discussion guides will be available for educational and spiritual leaders who wish to discuss the topic further in small groups. Advanced copies of the guide can be requested at storyportage@gmail.com. This event is free and everyone is welcome. We will solicit and accept donations for our final program in the series, a presentation by the 23rd Veteran. The 23rd Veteran is a trauma support organization that works with combat veterans suffering from Moral Injury. Donations can be sent to: Story Portage, PO Box 286, Ely. Please write 23rd Veteran in the check memo to direct funds to this program.



Embarrass Fair Association to hold pancake breakfast & craft show Dec. 3

EMBARRASS - The Embarrass Region Fair Association is hosting an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast, with choice of ham or sausage links, fruit cup, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee. The pancake breakfast will take place the first Saturday of each month through May at the Timber Hall from 8-11 a.m. Adults \$6, children (6-10 years) \$3, and under 5 years FREE. Local Crafters will be selling their wares from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. The event also includes a free craft table for kids.

Additionally, throughout the month of December donate your gently used books & puzzles at your local Embarrass-Vermillion Federal Credit Union. Donated items will be gathered and made available free to the community at Timber Hall (Embarrass) on Jan. 7 from 8-11 a.m. during the January Pancake Breakfast.

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital to hold annual meeting Monday, Dec. 5

ELY - Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH) will hold its annual member meeting on Monday, Dec. 5, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Please use the Essentia Health - Ely Clinic entryway; volunteers will be waiting to direct attendees to the Community Conference Room. COVID-19 protocols are still in place, so masks and a brief screening questionnaire are required.

Driving through EBCH parking lot no longer permitted beginning Dec. 1

ELY- For the safety of pedestrians and vehicles in the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital parking lot, especially during air transports, through traffic will no longer be permitted. Beginning Dec. 1, EBCH will block off the parking lot East of the helipad. Traveling through the parking lot will no longer be possible. Patients should use Harvey Street to access Ely Community Pharmacy, the Essentia Health - Ely Clinic parking lot, the hospital main or ED entrances, and Therapy or Specialty Clinic appointments. If you have any questions, please contact EBCH at 218-365-3271.

Lights of Love hosts tree lighting Dec. 2 & 3

REGIONAL - The 32nd annual VHHP Lights of Love campaign began in November to commemorate National Hospice Month and National Family Caregivers Month. Last year's Lights of Love raised just more than \$7,800. 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.

Two Lights of Love tree lighting ceremonies along with caroling will take place at the Cook Gazebo on Friday, Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m. and Orr Center on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. The event originally schedule to take place at the Tower Civic Center at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4 has been cancelled.

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

ON THE STAGE

New Iron Range theater company plans to bring productions to local audiences

VIRGINIA - There is a brand-new community theater company in the Quad Cities going by the name, Stages of the Range Players. The company, founded by Pete Pellinen, aims to perform at stages across the Iron Range including community centers, senior living facilities, and schools. "We want to bring theater out to the folks that can't normally make the trip to a performance space in a larger town," says Pellinen. They plan to produce several plays each year including drama, comedy and radio plays.

Co-creators Pete Pellinen and Mary McReynolds got the ball rolling this spring and were joined by former players and directors from Northern Stage Works, as well as some new faces with a desire to work on stage.

Pete Pellinen, Stage of the Range Players President, has 22 years of experience as director of Small Parts Players Regional Theater Company which brought theater education and performance to young Iron Rangers from 2nd through 12th grade. Pete founded Small Parts Players in 2000 thanks to a Blandin Foundation Fellowship and investment. He also has 22 years as the major force behind the Northern Stage Works (formerly Iron Range Regional Repertory Players) community theater company. Pete studied Vocal Music Performance at Bemidji State University and Opera Performance at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind. He has performed with the Northern Lights Music Festival, San Antonio Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Minnesota Opera and Gilbert and Sullivan Very Light Opera company, among others. Pete was instrumental in the development of the Laurentian Arts and Culture Alliance which saved the 1912 historic Lyric Opera House in Virginia's Historic Commercial District. He looks forward to find-

ing ways that all Iron Range community members interested in theatrical production can participate and have fun enjoying being part of live theater.

Mary McReynolds is former executive director of the Lyric Center for the Arts with over 20 years coordinating artistic presentations and productions. Among her artistic talents, she is also a playwright. As a former City Councilor in the City of Virginia and rural arts advocate, she has been instrumental in multiple initiatives demonstrating arts as a vital part of economic development and sustainability. "This new theater company has the twist of being able to take their shows on the road," says McReynolds. "Bringing communities together around the arts is important to our Iron Range communities and this is one more way we can do that."

Starting in 2023, Stages of the Range Players will hold monthly script readings. Pellinen says this is a great way to dip your toe into acting. "If going to an audition looks scary to you, drop in at a script reading. You'll meet new friends and get a feel for what it's like to participate. Some of the shows we'll do will be radio plays where there's no memorization required. If you can read, you can be part of the show!" These events will be posted on their Facebook and Instagram sites, [StagesoftheRangePlayers](https://www.facebook.com/StagesoftheRangePlayers).

Stages of the Range Players will be kicking off their productions with a mystery dinner theater, 'Surviving



the Spotlight' on Dec. 30 and 31 at Iron Trail Motors Event Center. In the play a talent contest is taking place, with the audience participating as judges. The winner(s) will receive a trophy, a chance to appear in a nationally televised talent search show, and spending cash for their trip. During one of the acts, one of the performers dies. Is it an accident, or murder? That's what the audience will need to decide.

The dinner is catered by Kun-nari's and features three entrees for you to select from, all deliciously prepared to the high quality standards held by this locally-owned restaurant. Tickets are \$65 and can be purchased at <https://our.show/srp-surviving-the-spotlight> before Dec. 24. More information is also at that site.

"We plan to make theater fun for Iron Rangers of all ages," says Pellinen. "Send us an email at s.r.p.theater@gmail.com, or give me a call at 218-780-1264 if you want to join in."

TO THE RESCUE

Help is available for Minnesotans struggling to pay for insulin

Minnesota's Insulin Safety Net Program provides a pathway for access

ST. PAUL - A recent study found that more than 1.3 million Americans with diabetes rationed their insulin because of cost concerns by skipping doses, taking less insulin than needed, or delaying buying insulin to save money. During National Diabetes Month, MNsure and the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy remind Minnesotans that the Minnesota Insulin Safety Net Program provides fast, reliable help for those who need insulin and may be struggling to afford this life-saving drug.

The Minnesota Insulin Safety Net Program has two key components, depending on individual

needs (<https://www.mninsulin.org/>):

- If you are in immediate need of assistance — that is, if you have less than a seven-day supply of insulin and will likely face significant health consequences without it — the urgent need program enables eligible Minnesotans to receive a 30-day supply of insulin right away at a pharmacy and pay no more than a \$35 co-pay, one time per year.

- If you need longer-term help covering the costs of insulin, the continuing need program supports eligible Minnesotans to receive up to a year supply of insulin for no more than \$50 per 90-day

refill. You can get free help applying for the continuing need program from a MNsure-certified navigator trained to help with the process.

In 2021, over 1,100 Minnesotans received discounts on their insulin through the program, totaling nearly \$6.9 million, but many more are likely eligible for assistance. In 2020, the Minnesota Department of Health estimated that 8.8 percent of adults in Minnesota (about 390,000) had been diagnosed with either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, with over 20,000 new cases diagnosed each year.

OPPORTUNITY

Applications now open for \$20,000 Alworth Scholarships

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.

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

The Alworth Foundation is partnering with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation for live, online sessions to cover application best practices:

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.



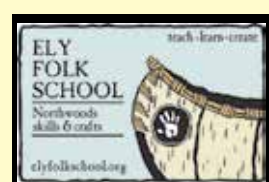
The Bois Forte Band and Ely Folk School bring you
The BOIS FORTE NATIVE NAMES MAP
of the Lake Vermilion Area

The first 100 donations of \$100 or more to the Ely Folk School will receive a Legacy Edition map. Signed & Numbered • Photo quality • 22" x 40" Donate at ElyFolkSchool.org by December 20th.

Maps will be mailed from Ely.



Details for purchasing standard maps will be available soon at ElyFolkSchool.org and at the Ely Folk School Mercantile and Bois Forte Heritage Center.



GREAT NEWS FOR FIREHALL

Tower-Soudan Historical Society receives \$125,000 Blandin Foundation Leadership Boost Grant

TOWER— The Tower-Soudan Historical Society (TSHS) will use a \$125,000 Blandin Foundation Leadership Boost Grant to continue the restoration of the historic brick building on Main Street. 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 pandemic-related challenges.

“The last two years of complex crises have taken a toll on leaders across rural Minnesota,” said Sonja Merrild, director of rural grantmaking at Blandin Foundation. “In times like this, of great challenge and opportunity, the resilience and fortitude of rural people and places shines through.

Yet, we recognize the critical need for more resources to move small communities from where they are to where they want to go.”

“The Blandin Boost grant has given the fire hall restoration project a big boost in moving the project forward and also serves as critical matching funds,” according to TSHS President Nancy Larson. “These are funding sources which we did not know would be available for our project a year ago. The Blandin Boost grant keeps the momentum going and will help to secure additional grants. It is exciting to know we will open the historic building to the public sooner than we initially expected.”

The competition for these grants was very high. To better support the



many strong requests, the total amount of funding available increased from \$1 million to \$5.5 million after Blandin Foundation’s board approved an additional \$3 million in June and a \$1.5 million grant

was secured from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies. The Tower-Soudan Historical Society was invited to submit a full application for a Creative Placemaking grant. The grant will be used

for interior masonry work and installation of the heating system. For more on Blandin Foundation’s Rural Leadership Boost Grants, and to see other grantee projects, visit <https://bit.ly/>

RuralBoostGrants. This historic building was Tower’s first fire hall, city hall and housed the city jail. TSHS has been raising funds and writing grants for several years to preserve this landmark, and TSHS has been working with architectural engineers and building preservation specialists on the multi-year project. Once completed, the building will be used for history exhibits, educational programs, and community gatherings and events. This past summer, work on restoring the building’s exterior masonry began, and will be completed next year. The roof has been repaired, and money raised from local fundraisers and other grants are being used to build restrooms.

ISD 696

Ely School Board considers preserving the past for future students

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

ELY – The future of a series of historic murals was a question before the school board here on Monday night. Ely Winton Historical Society (EWS) president Pam Turnbull addressed the status of the David Tice Workman murals, which were created in the high school library between 1926 and 1935 and have been displayed in various locations in Ely ever since.

Turnbull cited an Oct. 16 email from Margaret Sweet, which informed Turnbull that the murals had been stacked backstage in the auditorium during the school construction, and that raised the question of what to do with them now.

Turnbull outlined the history of the murals, noting that funding for their creation had come from contributions of graduating classes back nearly a century ago. The murals were prominent within

the school library until the 1970s. In 1975, the high school library was to be converted to the media center and the murals were going to be destroyed.

Turnbull said Ely resident, Mary Ellen Levander heard about the possible fate of the paintings and was given permission by the school board to save them. With help she removed the murals from the wall, and they were stored in the art department for a few years until EWS received a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to have the canvasses stretched and framed. The murals were donated to EWS and displayed throughout the community as per the agreement. In 2013, the school board proposed that all twelve of the murals be hung together outside the auditorium, and that they would move, install, and insure them at their own expense. Under the agreement, said Turnbull, if the murals were ever moved permanently, they’d be

returned to EWS. Turnbull said she’d been in communication with Superintendent John Klarich and Building Facilities Director Tim Leeson regarding insurance and appraisals for the pieces, which have since been moved to a more secure location on campus.

“Now, we’re in a bit of a quandary. How do we proceed?” she asked.

Turnbull said there are many questions now, including whether the murals will be rehung and where, what is their condition, is an appraisal needed, and how will the pieces be insured. “Historically, they’re priceless,” she said. “Because they were in the school originally, and the school really has a big enough space, I hope that we’ll be able to go forward on this.”

Next, the board heard from Kraus Anderson Senior Project Manager Todd Erickson with an update on unfunded expenditures.

“We’re estimating that we’re over on contingency,” he said. The negative balance of \$95,240 in the school’s contingency fund when added to the existing unfunded expenditure of \$503,064 due to ledge rock blasting and removal leaves ISD 696 in need of \$598,303.

Erickson’s report left some on the board quizzical. Board member Tony Colarich asked about the recent \$1.5 million grant from St. Louis County, which was supposed to help cover some of the cost overruns of Ely’s facilities project.

But Klarich indicated that those funds were earmarked for other parts of the project, not the cost overruns due to the additional rock blasting. Klarich wasn’t specific about where the district would find the funds to bridge the gap, but the board quickly moved on to other topics.

Erickson also updated

the board on the status of unfinished locker rooms. “We haven’t punch-listed that yet because they’re not done,” he said.

According to Erickson, tiling is still being finished up in the boy’s locker room, which should be done on or about Dec. 5. After that the floor needs to be levelled, and fixtures are scheduled to go in Dec. 19. He said that lockers are currently onsite, but “I’ve been told by the locker install team that the best they can do right now is January 9-13.”

The board, along with Athletic Director Tom Coombe, discussed how this would impact the upcoming basketball season and eight-team tournament scheduled for the end of December. Erickson told the board that issues with state approval for showers and crew availability contributed to the later-than-anticipated finish of locker rooms. He said a temporary certifi-

cate of occupancy can be obtained to be able to use locker rooms prior to locker installation.

In other business the board:

- Adopted a resolution authorizing issuance of certificates of election and directing the district clerk to perform other election-related duties.
- Hired Kali Moro for a paraprofessional position effective Nov. 17.
- Hired Amy Ostazeski for a paraprofessional position effective Dec. 1.
- Approved request by Ely Chix with Stix to display a memorial jersey case in the Ely Ice Arena honoring former teammate Joni Dahl, who was killed recently by a drunk driver in Embarrass.

The next regular meeting of the board will be the Truth in Taxation meeting held Monday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m.

REAL ESTATE

exp

BIC REALTY

WE NEED LISTINGS!
Contact us for a free property valuation

218-666-5352
info@bicrealty.com bicrealty.com

COOK 3 BR, 2 BA, 3-stall detached garage. 200 ft Lake Vermilion shoreline with lift-out dock. MLS#143882 \$624,000

COOK 2 BR, 1 BA, 1-stall detached garage. 225 ft Lake Vermilion shoreline with boathouse. Potential for year-round use. MLS#144156 \$415,000

COOK 17 acres of land bordering Cook. Has over 1,000 ft of Little Fork River frontage. MLS#144482 \$50,000

ORR 120 acres with 2,700 ft Little Fork River frontage. Year-round road-access. MLS#143798 \$300,000

WE SELL THE NORTH!

VERMILION LAND OFFICE
Real Estate • Appraisals

Looking To Buy Or Sell? Give Us A Call!

vermilionland.com
info@vermilionland.com
1-866-753-8985
Cook • Tower • Virginia

RE/MAX Lake Country
218-757-3233
www.TheLakeCountry.com

Pickerel Lake, Effie-\$72,500 3.28 acres with 206 ft of shoreline on Pickerel Lake near Deer Lake. **MLS#141036**

Littlefork-\$395,000 Very well cared for café, motel and RV park situated on Main St. Open year-round, the motel has 9 well-appointed rooms, some with full kitchens and 4 RV sites out back. **MLS#143458**

Britt-\$45,000 3+ acre building site just 10 miles north of Virginia. Wooded and private. **MLS#143945**

Britt-\$59,900 4+ acre building site. Wooded with a pond and privacy. **MLS#143948**

Vermilion River-\$124,900 13.9 wooded acres on the Vermilion River in Buyck. **MLS#143091**

#1 NOBODY IN THE WORLD SELLS MORE REAL ESTATE THAN RE/MAX

*As measured by residential transaction sides.

