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the **TIMBERJAY**



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VOL. 33, ISSUE 48 December 9, 2022 \$1⁵⁰

ELECTION 2022

Skraba's 3A win confirmed by recount

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

Rep. Rob Ecklund announced his concession late on Wednesday

REGIONAL— Republican Roger Skraba, of Ely, is headed to the Minnesota House as the District 3A representative after recounts confirmed his razor-thin victory over incumbent DFLer Rob Ecklund.

A total of 21,743 ballots were cast in the Nov. 8 general election for the District 3A seat, and Skraba edged Ecklund by

15 votes, 10,868 to 10,853, with 22 write-ins. The close race automatically qualified for a publicly-funded hand recount.

Counting got underway Monday in Cook, Itasca, and St. Louis counties, while recounts in



Roger Skraba

Koochiching and Lake counties were on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively. The Lake County recount results had not been officially released as of the *Timberjay's* Wednesday deadline, but Ecklund

announced his concession late Wednesday, rendering any remaining recounting moot.

Recount workers were closely scrutinized in their task by observers from both parties who stood ready to challenge any questionable ballots. Cook County Auditor-Treasurer Braidy Powers said there were plenty of observers looking on there.

"I'm going to say there were at least 16, eight per each party," he said. "We had three tables going and you could have two per table. They would take turns, because it is a long boring process. So, one person would do a long precinct and they would go back and sit in a chair or go
See...RECOUNT pg. 9



'TIS THE SEASON

Sights and sounds

Traditional holiday celebrations return post-COVID

Above: The Tower-Soudan Area Singers performed Christmas carols and traditional holiday songs at the Breitung Community Center. See page 6 for future performances.

Right and below: Scenes from the Snow City event in Orr held last Saturday. Santa hears from Fae Laakkonen-Gaylord, and Cassie Laakkonen, dressed as an elf smiles big during the Snow City parade. Timberjay staff photos



CITY OF ELY

Moratorium set on sale of cannabinoids

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY - The Ely City Council voted at their Dec. 6 meeting to approve a moratorium on new permits for the sale of cannabinoid products derived from hemp until March 7, 2023, or until the city passes an ordinance on these products, whichever happens first.

The moratorium was added as a new business item after the publication of the agenda.

Ely city attorney Kelly Klun presented the issues involved for the consideration of the councilors: "In August 2022, the state Legislature passed a law allowing cannabis products within the state. We are aware that there are some sales on various cannabis products ... within the city but those have been done in existing businesses with relatively small (amounts of) product. This week, the city has received two requests from individuals seeking to start or be a full scale or sole operation CBD or CBD/smoke."

Klun said many other cities have begun addressing the issue, which has evolved quickly as laws have changed regarding cannabis around the country and in Minnesota.

"So many cities have done this, when faced with this question and in essence, they say, 'it's not that we're not willing to allow this to occur, it's that we'd like to have a licensing mechanism. We'd like to have a way to ensure that we know who's selling, and also that we're not selling to minors and that we're

See...CANNABIS pg. 9

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

New public works garage taking shape

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

KUGLER TWP— The pre-cast walls and roof are up and the new St. Louis County public works garage here will soon be fully enclosed so crews can begin interior work perhaps ahead of the new year.

The new facility, which is

tucked into the woods near the intersection of Hwy. 135 and County Rd. 26, will replace existing county garages in Tower and Embarrass once it's ready for operation sometime in the late summer of 2023. According to Chad Skelton, fleet and property manager for county public works, the new garage will house existing staff from the

Tower and Embarrass garages and will include a supervisor along with the eight workers currently based out of the two facilities. Skelton predicts the new garage will be largely completed by late spring of 2023 and he expects crews to move in by mid-to-late summer. It should

See...GARAGE pg. 9

Right: The walls and roof are up on the new county garage now under construction in Kugler Township.

photo by M. Helmberger



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Community notices



Ice Candle & Holiday Gathering Dec. 17

EMBARRASS – The Embarrass Cemetery will be aglow Saturday, Dec. 17 during the annual Ice Candle display and holiday gathering. Ice candles will be placed Saturday morning, and lit up in the evening in honor of loved ones. A holiday gathering will be held at the Embarrass Town Hall from 4-6 p.m. The public is welcome to come for coffee and Christmas goodies. There will be crafts for kids as well as a visit from Santa.

If interested in donating cookies or bars for the holiday gathering, they can be dropped off at the Town Hall. Call the clerk's office at 218-984-2084 with questions or to volunteer with placing and lighting candles.

Mesabi Community Band to perform "A Holiday Concert" Thursday, Dec. 15

EVELETH - The Mesabi Community Band, under the direction of Bill Lavato and Larry Baker, announces "A Holiday Concert". The concert will be held on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m., in the Historic Eveleth City Auditorium. The public is invited to this concert which features many vintage, favorite and new holiday tunes. Admission is a free will offering for the Food Shelf.

Acrylic painting take & create art kits available at ALS libraries starting Dec. 12

MT. IRON - The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) will be providing Acrylic Painting Take & Create Art Kits to member public libraries to distribute December 12-31. This art experience was designed by 321 Art Studio in Chisholm and explores acrylic painting for beginners and more advanced participants. Take & Create Art Kits will include supplies to create two unique pictures – one for beginners and one for advanced painters, one 11 x 14 stretched canvas, one 9 x 12 canvas board, one sheet of mixed media paper, and one paint kit that contains a drawing pencil, two brushes, and 12 tubes of acrylic paint. Two follow-along instructional videos will be shared online for participants – one for beginners and one for intermediate painters. Both videos include simple instructions and tips on using paint, canvas, and brushes. Each kit will include enough supplies for three paintings, so participants have multiple options to practice and/or create something of their own. Kits will be distributed at the following public libraries and ALS outreach locations: Aurora, Babbitt, Cook, Ely, International Falls, Mt. Iron, Virginia, ALS Bookmobile, and ALS Mail-A-Book (*patrons must qualify for Mail-A-Book services, kit may be modified in order to deliver by mail).

This program is geared towards tweens, teens, and adults.

This program, sponsored by ALS was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see the calendar at www.alslib.info or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com

NLAA presents Reflections Dance Company's Winter Showcase Dec. 10

ELY - The public is invited to come see the progress on the dance pieces included in the upcoming show, "Matters of the Heart." The showcase is Saturday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater on the Minnesota North College - Vermilion campus in Ely.

A LOOK BACK

Minnesota Discovery Center unveiling new prohibition exhibit "Never Dry"

CHISHOLM - The Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) will be unveiling a new temporary exhibit, "Never Dry: The Rise of Prohibition on the Iron Range," on Thursday, Dec. 8. Never Dry takes you on a journey of booze, bootlegging, and busts in true Iron Range fashion.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and special guest, Author Tony Dierckins, will be presenting the history of Iron Range brewing at 6 p.m. followed by the exhibit unveiling at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public offering complimentary appetizers and a cash bar. All MDC members will receive a free drink ticket with proof of membership.

"The exhibit team is thrilled to finally get to

cover this exciting topic. Our goal is to highlight the story of Prohibition in a way that hasn't been done before. For many, Prohibition conjures up glamorous images of gangsters in striped suits with Tommy guns. While these depictions reflect some areas of the country, they don't ring true for the Iron Range. The fight for national prohibition affected different people in different ways. "This exhibit takes you down the messy road to Prohibition and shows what it was like for Iron Range residents navigating the years of America's 'noble experiment,'" said MDC Museum Curator Allyse Freeman.

The Prohibition Era began in 1920 with the



At the Backus Bar in Virginia in 1893.

passage of the Volstead Act, which was designed to include the enactment of the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, banning the manufacture, transportation, and sale of intoxicating liquors nationwide. The legislation was introduced by Judiciary Chair-

man Andrew Volstead of Minnesota. Exhibit hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. ; Thursday – 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. (free admission after 3 p.m. on Thursdays); Closed Sunday and Monday.

OH FFFUDGE!

Lyric Center presents "A Christmas Story" the musical



VIRGINIA - The Laurentian Arts and Culture Alliance (Lyric Center for the Arts) is presenting the Iron Range's first full-scale, all-ages, community theater musical since the beginning of the pandemic; Dec. 8, 9, 11, 16-17, at Minnesota North College's Mesabi Range Virginia Campus. American Sign Language interpreters will be on hand for the Friday, Dec. 16 performance.

Based on the book by Jean Shepherd, the film adaptation has become an annual holiday family tradition for many families. With a musical twist, the story follows young Ralphie in the 1940s and his quest to acquire an official Red Ryder carbine-action 200-shot range model air rifle for Christmas. Much to the chagrin of everybody Ralphie

encounters who consistently remind him that he'll shoot his eye out.

The show features well-known Range musician and singer Steven Solkela as The Old Man and introduces audiences to 11-year-old Parker Feldt as Ralphie. Rounding out the lead cast are Amy Peterson as Mother, Jase Matuszak as Jean Shepherd, and 9-year-old Dawson Paino as Ralphie's kid brother Randy. "We are incredibly excited for this production. We chose the play last spring and have been working for months to transition from page to stage," said Lyric Executive Director Paul M. Gregersen. "It is our privilege to present the project on behalf of the upward of 80 people from across the Range who have worked together to make it a reality. It is a true community driven and inclusive holiday production by and for folks of all ages. Which is what the Lyric is all about. The Range hasn't seen anything like this in a long time," Gregersen said.

A Christmas Story not only features the talents of area actors. It also includes the work of several visual artists from across the Range who have contributed their paint-

ings, graphic designs, photography skills and more to digital scenes included in the show. Some of the artists include members of the Lyric Art Colony, students from Virginia High School, and participants of Downtown Arts Virginia.

Also featured in the show are classic 1940s images from the Iron Range courtesy of the Virginia Area Historical Society.

In order to assist in funding the production, The Lyric has partnered with Canelake's Candies in Virginia, Minnesota's oldest candy store, to sell commemorative packages of "Oh Fffudge."

Advanced tickets for A Christmas Story, The Musical as well as commemorative "Oh Fffudge" packages courtesy of Canelake's are available at lyriccenteronline.org, by phone (218) 741-5577, in person at the Lyric Center 510 Chestnut Street in Virginia Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and at the door of each performance depending on availability.

A Christmas Story the Musical is generously sponsored by Canelake's Candies, Buhl Water Company, Discover the Range, and W.A. Fisher.

BETTY WHITEOUT NEEDS A FRIEND

MnDOT's annual Name a Snowplow contest returns

ST. PAUL— Back by popular demand, the Minnesota Department of Transportation is pleased to once again invite the public to help name another round of eight snowplows – one for each MnDOT district.

Past winners include names like Betty Whiteout, Plowy McPlowFace, Ctrl Salt Delete, Snowbi Wan Kenobi and The Truck For-

merly Known As Plow.

MnDOT encourages Minnesotans to submit their most witty, unique and Minnesota- or winter-themed snowplow name ideas on the agency's website. Submission will be open through Friday, Dec. 16 and the link will also be shared across MnDOT's social media accounts.

This year's contest in-

cludes a few basic rules:

►Each person may only submit one name.

►Submissions are limited to no more than 30 characters (including letters and spaces).

►Gosh darn it, nothing vulgar please. Any submissions that include profanity or other inappropriate language will not be considered.

►Politically inspired names (including phrases, slogans or plays on politicians' names) will not be considered. Naming snowplows is meant to be fun and lighthearted, so we're going to keep this contest nonpartisan and nonpolitical.

►Past winners will also will not be considered.

After the submission form closes on Dec. 16, MnDOT staff will review all the submissions, select some of the best ideas, and invite the public to vote on their favorites in January 2023. The eight names that get the most votes will then make their way onto a snowplow in each district!

Minnesotans are encouraged to follow @MnDOT on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updates on the 2022-23 Name a Snowplow contest as well as winter weather alerts, safety messages, construction updates and more.

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TRIBAL LANDS

Ojibwe map unveiling draws huge crowd

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

VERMILION RESERVATION- “Bazhidebii” is a word in Anishinaabemowin that means “it overflows,” according to The Ojibwe People’s Dictionary, and it’s an apt descriptor of the turnout last week at the Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum for the historic unveiling of a new map that restores over 100 original Ojibwe names to a 100-mile expanse of boreal forest from Lake Vermilion to Nett Lake.

A crowd of around 100 people far exceeded the available seating capacity on Nov. 30, as a broad spectrum of Band members, representatives of regional organizations, media, and other interested parties crowded together to view the stunning map designed by Bois Forte artist Louise Isham and crafted on a hand-painted historic template by artisanal map maker Keith Myrmel.

The two-year project, a collaboration between the Bois Forte Band and the Ely Folk School (EFS), involved extensive research to identify the original names for places such as Gagons-ibi-madage-winik, which in English means “place where the young porcupines live” and is commonly known as Bystrom Bay. Interviews with Band elders augmented historical written resources that included diaries of anthropologists and missionaries from Smithsonian archives, a 1922 roadless recreation area proposal (that led to today’s Boundary Waters) by landscape planner Arthur Carhart and his Bois Forte colleague Leo Chosa, and geologist Warren Upham’s “Minnesota Geographic Names.”

Bois Forte Band member and EFS board member Rick Anderson served as the event facilitator and introduced fellow EFS board member Paul Schurke as a “driving force” in the map’s creation. The *Timberjay* asked Schurke for his reactions to the event.

“It’s just wonderfully gratifying response today that gives this whole project meaning to see all the interest in the map, and the interest in regaining this potentially last piece of our re-



Posing with the new Ojibwe place names map at its Bois Forte Heritage Center unveiling are, from left, Bois Forte Band member and Ely Folk School board member Rick Anderson, center visitor services manager Kyle Littlewolf, center director Jaylen Strong, and EFS board member Paul Schurke. Below: A large crowd attended the map unveiling. photo by D. Colburn



gion’s rich culture, the Native names,” Schurke said. “That’s quite a punch for those of us who have spent the last few years putting this together. Now, it’s reality. And now with the 100-plus people here today and

all the media interest in the project, clearly, it’s gaining traction to take on a life of its own and build and grow from this.”

Heritage Center Director Jaylen Strong said his work with the project included many con-

versations with Bois Forte Band elder and spiritual adviser Gene Goodsky before he passed away last February.

“I’ve heard so many others talk about different locations, or the path to get up between

villages, and I always kind of wondered, well, how do you tell where you’re at?” Strong said. “They talked about how they used to have these place names, about the stories of what occurred there, and that’s where they got the name from. Now we have a physical copy where you can see these place names. You can go out there and know that this location has its name and keep that kind of history alive and memory alive.”

Several staff members from the U.S. Forest Service LaCrox and Kawishiwi district offices were in attendance, and Kawishiwi District Ranger Aaron Kania offered his thought about the significance of the map.