NEXT TIME COME HOME!

JANISCH REALTY **218-780-6644**

Let's Make Sold Happen For You Too!

OPINION

“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...
ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM
OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;”

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Aging outstate

State needs to provide more resources to help rural families care for elderly parents at home.

Should the elderly in rural parts of Minnesota be allowed to age in place? That's a critical question given the lack of many in-home services for frail seniors in rural parts of the state.

It's a problem that isn't going away any time soon. In fact, it's a problem that is destined to grow far worse over the next two decades.

In just ten years, one-in-three rural residents in Minnesota will be 65 years of age or older, according to the state demographer. We know that caring for the elderly in their own homes provides the best outcomes, the highest quality of life, and is far less expensive than housing them in residential care facilities. Living in a nursing home currently runs an average of \$90,000 a year, and that's an expense picked up by the taxpayers in most circumstances.

None of this new or revelatory. The in-home care sector has grown substantially in recent years as policies have encouraged maintaining the elderly in their homes as long as possible. The state of Minnesota has a well-established (if understaffed) system serving more populated parts of the state.

Such services, however, are not evenly distributed. Seniors in the metro area have any number of choices for in-home services, but that's not the case in many rural parts of the state, including many parts of northern St. Louis County, where in-home care agencies have little or no consistent presence.

There are multiple reasons for that. Because the state has opted for a mostly private sector service model, parts of the state that are less efficient to serve, or where available workforce is limited, simply don't offer services for families struggling to help their elderly parents stay at home. That can leave few alternatives to costly institutional care.

In-home care service jobs are critically important, yet they don't pay what they should. In an economy with record-low unemployment, wages in the sector need to rise to attract people who see

caring for the elderly as a meaningful career choice, not a temporary gig until something better comes along.

Gov. Tim Walz has touted his One Minnesota platform, but if Minnesotans are truly going to enjoy the equal opportunity regardless of where in the state they live, that has to include the opportunity to age in place with dignity, even in rural parts of the state.

That's likely to take resources, but with a state budget surplus that could top \$10 billion this session, it would seem that resources might be available to try to address the shortage of in-home elderly care services in rural Minnesota. We don't have a particular answer for how to do that, only an identified need.

Failure to address the issue won't make it go away. With the number of frail elderly projected to rise dramatically as the baby boom makes its way into those ranks, the need for in-home care will only increase at a time when rural workforces will be shrinking.

Without a solution, the burden will continue to fall heavily on rural families to care for their aging parents. While some can manage that burden, many can't, at least not without paying a steep price financially. Families that are caring for elderly parents miss more work and incur additional expenses that may leave them struggling. When families are willing to step up and care for their parents, it reduces the need for taxpayers to pay for that care, whether it's in-home services, assisted living, or a nursing home. A tax credit would be one way to offer families some financial support.

Caring for the elderly isn't just expensive for families. The emotional and mental health toll can be even more profound, which is why it's important to have other support services that provide a respite. Many of these services are already available in urban parts of Minnesota. It's time that elderly and their families in rural parts of the state have those same opportunities.



Letters from Readers

Republicans double down on failed hatemongering

To say Republicans had high hopes for the Nov. election is putting it mildly. Yet the much-prophesied “red wave” never arrived.

What went wrong for them? Maybe it was something in their campaign messaging. To be sure, Republican rancor over crime, gas prices, or the southern border is nothing new. What stuck out among GOP messaging this year was their unrelenting campaign of hatred against transgender people. From Tucker Carlson to Scott Jensen, candidates, commentators, and operatives throughout the GOP sphere libelously painted trans people (and other LGBT people more broadly) as existential threats to America's children. They're called “groomers” bent on confusing kids about their gender, or accused of sexually abusing them and subjecting them to dangerous medical interventions. This (thoroughly baseless) rhetoric led to children's hospitals being shut down over bomb threats and armed far-right gangs trying to storm LGBT-themed events at libraries, among other acts of real-world violence. Republicans bet on this transphobia being a winning issue in the midterms. While it's impossible to say whether or not the messaging contributed to their disappointing results, it's clear it wasn't as effective as they hoped at boosting turnout or persuading swing voters.

And yet, Republican-held states like Tennessee, Ohio, and Virginia are still moving forward with what Florida and Texas started—laws and administrative measures to make life as miserable

as possible for transgender people and anyone who cares about them. Criminalizing gender-affirming care (even for adults), which study after study shows can be literally lifesaving, forcing schools to disrespect trans students' self-identification and out them to abusive parents, or taking children away just because their parents love them for who they are. Even in the wake of a mass shooting at a LGBT nightclub in Colorado Springs last weekend that left 5 people dead, Tucker Carlson and others like him doubled down on their smears and thinly veiled insinuations about what the “solution” to the supposed problem is. Any decent person has to wonder what the heck is wrong with someone who follows coverage of a mass shooting by implying the victims had it coming. It's enough to make one wonder whether right-wing media's goal with this latest obsession is more Republicans in Washington, or more mass shootings like the one in Colorado. If that's the case, it's foolish to think they'll stop with trans people.

**Max Helmlinger
Natick, Mass.**

Inequality is not inevitable

The Big Picture Story of human history for the last 200,000 years is wrong according to the “Dawn of Everything,” written by Davids Graeber and Wengrow, an anthropologist and archeologist, respectively. The book challenges a widely accepted belief that hunter-gatherers were small roving bands of “savages,” predating agriculture and settlement about 8,000 years ago.

They refute the Hobbesian (17th Century) belief that hunter-gatherers were selfish,

solitary, nasty brutes requiring rule by fear and power. They also reject Rousseau's (18th Century) belief that early humans we're happy, free, child-like and born to be good, but corrupted by society.

Far from being small wandering bands of simple, selfish and stupid people, they created large and complex communities. Social organization was flexible, featuring egalitarian and democratic practices or top-down authority as caring and need required. Evidence does not support hierarchical elite rule as necessary for their achievements.

Foraging to farming, growth of villages into towns then cities and nation-states, the myth of the Agricultural Revolution set human society on a natural and immutable one-way trajectory based on hierarchy, patriarchy and inequality. Without alternative, we're trapped in large-scale organization of inequality and bureaucratic top-down management.

Being human is the impulse for caring. To be cared for and to care for others. Intuitively, we sense this truth, but now scientific evidence is beginning to demonstrate it as fact. For far too long we've been strangers to ourselves, to our work, to others and to nature.

For the one percent to dominate 99 percent is not inevitable! The ideology of “freedom to exploit” blinds us from re-imagining, critiquing, challenging and re-designing social organization. Compassion, connection and cooperation can make us whole again. Our fate is not sealed, we can free ourselves to flourish and thrive with caring and love.

**Harold Honkola
Stillwater**

**Online each week
at timberjay.com**

Standing up for the right to read

The story began with a young girl who grew up in Watts, a southside neighborhood of Los Angeles, worlds away from her rural Louisiana home. Her family was part of the Great Migration that began in the



**KATHLEEN
MCQUILLAN**

1930's when approximately six million African-Americans left the south and moved north and west in search of a safer and more prosperous life.

While her parents struggled to put down roots, their daughter Tracie D. Hall thrived under the watchful eye of her grandmother. Together they made frequent trips to a local library, something her grandmother explained was not available to black children when she was growing up. Those

excursions, browsing shelves of books wrapped in artfully alluring jackets, ignited her young mind with a passion that shaped her future.

This story reminded me of my own childhood, one not marred by racial prejudice but frequently overwhelmed by family stressors swirling below the surface. In 1959, as my father lay dying, my mother reluctantly accepted her mantle of “the bread winner”, very different from her expectations of marriage on that long-ago day she muttered “I do.” Suddenly, she had no time to cuddle with her young children and read aloud from a good book.

As might be true for any girl overflowing with curiosity, often left to her own devices, my home fed a desire to explore and some-

times escape. I wasn't a runner. Instead, I took to hiding. I found two favorite places to do just that. One inside the house. One outdoors. Together they became two perfect havens.

I loved to read and I loved to climb trees. Tall pines and maples lined the edge of our yard, providing dense cover from the neighbors. Thick branches were like ladders that safely allowed me reach their crowns where I experienced the thrill of “heights”. I could see far and wide. I could also build a hideaway. With a piece of discarded wire fencing fastened to hefty limbs and piled

high with pine needles, one tree became my nest. Whenever possible, I'd slip out with my book bag -bandalier-style-slung across my chest, and climb my tree. There I was, alone where I always felt good — free to open my book and get lost in “somewhere else”. By the time the weather turned cold, I'd developed a strong appetite for time “all to myself”. But now, driven indoors, where would I find a secret spot?

Soon, I remembered the abandoned cubby under the basement stairs. With measured

See **STANDING UP...** pg. 5

Some hard facts on Babbitt and wolves

Let's talk independent variables on two issues: the impact of wolves on deer herds and the fate of the mining town of Babbitt. Minnesota's deer population runs around one million or a bit less. The DNR once issued about half that many deer licenses, but that number has been trending downward into the low 400,000s, largely due to the increasing urbanization of the state's population.

The wolf population is around 2,700. Each wolf requires around ten deer per year, although other sources of food, such as beaver, and even fish and blueberries supplement. Wolves then account for around three percent of deer mortality, less than vehicle-caused deaths, which State Farm Insurance places at five percent of the herd. Wolves and their prey have lived together for millennia and the ratio of wolves to deer is about what it has been for the last 25 years. What has changed besides the severity of recent winter weather? I think an independent variable that we have not considered is a lower level of experience by hunters. Hunting is largely a rural practice, and there are

fewer Minnesotans who now live in close contact with nature on a daily basis. A couple weekends a year in the woods doesn't make up for a lifetime of close observation of nature.

In my mind, Babbitt is clearly the community most at risk in the Arrowhead, and it has nothing to do with environmentalism. Since Cleveland Cliffs obtained Arcelor Mittal's American steel operations, Babbitt's future is a downhill run of declining mining towns on dead end roads. North Shore Mining is an expensive operation, with high royalty payments and a 50-mile rail haul of ore to the oldest taconite plant in existence. Cliffs has metamorphized from a mining company into a steel manufacturer no longer interested in pushing pellets on the open market. To Cliff's head Lourenco Goncalves, the ore in the Babbitt area can now be considered a savings account to be accessed some 40 years in the future when it may be needed again. If Cliffs can acquire the failed Essar works at Nashauk, then Babbitt will no longer even be needed as a swing producer.

Babbitt hopes for new hard rock mines, but mining has become such a high productivity operation that it can no longer create the number of jobs it once

Letters from Readers

did. Any new mine will be fully automated, including autonomous haul trucks and shovels. The big barrier to hard rock mining becoming a reality in the Arrowhead is not legal and environmental obstruction but the independent variable, capitalism. The proposed mines are high cost, requiring ore transport by rail to the nearest smelter in far off Sudbury, Ontario. This is at a time when the two primary metals involved, copper and nickel, will see a large increase in lower cost worldwide production. Indonesia, which has the second largest nickel reserves in the world, plans to increase production by a factor of 30, and the island of Bougainville's rich Panguna mine, the largest copper mine in the world when it was shut down by civil war, is approaching reopening. The reality is Minnesota hard rock mining cannot be competitive on the world market.

Babbitt, with a median age of 53, has an aged population which will seriously impede its ability to adapt to a new situation. This calcification was signaled in the recent election by its two-to-one vote against Rob Ecklund, an effective representative in the Minnesota Legislature who would have been a committee chair this upcoming session. Instead, it will be

represented by an inexperienced member of the minority at a time when it will need all the help it can get. Like Ely, 56 years ago when its last mine closed, Babbitt will need to find new sources of income, and it will need to hurry before the inevitable school closure comes.

**Fred Schumacher
Gheen**

3A margin could easily be overturned

The Nov. 25, *Timberjay* article "3A recount expected in early December" quoted Elections Supervisor Phil Chapman as saying he couldn't recall a time when a recount changed the result of an election.

Being Skraba only leads Ecklund by fifteen votes we shouldn't be surprised if the recount flips this election.

In 2006, my wife and I volunteered at the Melanie Ford/Alan Mitchell recount in the contest for county attorney. It appeared that Melanie had lost the election by 53 votes but when the votes were recounted, with witnesses, Melanie won by 88 votes.

Most of the mistakes in the original vote count were in St. Louis County precincts that counted their ballots by hand and

they were made in favor of Mitchell. St. Louis County still has precincts that count by hand.

Ecklund has a right to be optimistic. It ain't over till it's over.

**Bob Tammen
Soudan**

Tired of DNR's BS on wolves

I read the letters to the editor from Mr. Olson in Orr, and from Mr. Korpi from Tower in the Nov. 25 *Timberjay*. Anyone who reads the *Timberjay* knows what they wrote, so I will not go over that again. But I would like to say they both hit the nail on the head when it came to their explanation of the poor deer hunting situation, and the DNR B as in B, S as in S.

I don't advocate the total extermination of the wolves, but let's be real and admit a balance is out of whack. Take a half dozen packs, and transplant them into the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix river areas to start off with, and restore them back to their total original range including all of southern Minnesota. They will thrive big time with the over population of deer down there.

Then watch the DNR try explaining THAT.

**Barry W. Tungseth
Ely**

Thanks for the great reporting

Thanks to David Colburn for his reporting on the Bois Forte Band. As a one-time suitor of a Lower Leech Band member and a long-time fan of Native land rights, I find myself continually admiring the depth of your reporting on Native issues. Even when it's "just" a story about a rock band out of Nett Lake. The most impressive part is how you squeeze in so much collateral information without distracting from the point of the story.

Kudos, and thank you.

**Dave Porter
Minneapolis**

We welcome your letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com.

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

STANDING UP...Continued from page 4

courage, I opened the door latch and peaked inside. I had no trouble seeing beyond layers of dust and cobwebs. I knew instantly this was the place to stake my claim. After a day of sprucing it up, I placed a small table and folding chair under the bare bulb that dangled from beneath the top step. Now I had my very own reading room.

I broke it in with the extraordinary story of Helen Keller, blind and deaf from a very early age, and her teacher Anne Sullivan who taught her the alphabet in Sign Language that would eventually allow Helen to finally communicate. Their determination and achievement felt heroic to me, an eight year old girl who only had a mom to look up to, and often turned to Joan of Arc as her main

model for needed courage.

It was not until a recent radio interview between Scott Simon, host of NPR's Weekend Edition and Tracie D. Hall, that I heard another story of inspiring determination and achievement. Hall's lifelong passion has been for books and her associated love for libraries. From this has come her commitment to the "Right to read" as well as the right to publicly-supported access to information, in general. She had just received the National Book Foundation's 2022 Literarian Award for Outstanding Service honoring her numerous academic and civic achievements.

The interview highlighted her studies and career choices that led to this acme of her career.