“This isn’t the past for the Ojibwe people, this is their present,” Kania said. “For the Ojibwe, this never went away. This has always been, and now this map is reminding people of this other lens to view this landscape through. This reminds those who use public lands that there are many ways to see this landscape.”

Kania describe a personal experience in connection with Ojibwe place names while talking with an Ojibwe elder during the Bezhik fire in May 2021.

“He showed me on the map that Bezhik means ‘one,’” Kania said. We looked at the forest service map and the lakes were numbered one, two, and three in Ojibwe. What a powerful moment to think that here we are managing fire on this landscape that fire has been managed on for a long time. To have that Native voice present during that fire was really helpful to tie into that history.”

It’s an example Kania said emphasizes the unique relevance of the new Ojibwe place names map by not only connecting with history, but by connecting the present to the present.

Copies of the map’s first limited edition printing were to be made available through an Ely Folk School fundraiser for a donation of \$100 or more. The map will be for sale to the general public at EFS and Bois Forte Heritage Museum sometime in January.

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Go big on housing

The Legislature has the means to make a real difference for small town Minnesota

When the Minnesota Legislature convenes in less than a month, it has the opportunity to do big things that could make a major difference for small communities in rural parts of the state. With an unprecedented budget surplus now projected at \$17 billion, the time is right to make real progress on one of the biggest issues facing small town Minnesota.

While housing is a critical issue throughout Minnesota, few places have been hit as hard by the acute shortage of housing as small towns, such as those here in the North Country.

It's a huge economic development issue for our communities. Small towns have become increasingly attractive places to live. They're far safer than big cities, with a generally lower cost of living, and with often ready access to the kind of outdoor amenities that are particularly attractive to young families and active retirees. These are all pieces to the puzzle of how to build sustainable and growing communities.

But housing remains a critical missing piece. Most families aren't in a position to buy land and build their own homes. The vast majority, particularly younger families, rely on existing housing stock when they're ready to make the leap to home ownership, but area communities have few houses on the market and they're often sold to friends or family without ever being advertised. It's much the same with the limited number of rentals, which often go strictly through word of mouth that leaves prospective new residents out in the cold.

There are jobs to be had in many of our communities here, but the lack of available housing makes it tough to fill many positions as most workers would prefer to live close to their work. When places like Ely, Tower, or Cook lack available housing, it limits economic opportunity in the community, limits school enrollments, and suppresses local tax bases.

We know that building new and affordable housing is difficult without the kinds of subsidy that the state of Minnesota has traditionally made available to some degree. Unfortunately, the vast majority of the housing money in recent years has remained

within the seven-county metro area. That's not a surprise. Private developers have been more comfortable building in growth areas, where they can have confidence that units will sell at a profitable price. And public entities that build housing in larger cities typically have greater capacity, both financially and in terms of staffing, to take on major projects. They also tend to build more units, and that provides an economy of scale that help larger projects pencil out.

Bringing new housing to smaller communities is a bigger challenge, but it's one that is consistent with Gov. Walz's One Minnesota promise. It isn't enough to just throw money at the problem and let the chips fall where they may. If that's all that happens, housing money will continue to get scooped up predominantly by the Twin Cities metro or larger regional centers elsewhere in the state.

While Republicans won't be in charge at the Legislature this year, they could still play a role in pushing for more housing help in rural Minnesota, which is overwhelmingly represented by the GOP. Rather than simply acting to obstruct, GOP lawmakers could truly help the communities they represent by working with the DFL to ensure that a sizable portion of any housing investment this year goes to the small communities that have otherwise been left behind.

Making money available, of course, is just part of the picture. Small towns often lack the technical expertise and staff to bring a major housing project forward. An investment that truly helps address the housing needs of our small communities will include the kind of technical expertise from state or nonprofit officials who can really help small communities get projects off the ground. Without that kind of assistance, construction of new housing in small, rural communities will continue to lag. With the kind of surplus the state is currently enjoying, there is every opportunity to begin to address the lack of housing for far too many Minnesotans. But in doing so, it's important that small towns, where the shortage is often most acute, aren't once again left behind.

J. HELMER 2022 HELMERJAY.COM



Letters from Readers

Insecticides may be affecting deer

In regard to the recent blame wolves are getting for increased deer mortality, perhaps we should consider the recent data showing that the insecticides known as neonicotinoids are appearing in the spleens of northeastern Minnesota deer. No one knows how this is happening, but the number of deer and the tested level of the insecticide is increasing. Sixty-four percent of the deer spleens sampled this year were past the threshold that causes fawn mortality. This jumped from 29 percent of the samples tested in 2019. These insecticides are found in a range of home and garden products. The chemical was found in 94 percent of 496 statewide samples in 2021.

Lindsay Sovil
Ely

Wildlife managers should stop discounting deer hunters

I read your wrap-up article of the latest deer season in this week's paper and noticed the tendency to blame the past few winters and lack of winter cover as the reason the deer herd is down plus the fact that wolves are "an easy target" to pass the blame on to. I agree these factors are to blame to a degree but wildlife managers in the wolf zone cannot give the wolf population a passing glance and remark that "wolves and deer have evolved together for a long time."

Three issues ago in the paper, hunters' complaints were passed off as being simplistic and the low deer herd numbers were due to much more complicated factors (winter snow depth and lack of "snow shelter"). The local deer hunter's views may be simplistic but that view is not just one deer hunter! Where there is smoke there is fire! It

would very well pay for managers to start listening and start putting pressure on the governor's office and eventually the federal level to return wolf management to the state.

I am attaching this link, https://www.nrs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/rp/rp_nc148.pdf, for your readers to read. This study was conducted in the early 1970s by L. David Mech, Pat Karnes and early on, Milt Stenlund. These researchers are considered authorities on the grey wolf. Yes, it's an old study and the forest has changed since then, but as you read the study think about the conditions the researchers are describing and how they correlate to today's conditions. In the late 1960's and early 70's the forest was over mature and provided little food. Today's forest is mostly immature, but its age is at a point where it too provides lessor and lessor amounts of food. The earlier research followed seven severe winters that occurred in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Recently, the past five winters have been three moderately severe, one severe and one mild. In a nutshell the researchers found that wolf depredation can decimate a deer herd, to the point where it no longer exists, if winter severity stays high and the forest conditions aren't providing what they need to remain resilient. This perfect storm of events is happening right now! If you don't want to read the whole study, pay particularly close attention to page 19, which includes some of the key findings.

I question why this study was relegated to the archives. This study was completed by the best federal and DNR employees that could be hired, and it was certainly completed under accepted research practices. We taxpayers pay good money to finance research such as this, and it troubles me to find it's been gathering dust, especially when the conditions that existed during the research time frame are happening right now! Based on this year's deer harvest num-

bers I think we're starting to see a collapse happen in front of our eyes.

I think what needs to happen is for our managers to dust off this study and possibly others, analyze it and make comparisons to present conditions. Then start an effort following channels through the DNR heirarchy and eventually the governor's office. If it means the attorney general's office presenting a lawsuit to get management back to the state level, let's do it. When they make their approach to the Governor's office they have some ammunition in the form of scientific research and this would be a perfect time to enlist the help of northern Minnesota's deer hunters and the boots-on-the-ground information they can provide. Tell the governor that present conditions predict a total collapse of the deer herd (based on the study) and along with that comes lower hunter license revenue as hunter's drop out and youth recruitment stops and the local economy loses the deer season hunter influx of spending at the gas stations, bars/restaurants and grocery stores. Who knows? When the deer herd collapses and revenues are down, maybe there will be no need for local wildlife managers. The herd modeling could be done at the regional level. At that point there may not even be a season which also has a historical precedent (1971).

Mike Hanson
Cook

More liberal brainwashing of our young people

I read the recent letter by Max Helmerger. It was more false info written by a brainwashed young man who has been indoctrinated by far-left liberal professors who are ridiculous!!!!

Dave Akerson
Lake Vermilion

www.timberjay.com

We are stardust; protecting our dark skies

Since the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) was founded in 1988 to educate and advocate about light pollution, awareness and concern has spread globally. Earth's artificially lit surface area growing by two-percent a year. Three in five Europeans and four in five North Americans live under skies too light-swamped to be able to see the Milky Way, and 99-percent of them do not experience a natural night. Most children

born today will never be able to see the Milky Way if we don't make changes.



BETTY FIRTH

The good news is that unlike many issues facing the world today, light pollution is something we can understand and manage, and researchers contend that we can reduce light pollution without much sacrifice. Some even say we can reverse the increase within

a decade. Astronomer Carl Sa-

gan and cosmologist Brian Swimme popularized understanding of our cosmos, telling us, "We are stardust," and they didn't just mean metaphorically. The death of stars (supernovas) enabled the cooling of temperatures essential to creating carbon atoms and heavier elements which is the stuff we, and all life, are made of. Not similar elements, but the same elements present then. So, when we gaze in wonder at the stars, the sense of connection is not just a trick of our imagination. We need to be able to see and feel that.

Light pollution includes several types. Light shining

upward causes "sky glow" obscuring the stars and creating perpetual twilight. "Light trespass" is lights shining into your yard or house from neighbors or commercial lighting. "Glare" is the light shining in your eyes. "Clutter" is bright, confusing, and excessive groupings of light sources. The wasted energy and the resources used to make energy to produce this "stray" light could power 8 million homes every year. Streetlights are responsible for most of the upward shining light, which can be reduced with fixtures directing the light down and with bulbs that have warm, amber light rather than cool, blue light.

The Harvard Medical School Health Letter explains that not all colors of light have the same effect. Blue wavelengths, which are more predominant in computer and TV screens as well as energy-efficient fluorescent and LED lighting, boost attention, reaction times and mood; this is beneficial during the day but disruptive at night. Blue-tinged light is brighter and more disruptive to most animals (including humans) at night as well as to astronomical observatories. Blue, shorter wavelength photons scatter more readily in the air,

See **STARDUST**...pg. 5

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Breitung works through busy agenda at Dec. 1 meeting

by RACHEL BROPHY
Staff Writer

SOUDAN – Recreation and winter weather were a focus of the Breitung Township meeting held on Dec. 1.

With the return of winter cold, Maintenance Supervisor Tom Gorsma reported that preparations are underway at the hockey rink to get the ice and warming shack ready for the skating season. They are also planning to set Tuesday nights as pizza night at the rink.

Gorsma said the township is looking to recruit some adult volunteers to spend time at the warming shack and rink.

“We’re trying to get some volunteers helping to run the skating rink, so the kids who work up there get a day off,” he said.

Anyone interested in learning more about volunteering at the rink can call the town hall at 218-753-6020.

Gorsma also gave a report on the condition of the township’s roads.

“We know that they’re in terrible condition,” he said. Noting this is due to weather and lack of snowpack, he joked, “We’re hoping they get better by the Fourth of July.”

Tacos with Cops

Police Chief Dan Reing started off his report with good news from the recent “Tacos with Cops” meet and greet held on Oct. 8.

“The biggest thing in October,” Reing began, “was the ‘Tacos with Cops’. It was a real big hit, and we were happy to do it. We were very humbled by the turnout.” Reing said that within an hour and a half they ran out of tacos.

“It was crazy how many people showed up. I’m just blessed to be in this community with the support we have.”

Reing stated that they hope to hold the event again next year and will have more tacos to go around.

In regular police business, Reing reported that October was much calmer than summer, which he termed “crazy busy.”

McKinley Park

Park Manager Susie Chiabotti gave the year-end report on McKinley Park. Chiabotti said the campground had a good year.

“Our revenue was up a little bit,” she said. “Though the boat launch and daily visitors were down, and I think that was just due to gas prices.”

The fact that the township had upgraded some of the elec-

trical sites made a difference this year, she said.

“I need to thank the township because you upgraded the electrical sites which just made a huge difference,” she said.

Chiabotti also mentioned the new dock planking and new maps.

“Dianna was so nice to put our number and email on the back, and that really helped,” she said. “Many, many people stopped and picked them up, and it was updated on the website also.”

“The township is so wonderful to work for,” she said. “I want to thank all of you three, and Jorgine and Dianna and Breitung Police Department. It’s a quiet, safe family campground.”

Public safety

In his report for the Ambulance Commission, Supervisor Chuck Tekautz said he had “nothing.” He went on to say, “It’s the same as always. As far as I know, we never got the City of Tower to commit if we needed to borrow money at the end of the delivery.” (See related story in this week’s paper on the Tower City Council’s approval of ordering the new ambulance, at their Dec. 5 special meeting.)

Supervisor Greg Dostert then asked if there was any news on Greenwood. Tekautz

said, “Greenwood told us right out that they’re not going to pay. If Greenwood paid, we wouldn’t have to borrow any money, but with Greenwood not paying we’re forced into borrowing money.”

Tekautz pointed out that ambulances currently cost about \$250,000.

Outgoing Eagles Nest Fire Chief Larry McCray and Eagles Nest Township board member Frank Sherman gave an update on what’s happening with Eagles Nest EMS and Fire Department and their continued interest in merging services.

“We really took a look at what we wanted to do with EMS response. We have a number of people trained. It is a higher priority for us than for you. Without having our own people to respond, in some emergency cases that can really make a difference between life and death,” said McCray.

He continued his argument for merging services stating the advantages of better coverage and training.

After discussion of the variety of configurations a merger might take, along with possible challenges posed by areas that aren’t currently as prepared to handle an emergency as neighboring communities, Board Chair Tim Tomsich said the township was interested in

keeping the conversation going.

Other business

In other business the board:

► Accepted the resignation of Officer Trace Swanson, who will be moving out of state.

► Approved Resolution 2022-32 accepting donations.

► Approved an electrical rate increase at McKinley Park for 2023 season.

► Discussed \$3,000 price savings for leasing three tasers rather than purchasing outright.

► Accepted the resignation of a volunteer from the fire department.

Discussed putting together a five ►-year plan for funding future infrastructure projects.

► Heard that CPR training is scheduled for Dec. 6 for up to 30 participants.

► Approved drafting a written contract between Fire Department and Breitung Township to address a conflict of interest regarding a TSWWB employee or an officer of the Breitung Fire and Rescue Department holding an elected township position.

► Voted to move the next regular meeting from Thursday, Dec. 22, to Tuesday, Dec. 20 due to scheduling conflicts caused by the upcoming holiday.

HEALTH CARE

Medical cannabis approved for two new conditions

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Minnesotans with irritable bowel syndrome and obsessive-compulsive disorder will soon be able to use medical cannabis to ease their conditions after the Minnesota Department of Health recently approved their inclusion on the list of qualifying conditions.

“We are adding the new qualifying conditions to allow patients more therapy options for conditions that can be debilitating,” said Minnesota Commissioner of Health Jan Malcolm.

The change won’t be immediate. Patients certified for the new conditions will become eligible to enroll in the medical cannabis program on July 1, 2023 and receive medical cannabis from either of the state’s two medical cannabis manufacturers starting Aug. 1, 2023. By law, Minnesota patients are restricted from buying medical cannabis outside of the state.