Once having completed high school, Ms. Hall went on to receive a Law Degree and a Master's Degree in African-American Studies from UC-Santa Barbara. She then obtained a graduate degree from Yale in International Studies, and later a Master's in Library Science from the University of Washington.

In addition, she continued to accept leadership positions in several universities and major cities, advocating for greater investments to upgrade and expand library resources across the country. Notably, since 2020 she has served as the Executive Director of the American Library Association, "the first African American to lead the association since its founding in 1876", according to an interview

published on June 5, 2020 at PublishersWeekly.com.

Ms. Hall has not only devoted her life to the betterment of children, but also to our collective right to access diverse realms of information now available through public libraries. She's built on her grandmother's legacy for literacy through efforts to protect these community based centers that promote knowledge. She's been a champion for increased funding for staffing and necessary updating of resources. She also warns of recent attempts at overt censorship which, if allowed, could significantly weaken our democracy.

I've now added Tracie D. Hall to my personal list of "s/heroes", women who have had a profound influence on my social and

moral compass. She sits right up there with Helen Keller who, encouraged by her teacher and life-long friend Anne Sullivan, went on to attend Radcliffe College graduating cum laude in 1904, the first deaf and blind person to receive a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Keller devoted her life to championing the rights of others as a lecturer, author and co-founder

of the American Civil Liberties Union. She certainly inspired me as a young girl. Tracie Hall inspires me today.

People like these give me hope for the future. Today, I thank them.

Donations can be made to the Cook Public Library, 103 S. River St. Cook, MN 55723.

Now More Than Ever...

Week after week, the Timberjay's top notch editorial staff, photographers and design professionals bring the region's best news coverage to your door.

The Timberjay is your best choice for news of the North Country

That's why we're the one "the locals" read.

Subscribe Today

Call 2180-53-2950 or online at timberjay.com



the TIMBERJAY

Copyright © 2022 by *The Timberjay*. *The Timberjay* (PN 16025) is published weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

This award-winning community newspaper published each week serves the communities of Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook/Orr Editor	David Colburn
Office Manager	Michelle Toutloff
Staff Writer	Rachel Brophy
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports	Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:

City of Tower, Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, Kabetogama, Greenwood, ISD 707.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:

St. Louis County: \$39 year Elsewhere: \$54 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/AmEx. NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.

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 Dec. 5

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.

Tower Lights of Love ceremony cancelled

TOWER- Due to a scheduling mishap, the Tower Lights of Love treelighting ceremony and gathering scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 4 has been cancelled.

Tax-deductible donations are still needed to support local hospice patients and 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.

Two other Lights of Love tree lighting ceremonies along with caroling will take place at the Cook Gazebo on Friday, Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m., and the Orr Center on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

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.

Lunch bunch to meet on Dec. 9

GREENWOOD TWP- The Lunch Bunch will meet for Christmas Luncheon at the Vermilion Club, Friday Dec. 9 at 12:30 p.m. RSVP to Kathy 218-753-2530 by Monday Dec. 5. Please bring unwrapped gifts for all ages for the Operation Santa and non-perishable donations for the Tower Area Food Shelf. Anyone that would like to join us call Kathy 218-753-2530.

St. James hosting movie night on Sunday, Dec. 18

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower is hosting a free movie night on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. "The Least of These- A Christmas Story" is about Rose, a homeless single mother, and her young daughter Katy, who discover hope in a small town diner. They are befriended by a feisty waitress, a big hearted short order cook and a store front Santa that gets served a valuable lesson in forgiveness. Rose's "chance" encounter with a wealthy art collector could change her path...if she chooses.

Operation Santa now underway

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.

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!

We have started to receive donations, but more are 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. Lake Country 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 all the children.

COMMUNITY GIVING



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). Gifts are needed for children of all ages. 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.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Tower-Soudan Area Singers caroling events on Dec. 5, 12, and 19

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 performance will be outdoors, weather-permitting, so please dress warmly!

**St. James Presbyterian Church of Tower Advent services underway**

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower is holding Advent services through Christmas. The focus this year is about how "He Is Everything to Us".

Sunday, Dec. 4: "A Stone Manger!"

Sunday, Dec. 11: "We Can't Get The Stench Out!"

Sunday, Dec. 18: "If God Had Not Loved!"

Saturday, Christmas Eve 7 p.m.: "Sweet Little Jesus Boy!"

The church will not have worship on Christmas Day. Blessings to all this Christmas and during the New Year.

Tower Farmers Market planning indoor winter market events on Dec. 16

TOWER- The Tower Farmers Market is planning monthly indoor markets once a month, starting on Friday, Dec. 16 from 4 - 6 p.m. The market will be located inside the Pike River Products building, 515 Main St., across from Vermilion Fuel & Food.

Watch for special announcements, including a visit from Santa, at this event. New vendors are being accepted. Contact the Tower Farmers Market through Facebook for more information. Local foods and local artisans are welcome to rent a table for \$10.

Holiday Craft Sale set for Dec. 3 at the Civic Center 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 Lamma Civic Center.

There will be plenty of holiday baked goods to choose from, including potica. There will be homemade soaps and lotions, Christmas arrangements and decorations, Norex, driftwood, and much more. Students from Vermilion Country School will be selling wreaths and other holiday decorations they have made.

LOCAL BUSINESS

New upholstery shop opens on Lake Vermilion

TOWER- Andrine Lemieux started Ernie's Daughter Upholstery this year. Like many over the pandemic, isolation had caused Andrine to question her previous career choices. Inevitably the words of past high school naysayers who told her "nice girls don't do that" and "remember what family you are from" began to resurface. In part due to the loss of her father, Andrine did remember that she comes from a family with three generations of small business owners (Queen City Sun in Virginia) who taught her not only good business sense but also the love of working with her hands and the joy of living on Minnesota's Iron Range.

The name Ernie's Daughter grew out of a pandemic-tainted

life review and in honor of her recently deceased father. She joined the great resignation and went back to school. With advanced training in upholstery at an upholstery training program in St. Paul and a passion for re-viving old, treasured furniture, Andrine set out to renovate her father's home workshop on Lake Vermilion into a thriving upholstery studio.

"From the first hours in my high school wood working class I have loved the magic that happens with wood, tools, soft coverings, and a bit of sweat equity," said Lemieux, owner and founder. "Repairing and recovering an old, tired but solid piece of furniture is like watching an ugly duckling transform into a



Andrine Lemieux

beautiful swan."
Ernie's Daughter Upholstery

is located on the Tower end of Lake Vermilion. She would love to help you transform your old ugly duckling whether it's a cabin favorite chair, roughly used rental furniture, local restaurant furniture, or that lovely antique that grandma or grandpa handed down to you. At this time, she does not do marine work (boats, pontoons), but with enough encouragement she just might seek out further advanced training in this skill. You can find her online at erniesdaughterupholstery.com or email her at erniesdaughterupholstery@gmail.com.

Fruit Favorites Gift Box

ONLY \$24.99
Special, limited-time offer!

SAVE \$13!
Reg. Price \$37.99

Call 1-855-942-1350 to order item 296X
or Visit HaleGroves.com/H3YF51

* Only \$24.99 (reg. \$37.99) plus \$7.99 shipping and handling per pack to 48 contiguous states. Some restrictions may apply. Limit 5 boxes per customer.

IC: H3YF51

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Retirement Party at St. James for Pastor Workman

TOWER- Pastor Workman will be recognized at a special coffee an' after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday Dec.11. Doug is retiring on Jan. 1, 2023 after 37 years of ministry.

Grief support group at Immanuel

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower has a grief support group on Wednesday, 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.

DECK THE HALLS

“Shine Bright Ely” contest winners announced

ELY - The holiday season kicked off Thanksgiving evening with the annual Ely Chamber of Commerce “Shine Bright Ely” holiday lighting contest. Ten area businesses participated in the event including: Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely Lakes & Pines of Keller Williams Classic Realty NW, Ely Folk School, Ely License Bureau, Ely Surplus & Outdoors, Mealey’s Gift & Sauna Shop, Piragis Northwoods Co., Studio North - Dance & Fitness Center, Wintergreen Northern Wear, and z’Up North Realty.

On Nov. 23, three judges evaluated participating businesses on the following criteria: winter spirit theme, visual appeal, creativity, and originality. Prizes were awarded for first through fourth place.

Winners were first place, z’Up North Realty; second place, Ely Lakes & Pines; third place, Mealey’s; and fourth place, Ely Surplus. If interested in viewing participating businesses, visit <https://www.ely.org/event/shine-bright-ely/5400/> to access map and business list.



Above: z’Up North Realty took first place in the “Shine Bright Ely” lighting contest. Left: Second place winner, Ely Lakes & Pines of Keller Williams Classic Realty NW. Below: Left, Mealey’s took third place while across the street and below, right, Ely Surplus rounded out the winners in fourth.



OH! CHRISTMAS TREE!

Northwoods Partners “Festival of Trees” marks 20th year



Above: The Memorial Tree takes center stage in the Grand Ely Lodge lobby.

Below: Ornaments may be purchased to add a loved one’s name to the Memorial Tree.



ELY- Northwoods Partners “Festival of Trees” fundraiser celebrates twenty years this year. The event that’s transformed the lobby of the Grand Ely Lodge into a Christmas miracle runs through Dec. 4. The “Festival of Trees” opened with a kickoff and lighting ceremony Thanksgiving evening.

The event features beautifully decorated Christmas trees, wreaths, and a holiday boutique and includes Buy-It-Now options, a silent auction and a memorial tree.



Above: Several people gathered at the Grand Ely Lodge for the Thanksgiving evening kickoff of the the 20th annual “Festival of Trees.”

Below: This festive wreath is one of many items to bid on in the silent auction. Holiday shoppers can also get gifts from a wide variety of Buy-It-Now items available.



BUY LOCAL / READ LOCAL

Local authors and illustrators meet readers

ELY - Roughly 40 people turned out to the Ely Public Library’s first Local Author Showcase held on Nov.18. Local authors and illustrators including: Mary Bevis, Polly Carlson-Voiles, Consie Powell, Roger Powell, Beckie Prange, Andrew Slade, and KC Williams were on hand to meet their readers as well as sell books.

Most of the authors’ books can also be purchased at Piragis, and KC Williams sells from her websiste at <https://k-a-williams.com/>.

Ely Public Library Director, Rachel Heinrich said she was pleased with the turnout and was asked if the library would hold this event again. “One (author) commented that it was nice for the authors to have a chance to connect with their readers and each other as well.”

Right: Local authors, Mary Bevis and Consie Powell, helped out with holiday shopping by selling books at the Ely Public Library’s first-ever Local Author Showcase.



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.

The Tuesday Group is now on its annual holiday hiatus and will be back after the first of the year.

2023 Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

➤Jan. 3: TBA

➤Jan 10: End of the Road Film Festival with Jacob White TBA.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2022



getting through thanks day start the move toward Christmas

cold, a companion

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 Ledgerrock 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.



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING

A grateful and active army of volunteers descended on St. Mary's Church in Cook on Thanksgiving to stage the 36th Annual Cook Community Thanksgiving Dinner. It was the final go-round for Norene Butalla, pictured right, and her husband Roger after 17 years of spearheading the popular traditional gathering. About 150 meals were served at the church and over \$4,000 was raised for the Cook food shelf. Additional meals were provided to St. Mary's and St. Martin's churches for distribution. Photos by R.



Orr Center hosts a walk-through wonderland in Dec.

ORR- "Wendyl's Wonderland," a life-sized discovery adventure based on a fanciful tale of longtime volunteers, is open on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights from 5-9 p.m. at the Orr Center through Friday, Dec. 23.

Attendees who venture into the former Orr school cafeteria at the center will find themselves in an indoor forest, mostly looking for clues and hints based on the story, and perhaps a surprise or two as well.

"Wendyl's Wonderland" is accompanied by a gift shop featuring local artisan goods for holiday shoppers looking for creative gifts.

A festival of trees donated by area businesses will be auctioned off on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Other parts of the Orr Center, including the thrift shop, library, art gallery and more will open to visitors as the availability of volunteer staff allows.

For more information, go to www.wendyls-wonderland.com.

River St. in Cook is focus for contest

COOK- It's time to visit downtown Cook, as the "Winter Sports on Frozen River Street" holiday lighting and decorating contest is now underway.

Participating businesses will compete for a \$500 first prize, with \$300 going to the runner-up and third place receiving \$200.

Members of the Northwoods Friends of the Arts will serve as judges for the contest. Judging will be conducted on Tuesday, Dec. 20, with prizes to be awarded the following day.

For more information, call the Cook Public Library at 218-666-2210.

This project is part of Artists on Main St., a partnership between the City of Cook, Rethos, and Springboard for the Arts, with support from the Bush Foundation.

Holiday baskets to raise money for Cook Public Library

COOK- Looking for something a little different for gift-giving this year?

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Then head on down to the Cook Public Library by Thursday, Dec. 15 to see what the Friends of the Cook Public Library have to offer with their Holiday Basket fundraiser.

Holiday-themed baskets, just right for gift giving, are being awarded through a silent auction and a raffle. Buy tickets for a chance to win a raffle or bid on a silent auction basket by visiting the library.

Ticket sales for the auction and raffle end at 5 p.m. Dec. 15. Winners will be notified and need not be present to win.

Proceeds from this event benefit programs at the Cook Public Library.

NWFA features Moline exhibit in Dec. gallery show

COOK- Judy Moline was a generously talented pollyanna who died in 2010 of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. An amazingly articulate and inventive person, artist and quilter, Judy taught herself to watercolor after her ALS diagnosis.

Northwoods Friends of the Arts received Moline's collection of unframed watercolor paintings,

including interesting well done portraits, and the collection is the featured exhibit at the NWFA Gallery in Cook in December.

Normal operating hours for the gallery during the winter months are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays. The gallery is located at 210 S River St. in Cook.

Snow City Christmas is Saturday in Orr

ORR- Snow City Christmas is back again this year in Orr, with festivities scheduled throughout the day on Saturday, Dec. 3.

The event kicks off at 7:30 a.m. with a pancake breakfast in the Orr Community Center which lasts until 9:30 a.m.

A craft and vendor show will run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., also in the community center.

The Orr Christmas Parade will wind its way down the traditional Johnson Pkwy. route beginning at noon.

Noon is also the time that Sugarlicious Cheesecake and More will have

lunch available. They will be serving until 3 p.m.

Everybody's favorite jolly old elf, Santa Claus, will be at the T. Pattenn Café this year from 1-3 p.m.

From 3:30-5 p.m., Calvary Lutheran Church will be showing the movie "The Star" and serving up popcorn to go with it.

Those who haven't been to the Orr Center to see the story "Wendyl's Wonderland" brought to life, and those who have, can go to the center from 5-9 p.m. to experience the magical tale with characters based on some of the Orr Center's longtime volunteers.

Hanging of the greens is Dec. 9 at Bear River church

BEAR RIVER- A tradition over two decades old will be renewed again on Friday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. when the Bear River Lutheran Church will begin making its sanctuary ready for the birth of Christ with their Hanging of the Greens festivities.

Participants will sing together as they decorate the sanctuary and learn about the history of the

season's special symbols and dedicating them to God. Refreshments will be served.