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a disorder characterized by abdominal pain or discomfort, and irregular bowel movements that can result in diarrhea, constipation, both diarrhea and constipation, or bloating. Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) is characterized by recurring, intrusive thoughts that often cause significant emotional distress and anxiety. This can lead to behaviors that the affected person feels compelled to perform to reduce that distress. Research has shown that people who suffer from these conditions can see

benefits from using medical cannabis to treat their symptoms.

Since Minnesota became the 22nd state to legalize medical cannabis in 2014, the number of qualifying conditions has increased from nine to 17 and will reach 19 once the new conditions are officially enacted in July.

Qualifying conditions include Alzheimer’s disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), autism spectrum disorder, cancer, chronic motor or vocal tic disorder, chronic pain, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS,

inflammatory bowel disease, including Crohn’s disease, intractable pain, irritable bowel syndrome, obsessive-compulsive disorder, obstructive sleep apnea, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), seizures, including those characteristic of epilepsy, severe and persistent muscle spasms, including those characteristic of multiple sclerosis, sickle cell disease, terminal illness with a life expectancy of less than one year, and Tourette syndrome. Cancer and terminal ill-

ness have additional qualifying restrictions.

Public petitions for gastroparesis and opioid use disorder were not approved this year due to a lack of medical evidence showing that medical cannabis is effective for these conditions.

More information about Minnesota’s medical cannabis program can be found online at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/cannabis>.

STARDUST...Continued from page 4

creating a localized fog of light.

Light pollution interferes with living eco systems, the predictable rhythms of day and night that are encoded in the DNA of all plants and animals. Disturbance of the daily cycles of light and dark can affect behaviors such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep, and protection from predators. Sea turtles lose their way to the sea. Migrating birds’ seasonal cycles are altered, affecting breeding and nesting. They navigate by moonlight and starlight and may veer off course into dangerous urban or wilderness landscapes. Many die striking buildings. Nocturnal animals depend on darkness for hunting and cover. Researcher Christopher Kyba says, “Near cities cloudy skies are hundreds or even thousands of times brighter than they were 200 years ago, and we are only beginning to learn what a drastic effect this has had on nocturnal ecology.” The health of the planet depends on healthy populations of insects and plants whose cycles are also disturbed.

Research shows that

exposure to artificial light does suppress secretion of the hormone melatonin that influences circadian rhythms, our biological clocks. Reduced melatonin may contribute to the causation of cancer, diabetes, heart disease, obesity and depression.

People are advised to get lots of natural light, avoid electronic screens two to three hours before bedtime and, with intense exposure such as on a night shift, to wear special glasses that block blue light. Holistic health practitioners advise that for our physical, mental and spiritual well-being, we live within the natural rhythms of day and night as much as possible just as we did prior to the invention of electricity. Sleep studies have shown that people get a deeper, more restful sleep with complete darkness.

Astronomer David Crawford and Dr. Tim Hunter formed the International Dark-Sky Association in 1988 in Tucson, Ariz., due to their concern about light pollution. Flagstaff, Ariz., put the world’s first light pollution ordinance on the books in 1958 and became

the first international dark sky community in 2001. Several observatories in the area house a thriving research community, long dedicated to preserving the dark skies. As of January 2022, there are 195 International Dark Sky Places (IDSP) in the world comprised of categories with different parameters: International Dark Sky Communities, Parks, Reserves, Sanctuaries, and Urban places. In 2020, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness became an IDS Sanctuary, and Voyageurs National Park became an IDS Park.

So how do we bring about change? Here are some actions being taken: Campaigns to turn off the lights during bird migrations. In Dallas and Houston, more than 100 downtown buildings dimmed their lights. In France bars and businesses are prohibited from illuminating decorative lights and signs at night. Germany developed a legal action plan to reverse insect declines which includes controlling light pollution a major goal. LED manufacturers are adding dark-sky-friendly, downward-pointing,

long-wavelength fixtures to the market. Holker Lab in Berlin has developed prototype lights that don’t emit the wave-lengths disruptive to most insects.

Individuals can follow these guidelines to minimize the harmful effects of light pollution personally and promote them in their community and region. Lighting should only be on when needed, only light the area that needs it, be no brighter than necessary, minimize blue light emissions, eliminate upward-directed light, and keep blinds drawn to keep light inside.

Go to darksky.org for a fascinating wealth of information and amazing photographs. The IDA is a resource for lighting management plans and free or low-cost eco-friendly lighting that minimizes glare, reduces light trespass, and protects the night sky. If you are interested in joining some local residents in promoting our region as a dark sky place, contact me through the *Timberjay* office.



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
Ely Editor	Catie Clark
Office Manager	Michelle Toutloff
Staff Writer	Rachel Brophy
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
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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.

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Week of Dec. 12

Monday

Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 12

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.

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 13

Thursday

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

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

Nelmark Holiday Craft/Bake Sale, Dec. 8-10

EMBARRASS- Farmstead Artisans will be hosting their annual Woodland Christmas on Dec. 8 – 10 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day. Visit the Nelmark Museum and shop for crafts from the Farmstead Artisans plus amazing baked goods, fresh each day. There will be coffee an', plus time for visiting and conversation.

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.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

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



TOWER-SOUDAN- If you missed the first event on Dec. 5, the Tower-Soudan Area Singers will be also caroling on Monday, Dec. 12 at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center at 6:30 p.m. with coffee an' served. Their final performance will be on Monday, Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Sulu's in Tower with chili served. The Dec. 19 performance will be outdoors, weather-permitting, so please dress warmly. photo by J. Summit

Tower-Soudan Elementary winter concert set for Thursday, Dec. 15

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Elementary students are getting ready for their winter concert. It will be held in the school gym on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 1:30 p.m. Note that this is a time change from previous years. The first row of the visitor chairs will be reserved for Veterans and their families. The public is cordially invited to attend.



Lots of fun and smiles at annual Holiday Craft Show in Tower



Fun at Tower's Holiday Craft Show. Left: Eva Semo demonstrated her mom's felted soaps. Above: Harper Olson ate a homemade cookie just about as big as she is. Right: Elf-in-training Kaitlyn Montgomery sold homemade candles. photos by J. Summit

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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. 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.

Little Church committee to meet Dec. 10

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church Committee will meet on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. The group welcomes anyone and is looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in the Vermilion Lake Township

community. The group hosts a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. All are welcome. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Co. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Questions, contact or leave a message for Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

COMMUNITY GIVING

Operation Santa gifts needed by Dec. 16

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.

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.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Ely City Council gets input on taxes

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY - The Ely City Council heard a wide range of feedback from local residents during the annual Truth-in-Taxation hearing Tuesday night. Certain taxing entities in Minnesota, including municipalities of more than 500, must hold the hearing each year once residents have received their estimated property tax statements for the upcoming year.

Two Ely residents testified at this year's hearing. City Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski offered an explanation for the sticker shock being experienced by many Ely residents during a 30-minute presentation on the budget presented as part of the hearing. The *Timberjay* covered those reasons in detail in the Sept. 16 issue of the *Timberjay*, available online to our subscribers.

"I'm not here to protest taxes," said Jeffrey Wilfahrt. Instead, Wilfahrt was concerned about the use of those tax dollars. "I just hope that some of that (money) goes into law enforcement because people don't seem to understand the term speed limit," he said.

Wilfahrt also suggested street improvements

would be appreciated, particularly in his neighborhood. "Fifteenth (Avenue) has no curb. There is water standing in front of my home and the home across the street from me." Langowski replied that street improvements for that portion of 15th were currently projected for 2025.

Diana Mavetz Petrich was there to complain about her anticipated tax increase. "I got my tax statement and it's gone up 48.1 percent," she said. "That's a lot of money on the side. Look, there's a lot of old people here yet tonight and I know a lot of young families that are struggling to stay afloat, and (I) just worry that it's gonna get to be too much for everybody at this point." Petrich was worried as well about some businesses in the community. "Just one more thing," she said. "Even businesses in town are struggling and these poor people in the restaurant business, I don't know how they're doing it."

Both Mayor Roger Skraba and Langowski responded about how projected but unrealized business taxes from short-term rentals were one of the contributing factors to higher property taxes this year. They also discussed how they hoped that next

year's levy fiscal disparities process would level out taxes between commercial and residential properties.

Petrich also asked the currently unanswerable question regarding Minnesota's budget surplus and how that might contribute to tax relief: "What about the windfall that is sitting in the coffers of the state of Minnesota, \$9 billion or \$10 billion."

"It's \$17.6 billion," interjected Skraba.

"Oh. Okay," Petrich continued, somewhat surprised. "Is that going to ever get sent out or refunded or whatever?"

Langowski said it's up to the Legislature to tackle that issue: "I pointed out in the presentation, a big part is that (the) local government aid formula has not been adjusted since (the) 2000s. "That's where the legislature has to do some work and fix that formula so that the burden isn't always increasing on the property taxes," Langowski added. "And you're exactly correct, when there's a surplus, you'd think there'd be easier ways to get that (money) back to the people."

New business

The council approved six pieces of new busi-

ness, two of which were additions to the published agenda. The first four items were routine approvals of all the 2023 tobacco licenses, the designation of the 2023 polling precinct location, a liability insurance coverage non-waiver resolution to limit the city's risk and the service contact for Walker, Giroux & Hahne for the audit of the city's finances.

Other business

In other business, the council:

- ▶ Voted to donate the historic 1979 American LaFrance fire truck to the Ely Clown Band for use at community events.

- ▶ Heard from Langowski that the city's ice rink will open on Thursday, Dec. 8. Hours will be 3 - 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, noon - 8 p.m. on Saturday and 1 - 6 p.m. on Sundays. There will also be extended hours over the winter holidays.

- ▶ Approved 2023 tobacco licenses for city retailers.

- ▶ Designated the 2023 polling location for the city.

- ▶ Approved a new service contract with Walker Giroux & Hahne for the audit of the city's finances.

- ▶ On the Ely Util-

ities Commission's recommendation approved payments of \$161,075 for water treatment plant control system improvements, \$888,198 for EUC October bills, \$978,870 to Rice Lake Construction for new filters, and \$2,975 to Anthony Gornik for the installation of 57 LCR units.

- ▶ Approved the purchase of the old maple logs currently at the old city dump by Bob Koschak for \$365. Mayor Skraba gave a little cheer at the news that Koschak will haul the logs off city property.

- ▶ Approved the second reading of two zoning amendments. It also voted to approve a purchase agreement between the city and Mark Wilson for the purchase of Lot 8, Block 4 East Spaulding for \$15,000.

Approved the first reading of ordinance 366 for the zoning amendment of the Recreational Center parcels on the south side of Miners Lake from Industrial to C1. They also scheduled a public hearing for the ordinance, currently scheduled on Dec. 20 at 5:15 p.m.

Appointed A.Z. Eck to the city's tree board and John Lahtonen and Margie Olson to the Housing Redevelopment Authority.

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



a lovely snow falls
painting glorious winter
hiding in the house

CLASS A FOOTBALL

Ely sends refs to state football championships

ELY- An Ely-based team of referees provided the rules expertise for the final Minnesota state football championship game of the playoffs on Dec. 3, and four of the five have strong Ely connections.

The referee team was led by "White Cap" head referee Tom McDonald, an Ely High School social studies teacher. The other team members included Ely High School math teacher Tim Omerza, retired Ely teacher Darren Visser, Hibbing High School science teacher Jay Wetzell, who grew up in Ely, and Grand Rapids CPA Brad Zumbaum.

They officiated over the Mt. Iron-Buhl vs. Spring Grove game, which was the champion-

ship game in the nine-man division.

"I was super nervous," said McDonald. "It was a lot of pressure. You don't want to mess up at a state championship game, but we did well."

"Once in a lifetime"

McDonald has been a referee for 32 years and the white cap for a referee crew for the last 12, and he has submitted applications to officiate in the quarter, semi and final games of the state football championships.

"We refed a semi-final last year," McDonald explained, "and we did well. We were told that we would have a chance for a final this year, which is what

happened."

McDonald mentioned that for him, the experience of a state championship for his team of referees was important. In that respect, he succeeded if the reactions of his referee colleagues were any indication.

"This was a once in a lifetime thing," stated Omerza. "It was neat being on the field where the Vikings play at U.S. Bank Stadium."

"We were fortunate to be chosen," remarked Visser. "It was a lot of fun, and it was also a huge honor. Our crew works hard to stay up on the rules and to do our best for the kids."

The crew

Five years ago, Visser retired from teaching at Wash-

ington Elementary School in Ely after 22 years. He didn't stop refereeing when he retired.

"The five of us have been together for around five years, and most of us have been together for about eight years," Visser said.

McDonald also referees junior college games, which is where he encountered Zumbaum, the most recent addition to the crew.

"Brad Zumbaum first found his way onto our college crew," McDonald explained. "Those of us who referee sports in the region get to know each other, which is how we got to know him, and that's how he became part of our high school crew."

McDonald and

Omerza do more than referee football games. The two are also the coaches for the Ely Hoop Club basketball program for boys at Memorial High School on Saturdays during the winter months.

What it takes to ref

To become a referee for high school sports, an individual must apply with the Minnesota State High School League, which determines if someone is eligible to referee competitive high school interscholastic sports, including basketball, baseball, football, soccer, ice hockey, lacrosse, softball, track, golf, volleyball and wrestling. The MSHSL insists that it does not certify ref-

erees, rather, it determines eligibility.

To be eligible, applicants must complete a background check, complete a concussion training course and pass an exam on sports rules. Every year, a referee must also attend refresher concussion training, a rules refresher and changes meeting and pass another rules test to remain eligible.

After becoming eligible, an individual will typically join the regional referee organization for his or her chosen sport. The referee team that went to the state championships from Ely are members of the Range Coaches and Officials Organization, according to McDonald.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS

The return of Mrs. Claus on Dec. 10

ELY- Mrs. Claus will hold a party for kids on Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Grand Ely Lodge, from 1 to 3 p.m. The event will include a hot chocolate bar, goodies bags for the children attending, and several tables with activities such as making Christmas ornaments. The free event is sponsored by the Ely Chamber of Commerce. This is the first year the chamber has been able to hold the full event inside at the lodge since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"During 2020 and 2021, we had drive-by Clausing," said Eva Sebesta, executive director of the chamber, explaining that families with kids drove up to Mrs. Claus to receive their goodie bags and treats passed through vehicle windows.

School band concert on Dec. 15

ELY- The Ely Band Department will host a holiday music concert "with a twist," on Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington Elementary School Auditorium.

The concert will feature holiday classics made famous by musicians like Bing Crosby, Mariah Carey, Percy Grainger, Franz Gruber and others. The evening's program is on a free-will donation basis.

Ely Folk School Holiday Party

ELY- The folk school will hold a party at Semers Park Beach on Dec. 10 from 2 to 5 p.m. The event is free and features dog sled rides, a bonfire, Ojibwe snow snakes demos and more. Gloff, hot cocoa and snacks will be served.



Mark Larson helps Harper Kainz at last year's event. submitted photo

Kids Christmas Workshop on Sunday at Grace Lutheran

ELY- All kids Welcome at the Christmas workshop for kids at the Grace Lutheran Church in Ely on Sunday, Dec. 11 from 1 to 4 p.m. The event is ideal for preschool through 6th graders to make gifts for \$0.75 cents each for parents, friends,

relatives, teachers or someone special. Bring your list. Gifts will be wrapped and labeled with a tag.

Adults may wait in the living room for older children that want their gift to be a surprise.

Volunteers are need-

ed, either teens or adults, to assist at the tables. You can bring your own ideas or use one that we have ready to go.

Volunteers should contact Mary if you want to assist kids at a table at (218)235-1770 or mary-larson@gmail.com.

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.

HOLIDAY MERRIMENT

It's beginning to look a lot like



SNOW CITY CHRISTMAS

Orr's annual holiday festival on Sat., Dec. 3 was a big hit with attendees, many of whom called the parade the best in recent memory. "What an amazing fun-filled day we had," said event organizer Melissa Rabas. The Orr Lions Club sponsored the parade and Santa's visit.

Top left: This gingerbread house took first prize in the parade.

Top center: Rylie and Josie Gibson were elves.

Top right: Kiley Kopatz is looking for more children to hurl candy to.

Middle right: Santa Claus strikes a thoughtful pose as he listens to the wish list of three-year-old Knox Gervais.

Lower right: The bear head may look fierce, but Jace Pierchee stayed warm as the temperature hovered near zero degrees at parade time.

Lower left: Heather Fealy and Dawson.

photos by D. Colburn



SANTA'S WORKSHOP

The Jolly Old Elf paid a visit to Cook Community Center on Sunday, Dec. 4, courtesy of the Cook Friends of the Parks. Thanks to community donations, the event was free and very well attended.

Top left: Ladd, Pippa and Luke Pretti flash big smiles for a photo with Santa Claus.

Top right: Mike Hanson gave rides in his horse-drawn wagon.

Bottom right: Leann Tonn and baby Roxy.

Bottom left: Tom Elf and Caroline Elf (no relation, said Tom).
photos by D. Colburn



COMMUNITY EVENTS

School thespians to host Saturday film fundraiser

FIELD TWP- Have you ever wanted to escape to the Land of Oz and do it for a good cause?

North Woods School One Act Plays will be showing The Wizard of Oz this Saturday, Dec. 10 from 6-8 p.m. to raise money for props and costumes for their upcoming competition in January. There will be snacks and drinks available to purchase.

Blood drive coming Monday to North Woods

FIELD TWP- The North Woods School National Honor Society is hosting a Memorial Blood Drive on Monday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Anyone ages 16 years old

and older is eligible to donate. If you are interested, sign up online at www.mbcherohub.club/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/70239.

Cook book club to meet on Dec. 13

COOK- The Cook area book club will meet next on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 1 p.m. at the Cook Community Center, 510 Gopher Dr. The book for discussion is "While Justice Sleeps" by Stacey Abrams.

"While Justice Sleeps" is a gripping thriller set within the halls of the U.S. Supreme Court. Abrams has crafted a novel layered with myriad twists and a vibrant cast of characters. She has drawn on her inside knowledge of the courts and political landscape.

The book for the month of January will be "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles.

NWFA to host open house on Dec. 20

COOK- Northwoods Friends of the Arts invites the community to participate in two events at the NWFA Gallery on Tuesday, Dec. 20.

The arts organization will host an open house from 5-7 p.m. and will be serving refreshments.

Prior to that, beginning at 3:30 p.m. come join the discussion for input into plans for future classes and events during the NWFA business meeting. It's your opportunity to help shape and support the arts in the Cook area.

The gallery is brimming with crafts and original works of pottery, carvings and wood

turnings, greeting cards, quilts, aprons, sculptures and paintings by over 30 artists. The special exhibit for December features the Judy Moline collection of unframed watercolor paintings donated to NWFA by Moline's family.

Also during December see "second hand rose" greatly admired and gently used items. Visit and browse during regular winter hours on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The gallery is located at 210 S River St.

Orr Center hosts a walk-through wonderland in Dec.

ORR- "Wendyl's Wonderland," a life-sized discovery adventure based on a fanciful tale of long-

time 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.wendylswonderland.com.

Library basket auction and raffle ends on Dec. 15w

COOK- Time is running out to get in on the Holiday Basket fundraiser at the Cook Public Library, sponsored by the Friends of the Cook Public Library.

Thursday, Dec. 15 is the last day to buy tickets for a silent auction of holiday-themed baskets and a raffle. Ticket sales end that day at 5 p.m. Winners will be notified and need not be present to win.

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

CITY OF TOWER

Council okays new ambulance purchase

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council here gave a unanimous green light at a special meeting on Monday to the purchase of a new ambulance before the end of the year.

The council took the action at the recommendation of the Tower Ambulance Commission, which is comprised of local townships included in the Tower Ambulance Service's coverage area. Ambulance director Dena Suihkonen told the council that the condition of the service's 2013 ambulance continues to deteriorate, and a 2005 rig is currently being used only in emergencies given its condition. The 2013 vehicle currently has about 120,000 miles on it, but it's likely to have considerably more by the time the new ambulance arrives.

Currently, delivery of a new rig is running about 12-18 months

after order.

Ambulance Commission members have indicated they want the service to have two reliable ambulances and the condition of the 2013 rig has continued to worsen over time. Suihkonen told the *Timberjay* this week that the company that produced the rig for Tower in 2013 no longer exists and that the vehicle's electronics, including its heat and air conditioning, no longer function as they were designed. Electrical outlets in the rig routinely short out and drain the batteries that are supposed to power life-saving equipment. Cabinets in the back of the rig have been separating from the side walls and have had to be glued and screwed back into place several times.

The vehicle also lacks an auto-loading cot, which makes the job of patient transfer much easier on the ambulance service personnel. The new rig will

include an auto-loading cot, noted Suihkonen.

The area townships, with the exception of Greenwood Township, have agreed to double their ambulance subsidy payments in the coming year in order to close the funding gap for the purchase of the new rig. Suihkonen said she will also be asking Fortune Bay to double its annual contribution next year to help pay for the new rig. Council member Kevin Norby said even with the additional contributions, the city will be short about \$15,000-\$20,000, which it will need to find somewhere else. Greenwood Township refused to pay any of its subsidy this year and has given no indication if it intends to start making payments in the future. The township is withholding payments out of a stated concern that the city hasn't provided a business plan or been willing to sign a hold harmless

provision that would protect the township from liability if one of their first responders commits an error on an ambulance scene. Unlike first responders in some area townships, some Greenwood first responders are not members of the Tower Ambulance, so the service does not oversee their training.

"We would have the full purchase price [of the ambulance] if Greenwood participated," noted Suihkonen.

Despite questions about financing, Suihkonen said the cost of ambulances has been rising and that another price increase is scheduled with the new year. She said the cost of a new ambulance had already jumped \$10,000 since they received an updated quote earlier this year.

Norby noted that the city wouldn't be paying for the ambulance for at least a year, so it would have time to resolve the

financing question. All together, the new vehicle is expected to cost approximately \$250,000.

Suihkonen said the Ambulance Commission had considered both a 2024 Chevy and a Ford model and had opted in favor of purchasing the Ford. Council member Joe Morin questioned whether Suihkonen had discussed that choice with Mike Igo, who services the city's ambulances. Suihkonen said she would consult with Igo prior to making the final order, but the council authorized the purchase unless he raised considerable objection to the purchase of the Ford.

In other action at Monday's special meeting, the council met in a budget session to help set priorities for the 2023 budget, but made no decisions. The council is expected to approve next year's budget and its 2023 levy at its regular meeting set for Monday, Dec. 12.

GARAGE...Continued from page 1

be fully operational ahead of next winter.

With much of the materials ordered and remaining work bid out, Skelton said it now appears the construction cost will come in right around \$10.7 million. That's considerably more than the \$8 million original engineer's estimate but is slightly less than the \$11 million county officials were anticipating earlier this year when material

prices were rising sharply. That estimate included some contingency dollars that Skelton said he's now hoping won't need to be spent.

As progress continues on the new building, county officials have been working towards a possible purchase of the existing county facility in Tower by the city. Skelton said he expects to have an appraisal of the facility completed later this

month, which will form the basis for negotiations between the county and the city.

"We're not looking to make money on it, but the county is looking for a fair price," said Skelton, "recognizing that we're dealing with a local government."

Most of the buildings at the current county facility, located just off Marina Drive, on the city's west end, were built in the

1990s and appear to be in good repair. Between the main office and repair facility, the cold storage warehouse and a 10,000 square-foot salt dome, the facility would provide the city with over 19,000 square-feet of indoor space, including 4,700 square-feet of heated space in the main office and repair garage. Currently, the city has approximately 4,080 square-feet of heated space

for its fire and ambulance service and public works combined. The city also has approximately 5,500 square-feet of cold storage in two dilapidated metal pole buildings, both of which were built in the first half of the 1980s. City officials in Tower briefly discussed the possible purchase of the facility during a budget session on Monday. Tower Mayor Dave Setterberg said this

week that he expects the possible purchase of the facility and accompanying acreage to be on the city agenda at an upcoming council meeting.

Skelton said the Embarrass garage, which is among the oldest county garages still in operation, will likely be sold for whatever anyone is willing to pay for it.

RECOUNT...Continued from page 1

outside or do something and somebody else would come sit and watch. They stay fresh that way."

The recounts in St. Louis, Cook, Koochiching, and Itasca counties were over by Tuesday afternoon, and no vote totals were changed for either candidate. While the recount in Lake County was incomplete as the *Timberjay* went to press on Wednesday,

with 88 percent of the district's vote already counted and showing no change, a race-changing result in Lake County appeared highly unlikely.

Secretary of State Steve Simon, quoted in the Nov. 26 edition of the *Timberjay*, noted that by the time the ballots get to a recount they have already gone through a county canvass of results, followed

by hand audits of selected precincts, followed by the second and final canvass at the state level.

Ecklund, first elected to the House in 2015, served four terms as the District 3A representative, most recently serving as the chair of the Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy committee. Had he been re-elected to the

DFL-controlled House he would have either retained that chairmanship or been assigned to chair a different committee and would have had a greater level of influence on legislation.

Skraba's apparent win was a bright spot in an otherwise dismal election for Republicans, who not only failed to win the House or the governorship, but also lost control of the Senate,

dealing a huge blow to their efforts to advance a conservative agenda in a state government now controlled by the DFL.



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CANNABIS...Continued from page 1

selling in capacities that are allowed under state law."

Klun said that the purpose of the temporary moratorium was to give the city time to explore its options and to study the issue more deeply: "We'd like time to be able to establish an ordinance. So, we're asking for the City Council

to approve (the moratorium) to March 7, 2023.

Klun also explained that the moratorium would be for new cannabinoid businesses only. It would not affect businesses that have already been permitted in the city and have established cannabinoid sales: "This moratorium

would allow for current existing sales. So, if you have this product currently on your shelf, that product may remain."

In part, the moratorium was prompted by a first responder call in the city for a CDB overdose, according to information provided by Ely Fire Chief

Dave Marshall.

The temporary resolution for a moratorium on new cannabinoid sales permits passed the city council unanimously.

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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.

GREEN ENERGY

Group offers new vision for former LTV site

Proposal would replace planned PolyMet mine with a green energy hub

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— An environmental group that has fought the proposed PolyMet copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes for years, is proposing to convert the former LTV site, including the processing plant and the massive tailings pile to a green energy hub with related spin-off businesses, instead of a mine.

The non-profit Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, or MCEA, isn't offering to build such a facility itself, but the group suggests that subsidies included in recent federal legislation could provide the incentives to make such a facility viable for a company or another organization that wants to take on such a project. They released their proposal, which they have dubbed "Sundog" in hopes of starting a conversation around an alternative future for the former industrial site.

"Sundog is a positive vision for a sustainable future on the Iron Range," said Aaron Klemz, chief strategy officer at MCEA. "The LTV Erie site offers an opportunity to leverage federal and state funds to deploy Minnesota-made solar panels and Minnesota-mined iron for battery storage, in service of developing a world-leading, low-carbon iron and steel industry."

The MCEA submitted a petition to Gov. Walz nearly a year ago, calling for the state to "move on" from PolyMet's proposed use of the site. The group notes that the state has looked at a number of alternatives for the site since the LTV Erie taconite operation closed in 2001. "There have been a succession of failed proposals on or near the closed plant site,



An artist's depiction of the conversion of the former LTV mine site into a green energy hub. Image courtesy Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

including a coal gasification powerplant, a green biochemistry plant, and a siding plant. Each of these failed proposals was given significant public subsidies, but all failed," noted MCEA in a press statement issued late last week. "Meanwhile, water pollution from the LTV Erie tailings basin continues to flow downstream, unabated."

MCEA says that their proposal "recognizes the urgent need to transition to carbon-free electricity in order to address the climate crisis while taking advantage of the affordability of solar power." MCEA argues that its alternative vision would provide long-term, sustainable employment, which would include the environmental clean-up of the site.

Specifically, the Sundog proposal calls for:

- ▶ A 300-400 megawatt solar array and wind facility on the brownfield plant site and existing tailings basin.

- ▶ A means of providing for energy storage, either through the construction of iron-air batteries, the production of carbon-free hydrogen, or pumped hydro storage to smooth out the peaks and valleys of renewable energy production.

- ▶ Use of hydrogen and carbon-free electricity to fuel a carbon-free Minnesota-made steel industry.

PolyMet spokesperson Bruce Richardson said his company shares MCEA's desire for a sustainable future and argues that PolyMet's proposal is a key part of that future. "One of the first steps in the transition to clean energy and sustainability is the

responsible production of raw materials needed in the manufacture of clean energy technologies -- clean energy metals like copper, nickel and cobalt that PolyMet's NorthMet deposit will yield," said Richardson. "Clean energy generation like solar farms depend on these metals, for which demand is soaring; we're focused on getting our fully permitted project through the remaining pieces of litigation and under construction so we can feed this supply chain."

A long-term vision

MCEA's Klemz acknowledges that the vision the group is outlining is a long way from reality and that there are many critical steps that would have to be completed to bring it to life. MCEA has not completed a feasibility study of their proposal,

but Klemz notes that likely won't be possible as long as PolyMet controls the site. The MCEA vision could potentially play out once either the state or federal government ended up with the site, at which time the lengthy environmental cleanup would likely get underway.

At the same time, Klemz said the group has had talks with a wide range of relevant parties and experts, including investors, solar developers, and utilities and asked them to assess the viability of aspects of the plan. Can you install a solar array of this size? The answer is yes," he said. "But we don't have a partner to announce at this point."