Coffee and goodies will be available the next day, Saturday, Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church's "Holiday Bake Shop." Cookies, breads, candies, cakes, bars, pies, and much more will be available to purchase for your own holiday gatherings. Register for door prizes and enjoy fellowship while you shop, all while enjoying hot coffee or cocoa from our cocoa bar.

Advent will be celebrated during 10 a.m. Sunday worship services.

Christmas Eve candlelight services will be held on Saturday, Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m. and the birth of Jesus will be celebrated on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, at 10 a.m.

Bear River Church is located at 11141 Highway 22 in Bear River, three miles west of the intersection of Hwy. 5 and Hwy. 22 or 4 miles east of Hwy. 65. If you have any questions, please contact us at 218-376-4673 or 218-376-5338.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Students have options for discovering their talents

FIELD TWP- I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. This time of year always helps me to remember to be thankful for so many positives.

At North Woods School on Nov. 29, representatives from the military administered the ASVAB, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. This assessment is a measure of ability and interest in several different subject areas, some academic and some vocational. While the assessment was designed to help the U.S. military ensure that their recruits are placed in areas where they have the interest and ability to be successful, it is also used as a measurement tool for students and schools to gauge the same thing.

The ASVAB measures students in mathematics, science, reading comprehension, electronics, mechanical comprehension, and even automotive and tools. Although the military is made up primarily of soldiers, a large percentage of military personnel also play critical roles in the military hierarchy and infrastructure as mechanics, communication specialists, information specialists, armorers, engineers, equipment operators, and numerous other jobs.



JOHN VUKMANICH

It sounds like the structure of our workforce. A strong workforce is dependent upon workers who have both the ability and the desire to work in specific fields.

Our goal as a school is to work with our students to find their talents and interests, whether it is Shakespeare or chainsaws. The ASVAB is just one measurement for our kids.

Schools, especially smaller ones like North Woods, have a unique challenge to offer all of the academic requirements put in place by the Minnesota Department of Education, while also offering our kids elective class experiences so that they can find their passion. Examples of choices that we offer students include CEP Algebra for college credit, CEP Anatomy for college credit, Ceramics (Art), and Construction.

These are all seventh period classes offered to 11th and 12th grade students.

At the elementary level, our K-6 students spend the majority of their day in class working on math, reading, science, and social studies while also experiencing specialized classes in Art, Music, Band, Physical Education, Technology, and STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math). These specialized classes are meant to enrich our students' school experience and help them to find their passions and creative outlets.

We partner with Minnesota North College to offer our students college level classes under the College in the Schools program. Minnesota North College is made up of the once separate local community colleges (Vermilion, Mesabi, and Rainy River as examples) which are now combined as one entity. While North Woods typically partnered with Vermilion Community College, Minnesota North brings new collaborative possibilities that may not have previously been possible. Our students also can take PSEO both in-person and online. Our students who are interested in the trades and vocational fields have access to the Local 49ers Operating

Engineers Pathway, a program that offers classes in Construction, Equipment Fundamentals, and Basic Maintenance.

Combine all this with

the course offerings at North Woods, and our students have the ability to experience a broad range of subjects and career paths, hopefully preparing

them for their futures in post-secondary, the military, or the workforce.

THANK YOU, COMMUNITY!

A heartfelt thank you to the businesses, organizations, individuals, and volunteers that contributed to the 36th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner held at St. Mary's Church in Cook.

This annual holiday dinner is fully funded through your generous donations and is prepared and served by volunteers. In addition to serving approximately 150 meals, \$4,234.64 was provided to the Cook food shelf and meals were provided to St. Mary's and St. Martin's churches for distribution.

On behalf of our community, with warm appreciation,
Roger and Norene Butalla
Rick and Robin Athmann

- Ameriprise Financial Advisors
- Auto Value
- Baytree-Field 4-H Club
- BIC Realty
- Bloom Lahti VFW 1757 Auxiliary
- Cook Building Center
- Cook Hospital employees
- Cook Lions Club
- Cook News-Herald
- Comet Theater
- Country Store
- Country Store Motel
- Dawn's Hidden Shears
- DC Quality Painting
- Disability Specialists
- DreamWeaver Salon and Day Spa
- Elizabeth Mlaker
- Fr. Beau Braun
- First Baptist Church
- First National Bank
- Frank's Pharmacy
- Hill Wood Products
- Homestead Mills
- Janice Conner
- Jennica Hasbargen
- Joel Tracy and Delia Flynn
- Kristina Takala
- Lake Country Power
- Lakes Gas
- Little Blessings Gift Shop and Beauty Bar
- Ludlow's Island Resort
- McDonald's
- Mlaker Funeral Home
- Moccasin Point Marina
- Montana Café
- Nordic Post LLC
- Northern Comfort Co.
- Northland Buildings
- North Country Rentals
- North Water Electric Inc.
- North Star Credit Union
- North Woods School grades 5 and 6
- Old Muni Bar and Lounge
- Park State Bank
- Philip and Lisa Simensen
- Prudential Insurance
- Rose Cottage Bakery
- Russ Hyppa Accounting
- Sertich Plumbing
- State Farm Insurance
- St. Mary's Church
- St. Mary's CCFW
- St. Martin's Ladies Circles
- The Tire Shop
- The Natural Choice
- The Timberjay
- The Watering Can
- Timbuktu Marina
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- True Value Hardware
- Twin Cities Improvements
- Tim and Robbie of Tower
- Van Baak Agency
- Vermilion Land Office
- Vermilion Law Office
- Vermilion Plumbing and Property Management
- VFW Post 1757
- Waschke Chevrolet
- Zips Food Market

MINING LITIGATION

High court hears arguments in PolyMet case

Justices pepper attorneys on both sides with questions and doubts

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—Minnesota’s highest court heard arguments Wednesday that may or may not send a key permit for the proposed PolyMet mine back to square one. While the state’s nine top justices expressed some reluctance to do that, they indicated strong concern over the unusual actions of the state’s Pollution Control Agency when the agency asked the Environmental Protection Agency to delay commenting on the controversial permit. Instead, justices suggested a lesser remand that might offer the EPA a chance to comment on the final permit without reopening the entire permit for reissuance.

Their ultimate decision on the important case likely won’t be known for months.

The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Water Legacy, and the Fond du Lac Band had asked the Supreme Court to take a second look at an appellate ruling issued last January, which had provided a mixed verdict on PolyMet’s water discharge permit. Environmental plaintiffs had argued that the MPCA’s efforts to discourage the Environmental Protection Agency from issuing written comments on PolyMet’s draft water discharge permit was an intentional effort to avoid negative publicity and to keep critical comments out of the administrative record. Lower courts had agreed that the MPCA had sought to avoid public scrutiny surrounding the issuance of the permit and concerns that the EPA had expressed about its compliance with the Clean Water Act. Yet,

the lower courts had determined that the MPCA had not broken any law in doing so and, therefore, its actions did not constitute a procedural irregularity that could lead to reversal of the permit.

The Supreme Court agreed to take another look at that issue and others addressed by the Court of Appeals. In seeking Supreme Court review, the environmental plaintiffs were joined by several “friends of the court,” including by the federal union that represents EPA workers, two Minnesota-based administrative law judges, the Minnesota Center on Government Information, and a Minnesota well owners association.

Should the high court reverse the lower court ruling, it could well wipe away PolyMet’s water discharge permit, known as an NPDES permit, issued under

the auspices of the federal Clean Water Act. That could require the company restart the lengthy permitting process, which would include additional public and agency comment.

Justices peppered the attorneys for the various parties with questions throughout the hearing, which went slightly over an hour, occasionally expressing doubt about the attorneys’ claims on both sides of the issue. The three environmental litigants each offered arguments in support of their position, while attorneys for the MPCA and PolyMet countered their views.

The proposed PolyMet copper-nickel mine has been mired in litigation since the MPCA and the Department of Natural Resources issued a number of permits for the project beginning several years ago.

The water discharge permit is just one of several permits that have been suspended by the courts since they were issued.

In addition to a second look at the MPCA’s actions regarding EPA comments, the high court will consider whether the Court of Appeals erred when it determined that the PolyMet permit did not require water-quality based effluent limits.

Meanwhile, a third issue stemming from last January’s appellate ruling was remanded back to the MPCA for further deliberations on whether ground-water contamination anticipated from the PolyMet mine is subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act.

WELY...Continued from page 1

preserve, and given that he already owns several small-town stations, he feels he can make this latest business venture succeed. He said he doesn’t expect any major changes in the popular programming WELY currently provides.

“We believe radio is still very important to a local community, and we hope to continue the tradition of keeping the local feel of Ely radio alive,” said Oberg.

Ely Mayor Roger Skraba, who was in St. Paul attending a Republican legislative caucus meeting when the news was announced, said news of the deal was welcome, indeed.

“That’s outstanding,” Skraba said. “There was a slight bump, but they got it resolved. The biggest part is that the people buying it are small town oriented and own a lot of radio stations. They know how to manage

a radio station. They’ll set a plan up, and this will be good for the community. I think they’re going to continue what we have.”

The purchase price of \$130,000 included all of WELY’s equipment, tower, and the transfer of the FCC licenses, but not the studio at 135 E Chapman St.

Zoe Communications is actively looking for a space to lease for a new studio.

“We are looking for a space that is better sized for the operation of the station in town,” said Oberg.

The Bois Forte Band will retain ownership of the WELY building, including the spacious upstairs apartment that had been turned into offices. The downstairs studio and offices may be repurposed for a future Bois Forte business. In the meantime, the upstairs offices will be taken out, and some updates will be

made to the apartment to prepare it for a future renter.

End of an era

The sale marks an end to an era for Bois Forte operating WELY, which the band purchased in 2005 and has operated for 17 years.

Once the sale is finalized and approved by the FCC, it will end months of behind-the-scenes work by Bois Forte Business Development CEO Mayan Beltran and Bois Forte’s legal team to find a buyer for the station. Plans initially called for the station to shut down June 1, but an outpouring of community support and potential buyers resulted in that deadline being extended until Sept. 1 and subsequently to Dec. 1.

“Although Bois Forte regrets not being able to continue ownership, we are grateful a buyer emerged to keep WELY—End of

the Road Radio on the air for years to come,” said Beltran.

Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers also expressed sadness that the tribe could no longer retain ownership of the station.

“We tried our best to keep it going, but we just couldn’t keep putting money into it every month without a return on our investment,” she said. “We are hopeful Zoe Communications can keep this tradition alive for the hard-working residents of Ely and the surrounding communities that WELY serves.”

Opening first as an AM-band station in 1954 and adding an FM simulcast in 1992, the station has had a long list of owners over the years. The station closed for a month in 1984 due to lack of funds, but the community responded with a \$9,000 fundraising effort

to help get the station back on the air.

It took legendary CBS News “On the Road” reporter Charles Kuralt to save the station again in 1995. Kuralt, who fell in love with Ely as he did numerous stories there over the years, bought the station at a court-supervised auction and poured thousands of dollars of his own into upgrades. However, Kuralt’s dreams were sadly cut short when he died in 1997.

The Bois Forte Band bought the station in 2005 when Boundary Waters Broadcasters, Inc. put it up for sale.

Most of WELY’s staff found new employment when the June 1 deadline was announced.

However, a few staff remained behind, including longtime employee and current GM Brett Ross and a remote office employee,

who took care of billing. It is unknown if they will continue employment with Zoe Communications, Inc.

Oberg said he is concerned that WELY will be off the air, but he is hopeful listeners will tune in once they are back on the air. The AM station is broadcast at 1450 AM, while the FM station is on 94.5 FM.

Brian K. Anderson contributed to this story.

EDITOR...Continued from page 1

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

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

Catie brings a considerable skillset to the

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

Ely residents will likely begin to see Catie in and around town while uncovering the news in the days ahead. Be sure to give her a friendly Ely welcome.

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL BUTCHER
OMAHA STEAKS
SINCE 1917

Butcher's Deluxe Package
4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (5 oz.)
4 Boneless Pork Chops (6 oz.)
4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
1 jar Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3.1 oz.)
8 FREE PureGround® Filet Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)

71941ALG separately \$225.94
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE **\$99.99**

8 BURGERS FREE

THE BEST STEAKS OF YOUR LIFE OR YOUR MONEY BACK

ORDER NOW! » 1.855.402.7187 Ask for 71941ALG
OmahaSteaks.com/GiftGiving3287

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Photos exemplary of product advertised. Limit 2, 8 free 6 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes 71941. Standard S&H added per address. Offer available while supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Cannot be combined with other offers. Other restrictions may apply. All purchases acknowledge acceptance of Terms of Use: OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use/CSI or call 1.800.228.9872 for a copy. Expires 12/31/22. © Omaha Steaks, Inc.

PESHEL **ACCOUNTING** 218-365-2424

1704 E Camp St. | PO Box 89 | Ely, MN 55731 | askjean.net

CHECK OUT askjean.net for current TAX TIPS!

FREE MEDICAL CLINIC
provided by
Ely Community Health Center

Thursday evenings 5:30-7 p.m.
111 S 4th Ave E, Ely
- No appointment necessary -

Contact us for more information
218-365-5678 or email us
director@elycommunityhealth.org

Call **753-2950** to subscribe to the **Timberjay!**

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

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

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: 11am-5pm	Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm
County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm	Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat., Sun 8am-5pm
Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm	Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon
Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

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

STATE REPORT

Study highlights rural health care challenge

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL-National Rural Health Day was Thursday, Nov. 17, but the release that week of the 2022 Rural Health Care in Minnesota report highlighted the many challenges looming in the years ahead for non-metro parts of the state.

One of the more pressing issues is the shortage of healthcare staff, according to the report issued by the Minnesota Department of Health Division of Health Policy.

Health professionals

Rural Minnesotans were already at a disadvantage compared to urban dwellers in the number of OB/GYNs, pediatricians, and mental health professionals, and the COVID pandemic created even more challenges with nurses, nurse aides, and emergency medical personnel (EMS). The Department of Employment and Economic Development estimated that Minnesota had more than 40,000

health care job vacancies last March. More than 1,800 nursing positions were still unfilled.

Rural physicians have far more potential clients than those in urban areas. The ratio of physicians to population in rural Minnesota is more than three times higher than their urban counterparts. But the median age of rural physicians is 58 years-old, ten years older than those practicing in urban areas, and 33 percent of those physicians report they plan on retiring within five years.

In fact, all categories of rural medical service providers except for registered nurses and mental health professionals reported higher likelihood that they will retire within five years compared to those in urban areas. New graduates of college preparation programs for health care have shown greater preference for practicing in urban areas, making incentives for choosing rural placements, such as loan forgiveness or stipends, more critical.

Demographics

Rural Minnesotans are already older and poorer than their urban counterparts, and those gaps will continue to increase, according to the report.

This presents a challenge because older adults have more healthcare issues than younger adults and children, and lower income makes it harder for individuals and families to access affordable quality care and more likely that they will need public health insurance.

The rising age of Minnesota's population is evidenced by the fact that before 2028, adults 65 and over will outnumber children from birth to 14. That increase is being driven by rural counties - by 2033, the report projects that 32 percent of residents in rural counties, one in three, will be 65 or older compared to 19 percent, one in five, in urban counties.

And while the average age is trending up in rural Minnesota, the availability of nursing home

care is declining. Nursing home beds in Greater Minnesota declined by 10 percent between 2012 and 2021. Part of that decline is due to an increase in home care and assisted living, but as the average age increases all forms of care will be in greater demand.