Klemz said MCEA recognizes that their vision is much different than past proposals for the site and that it will take some time for the public to consider the idea. "Our goal is to start the conversations, to spark the imagination and change the story about what's possible."

Whether MCEA's plan would generate as many jobs as a copper-nickel mine is unclear. Klemz said the construction phase of the project could create as many as 500-600 jobs, while clean-up of the site would provide considerable additional jobs. Operation and maintenance of the solar array would entail far fewer jobs, maybe 10-20, but potential spinoffs, such as hydrogen production and green steel could generate far more jobs and provide an entirely new industry for the Iron Range.

For now, Klemz said MCEA is interested in talking with anyone about its vision. "We are happy to talk to any group about this idea. We want feedback on it. We want to hear what people like about it and what they don't like about it," he said.

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LEGISLATURE

Hauschild tapped for Tax Committee

State Sen.-elect Grant Hauschild, DFL of Hermantown, announced this week that he's been appointed to the Senate Tax Committee, a coveted position not traditionally offered to freshman lawmakers. Hauschild overcame the unwritten rule to attain the top committee assignment.

"The Taxes Committee plays a key role in determining our state's budget and finances," said Hauschild. "I look forward to serving on this critical committee for our region as we look at protecting our Taconite Assistance and Tax Relief Area, eliminating the double-tax on Social Security income, providing property tax relief for homeowners, increase Local Government Aid for cities and protecting other important investments across northern Minnesota."

With historic budget surpluses in Minnesota, Hauschild will play a key role in determining the financial priorities for the state while serving on the tax committee.

Tax policy is very important for the Northland, said Hauschild. Area communities receive Local Government Aid, or LGA, that assists with funding for key priorities. This is particularly important for smaller rural towns that lack the revenue streams of larger cities. Similarly, counties receive Payments in Lieu of Taxes, or PILT, on public land that play a key role in funding county services.

"As a member of the Taxes Committee and Majority in the Senate, I look forward to ensuring the Northland receives its fair share of money from St. Paul," said Hauschild.

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

MIDCO fiber internet goes live in Ely

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY - MIDCO, the newest fiber internet provider operating in Ely, announced the start of fiber hookups on Monday. The firm, one of two fiber providers in the city, recently completed a two-year project to install fiber infrastructure throughout the city.

Fiber rollout

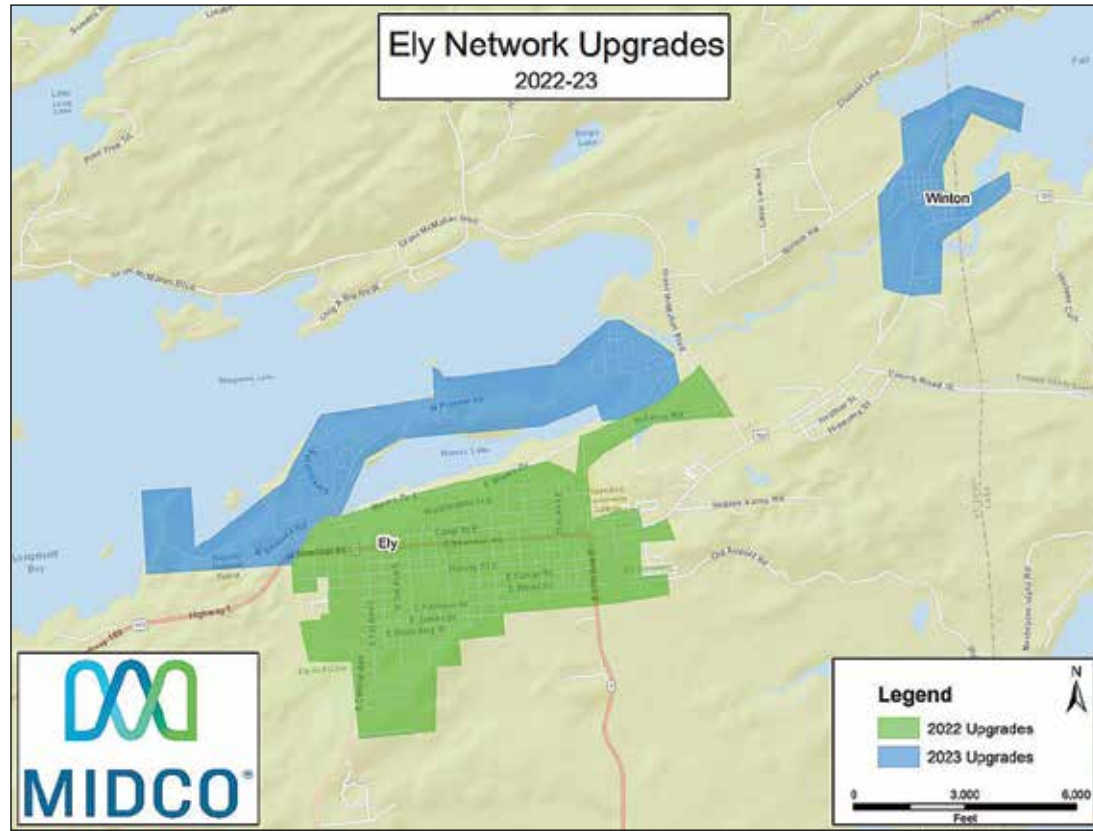
“Our first customers gained access to fiber internet starting Nov. 29, and we’re rolling out fiber to more customers every week through February,” stated Tenille Manning Heier, MIDCO’s director of corporate communications in an email. “Ely residents will be notified as they gain access to fiber.”

MIDCO plans to provide initial fiber connections to service groupings of 60 to 120 houses on a rolling basis.

“We’d like to do 1,000 connections by Christmas,” said Cole Mack, MIDCO’s VP for field engineering and construction, who works out of Bemidji. Mack said that the company’s fiber service area includes 2,500 homes in Ely and Winton.

Existing customers will receive notification that a fiber hookup is available through their preferred communication channel with the firm. MIDCO will also initiate a marketing campaign about fiber availability to potential new customers.

To handle the anticipated



volume of connections, Mack said, “We’re bringing in crews to do the work.” The crews are from other MIDCO offices in the northern Minnesota region coming in to supplement the firm’s Ely field service staff of three plus their manager.

Improved service

The known service improvement of a fiber internet connection is the speed.

“We currently offer plans

for up to five gigabits per second (Gbps). Of course, most people don’t need those speeds,” Mack said. He added that many modems can’t handle that top speed – yet.

“The technology will catch up, but we built this network to last through the end of the century.”

In addition to higher speeds, the fiber service will offer a 100-percent high-density video service branded as MidcoTV plus

a “home wireless solution,” Mack remarked, since the fiber modems MIDCO can provide have much greater reach than older cable modems.

Mack said that the unseen story on the service is MIDCO’s new “back-end” infrastructure that has built-in redundancy: “(For coax-cable infrastructure), Ely was isolated. We suffered service losses in 2019 and 2020 because of this. Since last year,

we’ve been getting a new back-end network in place.”

MIDCO wanted outages to be a thing of the past. To achieve that, the new network uses two leased fiber lines from the Northeast Services Cooperative, one coming in from International Falls and one coming up from Duluth. On top of these two fiber cables, MIDCO has installed its own network equipment including all its own fiber cable throughout Ely and its environs.

“The big highlight is that there are now two paths for internet into Ely,” Mack stated. “Our equipment is redundant, so even if one (into Ely) goes down, service will be uninterrupted as it continues on the other line. The new network is also passive, meaning that it doesn’t depend on city power like the old coax lines. If the city power goes down, we have our own power plus local back-up generators to keep the network live.”

Future plans

While MIDCO will offer fiber connections in the City of Ely this winter, the firm will also continue to expand its fiber internet service area. “We will be expanding across the northside of Miners Lake in the spring and summer of 2023,” said Mack. Winton will also be included in the 2023 expansion.

STATE FINANCE

New state budget surplus projection tops \$17 billion

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A state budget surplus once pegged at \$7.7 billion has soared to a historic record of \$17.6 billion for the upcoming biennium starting in 2023, giving the DFL-controlled Minnesota Legislature and Gov. Tim Walz an unprecedented opportunity to shape budget and policy changes for years to come.

“Today’s news is proof that Minnesota’s economy is strong and growing,” said Walz on Tuesday after the announcement of the surplus was made by the state’s Management and Budget Office (MBO). “The case for sending money back to Minnesotans

to help with rising costs has never been stronger. Together, we have a golden opportunity to do that while also investing in our workforce, our schools, and our kids – all while lowering costs for our middle-class families, small businesses, and seniors.”

While Walz said he remains cognizant of future economic uncertainties, he intends to move decisively to allocate funds for present and future needs.

“Being cautious and prudent is not an excuse for not making the investments that are fundamental to the growth of that economy,” Walz said.

The \$17.6 billion surplus includes approximately \$12 billion in

carryover funds from the current budget year.

The 2022 Legislature, with the House controlled by the DFL and the Senate controlled by Republicans, convened last January with a projected \$7.7 billion surplus that ballooned to \$9.25 million in February. While the parties reached a tentative agreement in May to use \$4 billion for tax cuts, they remained deeply divided over other issues and ended the session without a deal, leaving the \$9.25 billion untouched for the next legislative session. Increased tax revenue and decreased expenditures account for the balance of the carryover.

Walz, who will reveal his budget plan in late

January, is expected to again propose rebate checks for Minnesotans, as opposed to widespread tax cuts. Increased funding for education and child care, additional local government aid, and a possible tweak to the Social Security tax are also anticipated priorities for Walz.

House Speaker Melissa Hortman, DFL-Brooklyn Park, staked out issues surrounding the workforce as priorities for spending the surplus.

“A workforce shortage is constraining our economic growth, making it even more important that we focus on things that help Minnesotans enter and stay in the workforce — like job training, education, child

care assistance, paid family leave, and more,” Hortman said. “It is also a time to roll out the welcome mat for people who choose to move to Minnesota and expand our workforce.”

A bonding bill for capital projects will be on the table in 2023, and it’s possible some of the surplus could be used to fund more projects than the bonding bill the legislature passed on this year.

But Republicans immediately reinforced their intent to lobby for tax cuts, an issue the party campaigned on for using the surplus when the projected amount was much smaller.

“Minnesotans are

being massively overtaxed, and we should spend most of the next session working to give as much of it back to Minnesotans as possible,” said House Minority Leader Lisa Demuth, R-Cold Spring. “Tax hikes of any kind should be a complete non-starter. Families deserve their money back as they continue to deal with the high cost of groceries, home heating bills, and other everyday necessities.”

MBO will issue an updated budget projection in February which could adjust the projected surplus up or down.

FUNDING COMMUNITY NEWS

Blandin funds major news initiative through Northern Community Radio

REGIONAL— Grand Rapids-based Northern Community Radio has been awarded a \$500,000 Blandin Foundation grant to expand its news reporting to serve northern Minnesota communities.

Northern Community Radio, is a nonprofit National Public Radio affiliate that provides a wide mix of news, community coverage on radio stations KAXE in Grand Rapids and KBXE in Bemidji.

The three-year Blandin grant will allow for the creation of the Northern Community News Initiative, which will include the hiring of reporters and editors to cover communities that are often lacking regular news coverage.

“We have limited capacity right now to fulfill the role of watchdog in our communities,” said Heidi Holtan, News Director for KAXE. Additional funding

means the build-out of a newsroom and website with qualified journalists and editors. Local stories get missed every day that could make a difference in the future. We are beyond thrilled.”

“Unlike the traditional news model, community radio has the infrastructure that can be sustained through grants, individual and business contributions that do not interfere in editorial content. We invest in our community because we care about the place we live,” said Sarah Bignall, CEO/General Manager of Northern Community Radio. “We can leverage our 46 years of experience and relationships, and deliver content in a variety of ways to meet the multimedia needs of today’s audience. We are excited for the future and how we can serve our communities better.”

Holtan notes that many

small towns have no newspaper or locally owned news source. “We know local news is critical – it can help bridge divides that are fostered by social media and national partisan news sources,” said Holtan. “With the start-up help of foundations, KAXE is poised to expand to meet the needs of the community.”

Northern Community Radio operates radio station KAXE at 91.7 FM and KBXE at 90.5 FM as well as at kaxe.org and podcasts. Founded in 1976, KAXE has been telling the stories of the region for nearly half a century.

The Grand Rapids-based Blandin Foundation has a new strategic direction to align their resources toward a sustainable, equitable future for rural Minnesota.

Northern Community Radio has a commitment to the principle of diversity, as it creates a healthier

work environment. They welcome applications from all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sex, age, national origin, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies shock South Ridge

Jared Chiabotti hits 1,000th point Tuesday before big home crowd

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The bigger they are, the harder they fall. Never was that saying more true than last Friday in the North Woods boys' home hoops opener, when the undersized Grizzlies put an oversized beatdown on the South Ridge Panthers, 88-61.

A pair of South Ridge skyscrapers, 6'10" Austin Josephson and 6'9" Slayton Stroschein, created a buzz in the capacity crowd during warmups, and teamed up with 6'4" Ethan Nelson, the trio appeared to present a big obstacle for the Grizzlies, whose tallest players are Luke Will and Kaden Ratai at 6'3".

South Ridge won the opening tip and immediately dumped the ball in low to Stroschein, who scored an easy layup to put the Panthers up 2-0.

But when a long trey caromed off the rim on the Panthers' next possession, the Grizzlies' Louie Panichi grabbed

See **GRIZZ...**pg. 2B

Right: Jared Chiabotti smiles as he returns from the stands after collecting hugs from family and friends after scoring his 1,000th point early in Tuesday's contest with Bigfork.

photo by D. Colburn



BOYS BASKETBALL

Boys hoops return to NER

New coach is Northeast Range grad, canine officer with Babbitt PD

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

BABBITT- Northeast Range School is sending its high school basketball girls to play with the Ely Timberwolves this year. Yet the Nighthawks gym still resounds with the sounds of bouncing balls and swishing nets, thanks to a bunch of boys who just want to play basketball and a former NER player who believes passionately in the value of team sports.

Cody Siebert, the canine officer for the Babbitt Police Department, knows those sounds all too well as a 2011 NER graduate and former player. He can't remember a time in his youth without basketball.

"I was in the gym since I was a kid and could walk," Siebert said. "I've played bas-

Top: NER's Danny Daniels races past a Floodwood player.

Right: NER's Cameron Posey puts up a jumper.

photos by D. Colburn

ketball my whole life."

Siebert didn't just embrace the game, however. He embraced the life lessons taught to him by his coaches.

"The biggest impact I had on my life were my coaches. I wouldn't have gotten to where I'm at without them supporting me and pushing me along the way," Siebert said. "I became an officer now in the city and I never would have gone down any of those routes without playing sports. I don't know where I'd be without sports, to be honest."

See **'HAWKS ...**pg. 2B



BOYS BASKETBALL

Wolves rout Floodwood in season opener

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

FLOODWOOD — The Timberwolves kicked off their 2022-23 season in good form here on Monday as they thoroughly dominated the Polar Bears on their home hardwood in a 72-32 rout. After a few opening game jitters early, Ely exploded in the rest of the first half to rack up a 37-6 margin by the half. "We settled down quickly and played well defensively and got into the flow of some offense," said Head Coach Tom McDonald. "We shot the ball pretty well all night and Joey did a nice job of getting to the rim against their defense."

Six-foot-one senior Joey Bianco, who led all Ely scorers last season with an average of 22.9 points per game, notched a double-double with 32 points and ten rebounds in addition to five assists. Sophomore Caid Chittum

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

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies notch first win over Cook County

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods girls basketball team steamrolled their way to their first victory of the season at home last week against Cook County, but then took one on the chin in a Tuesday loss at Bigfork.

Smarting from their season-opening loss against Chisholm, the Cook County game on Thursday, Dec. 1 was just what the doctor ordered to get the Grizzlies' machine rolling. After Helen Koch hit a long two-pointer to start the game, center Hannah Kinsey outraced everyone for a fast break bucket and River Cheney drained a two to stake

See **NW GIRLS...**pg. 2B

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wolves at 2-1 in opening week

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY — The Timberwolves dominated Greenway here on Tuesday night as they relied on a solid defensive performance to keep the Raiders in check, 62-28 to improve to 2-1 on the young season.

"We played great team defense," said Ely Head Coach Max Gantt. "(The players) trusted each other

and moved the ball well on offense. We played with focus and discipline on both ends and hope to be able to continue to build on this win as it has been the best we've looked so far."

Tuesday's win came on the heels of a tough loss to Two Harbors on Saturday. The Agates' Karly Holm dominated play throughout the match, using slap steals and breakaway layups to pour in 30 points as she led

her team to a 66-47 win in Ely.

"We struggled getting to the basket and getting open," remarked Gantt about the game afterward. "We turned the ball over because of it and they got some easy buckets in transition off our turnovers and bad shots. It's only game two, so we know we need to get better, and we will improve."

Ely's Madeline Perry led scoring for the Wolves,

Right: Ely's Grace LaTourell takes a jumper under pressure from a Two Harbors defender on Saturday in Ely.

photo by C. Clark

with 14 points, while Grace LaTourell tallied 13.

The junior varsity contest with Two Harbors did have a notable moment

See **ELY GIRLS...**pg. 2B



'HAWKS..Continued from page 1B

Siebert said he knew he wasn't good enough to play for an NCAA Division I school when he graduated. Instead, he focused on the professional goal of becoming a law enforcement officer, obtaining his bachelor's degree from St. Cloud State. He hadn't planned on returning to Babbitt, but when a spot opened up with the police department, Siebert couldn't pass it up.

His work as a canine officer has included a lot of time at NER, where the seeds for resurrecting the boys hoops team, terminated five years ago, were sown.

"I've been in and out of the school and got to know the kids through that," Siebert said. "They had mentioned wanting to play basketball, and I remember sitting down two years ago trying to convince other people to start it up. Finally I said it's either me or nobody, so I picked it up and rolled with it."

He started last year with a junior varsity level



Northeast Range Head Boys Basketball Coach Cody Siebert talks to his players during a break in last week's home opener against Floodwood. photo by D. Colburn

team with 18 kids that played a few games and scrimmages. Nine of them decided to make the jump to varsity level competition with him this year.

"We've got three eligible seniors, one junior, one sophomore, three ninth graders and one eighth grader," he said.

And because the kids were the ones who wanted

to play, Siebert said practices so far have been spirited.

"They're the ones pushing it the most and they're doing a good job," he said.

Season opener

On Thursday, Dec. 1, six of the team's players suited up and hit the home hardwoods for the first game of the season against

Floodwood in front of a tiny but enthusiastic group of fans.

With no varsity experience and a limited bench, Siebert's squad battled hard but quickly fell behind, trailing 39-11 at the half.

But Siebert's mantra during timeouts, "Just have fun out there," appeared to sink in the second half, particularly with

Floodwood's bench getting more and more playing time.

The Nighthawks' floor general was Wyatt Martin, and his up-tempo style was punctuated with slashing drives to the basket for shots or to draw defenders to him for passes to open teammates.

"He's been playing since he was little and he's a really good ball handler and very knowledgeable of the game," Siebert said. "It's wonderful to have him there."

Scattered shouts of encouragement came sporadically from the stands, and cheers echoed in the rafters as Martin, Danny Daniels, and Logan Meskill hoisted up three-balls that connected. Martin ended up hitting for 27 points in the contest.

The Nighthawks nearly tripled their scoring in the second half, and although they wound up on the losing end of a 74-40 contest, they won a different and perhaps more important victory that

night: They brought boys basketball back to NER.

"First games are always the toughest," Siebert said. "But I saw the hustle – they're down by 30 points and they never quit. I told them to put a full court press on and they just got more amped up with it. That was a good thing to see. There's really not much negative we can take out of it. Sure, we lost, but there's not much negative when it's the first game for practically a new team."

Siebert appreciates the challenge, and knows there will likely be more such losses in the weeks ahead. But the lessons to be taught are larger than how to shoot a free throw or run an inbounds play, and Siebert's easygoing style is well-suited to the task. "With a brand-new team, you can only go up," he said, then laughed. "And I can't do too bad at my job, I guess. But it's a lot of fun, and we're learning every single day."

GRIZZ..Continued from page 1B

the loose ball and streaked the length of the court for a layup to knot the score, and the game was on.

South Ridge called time out with the score tied at 13-13. Jared Chiabotti had dropped in seven points, including a trey, to keep North Woods in the thick of the battle, while Josephson and Stroschein had all the Panthers' points.

From that point on, the Grizzlies' performance on both ends of the court was exacting and unrelenting.

Ratai put the Grizzlies on top 15-13 with a nifty assist from Jonah Burnett on the Grizzlies' first possession after the time out, and Burnett and Chiabotti scored on the next two trips down for a 19-15 lead. Burnett scored again on a 12-foot jumper to give North Woods a 25-19 advantage, and then stepped in front of a driving Josephson to draw a charge and send the big man to the bench with his third foul at the 7:50 mark.

At 6:07, Burnett started a streak in which he scored ten points in four consecutive possessions. Stepping to the line after being fouled on a shot, Burnett hit the first free throw and missed the second, but North Woods retained possession when South Ridge deflected the rebound out

of bounds. Burnett was fouled shooting again and drained both charities this time for the three-point trip. The next trip down Burnett was fouled on a made bucket and converted the free throw. Then he was fouled again while shooting and went 1-for-2 at the line. On the fourth possession, Burnett dialed it up from three feet behind the arc for a trey that put North Woods up by a dozen, 35-23.

South Ridge closed the gap to seven, but North Woods stretched the lead to 16 on a three-ball by Panichi and another bucket by Burnett before South Ridge hit a late three to head into the half trailing the Grizzlies 46-33.

The Grizzlies' swarming defense was outstanding as they built the lead, holding the Panthers' twin towers to just four points in the final eight minutes of the half and limiting South Ridge to single shots with tenacious rebounding, which also contributed to the Grizzlies' offensive surge.

South Ridge effectively worked the ball to their big men early in the second half, but North Woods countered with a barrage of threes from Brenden Chiabotti, Jared Chiabotti, and Will to go up 59-44.

Every time South

Ridge scored, the Grizzlies answered and continued to build their lead. A goal tending call against the Panthers made the score 70-52, and Jared Chiabotti put the Grizzlies up 80-59 with a fast break score. Ratai and reserve Eli Smith each scored a pair of buckets down the stretch to finish out the 88-61 win, the first under the North Woods banner for new Head Coach Andrew Jugovich.

No statistic speaks better to the Grizzlies' herculean effort than rebounding. Guards Panichi and Jared Chiabotti, both listed at 5'10", led North Woods in rebounding with nine apiece, just two shy of foot taller Josephson's 11 for South Ridge, and the Grizzlies cleaned up on the glass, snagging 48 rebounds to the Panthers' 37.

North Woods forced 23 turnovers that they turned into 28 points, while taking good care of the basketball themselves, committing only eight miscues.

Five Grizzlies scored in double figures, led by Burnett with 22. Jared Chiabotti was right on his heels with 21, Ratai had 12, Panichi had 11, and Will had 10.

"We want to outwork everybody and that showed tonight," Jugovich said.

"They were big, so we had to get them tired. I saved all my time outs until about 10 minutes left in the game because I feel our guys are conditioned enough with our rotation that they can run and gun with anybody in the section."

Jugovich praised the play of Burnett.

"He is a really strong athletic kid, stronger than most people realize," he said. "We've been working in practice that anytime he goes in he's got to be strong, and tonight he showed his tenacity and his heart to take the big guys over and over again."

The Grizzlies' offense fed off their passing game, Jugovich noted.

"Our shooters shot well tonight, and I give a lot of credit to Brenden and Luke," Jugovich said. "They were finding open guys, whether to take it to the basket and dish it to Kaden or finding the open guy in the corner or the wing. I'm really proud of them doing that tonight."

Bigfork

The highlight of the Grizzlies' 96-68 home win over Bigfork came early when senior Jared Chiabotti scored the 1,000th point of his career, and his seven-point journey to get there put his versatility on full display.

Chiabotti opened the Grizzlies' scoring by taking a pass in the lane and maneuvering to the left baseline for a mid-range jumper. He inched two points closer to the mark when he came up with a loose ball on the Huskies' end and streaked for a fast break layup. It was fitting that his defense set up the capper by stealing the ball from a Bigfork player. Pushing the ball down-court, he pulled up behind the arc and drained a trey to achieve the milestone. Officials stopped play momentarily for his teammates, coaches, and fans to celebrate.

"I can't be more proud of him," Jugovich said. "A thousand points is a lot, and with everything he's gone through with COVID seasons and small injuries and everything, I'm happy he can get it."

But while the margin of victory was similar to that of the South Ridge game, the Grizzlies' performance was markedly different. What appeared to be a rout in the making at 18-2 turned into a shockingly close affair aided in large part by North Woods turnovers and defensive lapses. Bigfork closed the gap to 39-30 at the half, and at the 12:48 mark of the second half the North Woods lead was

down to 54-47.

But an NBA-range three-ball by Brenden Chiabotti seemed to wake the Grizzlies from their slumber, and when Burnett went on a tear by scoring ten points in about 90 seconds, North Woods had a 72-52 cushion and breezed from there.

Jugovich struck a distinctly different tone in his postgame comments.

"Probably 30 points of theirs at least came off our 30 to 40 turnovers. I give credit to Bigfork, they shot lights out, they played good defense. When we finally were able to break it down, that's when we started pulling ahead, but it shouldn't take until 10 minutes left in the game to start breaking it down."

Jugovich said the Grizzlies' lackluster performance was on him.

"We should have prepared more," he said. "That comes from me. We didn't prepare enough, and when we start off 18-2 and by halftime it's 39-30, there's stuff that we have to work on."

Burnett scorched the nets for 37 points, and Jared Chiabotti drained 28, a combined two points shy of equaling Bigfork's game total. Brendan Chiabotti hit for 12 in the Grizzlies' win.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

racked up 14 points while senior Jason Kerntz tallied 13. Senior Erron Anderson added seven boards.

It was an auspicious

start for the Timberwolves, who finished at 15-12 last season but who were knocked out in the opening round of the playoffs.

This year's varsity squad includes five seniors, three juniors, a sophomore, and a freshman.

The Wolves were set to

host International Falls on Thursday, with a 7:15 p.m. varsity start. They travel to Two Harbors on Saturday, with a 2:30 p.m. varsity

start. They'll be back home next Friday to take on Northeast Range, with a 7 p.m. start and no B-squad prior. The Northeast Range

boys squad is back after a five-year hiatus under the tutelage of Head Coach Cody Siebert.

NW GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

North Woods to a 6-0 lead, and they never trailed.

With the lead at 21-16, the Grizzlies stomped on the accelerator. Cheney, Kinsey, Brynn Chosa, Kiana LaRoque, and Addison Burckhardt all scored in a 15-0 blitz to balloon the margin to 20, 36-16, holding the Vikings scoreless for over four minutes. North Woods led 38-22 at the half.

The Grizzlies got on the board quickly in the second half when Cheney scored on a putback on their first possession, and thus began what would be a nightmarish 18 minutes for the Vikings.

A Cook County fast break score at 17:05 was the

start of an abysmal scoring collapse as the Vikings hit only two more shots the rest of the game. The Grizzlies' defense was a major cause of that collapse, contesting nearly every Vikings shot and crashing the defensive boards hard to limit Cook County to single shots on most trips down the floor.

Cheney and Kinsey were the big contributors to the North Woods offense in the second half as the Grizzlies steadily pulled away for a dominant 72-28 win.

Grizzlies Head Coach Liz Cheney was pleased to see her team play at an elevated level the entire game. "Something we've struggled with in the past has

been either falling down to a lower level than what we're capable of or just kind of slumping off a little bit," Cheney said.

Ball control was also a strong point for the Grizzlies, Cheney said.

Four Grizzlies scored in double figures, led by Kinsey with 19. LaRoque dropped in 13, Cheney scored 12, and Chosa had 11.

Bigfork

The Grizzlies were without the services of Kinsey when they traveled to Bigfork on Monday, but North Woods still appeared to match up well against the host Huskies.

But matchups don't handle the ball or score

points, and after a quick 4-0 start on baskets by Talise Goodsky and LaRoque, the Grizzlies were suddenly in short supply of both. The Huskies reeled off ten consecutive points before Chosa broke the string with a basket, and the next trip down the court she connected on a trey to pull North Woods within three at 12-9.

That's as close as North Woods would ever get, as Bigfork responded with a 9-0 run to go up 21-9. The Grizzlies managed to keep pace from there and went into the half down by 12, 32-20.

North Woods quickly cut that lead in half with more aggressive offense that generated two scores

from Cheney and another by LaRoque. But the Grizzlies couldn't sustain the promising start, and the Huskies used a devastating 21-4 run to go up 55-32. North Woods had no answers as Bigfork coasted from there to a 26-point win, 69-43.

"I was expecting a closer game," Coach Cheney said. "We just could not pick up momentum in that first half. We said at halftime that we need to take control of the game right away. We came out in the second half with some adjustments, and it was working for us. We only had 11 turnovers all game, which was huge coming off 33 turnovers against Chisholm, so that's

a success we're going to pull out of that game."

"I keep reminding myself that was just the third game of the season and we've got a long way to go," Cheney continued.

River Cheney topped North Woods scorers with 11 and Koch added nine.