Rural residents are more likely to be on some form of public health insurance such as Medicare, Medicaid, MinnesotaCare, Veterans Assistance, or TRICARE, as metropolitan area residents are more likely to have access to higher-paying jobs with employer-sponsored health care insurance.

Access

Rural critical access hospitals and community-based clinics create more challenges for patients trying to access services, the report found.

Rural residents have more problems getting appointments with primary care providers and dentists, and less access to

telehealth services. Almost 20 percent of rural Minnesotans lack reliable internet access at a level necessary for video visits.

Rural residents do report shorter travel times to get to their critical access hospitals, but those needing inpatient mental health and chemical dependency treatment have to travel more than three times longer than urban patients.

There has been an eight percent drop in the availability of surgical services in rural hospitals in the past decade. There has been a 21 percent increase in outpatient psychiatric services and an even larger increase in diagnostic radiology services across that same time period, likely reflecting an industry trend for critical access hospitals to increase the kinds of outpatient services they provide.

The complete report can be found at www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/docs/summaries/index.html.

BENEFITS...Continued from page 1

for DR-grade pellets and an ongoing dispute with the Mesabi Trust over royalty payments on ore extracted from Babbitt. In late July, Goncalves told investors that Northshore operations would be idled at least until April 2023.

State Rep. Rob Ecklund responded in August with a bill for a possible special legislative session to consider that would have extended unemployment benefits for the affected workers by 26 weeks. That would have effectively covering the period between the end of their regular UI benefits and a possible recall to work in April.

But no such session was forthcoming, and now the benefits are running out. Babbitt Mayor Andrea Zupancich said signs of belt tightening are evident as one drives through town.

"You see four-wheelers, side-by-sides, boats, things like that put up for sale," she said. "I see a

couple new houses up on the market with people finding new jobs. It's just very hard. It's disheartening, and lots of rumors are flying around."

On Monday, newly elected District 3 state Sen. Grant Hauschild, a Hermantown DFLer, announced his support of the miners in a press release Monday, decrying the lack of a special legislative session where Ecklund's bill could have been enacted and provided uninterrupted UI coverage for them.

"I thought it was important to announce this to signal to these workers that look, somebody's in your corner, and I'm ready to introduce this legislation immediately upon taking my seat," Hauschild told the *Timberjay* on Tuesday.

Hauschild said that his bill and a companion bill to be introduced in the House by District 7B Representative Dave

Lislegard, DFL-Aurora, will be modeled directly on Ecklund's bill and will ask for an additional 26 weeks of UI, retroactive to the date at which the original benefits ceased. Those who work for firms providing goods or services to the iron ore mining industry and lost their jobs because of the idling would also be eligible. The extended benefits wouldn't be used to determine the future unemployment tax rate for a business, and workers eligible for Trade Readjustment Allowance assistance benefits wouldn't be eligible.

"We owe it to these workers and their families to help with this hardship," Lislegard said. "Let's do the right thing for the people of northern Minnesota."

Republican Roger Skraba, awaiting the results of a recount for the Senate District 3 race to confirm his election, also expressed his support for Hauschild's bill.

"Whatever Grant and I need to do, I will stand together with him 100 percent," Skraba said. "It's important."

Hauschild said he hasn't talked directly with any of the affected workers but has received expressions of their concerns relayed to him through official legislative channels.

"I also met with Cleveland-Cliffs CEO Lourenco Goncalves and talked to him about this issue as well and expressed interest in getting this mine and plant up and running again," Hauschild said. "I'm hopeful that will happen, and in the meantime let's provide the support to the workers."

Hauschild said he's also been in contact with Zupancich, who he defeated in the Nov. 8 election for the Senate seat.

"Andrea and I talked after the election and she expressed concerns about the Iron Range," Hauschild

said. "I did not call her explicitly about this issue, but we talked, and we both agreed to have an open line of communication about concerns regarding the Iron Range. She has been involved there for so long and I would be happy to take her advice as an Iron Range mayor regarding issues such as this."

Zupancich expressed confidence that the Legislature will act to extend benefits, but she was also clear that there are pressing issues on the Iron Range that go beyond the present crisis.

"I think this may be a precursor of what's to come," she said. "I get that feeling because of different meetings I've attended and discussions that are being held. We need a very strong backbone for the Iron

Range right now. In order for the economy to keep going up here, actually to strengthen it back up again, we need sustainable jobs of any type, whether it's manufacturing or mining. We need more than tourism jobs. We need more than minimum wage jobs to keep this area going."

And as is typically the case in tight-knit small communities, Zupancich said there are people reaching out to help.

"There are people who have asked if we know of any families that are in need," she said. "I have not heard of any, but if anyone is of need, please just give me a call. It will be confidential, but I could probably put them in touch with some people who are looking to help."

STUDENTS...Continued from page 1

correctly clean and sanitize in a commercial kitchen.

Before the meal was served, everyone took a turn telling the group what they were thankful for. The list was what you might expect: mostly friends, family, and the school itself, although from the reaction of at least a couple students, they were clearly thankful for whipped cream.

"The food was just delicious," said school board member Marit Kringsstad. "It just feels so nice in here."

"These kids are amazing," she said. "When you expect them to do good, they do good."

Food was passed

family style from student to teacher to guest, and there was plenty available for

seconds, which many students, mostly the teenage boys, had their fill.

Holiday Getaway Destination!



- Comfortable Private Rooms
- Continental Breakfast
- Affordable Off-Season Rates

• On the Taconite Snowmobile Trail
• Near Giants Ridge Ski Resort

RENT THE ENTIRE INN!
(call for rate)



218.753.2333 • 30 Center St., Soudan MN
vermilionparkinn@gmail.com • vermilionparkinn.com

Little Blessings Gift Shop & Beauty Bar

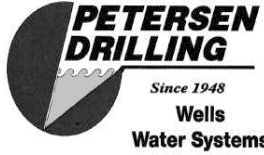
112 S River St., Cook
Toni Monsivais • 651-503-4173

DECEMBER HOLIDAY HOURS

Tues. & Wed: Appointments only for
Skincare/Makeup Consultations and private shopping

Store Open: Thurs. 10 AM-7 PM (Sip n' Shop)
Fri. & Sat. 10 to 5

(FREE card, wrapping, shipping & delivery for personalized gifts)



Since 1948
Wells
Water Systems

- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700
Spring Park Rd.
Mt. Iron, MN 55768

PRE-OWNED SALES EVENT!

2020 Chev. 2500 HD Highcountry Diesel	...New Low Price!	\$68,990
2020 Buick Envision Preferred AWD	.....GM Certified!	\$34,990
2020 Ford F-150 XLT 4x4	.....ONLY 22K Miles!	\$42,990
2020 Ford Escape SE AWD	.....ONLY 16K Miles!	\$30,990
2020 Ford Edge SEL AWD	.....Low Miles! Sharp!	\$30,990
2020 Chrysler Voyager LXI	.....Just Reduced!	\$25,990
2019 Ford F-150 XL Sport Crew 4x4	.....45K Miles!	\$39,990
2019 GMC Yukon XL Denali	.....Fresh Trade In!	\$49,990
2019 Jeep Cherokee Limited 4x4	.....Sale Priced!	\$29,990
2019 RAM 3500 HD Crew 4x4	.....Cummins Power!	\$55,990
2019 Chev. Silverado RST 4x4	.....Sharp!	\$42,990
2019 Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk 4x4	.....Sale Priced!	\$32,990
2019 Dodge Durango GT 4x4	.....New Low Price!	\$31,990
2019 RAM 1500 Warlock Classic 4x4	.....31K Miles!	\$38,990
2018 GMC Canyon All Terrain 4x4	.....Sale Priced!	\$29,990
2018 GMC Sierra SLE 4x4	.....Just Reduced	\$26,990
2015 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT Crew Cab 4x4	.....Nicely Equipped	\$32,990
2015 Chev. Impala LTD	.....ONLY 31K Miles!	\$17,990
2014 Chev. Equinox LT AWD	.....57K Miles!	\$17,990
2014 Dodge Grand Caravan SE	.....55K Miles!	\$17,990

View Our Full Inventory at www.waschke.com



WASCHKE FAMILY
CHEVROLET • COOK

Hours: M-F 8am-6pm, Sat. 9am-2pm
126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, MN
218-666-5901 • 1-800-238-4545

READ the Timberjay!



**Physical Therapy Clinics in
Floodwood, Tower & Duluth**

MODERN PAIN RELIEF TREATMENT

**Headaches • Jaw Pain
Shoulder, Neck, & Back Pain
Muscular Tension
Planter Fasciitis**

Call to schedule an appointment, for a free
consultation to see if physical therapy can
help you or look us up on the web

PHONE: 218-481-7603
WEBSITE: living-well-therapy.com

DRY NEEDLING



**Looking to Serve
Your Community?**

**Greenwood Township is looking for
Firefighters and Emergency Medical Responders.**

- Training provided at no cost.
- Hourly wage for training and calls.
- PERA Pension provided.

For more information,
job description,
and an application, contact:

firedept@greentownshipmn.com



Obituaries and Death Notices



Joyce M. Maki

Joyce M. Maki, 90, of Ely, passed away on Friday, Nov. 25, 2022, at Carefree Assisted Living in Ely. The family is thankful for the life of their wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and would like to thank Essentia Hospice and the incredible, caring staff of Carefree Assisted Living in Ely. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 9 at Grace Lutheran Church in Ely. A luncheon will immediately follow at noon at Grand Ely Lodge, including those who were unable to attend the morning service. The family invites all to celebrate Joyce's 90-plus years of Finnish "sisu" by attending one or both events. Donations may be directed to Grace Lutheran Church and/or Northwoods Partners in memory of her productive life. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Joyce was born on Jan. 17, 1932, to Martha Kolari and Tom Kilpela in Palo. Martha married Anthony Kokal around 1943. Anthony adopted Joyce and her brother, Leonard. Joyce graduated from Eveleth High School, where she was active in 4H and home economics. She moved on to the University of Minnesota-Duluth and St. Mary's Medical Technician school. While in college, she met her future husband, Robert M. Maki. They were married in Eveleth on March 27, 1954,

when Bob was home on leave from the U.S. Army. Joyce later joined Bob at Fort Benning in Georgia where they lived off base until his discharge in January 1956. They returned to Ely to settle down. Joyce and Bob made their permanent home on Ely's Chapman Street in 1959 and spent many joyous years summering at the cabin, built by Bob, on Fall Lake.

Joyce worked as a laboratory and x-ray technician at the Shipman Hospital, the Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital, Dr. Edward Ciriacy Sr.'s medical office, and the Ely Medical Clinic/Duluth Clinic. After a few years of professional work, she devoted her time to raising her growing family, and was an excellent homemaker. She did return to full-time medical technician work in 1975 and retired in 1991.

Joyce tirelessly supported all of her children's many activities and was a member of the Mother's Auxiliary for Youth Activities, a Girl Scout Leader and a Cub Scout Leader. She was active in her community, participating in the local sewing club, Dance Club, Red Hat Society and the Ladies of the Kaleva local chapter. She was also a member of the Women's Benefit Society/NABA/Women's Life (known to members as "the lodge") until the time of her death. She was part of the Ely Marching Team, serving as the chaplain for many years. She went on numerous lodge trips including to Hawaii, Vancouver Island, San Antonio, Texas, Minneapolis, and Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

Joyce and her daughters went on yearly or twice-yearly sightseeing (and shopping!) trips. These included travel to New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago, Door County, Wis., the Amana Colonies of Iowa, Mackinac Island,

New Glarus, Wis., and frequent trips to venues and museums in Minnesota.

Joyce was likely the oldest Finnish congregational member of Grace Lutheran Church in Ely, joining the church in 1953. She was active in church circles, the membership committee and the Altar Guild. She served two terms on the church board.

Her creativity was on display through her sewing, knitting, quilting and seasonal crafting. She spent more than 20 years painting fine ceramics, perfecting the skill set of painting detailed faces. She also enjoyed reading, spending many hours with many books on her Kindle.

Left to grieve are her husband of 68 years, Robert "Chick"; children, Cheryl (Cal) Anderson, Charlene (Kenny) Harkins, Robert and Tracy (John Dybvig) Maki; grandchildren, Karl, Liisa and Siri Harkins, Andria LaFollette, Samantha (Mark) Buerkle, Matthew Maki, Eva and Leo Dybvig; and great-grandson, Tate Buerkle. Bob was told by Joyce that in her obituary she wanted it known that her children were her pride and joy.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Martha and Anthony Kokal; and brother, Leonard Kokal.

Gertrude L. Johnson

Gertrude "Carrots" Lenore Johnson, 93, longtime resident of Soudan, died on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022, at Essentia Health-Virginia Care Center in Virginia. A private burial was held on Friday, Nov. 25. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her sons, Robert Johnson and Richard (Diane) Johnson; five grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Julee L. Sundstrom

Julee L. Bowman Sundstrom, 69, of Babbitt, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022, at Essentia Health St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth with her husband and daughters by her side. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 2 at Landmark Funeral Home Chapel in Virginia. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service. Burial will be in the Eveleth Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband, Donald; daughters, Angela Bowman and Nicole Ollila; stepdaughter, Emily Rose; six grandchildren; and sisters, JoAnn Korpi and Pam Lindseth.

William M. Bell Jr.

William "Bill" M. Bell Jr., 82, of Tower, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022, in his beloved cabin, surrounded by family. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 22 at First Baptist Church in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. There will be a burial and a celebration of life to follow in summer 2023. In lieu of flowers, contributions and memorials can be made to First Baptist Church in Cook. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his daughters, Sharon (Eric) Hauptfear, Deborah (David) Harrison and Lynn (Michael) Longhauser; grandchildren, Isabel, Chloe and Samuel Hauptfear, Mikayla, Rebecca, Elisha, Alyssa and Karena Harrison, and Sophia, William and Anna Longhauser; other family, friends and beloved pets.

James F. Obidowski

James "Jim" Frank Obidowski, 77, of Cook, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022. There will be a private family interment at a later date. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by two children; brothers, Richard (Sue) Obidowski and Art (Linda) Obidowski; special friends, Rolene and Jesse Lewis; and close friend, Mike Yancy.

Lyle W. Klein

Lyle Wayne Klein, 82, of Ely, a proud U.S. Veteran who touched many lives through his love of music, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022, in his home surrounded by his family. His music will live on in all of us. Rest in peace, Music Man. Funeral services were held at Grace Lutheran Church in Ely on Tuesday, Nov. 22 followed by a graveside service at the Ely Cemetery with full military honors. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Mary; children, Kurt Klein, Kelli Thorne (Michael), Jenna Keller (Charlie) and Becca Green (Jordan); grandchildren, Samantha Dammer (Andy), Justin Klein, Sarah Lebeda (Joe), Leopold Green, Harrison Keller and Vivian Keller; great-grandchildren, Avry Dammer, Leo Dammer, Crosley Dammer, George Lebeda and Grace Lebeda; numerous nieces and nephews; and brother, Melvin.

Maxine Sharp

Maxine Sharp, 98, of Ely, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022, at Carefree Living in Babbitt. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Craig P. Chittum

Craig P. Chittum, 84, of Ely, died on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022, at Fairview Mesabi Medical Center in Hibbing. At Craig's request, no services will take place at this time. Arrangements are entrusted to Rupp Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Chisholm.