ELY GIRLS..Continued from page 1B

at the very end, when Ely's Lydia Schultz connected on a last-second Hail Mary from mid-court to give Ely

a 43-41 victory.

The Wolves varsity looked solid in their home opener against Nashwauk-

Keewatin last Thursday.

"We won our first game 66-31 against Nashwauk Keewatin. We had a strong

first half and a slow second half, but it was a good first win and our first home game," said Gantt.



TOWER

Northern Lights Salon opens on Tower's Main Street

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Co-owner Nina Wycoff following in the footsteps of her mother

TOWER- They may be young, but these two women are bringing over a dozen years of experience to their new salon now open on Main Street. After working side-by-side at a salon in Virginia, 20-somethings Nina Wycoff and Katie Erickson have opened up their own business in Tower.

Nina (Helgerson) Wycoff is no stranger to Tower. Her mother, Bonnie (Theel) Overton, ran the La Bella Vita Salon in Tower for six years before having to close it due to some ongoing health issues. That salon location is now operated by Leanne Barsness.

"Nina wasn't ready to take it over when I had to close," said Bonnie, who was simply beaming with pride as her daughter sat her down in the salon chair for a color touch-up.

"I grew up in this business," said Wycoff, who also worked at The Tower Café while in high school. "The first haircut I ever gave was to Gary the barber."

Katie Erickson said she was drawn to a profession where she couldn't be replaced by technology.

"Plus," she said. "I figured you could find a job anywhere."

Erickson was that go-to friend in high school, the one who would do your hair and makeup for prom, or just show up early with a curling iron to do a friend's hair before classes started.

The two are keeping the business family-related on their first day.

"My dad is my first appointment on Tuesday," said Erickson, and Wycoff will be doing her mother Bonnie's hair for her first appointment. While they are both booked solid for their first week, plenty of appointments are available in the next few weeks.

The two met while working at the Laurentian Divide Salon and realized how well they



Above: Katie Erickson (left) and Nina Wycoff (right).

Right: Nina's first customer was her mother, Bonnie Overton, who used to have her own salon in Tower.

photos by J. Summit

worked together when taking on wedding party jobs.

"They are really high stress," said Erickson, "and we did so well together."

"I am so proud of both of these girls," said Bonnie. "They are a great team."

Wycoff, who has two young children, was ready to begin building her own business, but it was something she was reluctant to do on her own. She and her new partner figured they had the skills and newly built experience to open their own salon and build their own clientele.

The salon is located in the former South Shore Creamery building, which was renovated and opened for business two years ago by Tim and Britta-



ny Bastron. But the difficulties in running a seasonal business while living out of town, along with an almost doubling in the wholesale cost of ice cream, had them looking to rent out their retail space.

This came right at the time Wycoff and Erickson were deciding where to locate their new salon. They had earlier decided

not to locate near their former employer in Virginia, and Wycoff said Tower was high on their list of possible locations. The two were also excited to see other new businesses opening up in Tower, so they decided to land here.

With lots of help from Katie's father Bruce, a retired carpenter, and Nina's husband

Jack, who also has plenty of construction experience, the pair has turned the former ice cream parlor into a peaceful looking two-chair salon, with a private treatment room available for facials, waxing, and soon massage, which will be available by appointment.

They both have a keen desire to make their salon professional and welcoming. They said they go that extra-mile with their clients, listening to their needs, making sure they really understand what hairstyle they are looking for, and keeping them relaxed.

"When one of my clients falls asleep during a facial," said Erickson, "I know I have been doing a good job." Erickson said facials include a hand and foot massage. They both add in a scalp massage before a haircut.

The salon is not offering manicures and pedicures, because Harbor View Spa in Tower is now offering those services.

While there are already two existing salons in Tower, they both said there are still plenty of customers around for all three to stay successful.

The salon also is selling hair care products from Milkshake and Oya.

Services include cuts and styles for both men and women, color, facials (several types including peels, masks, and cleansing), and waxing.

Northern Lights Salon & Co. is located at 409 Main St., Tower. Hours are 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Friday, and by appointment on Saturday. The two are also taking appointments for wedding parties and other special events. For appointments or more information, call 218-244-0302 or visit www.northern-lights-salon.com to book online. Follow them on Instagram (@northernlightssalonco) and Facebook for further updates.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Brian C. Bakk

Brian C. Bakk, 66, of Minneapolis, formerly of Cook, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service.

He is survived by his wife, Jeri Lynn Bakk of Minneapolis; three sons, Dylan Bakk of Minneapolis, Taylor Bakk and Connor Bakk, both of Cook; granddaughter, Addisyn Bakk; sisters, Elizabeth Halik of Mt. Iron and Julie Marconett of Cook; and several cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Carl H. Herrala

Carl Henry Herrala, 86, of Ely, passed away on Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, at the Ely Hospital. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10 at Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Military Honors will be provided by the Ely Honor Guard.

He is survived by his son, James (Dawne) Buchfink of Fargo, N.D.; three grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brother, Calvin Herrala of Ely; sister, Shirley Ehrenberg of Wenatchee, Wash.; several nieces and nephews; and Cristy Borja, endeared daughter of a close friend.

Patricia Lammi

Patricia "Pat" Strezis-har Lammi, 88, a lifelong resident of Ely, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022, at Carefree Living in Ely. The family would like to thank the staff at Ely Carefree Living and Essentia Hospice. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 23 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. Memorials may be directed to the Ely Carefree Living activities department or St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Lois Lammi, Mary (Gary) Harms, Erin (Kevin) Mottram, Maximus and Jett, Jaime (Ben Wright) Harms, Crew and Colbie, Anne (Anthony) Houkom, Harper and Beckham, Amber (Ryan Butler) Harms, Rick (Shelly) Lammi, Becky Lammi, Zach (Anna) Lammi, Barbara (Jason) Larson, Pete (Jenna) Larson, Porter and Hayes, and Bob Lammi.

Cecile M. Strong

Cecile Marie Strong, 63, of Nett Lake, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022. A wake and funeral services were held on Wednesday, Dec. 7 and Thursday, Dec. 8 at the RTG building in Nett Lake. Casket bearers were her son-in-law,

Squidg Morrison, and nephews, Kent Lund, George Strong, Corey Strong, Ulysses Strong and Tom Nicolas. Honorary casket bearers were her other nephews, nieces, and only surviving sister, Carol Strong. Jared Bangs served as officiant. Burial was at the newer cemetery in Nett Lake. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her daughter, Kristen (Squidg Morrison) Strong; son, Kevin J. Strong; sister, Carol (Leonard Konecny) Strong; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Grace Cherne

Grace "Gracie" Axel-son Erzar Cherne, 101, passed away on Friday, Nov. 25, 2022, at Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

She is survived by seven children, Louie Erzar of Prescott, Ariz., Thomas (Marge) Erzar of Ely, Mike Erzar of Ely, Frederic (Cindy) Cherne of Grand Rapids, Mich., Chris (Traci) Cherne of Shiocton, Wis., Rebecca Thomas of San Francisco, Calif., and Connie (Thomas) Peters of Fargo, N.D.; fourteen grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren.



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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

Northern long-eared bat reclassified as endangered

Once common bat in Minnesota forests has been nearly wiped out by fungal disease

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced a final rule last week that reclassifies the northern long-eared bat from its earlier threatened status, to endangered. According to the USFWS, the long-eared bat has experienced the almost

total collapse of its wild populations throughout its U.S. range due to the deadly fungal disease known as white-nose syndrome. The fungus is named for the whitish fungal growth that develops around the mouth and nose of infected bats.

The forest-dwelling northern long-eared bat was common in northeastern Minnesota as recently as ten years ago, but popu-

lations in the region have plummeted since the arrival of the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome. The fungus attacks bats in their winter hibernacula and it has devastated bat populations in places such as the Soudan Mine, which used to be the winter home to an estimated 10,000-15,000 bats. Northern long-eared bats used to make up about five-to-ten percent of that

Right: A researcher holds a northern long-eared bat, a species now on the verge of extinction in much of its range due to white-nose syndrome.

population, but by 2019, DNR biologists reported finding not a single long-eared bat in the mine.

The few remaining

See **BATS...**pg. 5B



WILDERNESS HISTORY

A plan was approved a century ago...the BWCAW was the result

Arthur Carhart was dispatched to chart a recreation plan for the Superior

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A recreation plan issued just over a century ago by a then little-known landscape architect working at the time for the U.S. Forest Service, laid the groundwork for a revolutionary idea that reshaped a large swath of northeastern Minnesota.

In 1919, Arthur Carhart, of Iowa, was commissioned to develop a recreational plan for the recently-created Superior National Forest. It was the dawn of the automobile age and those who sent Carhart off into the forest were expecting a plan that would include the construction of roads to provide recreational access to the region's countless lakes. Indeed, at the time, a proposal for construction of a road from Ely to the Gunflint Trail was gaining momentum.

But after two three-week-long canoe trips through the heart of what is now the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, the first in 1919 and the second in 1921, Carhart came back with a much different idea. His plan, issued in May 1922, proposed not roads, but the establishment of a large permanently protected roadless area that would continue to be accessed by canoe for generations to come.

"Why can't the lakes become the roads?" Carhart asked. In his plan, Carhart noted with remarkable accuracy that the Superior "as a canoe country, would have few, if any competitors."

That plan, after several



Photos taken by Arthur Carhart during his travels in the Superior National Forest, most of which is now included in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Top: Arthur Carhart's traveling companion, Forest Guard Matt Soderback, at a rapids on the Kawishiwi River.

Above: Paddling on Insula Lake.

Right: Paddling between rock ledges on Lake Saganaga.

courtesy of USDA-Forest Service, Superior National Forest Collection.

months of review, was approved by Regional Forester A.S. Peck 100 years ago last month, marking the first of many steps forward in the official protection of the Boundary Waters. Less than four years later, U.S.



Forest Service Chief William Jardine signed a plan to protect the Boundary Waters as one of the largest roadless areas in the country.

Carhart developed his plan at a propitious time in the

history of the United States and the U.S. Forest Service. By the 1910s, the American frontier was largely gone and with it came a sense that the coun-

See **CARHART...**pg. 4B

WATER QUALITY

MPCA: Don't overuse salt-based de-icers

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is asking residents to limit their use of salt to maintain sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots this winter. It can save you money and help protect Minnesota lakes from a growing problem that is, in some cases, affecting aquatic life.

Salt — often used to de-ice our paved surfaces — is commonly over-applied, sending too much chloride into our waterways, where it's toxic to fish and other wildlife, according to the MPCA. It takes just one teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water and once in the water, it's there for good. Chloride from de-icing is one of the largest contributors to a growing salty water problem in Minnesota.

That's why the MPCA is urging Minnesotans to adopt a "less is better" strategy for salting surfaces and to use other tools to get the job done.

Minnesotans scatter an estimated 445,000 tons of chloride-containing salt each year. Not only does salt damage infrastructure and rust our cars, it harms the environment. When salt is spread on paved surfaces, it inevitably runs off into nearby lakes and streams. Some lakes now contain so much chloride from winter salt use that they have been added to the state's list of impaired waters.

Minnesotans can take action this winter with these smart salting tips:

► Shovel and scrape. The more snow and ice you remove, the less salt is needed to be effective.

► 15 degrees F and below is too cold for salt. Most salts stop working at this temperature. Use sand instead for traction but remember that sand does not melt ice.

► Use the right amount. That crunch from sidewalk salt under your feet does not signify safety. Around 12 ounces — roughly a coffee mug full — effectively treats a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares (about 1,000 square feet). Aim to apply salt consistently (e.g. with a spreader), and use only in critical areas.

► Sweep up visible salt on dry surfaces. It is no longer doing any work and will be washed away into local waters. You can keep it to use later.

► Take inventory. If you have common icy spots each winter, keep track of them and fix what you can this spring to avoid creating icy conditions next winter.

► Wear proper footwear. Wear shoes or boots with good traction and pay attention to where you are walking, avoid icy spots, if possible. Take it slow and give yourself extra time to get where you're going.



MPCA

BATS...Continued from page 4B

bats in the mine were almost exclusively little brown myotis, otherwise known as little brown bats, which appear to have slightly more resistance to the fungus than the northern long-eared. The sensitivity of the northern long-eared bat to the fungus has been known since shortly after its discovery in New York state in 2006. The fungus has since spread to more than 35 U.S. states and several Canadian provinces, devastating bat populations as it's done so.

The reclassification of the bat to endangered reflects the changing circumstances of the bat species and the understanding of researchers about its current peril. The bat was first declared threatened in 2015, but since then, the impact of white-nose syndrome on the species is better known. Winter data from 27 states and two provinces indicated that white-nose syndrome has caused population declines of 97-100 percent across 79 percent of the bat's entire range.

The new rule takes effect on Jan. 30, 2023, but it's impact on area timber producers should be less than some had initially feared. While the bat species winters in caves and underground mines, it lives and breeds during the summer in hollow trees or underneath loose flaking bark. In northeastern Minnesota, the bat is often found breeding in older aspen which had initially raised fears that a conservation plan could significantly impact timber producers who typically target aspen for harvest.

Yet, it appears those concerns have mostly been addressed. According to Ray Higgins with the Minnesota Timber Producers, the USFWS is expected to approve what's known as a Habitat Conservation Plan, or HCP, affecting Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, in mid-January, before the new rules take effect. Under the draft HCP that's been developed

by the three state's DNRs and the USFWS, with significant input from timber producers, loggers will still be able to conduct their operations with relatively minor restrictions designed to protect a very limited number of known maternity roosts. "While we're disappointed about the situation with the bat, we feel good about our ability to do our work," said Higgins. "Practically speaking, the uplisting is not going to be a significant hindrance, thanks to the work on the HCP and we have appreciated having had the opportunity to partner on that."

The three lakes states aren't alone in that work. Since the northern long-eared bat was listed as threatened in 2015, Fish and Wildlife has approved more than 22 HCPs that allow wind energy and forestry projects to proceed after minimizing and mitigating their impacts to northern long-eared bats.

During the summer months, northern long-eared bats have long been a major consumer of flying insects in northeastern Minnesota. They emerge from their hiding places at dusk and catch insects like moths, mosquitoes, flies, and beetles in the forest understory.

The prospect for recovery of the northern long-eared bat remains unclear. Prior to the arrival of white-nose syndrome, bats were considered relatively long-lived species and are relatively slow to reproduce. A female bat typically raises no more than a single pup per year, making any population recovery a very long-term process, even without the presence of a deadly fungus in their environment. But USFWS officials are hoping Tuesday's announcement will be a step in the right direction.

"This listing is an alarm bell and a call to action," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams in a press statement.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
32 22				30 22				31 19				31 24				33 22			
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.
11/28	31	23	0.00	11/28	32	16	0.00	11/28	31	23	0.00	11/28	30	25	0.00	11/28	31	18	0.00
11/29	31	24	0.02 0.5"	11/29	32	24	0.04 0.4"	11/29	31	22	0.10 1.5"	11/29	28	18	0.00	11/29	31	23	0.02 0.4"
11/30	24	12	0.01 0.4"	11/30	25	14	0.00	11/30	24	13	0.02 0.4"	11/30	19	7	0.00	11/30	24	12	tr 0.2"
12/01	14	4	0.00	12/01	14	-1	0.00	12/01	13	3	0.02 0.4"	12/01	23	3	0.00	12/01	13	5	0.00
12/02	27	7	0.00	12/02	28	2	0.00	12/02	24	4	0.00	12/02	30	5	0.00	12/02	27	6	0.00
12/03	31	0	0.05 1.2"	12/03	33	-6	0.02 0.4"	12/03	31	-3	0.07 1.5"	12/03	9	-8	0.00	12/03	32	-6	0.08 1.2"
12/04	7	-3	0.00	12/04	8	-6	0.00	12/04	7	-7	0.00	12/04	27	0	0.00	12/04	8	-6	0.00
YTD Total			25.33 15.1"	YTD Total			28.07 15.0"	YTD Total			25.54 19.6"	YTD Total			NA NA	YTD Total			35.18 14.8"

CARHART...Continued from page 4B

try's once vast and spirit-defining wilderness was disappearing with it. Outspoken conservationists like Aldo Leopold, John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt, and others had begun to make the case for preservation of remaining wilderness areas of exceptional quality, and Carhart's well-timed report spoke to that desire.

In his plan, Carhart described how the Superior's unique landscape framed his approach. "Perhaps one of the biggest factors affecting a recreation plan for the Superior Forest lies in the wilderness conditions found practically throughout the forest," Carhart wrote. "There is so little wilderness left where natural conditions are supreme that the Superior stands somewhat by itself in this type. The only other similar sections of land which can be reached by people of the United States are in Canada, or in the extreme upper corner of the state of Maine."

Carhart spoke, as well, to the unique characteristics of the region and the benefits of retaining it in as close to a natural state as possible. "A final statement to emphasize the need of care in development of this forest seems hardly necessary but it is imperative that in the further planning of the recreational features of the Superior, it constantly be kept in mind that this is the only lake type play area owned by the United States and that the typical development as outlined here will enhance that feature," Carhart wrote. "Further, that development imposing mechanical features, such as roads, too highly organized camps, urban types of hotels, et cetera, will not



Curtain Falls at the western end of Crooked Lake pictured just over 100 years ago.

produce the greatest good for the Superior," he added.

Carhart's first trip took place just ten years after the creation of the Superior National Forest at a time when the Forest Service was still trying to determine how the vast region would be managed. "From the perspective of land use history, Carhart's visit occurred at a key stage," notes Lee Johnson, forest archeologist on the Superior. Logging had already occurred in large swaths of the Superior and pressures to further develop the area were building. Photographs taken by Carhart during his trip show the bare land left behind by logging operations and the visual impact of the timber cutting prompted Carhart to recommend, as well, that strips of uncut timber be left around the shorelines of lakes in the region. That recommendation took on the force of federal law eight years later with the passage of the Shipstead-Nolan Act,

a law that has protected remnants of old growth pine and other trees along countless lakes in and around the Superior National Forest.

Carhart began working for the Forest Service in 1919 and was the first landscape architect ever hired by the agency. He was first dispatched to Trapper's Lake on the White River National Forest in Colorado to survey a new road and lakeshore lots. Instead, Carhart recommended the lake be protected from such development and, today, the 302-acre lake lies entirely within the Flat Tops Wilderness Area.

Carhart worked for the Forest Service for just five years, leaving in 1923 to pursue a career as a city planner in the private sector. Yet Carhart continued to advocate for wilderness and its value to the human spirit in books and other writings right up until his death in 1978. While no one person can lay claim as the founder of the concept of "wilderness," Carhart has been referred to as "the chief cook in the kitchen during the critical first years."

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Website: <https://boisforte.com/jobs/>

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 9, 16, 23 & 30 2022



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.

Program Accountant (2 Positions)
Closes: December 22, 2022

Position Purpose: The Program Accountant is responsible for setting up, maintaining, and monitoring all general ledger accounts, funds, and budgets in the accounting system relative to State, Federal and Tribal contract/programs including preparing adjusting journal entries under the direction of the Program Accounting Supervisor. Also monitors contracts/programs by providing requests, reporting and documentation under the direction of the Program Accounting Supervisor (Supervisory Program Accountant).

Website: <https://boisforte.com/jobs/>

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 9 & 16, 2022

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

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Singer Lovett
5 "Ben-Hur" studio
8 Beans
12 "Madam Secretary" actress
14 Opposite of "sans"
15 Very hungry
16 Gambling city
17 Coq au –
18 Painter Georges
20 Watched surreptitiously
23 Pot covers
24 Any time now
25 Stuffed Italian pasta
28 Boy king
29 Doctrine
30 NYPD alert
32 Gulches
34 Potter's medium
35 New newts
36 Tint
37 Import duty
40 JFK info
41 Portent
42 Enraptured
47 Theater award
48 Eternally
49 Variety
50 Still, in verse

DOWN

1 USPS delivery
2 Pro vote
3 Restroom, for short
4 Football team
5 Earth cirler
6 Bearded beast
7 Written messages
8 Tenor Enrico
9 Say it's so

51 Playwright O'Casey
11 Highlander
13 Oklahoma city
19 Redact
20 Retired jet
21 Serve coffee
22 Greek vowel
23 Highway divisions
25 Cheap way to live
26 Chorus syllables
27 Apple tablet
29 Squabble
31 "See ya!"
33 Like marble
34 Great divides
36 Commotion
37 Grabbed
38 Both (Pref.)
39 Check
40 Divisible by two
43 St. crosser
44 Weed whacker
45 Notable time
46 Lair

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PUBLIC NOTICES

KABETOGAMA TOWNSHIP
Notice of Filing for Town Offices to be Elected

Notice is hereby given that a town election will be held in the Township of Kabetogama, St. Louis County, Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 14th day of March, 2023.

The first day for filing affidavits of candidacy will be Tuesday, January 3, 2023. The last day will be Tuesday, the 17th day of January, 2023, at 5:00 p.m..

Filings may be made with Clerk Mary Manninen. You can either make an appointment by calling 240-9325 or Town Hall 875-2082 or emailing kabtown@frontier.com. You may file without appointment by coming into the Town Hall on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The following terms will be expiring:

Supervisor Seat #1 for the term of one year
Supervisor Seat #2 for the term of two years
Supervisor Seat #3 for the term of three years

Treasurer for the term of two years

Filing fee is \$2.00.

December 5, 2022
Clerk, Mary Manninen

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 9 & 16, 2022

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ELECTION
MN 205.16, subd. 4

THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP ANNUAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 14, 2023

Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Greenwood Town Hall

Offices to be elected:
Supervisor Position 1: 3-year term
Supervisor Position 4: 3-year term
Clerk Position: 1-year term
Treasurer Position: 2-year term

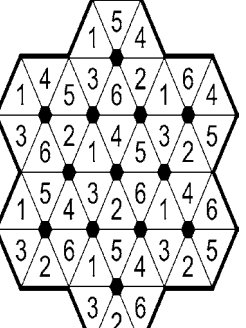
Filings will open Tuesday, January 3, 2023 and close on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Applicants, please file affidavit of candidacy at the town hall. Town hall offices will be open on Tuesday, January 17 until 5:00 p.m. to accept affidavits.

THE GREENWOOD TOWN BOARD WILL MEET IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING ON MARCH 14, 2023 TO PAY BILLS AND CANVASS ELECTION RESULTS.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meetings will be held the following Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at the same times listed. MS365.51, subd. 1.

JoAnn Bassing, Interim Town Clerk.

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 9 & 16, 2022



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Super Crossword

Answers

CAAN BIO IFEEL STROVE
ACROBATS LINDA LETHAL
WHYDIDTHELADYWHOTESTS
STEEL YAXIS SNAP USA
ALT INGA LEAFS
EARLYVERSIONSOFBLAST
VIE SHEET WON PRONTO
ARTI ORD SHARK ROONEY
DAUB SOFTWARE PROGRAMS
ERNEST IRAN ADAM
SMELT DRAGSTRIP TOLET
IRON OREM MEDALS
HAVEANABSOLUTELYERIK
IMOVIE OHWOELIDLENT
FILETS ZEN IDLES DOS
INUSE BORINGDAYATWORK
NONCE TOOT REA
POT OAHU TWA IN FINED
SHEHADNOTHINGBETATODO
SIESTA ONICE ECONOMIC
TORTES FETED TKO NETS

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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PET CREMATION

VISIT VermilionPetCremation.com or call 218-780-8069 for pet cremation details and rates.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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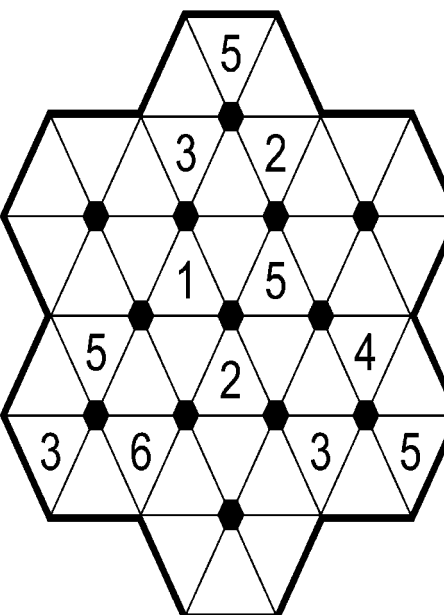
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SNOWFLAKES by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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King Crossword

Answers
Solution time: 22 mins.
L Y L E M G M C A P S
T E A L E O N I A V E C
R A V E N O U S R E N O
S P I E D L I D S
S O O N R A V I O L I
T U T T E N E T A P B
R A V I N E S C L A Y
E F T S S H A D E
T A R I F F E T A
O M E N R A V I S H E D
O B T E E V E R M O R E
K I N D E E N S E A N



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

ZERO CHECKING

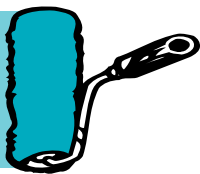
- ACROSS**
- 1 James of "Alien Nation"
 - 5 Lead-in to hazard
 - 8 "My opinion is ..."
 - 13 Tried very hard
 - 19 Tumblers, e.g.
 - 21 Actress Hunt
 - 22 Fatal
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 26 Strong metal
 - 27 Vertical line on a graph
 - 28 Attack like an alligator
 - 29 Land north of Mex.
 - 30 -country (music genre)
 - 32 Peruvian of yore
 - 34 Toronto Maple —
 - 37 Riddle, part 2
 - 44 Wild party
 - 47 Battle (for)
 - 48 See 60-Down
 - 49 Triumphed
 - 50 "Right now!"
 - 51 First class for painters
 - 53 City law: Abbr.
 - 54 Sea predator
 - 56 Actor Mickey
 - 57 Paint crudely
 - 58 Riddle, part 3
 - 61 Borgnine of Hollywood
 - 63 Gulf country
 - 64 Sandler of "Spanglish"
 - 65 Refine, as metal
 - 66 What a hot rod may race on
 - 70 Words on an apartment rental sign
 - 74 Strong metal
 - 76 City near Provo
 - 77 Purple Hearts, e.g.
 - 78 Riddle, part 4
 - 85 Composer Satie
 - 86 Apple app for importing video
 - 87 "I suffer so!"
 - 88 Pan coverer
 - 89 Gave for a while
 - 90 Sole servings
 - 91 Buddhism branch
 - 92 Just kills time
 - 94 Two, in Spain
 - 95 Occupied
 - 96 End of the riddle
 - 100 For the — (temporarily)
 - 102 Blow a horn
 - 103 Stephen of "Blackthorn"
 - 104 Flower holder
 - 106 Kailua Bay locale
 - 109 Creator of Tom Sawyer
 - 112 Gave a monetary penalty
 - 116 Riddle's answer
 - 121 Nogales nap
 - 122 How figure skaters skate
 - 123 Of financial matters
 - 124 Rich, eggy cakes
 - 125 Entertained lavishly
 - 126 Boxing ref's ruling
 - 127 Court dividers
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Cornfield cries
 - 2 Eight, in Berlin
 - 3 Actor Gross of "Ellen"
 - 4 "The negotiation is off!"
 - 5 Severe
 - 6 -bitty
 - 7 Org. that inspects factories
 - 8 Fighting — (NCAA team)
 - 9 Utter failure
 - 10 Sever
 - 11 Competitor of Ben & Jerry's
 - 12 Yard feature
 - 13 Place to ski
 - 14 Vietnamese holiday
 - 15 Road sign no.
 - 16 "Banjo on my knee" song
 - 17 Winery tubs
 - 18 "Frozen" snow queen
 - 20 — Hollywood Screen Kiss" (1998 film)
 - 24 Be alive
 - 25 Fifty percent
 - 31 Talk show emcee, e.g.
 - 33 Egypt's Sadat
 - 35 Formally abolish
 - 36 Displayed example of a product
 - 37 Gives the slip to
 - 38 Aviation military branch
 - 39 Fix the pitch of again
 - 40 Architect Saarinen
 - 41 Sierra Nevada evergreen
 - 42 Blister, e.g.
 - 43 Like GIs peeling potatoes
 - 45 Flower holder
 - 46 Santa's bagful
 - 50 Egg on
 - 52 "Yes, if memory serves"
 - 54 Benefit bagful
 - 55 Chewbacca's companion
 - 59 — -la-la
 - 60 With 48-Across, record of arrests, slangily
 - 62 Put in financial distress
 - 66 Gene-splicing stuff
 - 67 Verifiable
 - 68 No longer practicing: Abbr.
 - 69 Marcos of the Philippines
 - 71 Texas city
 - 72 Poet Wylie or novelist Glyn
 - 73 Double cluck of reproach
 - 75 Some till bills
 - 77 Sweetie
 - 78 LP player of old
 - 79 Uganda's Idi
 - 80 Donator of services
 - 81 Old TV clown
 - 82 "Fer —!" ("Like, totally!")
 - 83 Take responsibility for something
 - 84 Easter flower
 - 92 Spot's jingler
 - 93 Tennis player Edberg
 - 96 Fava —
 - 97 Catch sight of
 - 98 Dressed for a ball
 - 99 Serve, as at a restaurant
 - 101 Concluding musical parts
 - 104 "You, over there ..."
 - 105 Dayton locale
 - 107 Horse foot
 - 108 — Reader (eclectic quarterly)
 - 110 "Oh, sure!"
 - 111 Part of a vase
 - 113 Alaska city
 - 114 Revise text
 - 115 "ER" folks
 - 117 Marshall Plan prez
 - 118 Swallowed success
 - 120 Overly

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