He is survived by his children, Troy (Jo Holen) Chittum and Kelly Whiting; and grandchildren, Caid and Grant Chittum.

Allen H. Tumberg

Allen Harold Tumberg, 85, of New York Mills, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Friday, Nov. 4, 2022, in the gentle care of Knute Nelson Hospice. Funeral services were held on Monday, Nov. 7 at Apostolic Lutheran Church in New York Mills. Arrangements were with Karvonen and Son Funeral Home of New York Mills.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Pahkala Tumberg of New York Mills; children, Diane (Jim) Nelmark of Embarrass, Robert (Tricia) Tumberg of Cokato, Dennis (Karissa) Tumberg of Lester Prairie and Jayne (Jesse) Talo of Cherry; 11 grandchildren; one great-grandchild due in March 2023; many other relatives; and a host of friends.

LADIES DAY & HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

SHOP SIP SAVE

Nordic Home North

WEDNESDAYS Dec. 7, 14 & 21 11AM - 7:30 PM

HOLIDAY HOURS: Mon-Sat. 10ish-4ish
303 Main St, Tower • Marit's Cell 612-280-9195

WEDNESDAY ONLY... Specials & December Deals!

Orr Snow City Christmas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022
ORR COMMUNITY CENTER
FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE ORR AMERICAN LEGION

- 7:00 - 9:30 PANCAKE BREAKFAST
- 9:00 - 3:00 CRAFT/VENDOR SHOW
- NOON ORR CHRISTMAS PARADE
- 12:00 - 3:00 LUNCH BY SUGARLICIOUS CHEESECAKE & MORE
- 3:30 - 5:00 POPCORN & MOVIE (THE STAR) CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
- 5:00 - 9:00 WENDYL'S WONDERLAND ORR CENTER (OLD ORR SCHOOL)
- SANTA'S COMING TO TOWN!**
1:00 - 3:00 PATTENN CAFE

Scenic Rivers

HEALTH SERVICES

Providing Quality and Compassionate Care FOR Every Patient at Every Visit

COOK MEDICAL
20 5th St SE, Cook MN
Open Monday - Saturday
(218) 666-5941

TOWER CLINICS
415 N 2nd St, Suite 2, Tower MN
Former High School Building
Open Monday through Friday

COOK DENTAL
12 S River Street, Cook MN
Open Monday - Friday
(218) 666-5958

MEDICAL (218) 753-2405
DENTAL (218) 753-6061

Your Local Providers

Matthew Holmes, MD	Charles Tietz, MD-GYN Services	Timothy Sprouls, DDS
Nicholas Vidor, MD	Cynthia Sandberg, NP	James Marzella, DDS
Eric Elleby, MD	Erin Thielbar, NP	Krista Kukarans, DDS
Rachel Beldo, APRN	Kristen Dombrov, DNP	Michael Talberg, DDS
Amy Banks, MD	Amanda Perkovich, NP	Teresa Bushnell, ADT
Celin Williams, LICSW	Benjamin DeVries, PA-C	

Covid-19 testing and vaccinations available.

1-877-541-2817

www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

24 Hour Emergency Care Available Through Cook Hospital

LIVE MUSIC at ORR MUNI

8:00 PM to Midnite

"Deep Tracks"

Rock, country, dance music
(Band from Int'l Falls)

PUBLIC HEALTH

MDH hoping to increase uptake of new bivalent boosters

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The Biden administration launched a belated effort last week to shore up an anemic response to the bivalent COVID-19 boosters introduced three months ago, hoping to head off a possible winter surge of cases, and the Minnesota Department of Health is augmenting the campaign with its own parallel efforts.

The bivalent booster vaccines, specifically tailored to combat Omicron variants BA.5 and BA.4, were approved for emergency use in early September, but a public affected by mental fatigue after more than two years of the pandemic has been largely aloof to the pleas of health officials to get boosted. So far, just over 11 percent of eligible people ages 5 and older have received the new booster, according to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Of the 170 million doses purchased by the federal government, only about 35 million have been administered.

In Minnesota, uptake of the boosters has been better, but at 18 percent



the vast majority of eligible recipients has yet to receive the latest shot.

On Nov. 22, administration officials announced a six-week campaign to increase booster uptake, with an emphasis on older adults who are at higher risk of contracting the virus. The campaign includes \$350 million for community health centers to expand vaccination outreach, \$125 million to get more older Americans vaccinated, and new enforcement guidance to ensure that nursing homes are offering the updated booster.

Dr. Anthony Fauci highlighted new research released by the Centers for Disease Control showing that the bivalent boosters provide 28 to 56 percent more protection against symptomatic COVID infections from BA.5 and BA.4 than previous doses of monovalent vaccines.

However, while those two Omicron variants were dominant in the U.S.

when the bivalent boosters were approved, BA.5 is now responsible for less than 20 percent of new COVID cases, and BA.4 has been all but eliminated by newer variants, accounting for just one-tenth of one percent of new cases. The new CDC study analyzed booster effectiveness only against BA.5/BA.4 variants, and the authors note that "results of this study might not be generalizable to future variants," as well as mentioning several other limitations of the study.

Still, new variants BQ.1 and BQ.1.1, now accounting for between 50 and 60 percent of new cases in the U.S., are part of the BA.5 family, and health officials have expressed confidence that bivalent boosters should also provide added protection against them.

And while Omicron and all of its subsequent variants have shown increasing ability to evade prior COVID immunity to

cause breakthrough infections, the bivalent boosters have been shown to lower the risk of dying and serious illness from COVID. Those vaccinated with the updated booster had a 14.9-times lower risk of dying from COVID-19 in September and a 3.2-times lower risk of testing positive for COVID in September, according to CDC data.

The *Timberjay* contacted MDH Public Information Officer Garry Bowman for information about how current MDH efforts will supplement the federal booster push. Bowman said that MDH initiatives include:

- Consistent messaging during earned media opportunities to emphasize the importance of getting the bivalent booster and flu shot as the best protection against the respiratory viruses circulating this winter.

- Continuing to prioritize the importance of boosters in messaging on social media and through partners. From before Thanksgiving and throughout December, MDH is reminding Minnesotans to "Celebrate Safely," which includes vaccination and other recommended prevention steps.

- A paid public

awareness advertising campaign that will highlight recommendations for boosters (as well as flu shots) to a wide range of age groups. The campaign will capitalize on both the reach of existing communications channels as well as additional digital advertising opportunities.

- For long-term care and skilled nursing facilities, MDH continues to emphasize recommending the bivalent booster for residents and staff in communication with providers throughout Minnesota.

- MDH COVID Community Coordinators are continuing their work to coordinate and promote culturally relevant pop-up community vaccination clinics in underserved communities.

Trends

While health officials continue to harbor concerns about a possible significant rise in COVID infections, hospitalizations, and deaths over the winter, as has been the case in prior years of the pandemic, current evidence from MDH indicates that the state has thus far avoided such a surge.

Death rates from COVID have remained constant since July, with the seven-day average

decreasing slightly from seven deaths per day to 6.6 deaths per day on Nov. 4, the last day before the lag period for reporting.

Hospitalizations have declined from 79.6 per day in late August to 62.4 on Nov. 5, and ICU admissions have remained flat at about eight per day.

Cases have halved since July, standing at a seven-day moving average of 773 on Nov. 4, although at-home testing not reported to MDH makes this number less reliable as an indicator of COVID activity.

In St. Louis County for the months of September and October, case rates and hospitalizations per 100,00 in the northern part of the county were slightly elevated over other areas, but actual hospital admissions in northern St. Louis County numbered 21. No deaths were reported for the northern area, and only four for the county as a whole.

Health officials anticipate that with the increase in social gatherings over the holiday season a rise in both COVID and flu cases is possible, but at this point no data is available to assess the possible impact of the Thanksgiving holiday.

FREE DENTAL CLEANINGS AVAILABLE
provided by
Ely Community Health Center
Make an appointment call us at 603-502-2268 or email us at dentalEHC@gmail.com

Cook VFW POST 1757
HAPPY HOUR • 4-6 PM
MON, WED, THURS, FRI, SAT, SUN
- CLOSED TUESDAYS -
VIKINGS GAMES
Happy Hour during game and regular 4-6 PM
POT LUCK
(Food always provided)
FRIDAY BURGER NIGHT • 4:30-7 PM
SOUP • DECEMBER 2 CHILI
Take-Out 666-0500
206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

A Tradition of Trust
• Traditional Funerals
• Graveside Services
• Cremation
• Pre-Need Planning
• Monuments by Warren Mlaker
Mlaker FUNERAL HOME
www.mlakerfuneralhome.com
218.666.5298
Cell-218.240.5395
Cook, MN
24 Hours A Day

Get out of the Medicare weeds.
Talk to a plan de-tangler.

With UCare, you don't just get a great plan. You get great people to back you up. Medicare de-complicators help you understand your options and help you find the plan that works best for you.

Enrollment ends Dec. 7.
Act now at ucare.org/enroll.

Ucare
people powered health plans

Ucare Minnesota is an HMO-POS plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Ucare Minnesota depends on contract renewal. Y0120_12305_112022_C



NorthCountry

Serving northern
St. Louis County
since 1989

COUNTY SCHOOLS

Board renews Engebritsen through 2026

Deans to be converted
to assistant principals

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The ISD 2142 school board expressed its confidence in the leadership of Superintendent Reggie Engebritsen at its Nov. 22 meeting at North Woods School by unanimously approving a new three-year contract for the long-time administrator, running through June 2026.

Under the terms of the contract, Engebritsen will be paid \$160,000 for the 2023-24 school year, \$164,000 for 2024-25, and \$168,000 for 2025-26. The contract covers only Engebritsen's work as superintendent for ISD 2142.

Engebritsen also serves as superintendent for the Mt. Iron-Buhl district, an arrangement with extra compensation paid under a separate shared services agreement. Engebritsen's salary for the current school year for ISD 2142 is \$156,000.



Reggie Engebritsen

Engebritsen had served for ten years as executive director of the Northland Learning Center, a special education cooperative with eleven area independent school districts, when she was named interim superintendent in January 2018 to replace former Superintendent Steve Sallee, who left mid-contract for a position in Rochester. The following month, Engebritsen was hired as the permanent superintendent after the board chose to forego a wider search process.

Converting deans

In order to provide for more shared management responsibilities, the position of Dean of Students at North Woods, Cherry, and South Ridge will be converted to Assistant Principal positions, according to a proposal approved by the board. The new positions will include additional duties for staff evaluation, athletics, behavior follow-through, assistance with teacher management, and oversight of building use. The board gave Engebritsen approval to post for the positions, which would pay an annual salary of \$87,212 based on Step 1 of the current year salary schedule.

In other action, the board:

- Approved a memorandum of understanding with Bois Forte Health and Human Services for the program to provide therapy and other mental health services for Bois Forte youth attending North Woods School.

- Approved the revised school meals policy and equal access to school facilities policy discussed at prior board meetings.

- Appointed Chris Koivisto as representative to the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools.

- Approved final documents related to the sale of four district lots in Cook to Gary Martinson, as previously discussed in prior meetings.

- Hired Stephanie Daugherty and Deborah Paris as part-time paraprofessionals at Northeast Range.

- Hired Alice Hannine and Andrestar Traut as part-time paraprofessionals at North Woods.

- Hired the following coaching staff: Dwayne Walters, North Woods head baseball coach; Cody Siebert, NER head boys basketball coach; Thomas Burnett, North Woods assistant boys basketball coach; Liz Cheney, North Woods head girls basketball coach; and Becca head and Alli Ballenberg, North Woods girls basketball assistants.

- Accepted resignations from Tower-Soudan Site II Secretary Crystal Scofield; North Woods assistant girls basketball coach Gena Flank, and NER paraprofessionals Samantha Winans and Heather Dimich-Jackson.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

'Streaks stump Grizzlies

North Woods falls 66-43 in rocky home opener

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- A season full of promise got off to a rocky start Monday when the North Woods girls dropped their basketball season opener to Chisholm 66-43.

The Grizzlies return a host of starters from last year's 13-13 squad that advanced to the second round of sectional play and got off to a quick start when junior guard Helen Koch connected on a three-ball for the first bucket of the game. Junior forward Talise Goodsky followed with a pair of buckets to put North Woods up 7-5. Junior forward River Cheney broke a 7-7 tie with a free throw at the 14:26 mark.

But Chisholm's junior center Tresa Baumgard, who scored 26 points in last season's 59-22 win over the Grizzlies, scored to put the Bluestreaks on top 9-8 and ignited an 11-0 run had North Woods staring at an 18-8 deficit. Senior center Hannah Kinsey broke the Grizzlies' scoring drought with a bucket coming out of a time out, but missed shots and turnovers continued to plague North Woods. Cheney scored the Grizzlies' last field goal of the half with over eight minutes remaining in the period, and the only thing that slowed Chisholm down was when play was stopped momentarily by the officials so Baumgard could be recognized for collecting her 1,000th career rebound. The Bluestreaks went into the locker room with an insurmountable 38-17 lead.

North Woods managed to keep pace with the Bluestreaks in the second stanza, with senior forward Kiana LaRoque collecting a trey and all nine of her points in the half, and a late eight-point flurry from freshman wing Brynn Chosa. The Grizzlies spread the ball around in the second half, with nine players collecting points.

LaRoque and Chosa shared scoring honors for the Grizzlies with nine points each, while Goodsky and Koch both chipped in six. Baumgard dominated the inside for Chisholm with 30 points, followed by senior center Olivia



Top: Grizzlies' freshman guard Brynn Chosa drives the ball downcourt.

Above: North Woods senior forward Kiana LaRoque drives the baseline.

Right: North Woods players Talise Goodsky, River Cheney, and Hannah Kinsey clog up the lane defensively.

photos by D. Colburn

Hutchings with 10.

Grizzlies' Head Coach Liz Cheney knew going in that the Bluestreaks would be a tough challenge for her squad, and turnovers were a big contributor to the loss, she said.

"The first four or five minutes of the game we're right there, and then all of a sudden just a couple of bad passes is what started spiraling us down, and it kind of snowballed," Cheney said. "The good news is that they recognized that at halftime, we talked about it, and it was a little better in the second half. But that's definitely something we need to work on."

But Cheney was upbeat when talking about her team's prospects moving forward.

"I'm excited I've got a bench with multiple subs," Cheney said. "Brynn Chosa, she showed us her cards tonight, right? Tatum Barto will be back after this week, and we really missed her tonight. And with Lauren



Burnett, I'm excited about those three freshmen that are going to play a really key role. To have eight players that I can interchange is what I'm excited about."

Cheney said she's looking to Koch and Kinsey to provide the leadership the team needs to step up their level of play this season.

"Hannah stepped into that role last year and really became

a leader on the floor," Cheney said. "I expect that she'll do the same thing this season."

The Grizzlies were back on the court again on Thursday with a home game against Cook County, with their first road contest of the season coming up at Bigfork on Tuesday.

Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

2022 FIREARMS DEER SEASON

Deer season ends in disappointment for many

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The story for deer hunters in the North Country didn't improve during the final week of the regular firearms deer season, which ended Sunday, Nov. 20. Deer registrations were down virtually all across northern Minnesota, and nowhere more dramatically than in St. Louis and Lake counties, where some permit areas saw hunter success fall by as much as 40 percent over last year.

Hunters in permit area 119, located in far northern St. Louis County, registered just 211 deer for the season, which was well under half the 457 deer hunters registered there just four years ago. The falloff in hunter success was even more stunning in permit area 130, which runs from Tower southeast nearly to the North Shore. There, hunters registered just 92 deer on the season. As recently as 2018, hunters had registered 420 deer in that permit area, although that figure was buoyed somewhat by a larger number of antlerless permits

See DEER HUNT...pg. 3B

Permit Area	2022 Total harvest	2021 Total Harvest	2020 Total Harvest	2019 Total Harvest	2018 Total Harvest	comparison to last year	comparison to four year mean
118	348	455	473	658	796	-24%	-42%
119	211	355	291	356	457	-41%	-42%
130	92	144	143	202	420	-36%	-60%
132	159	227	180	233	390	-30%	-38%
176	601	737	855	888	1709	-18%	-43%
177	565	656	692	1037	1459	-14%	-41%
178	1242	1486	1476	1503	2777	-16%	-31%



WHY WE LIVE HERE

Winter's our little secret

Getting outside is the key to loving our long North Country cold season

"I wish I had a river, that I could skate away on..."

"River" by Joni Mitchell

As we settle into winter here, I've been thinking about why this has become my favorite season of the year. Winters here, it seems to me, have gotten a bad rap, and that's mostly because winter in most other parts of the country is just plain miserable.

In so much of the country, "winter" comes and goes, with an occasional snowstorm followed by rain, followed by a brief cold spell that turns everything to ice, followed by a thaw that turns everything to mud. Then you repeat the cycle all over again for the next three months.

It's too cold to garden or do most other summertime activities, without the redeeming qualities of actual winter. All you really get out of winter to our south is a heating bill. For those sorry folks who think winter up here is just more of the same, only worse, I can understand why they head south with the first snowflakes in October.

If they only knew.

Here's an observation I've made after 40 years of life in the North Country. Winters here are great, despite the heating bill. It all comes down to getting outside. Here's the funny thing... for me, winter has become my playtime. During the warmer months, my chore

Above: Guess who else loves winter? Our dog Loki was very excited to see the start of the snow season on Veteran's Day.

Right: Jodi works her way along our snowshoe trail on a ridge overlooking the Lost Lake Swamp.

Lower right: Skating away on Burntside Lake on dark, clear ice.

list is virtually endless. Whether its building maintenance at my ever-expanding compound in the woods, gardening, or simply preparing for the next winter that is always right around the corner, I have little time to get out in the woods. And if I did, the woods would be full of deer flies, mosquitoes, and, worst of all, deer ticks.

In winter, it's too cold for most of that. While climate change has made our winters a bit more unpredictable in recent years, I've learned to adapt with a seemingly ever-expanding array of ways to play outside. In November, I start watching the weather, looking for that perfect combination of cold and dry that lets me live out the lyrics of my favorite Joni Mitchell song.

While perfect skating conditions are pretty rare, I started using Nordic skates several years ago, which clip to my cross-country ski boots. They

See WINTER...pg. 3B



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

TRADITIONS

Thoughts from the deer blind, hunting with my sons



Croy Colbert and his little brother Canon with Croy's deer.

As I sit in my deer blind this brisk Nov. 18 morning and read a recent edition of the *Timberjay*, I thought I would share my son's deer hunt from the previous weekend.

On Saturday, Nov. 12, 13-year-old Croy Colbert shot a fawn buck on our family hunting property near Baudette. During the youth season and first weekend of rifle season, Croy passed up on multiple deer looking for a "shooter" buck with no shots fired. When the second weekend arrived it was time to throw some lead down range and try to get some venison in the freezer.

Hunting over a winter rye field in the afternoon of Nov. 12, Croy took his first shot of the season at a deer standing about 125 yards away and missed. According to Croy, dad made him rush the shot and after that the deer blind got pretty quiet for most of the rest of the evening.

With only a few minutes left of shooting light dad noticed something to his left. It was a deer within 50 yards that had snuck up from behind us. The adrenaline was back in the deer blind as Croy got positioned to shoot! Croy's youth model .243 Savage barked and the deer ran into some light cover and went down! Unable to see any of the action little brother Canon kept asking, "did you get it, what was it?"

We all got out of the blind and Croy led us to find the blood trail. Once we found blood the excitement grew. After a short tracking job Croy said, "there it is!" Croy had made a perfect double lung shot. After pictures and recounts of the moment, Croy helped field dress the deer and was able to enjoy the rest of the night, proud of his harvest.

Deer hunting with my boys is probably my favorite time of the year and I hope a successful deer season, harvest or not, to everyone reading about this hunt to were fortunate to share with each other.

Kyle Colbert

Editor's Note: Kyle Colbert and his wife Joy own and operate Vermilion Houseboats.

WINTER...Continued from page 2B

have a longer blade that goes through a little snow or rough patches in the ice better than traditional hockey skates. With Nordic skates, there are decent skating conditions just about every winter. I've been out almost daily for the past several days.

If we get snow on the ice, I look for a brief November thaw that puts a crust on the snow once the cold returns. That's when I get out the skate skis.

the sun is getting warmer and the days are getting longer. To me, it's when the skate ski season kicks into high gear. There's always good crust skiing on the lakes at that time of year, but when the snow is deep enough and the crust hard enough, the best skiing is out in the swamps. It's the time I do most of my serious exploring, as I've written about here on more than a few occasions.

As winter goes on, and the powder snow piles deeper, my wife Jodi and I turn to our daily ritual of a morning snowshoe on our two and a half mile-long trail along the edge of the Lost Lake Swamp before heading into work. And we bring our cross-country skis to the office, where we can hit the Tower ski trails, which are groomed once there's sufficient snow and usually remain so right into April.

And did I mention that winter is also the most beautiful season of the year in the North Country? Yes, the peak of fall color is great, but it lasts ten days tops. Winter goes on, and on, and for months the trees are draped in snow, like we experienced already this year after the snow started falling on Veteran's Day. I tell people who haven't experienced it that it's like living in one of those scenic Christmas cards.

Since skating, skiing, and snowshoeing isn't enough, I took up snowboarding two years ago, just before turning 60. It took a couple trips to the chiropractor, but I finally got the hang of it and am now having fun being one of the only old guys out there on a board. For the first time, I bought a season pass this year at Giants Ridge so I can spend more time on the slopes. That will keep me occupied at least until the arrival of the Moon of the Crusted Snow. In Ojibwe tradition, that corresponds with March, when

Compare that to the slop that passes for snow elsewhere in the country. That's the best part about winter here. It's real winter, the kind you embrace. And if you're not an outdoors nut, like me, it's a great time to curl up with a good book by the woodstove with a cup of coffee and contemplate the sparkling beauty outside your window.

Honestly, folks who head south this time of year don't know what they're missing. Let's keep it our little secret...

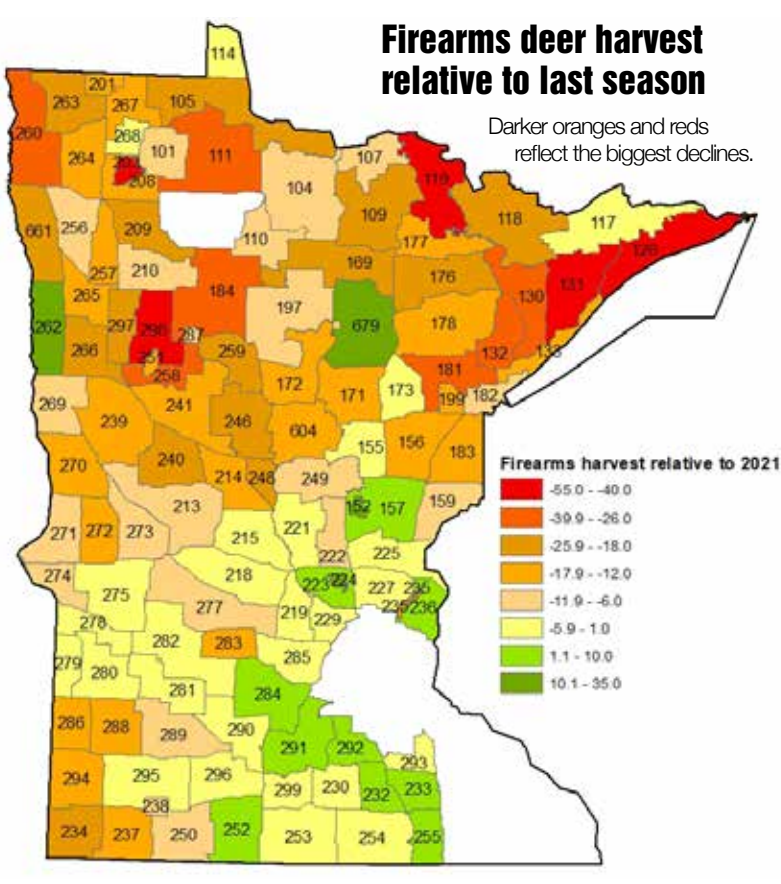
LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
31	5			13	1			24	7			15	-6			5	-9		
YTD Total	25.25	13.0"		YTD Total	28.01	14.2"		YTD Total	25.33	15.8"		YTD Total	NA	NA		YTD Total	35.08	13.0"	

DEER HUNT...Continued from page 2B

issued to hunters that year.

Severe or extended winters in three of the past four years clearly made their mark on the region's deer herd, although many hunters also pointed to the region's sizable wolf population as another major factor behind their lack of success. Jessica Holmes, the DNR's Tower Area Wildlife Manager acknowledged she's heard more complaints about wolves from hunters this year, although she notes that the two species have evolved together for a long time. "Wolves are an easy target. There are many factors at play here impacting the deer population," she added. While many factors determine deer numbers, Holmes said wolves can contribute to local declines in combination with other factors.



While the size of the deer harvest can vary from year-to-year in individual permit areas as a result of changes in the number of antlerless permits issued by the DNR, that does not appear to have been a factor in the decline this year, at least in the Tower work area. "There was essentially no change in antlerless permits so we cannot attribute the harvest decline to that," said Holmes.

that a portion of the deer that wolves kill would likely not have survived anyway during severe winters. According to Holmes, adequate winter cover not only protects deer from cold winds, but allows them to better escape wolves when they are in the area. Under winter cover, which typically includes dense mature pine, spruce, or balsam fir, snow depths are usually lighter, allowing deer to expend less energy to move around, whether to feed or escape predators.

northeastern Minnesota.

While hunters struggled to find deer in northern Minnesota, they found more success in the southern half of the state where many permit areas saw an increase in registrations while most others saw only negligible declines over last year. That helped to limit the harvest decline statewide to a more modest nine percent. In total, hunters had registered a total of 152,032 deer statewide as of Nov. 23, with only the muzzleloader and some limited special hunts remaining. That is likely to leave the final statewide harvest well below the DNR's stated annual goal of 200,000 deer, a target the DNR set in 2018 and hasn't met since.

While wolf predation is undoubtedly a significant factor, the areas with the lowest harvest numbers track well with the highest winter severity index readings from last winter. Pockets throughout St. Louis, and especially southern Lake and Cook counties, which saw significant lake effect snow last winter, coincide almost perfectly with the permit areas showing the biggest declines in deer registrations.

According to Holmes, tough winter conditions, combined with fragmented winter cover, can increase deer mortality, with or without wolves. And Holmes notes

DNR wildlife officials had expected a disappointing season, as the area deer herd has struggled to recover from high winter mortality in recent years, but none had predicted the kind of dramatic falloff in hunter success experienced this season in

"Over the river and through the woods to the Neli we must go!"

Nelimark Homestead Museum
(Hwy. 21 across from Timber Hall) in Embarrass

December 8, 9 & 10
10 AM to 3 PM

Bring your friends for coffee, cider, treats and good conversation. Fresh baked goods, handcrafted gift items and books for sale.

Join us for our annual gathering.

TOWER CRAFT SHOW

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW

Saturday, December 3
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tower Civic Center

Holiday Gifts for All Ages!
Christmas baked goods, crafts, woodworking, much more
Get your holiday shopping done close to home

Tables Still Available • \$25 in advance
Call Jodi at 218-753-2950 for information

EBCH
Ely Community Pharmacy

The service you deserve. The neighbors you trust.

At Ely Community Pharmacy, your health is our priority. Our on-site, pharmacist-led team is here to answer questions, help manage your medications and provide the expert care you need—with the personal touch you deserve.

Trust Ely Community Pharmacy for:

- Over-the-counter medications
- Immunizations
- Diabetic testing supplies

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
AS ELY'S TRUSTED COMMUNITY PHARMACY

MESABI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 2022-2023 SEASON

Voyages

FRANCE

Tickets available online or at the door!

Mt. Iron, MN - Merritt Elementary School Auditorium
Saturday, December 10, 7:00pm

Ely, MN - Washington Auditorium
Sunday, December 11, 2:30pm

www.MesabiSymphonyOrchestra.org

Operating support is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. Our work is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council.

DECEMBER SPECIALS

GLAUCOMA MONTH

RxLocal mobile app now available! Scan QR code to download, or search RxLocal in your smartphone's app store.

	\$28.00		\$12.99
	\$4.99		\$15.69
			\$7.89

328 West Conan Street, Ely, Minnesota 55731 | 218-365-8788

EMPLOYMENT




Steger Mukluks is Hiring!

- Positions are available in Sales and Production
- Full-Time, Part-Time, Seasonal, and Year-Round positions available
- Competitive Wages and Benefits

Steger Mukluks has been providing employees a safe and fun work atmosphere in Ely, MN for 35 years.

Email officeassist@mukluks.com or call 365-6634 to join the team! tm



Database Administrator (IT Systems Engineer)
\$25.78 - \$39.18 Hourly
Apply by 12/13/2022

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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 12/9



COOK HOSPITAL & CARE CENTER
Our Specialty is You

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

OPEN POSITIONS

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

Hospital/ER
PT 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 is an equal opportunity provider and employer. The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PERS retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.



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

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



Current Openings LICENSED TEACHER

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

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

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

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

MINNESOTA DNR - JOB OPPORTUNITY

Full Time with great benefits package!
Laborer-Trades & Equipment, Parks & Trails - Job ID: 60758
Tower, MN

- This is a great opportunity to work on a variety of projects throughout a large area in northeastern Minnesota. Work includes grooming snowmobile trails, constructing and maintaining ATV trails, constructing and maintaining water access sites and fishing piers, and constructing and maintaining a variety of trails and State water trails. Operating a variety of equipment.
- Salary Range: \$23.19 - \$26.75/hourly • Posting closes 12/09/2022

For more information call 218-300-7842 or To apply visit: <https://mn.gov/careers/> ^{12/2}

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF LOCAL LODGING TAX FOR CERTAIN UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIPS IN ELY AREA

The following resolution adopted by the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners on November 15, 2022, is being published pursuant to the second paragraph of Minn. Stat. § 469.190, subd. 5 (2022):

Authorization of Imposition of Local Lodging Tax for Unorganized Townships in the Ely Area and Amendments to Joint Powers Agreement

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 469.190 provides for imposition of a local lodging tax of up to three percent (3%) on the gross receipts from the furnishing for consideration of lodging at a hotel, motel, rooming house, tourist court, or resort, other than the renting or leasing of it for a continuous period of 30 days or more; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County has received a request from representatives of the tourism and lodging industry located in the Ely area asking to expand the "Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for the Collection and Administration of a Local Lodging Tax in the Ely area" (hereinafter, the "Agreement") to include certain unorganized territory; and

WHEREAS, On August 9, 2022, the St. Louis County Board adopted Resolution No. 22-470 making an initial determination that the proposed tax is in the public interest establishing a public hearing on the proposed tax pursuant to the statute; and

WHEREAS, The resolution and a notice fixing the date for the public hearing were published for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the affected unorganized territory in accordance with the statute; and

WHEREAS, On October 11, 2022, and November 15, 2022, the St. Louis County Board held the public hearing.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board determines that the proposed tax is in the public interest and authorizes the imposition of a local lodging tax of three (3%) in the following unorganized townships:

- 61-12, 61-14, 63-14, 64-14, 65-14, 66-12, 66-13, 66-14, 67-13, 67-14 and 68-14.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That, as to each affected unorganized territory, if no valid petition is timely filed in accordance with the statute, or if such petition is timely filed, this resolution is approved by the voters in a reverse referendum in accordance with the statute, then the appropriate County official(s) are authorized to enter into any necessary and proper amendment(s) to the Agreement pursuant to the statute.

Commissioner Nelson moved the adoption of the Resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote:
Yeas – Commissioners Jewell, Boyle, Grimm, Nelson, Jugovich and Chair McDonald – 6
Nays – None
Absent – Commissioner Musolf – 1

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

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

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 2, 2022

KUGLER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 2, 2022

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: Z equals S

TQJP ZQHSSL RBMJRHP MJHZRZ

SJR RCSJRQJE HPF RHDG

PCPZRCV, B TCWDF ZHL

RQJL'EJ LHGGBPS BR WV.

©2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

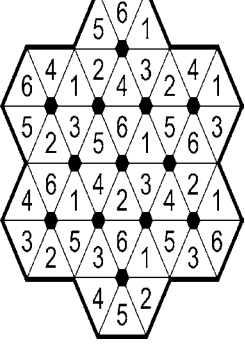
Advertise Here!

Ads reach all our readers

218-753-2950

editor@timberjay.com

Subscribe to the TIMBERJAY!
Call 218-753-2950



Super Crossword

Answers

PUTTED TOPPS STP AMOS
ONEALS ARIEL LOISLANE
PINKFLAMINGO IMPELLER
SSE BPOE TIMBERWOLF
COTTONCANDY NESSIE
INSOLES FIFE TATTOO
WAL ARONI COE ROZ
CORNFLOWER RAZZMATAZZ
ODE FEM BETAS TIMEY
WILDBLUEYONDER IRA
SNOCAPS PIA ISUREDO
CBS MOUNTAINMEADOW
ALGAE TERSE LTR DRE
TUMBLEWEED DESERTSAND
MBA VAT ERICA OIL
SENATE BIOG MANAGES
GONUMB BITTERSWEET
OUTERSPACE CROW LYER
PRONATOR CRAYOLACOLOR
EDITHANN HEMIN CAVERN
NUTS RAE OASTS TRADES

PART-TIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ELY, MINNESOTA

Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust has an opening for the position of Executive Director (Part Time). This Executive Director, under the supervision of the Board members will: promote the best interests of the Trust, actively engage in the growth of its endowment and grant programs, and will develop positive working relationships with artists and members of the Ely community.

Salary– Commensurate with Experience

Minimum qualifications: College graduate, experienced nonprofit leader, and budget development and management skills. Outstanding written and oral communication skills. Demonstrated ability to develop positive working relationships.

For a complete job description visit: www.gardnertrust.org

How to Apply:
Email cover letter and resume to gtrust@gardnertrust.org

Deadline to apply: December 31, 2022 ^{12/2}



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

© 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

timberjay.com



TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

MARINE

TIMBUKTU MARINA
 LAKE VERMILION
 218-666-2131
 7401 Oak Narrows Rd • Cook MN

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

timbuktumarina.com

TIMBUKTU MARINE
 LAKE VERMILION
 218-666-2276
 2475 Vermilion Dr • Cook MN

Ranger
 Premier
 Weeres
 Mercury
 Suzuki
 Yamaha

Sales, service, storage, boat lifts, docks, trailers and accessories

timbuktumarine.com

MARINE

AUTOMOTIVE

Langevin Auto & Truck Repair
 Full Service
 Auto Repair & Garage
 Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F
 2 Miles South of Tower
218-749-0751

BUILDING SERVICES

EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC

"Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota In Your Home"

Superior Quality

- Plank Paneling
- Trim
- One-Of-A-Kind Moldings
- Industrial Lumber

218-744-1788
 8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

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

WANTED

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS- Meetings every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia.

BABBITT AL-ANON- meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the upstairs of Woodland Presbyterian Church.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MERCURY OUTBOARDS
Frank's Marine Sales & Service
 Mercury, Crestliner, Lund
 www.franksmarinesales.com
 franksmarine@centurytel.net
 Hwy 53, Orr • Call 218-757-3150

Handberg's MARINA
 ALUMINUM • POLARIS • YAMAHA
 EVERETT • POLARIS • GODFREY

Sales • Service Rentals General Store
218-993-2214
 www.handbergs.com

MOCCASIN POINT MARINE

4655 Moccasin Point Rd
 Lake Vermilion
218-753-3319

Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales
 Mechanic on Duty

moccasinpointmarine.com

ARONSON BOAT WORKS

LAKE VERMILION, TOWER
 Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169

NEW Fall Hours:
 Mon-Fri: 9 AM-5 PM
 Closed Weekends

MERCURY LUND HONDA
 Storage • Complete Service • Sales

Centrally Located On Lake Vermilion

Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage
 Lease or Purchase Options
 Marina • Mechanic on Duty
 Convenience Store
 24-Hour Fuel • Live Bait

4551 Bradley Road, Tower • 753-5457
 www.shamrocklanding.com

SNOWFLAKES
 by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

© 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

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

FUNERAL SERVICES

Range Funeral Home

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword WAX SHADES

<p>ACROSS 1 Played golf on the green 7 Baseball card company 12 Indy sponsor 15 Andy's pal 19 Ryan and Tatum 20 Little Mermaid's name 21 Superman's love interest 23 Kitschy lawn adornment (1997) 25 Rotating part in a water pump 26 Chicago-to-Atlanta dir. 27 Fraternal org. with lodges 28 Canine with gray brindled fur (1993) 30 Carnival treat on a stick (1998) 35 Loch monster, informally 36 Shoe parts 37 Piccolo's kin 39 Skin art 43 Retail store's beginning? 44 Rice — (food brand) 46 Iowa college</p>	<p>48 Woman on "Frasier" 49 Plant also called bachelor's button (1958) 53 Glitzy display (1993) 57 Verse tribute 58 Counterpart of masc. 59 Test versions 60 Old — (quaint) 61 Sky, to the U.S. Air Force (2003) 66 Tax-deferred svgs. plan 67 Nestlé movie theater treats 68 Zadora of "Butterfly" 69 "That's a big yes from me!" 73 "Criminal Minds" ailer 74 Grassland on the slope of a peak (1998) 78 Pond growth 81 Curt 82 P.O. arrival 83 Hip-hop "Dr." 84 Plant rolled about by the wind (1993) 86 Makeup of many dunes (1998) 90 Deg. for a future exec</p>	<p>91 Large tank 92 Novelist Jong 94 Often-refined resource 95 Capitol group 98 Life story: Abbr. 99 Gets by 103 Lose all feeling 106 Both pleasant and sad (1958) 109 "The final frontier" (1998) 113 See 54-Down 114 Caustic alkali 115 Muscle rotating the forearm to a palm-down position 116 What each of this puzzle's featured answers is (with the year it was introduced) 121 Lily Tomlin's little girl persona 122 Confine 123 Spelunking chamber 124 Pecans, e.g. 125 "Norma —" 126 Hops-drying ovens 127 Sports deals</p>	<p>DOWN 1 "Nova" genre, for short 2 Togetherness 3 Doctrines 4 "... we'll — a cup o' kindness ..." 5 Pixieish sort 6 WWW access initials. 7 Florida port 8 Sky hunter 9 Missed badly 10 Wooden pin 11 Vegas fixture 12 Gloppy stuff 13 Burial places 14 Calumet part 15 100% wrong 16 St. — (French resort) 17 Like Nash's "lama" 18 Feudal slave 22 Opera — (many a Handel work) 24 Basic skills 29 Suffix with hero 31 Smallish city 32 Royal Norse name 33 Little — (Dickens girl) 34 Yang go-with 38 Tried to hit, as a clay target 40 British trolley</p>	<p>41 Leak slowly 42 Rocker Osbourne 44 — bit (just slightly) 45 — Martin (cognac) 46 Energy mogul 47 Pound divs. 49 Dairy animals 50 Norse god 51 Move, in Realtor lingo 52 "Just the Two —" (1981 hit) 54 With 55 Based on — story 56 Fancy crown 59 Square in the first bingo-card column 62 Mr. T movie 63 Biblical tower setting 64 Old hi-fi buys 65 "The Da Vinci Code" group 66 Suffix with hero 69 Apropos of 70 Old Icelandic saga 71 Michael who played Worf 72 Had liabilities 74 Confront 75 Often-refined resource</p>	<p>76 Sir Guinness 77 "— boy!" 78 S&L devices 79 Garage job 80 Certain Fed 81 Pan Am rival 85 Planet seen at sunset, old-style 86 Canon or Sony products, for short 87 Wave sound 88 Baking pans 89 Deli dish 93 Steal from 96 Go-between 97 Yeshiva text 98 Telly network 99 Cry feebly 100 Solidified 101 Pal of Pooch 102 Ships' backs 104 "Once — midnight dreary ..." 105 Seine feeder 107 "Taste this" 108 Cel figures 109 Not closed 110 Language of Pakistan 111 "Snap —!" 112 Canyon effect 117 Actor Stephen 118 Be a thespian 119 Road vehicle 120 Eggs</p>
--	---	--	--	--	--

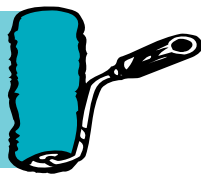
Get Results!

Advertise in the Timberjay!

©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



THE FINISHED LOOK
BUILDING | ROOFING
REMODELING

John Thomas Almeida
Owner & Designer
Pingajt@gmail.com
(218) 235-7305

KITCHENS • BATHROOMS • FIREPLACES • BARS
Licensed & Insured - License #BC674311

YOU CALL, WE HAUL!

Cement Trucks, Building Materials
Septic-pumping Trucks, Dirt
Well-drilling Equipment
Propane Delivery

Carl Anderson
Anderson Barging, Inc.
Cell 218-780-4955
www.andersonbarging.com
Covering all of Lake Vermilion

Premium Hardwood Pellets
These Are The Good Kind
40 lb. bag
\$7.64
Pallet price **\$6.99**
Cash & Carry Only

Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344
Hours: Mon. Fri: 7-5, Sat: 8-12
eric@cookbuildingcenter.com

For all your **HEATING, PLUMBING** and **AIR CONDITIONING** needs...

HEISEL BROS.
PLUMBING & HEATING

We're the Professionals!

Heisel Bros.
PLUMBING & HEATING
Northgate Plaza • Virginia
218-741-8381 • www.heiselbros.com

HOURS:
M-F 8 AM-5 PM
Sat 8 AM-Noon
Master Plumber
PC644131

VERMILION ROOFING
Serving Cook, Tower and Ely Areas

Your Source For Roofing

- METAL ROOFING
- ARCHITECTURAL SHINGLES

Bryan (218) 269-1039
Karl (612) 418-8953

Licensed • Insured BC# 785662
VermillionRoofing.com | VermillionRoofing@gmail.com

GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS!

Clean, minimalist, modern styles!

All furniture may not be as shown.

ANDERSON FURNITURE & KITCHENS
AndersonFurnitureCompany.com
214 2nd Ave. S, Virginia, MN • 218-741-9356

INTEREST FREE FINANCING AND LAYAWAY AVAILABLE

NORTHEAST TITLE

Real Estate Closing Services, Title Insurance & Abstracting

Northeast Title Company has competitive rates and professional services assuring peace of mind for our customers before and after closing. We take pride in our service and have a proven history of being a leader in the industry. Customers can expect quality services and products along with a professional staff that takes pride in every closing. Our warm, friendly, and professional approach in all of our transactions ensures our customers a level of comfort that is unmatched in the industry.

ELY OFFICE
545 E Sheridan St • Ely, MN 55731
Phone (218)365-5256
Angie Mikulich
Licensed Closing Agent

VIRGINIA OFFICE
612 13 St S • Virginia MN 55792
Phone (218)741-1515
Jodee Micheletti
Owner/Licensed Closing Agent

COOK/SURROUNDING AREAS
Phone (218)666-3174
Sharon Maronick
Licensed Closing Agent

www.netitle.com

Don't Let Winter Get You Down!
We've got what it takes to get you through...

ICE MELT
SAND-IN-A-TUBE
SHOVELS

We are a UPS Shipping Drop-Off

VERMILION LUMBER
HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS
218-753-2230
302 Main St., Tower, MN
M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; Sat: 8 AM-Noon

Let these experts help with your next project

ATTORNEY

KELLY KLUN
Attorney At Law

Estate Planning
• General Questions
• Wills
• Trusts
• Power of Attorney
• Health Care Declaration
• Cabin Succession Planning

Complimentary 15 Minute Consultation

Minnesota State Bar Association
Certified & Specialist
Real Property Law

KLUN LAW FIRM
Direction. Guidance. Results.

1 E. Chapman Street
P.O. Box 240 • Ely, MN 55731
218-365-3221 • 218-365-5866 Fax
www.klunlaw.com

RANGE L.P. GAS

Call Us For All Your LP Gas Needs!

Hoover Rd, Virginia
741-7393
1613 E. Camp St., Ely
365-8888

24 Hour Emergency Service

• Toll Free •
1-800-862-8628

Call about the 26% tax credit!

WORLD'S #1
HOT AIR WOODBURNING FURNACE!

.45 gr/hr. emissions
99.4% comb efficiency
99% smokeless burns

833-660-1064

lampmfg@gmail.com lampkakuuma.com

INSURANCE

Tower-Soudan Agency & Palo Mutual
Your Independent Insurance Agency

We Can Insure:
Residential, Seasonal, Island and Non-Road Access Properties

218-753-2101
415 Main St.
Tower, MN
www.towersoudanagency.com

It's time to...
ROLL in the JOY!

AREA RUGS
Starting at **30% OFF**

HUNDREDS OF CARPETS TO CHOOSE FROM AT DRASTICALLY REDUCED PRICES!!

MANY STYLES, COLORS & TEXTURES TO CHOOSE FROM!

Subscribe Today
(218) 753-2950
timberjay.com

BIG Enough to Serve you; small Enough to Know You

FLOOR to CEILING
INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWROOM

8401 Enterprise Drive N., Virginia/Mt. Iron
(1/2 Mile West on Highway 169) • 741-6690

HOURS: 8-5:30 M-F

Find us on facebook.
floortoceiling.com/virginia