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the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1⁵⁰

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TEDA seeks new proposals for Tower harbor

Local EDA issues new request from developers after town home plan sinks on high construction costs

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER— The years-long quest by city officials here to bring development to the downtown harbor is taking another turn. The Tower Economic Development Authority voted last Thursday to issue

a new request for proposals, or RFP, seeking parties interested in bringing a mix of residential and commercial development to approximately three acres adjacent to the harbor.

The latest RFP comes as the pieces appear to finally be in place to actually allow a developer to move forward

at the site. A previous RFP, issued more than a decade ago, found no takers for the project, in part due to the lack of sufficient infrastructure at the harbor. In late 2015, after excavation of the harbor and other improvements, the city issued an RFP seeking the construction of town homes, a solicitation that eventually

right: The harbor site in Tower is ready for development.

file photo

led to a development agreement with Tower Harbor Shores.

The plan for the construction of 20 town homes

See...**HARBOR** pg. 10



VOYAGEURS

Most charges in VNP case dismissed

Park Service remains mum on alleged tasing incident

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL— It was a relatively successful day in court Dec. 28 for Justin Ebel, of Ash River, as four of five citations issued by Voyageurs National Park law enforcement rangers in a June 2022 encounter in the park were dismissed by U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Jon Hensley in Bemidji.

According to information previously reported by the *Timberjay* from a July 21 public meeting at Crane Lake, Ebel, owner of Ebel's Voyageur Houseboats, was attempting to bring one of his houseboats that had run aground on rocks to Sullivan Bay to check for damage when he was stopped by VNP personnel on June 25. An altercation reportedly occurred in which Ebel was allegedly tased.

Attempts by the *Timberjay* to obtain or confirm information about the incident through direct contacts with VNP personnel and the Minnesota U.S. Attorney's Office and through Freedom of Information Act requests submitted to the U.S. Park Service have been unsuccessful. Ebel has also declined to comment to this point on the advice of counsel.

Charges were officially filed against Ebel in early December related to five citations issued at

See...**CHARGES** pg. 9

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Firefighters in open revolt

Members demanding ouster of fire chief, ability to select their own officers

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- The Greenwood Fire Department is facing an apparent revolt from members unhappy about changes in the department's leadership made by the town board late last year. Ten members of the Greenwood Fire Department presented an unsigned letter to the town board at their Jan. 10 meeting, demanding the ouster of newly-appointed chief Jeff Maus from the department and that rank and file members be allowed to pick their own officers. Fire department members took a vote

Above: Angry firefighters lined one wall of the town hall on Tuesday, demanding changes in the fire department, including the dismissal of new fire chief Jeff Maus.

Right: Maus, who also serves as interim treasurer for the township, displayed no emotion during the meeting, when he came under fire.

photos by J. Summit

of no confidence in their leader at their Jan. 3 fire department training meeting.

"Failing that, the above-men-

See...**REVOLT** pg. 9



ST. LOUIS COUNTY

County board takes up full agenda during Morse meeting

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

MORSE TWP- St. Louis County commissioners, meeting here on Tuesday, heard support for a land exchange that would protect just over 1,000 acres of bird habitat in the Sax-Zim Bog, a location in central St. Louis County that has

become a mecca for birders from around the world.

The town hall here was packed as the commissioners addressed a number of other issues as well.

The discussion of the Sax-Zim Bog came as part of a public hearing on the proposed exchange of lands between the county and the non-profit group, The

Conservation Fund. The group is proposing to exchange 542 acres east of Orr, appraised at \$529,000 and appropriate for timber and recreation uses for 1,010 acres of tax-forfeited land in and around Sax-Zim, located southeast of Hibbing.

Jason Meyer, deputy director of the St. Louis County Land and

Right: Ely's Bill Tefft testified in favor of a land exchange to help protect bird habitat at the Sax-Zim Bog.

photo by C. Clark

Minerals Department presented the proposed exchange to the commissioners, noting that all the

See...**COUNTY** pg. 9



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Community notices

Discovery awaits dinosaur lovers of all ages this January at MDC

CHISHOLM- Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) Paleontologist, John Westgaard (pictured), will be showing off his latest fossil finds at two paleontology events this month. On Saturday, Jan. 21 from 2-5 p.m. explore the MDC Fossil Intake Laboratory, discover 90-million year old fossils, ask our paleontologist questions, learn about year-round paleo programing, and get your picture with HAPP, our mascot dinosaur! This event is free and fun for dinosaur lovers of all ages.



Also on Saturday, Jan. 21 from 6-8 p.m. MDC will hold a Members only annual paleontology recap. Members will hear from MDC's Paleontologist John Westgaard about the Hill Annex Paleontology Project, explore significant fossil finds, discover events, programming, volunteer opportunities, and fossil dig days coming in 2023. All attending members will receive a free paleo sticker.

MDC is now using the winter entrance located in the back parking lot (follow digital navigation signs in parking lot upon arrival). The Open Fossil Lab will require a short shuttle ride to the fossil lab. Visitors attending the Open Fossil Lab event can arrive anytime from 2 - 4:30 p.m. to tour the fossil lab. The public shuttle will run every 15 minutes (or as needed) between the lab and the museum winter entrance.

Visitors attending the Members Only Annual Paleontology Recap will need proof of membership upon arrival. The event will take place on the second level of the museum in the MDC Theater.

New Security measures for Arrowhead Library System and Duluth Public Library

MT. IRON – Arrowhead Library System (ALS) and Duluth Public Library to implement an additional security measure to protect privacy. Beginning in January, in addition to using the patron barcode, a user PIN will be required to access interlibrary loan services through the MNLINK statewide catalog. This is the same PIN used to access the ALS catalog or the Duluth Public Library online catalog. This is a statewide action meant to improve the MNLINK system security. Please contact ALS at 218-741-3840, Duluth Public Library at 218-730-4200, or your local library with any questions.

Mesabi Community Band announces Jan. 12 rehearsal date for Winter/Spring season

EVELETH - Mesabi Community Band co-directors Bill Lavato and Larry Baker, announce the band will resume rehearsals for its Winter/Spring season on Thursday, Jan.12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Eveleth City Auditorium. The directors encourage area musicians to dust off their instruments and percussion sticks and join the band. For more information, call Holly at 218-780-0980.

“Examining Critical Race Theory” at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church Jan. 15

VIRGINIA - “Examining Critical Race Theory” is the topic to be presented by Leah Rogne Ph.D., Professor Emerita of Sociology, Minnesota State University, Mankato at the Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church Jan. 15.

Rogne will share how a well-funded and laser-focused right wing campaign has weaponized the fears of many Americans who are anxious about a diversifying population. Rogne will also discuss how conservative think tanks have spread misinformation and used alarmist rhetoric to mobilize people to pressure school boards to ban teaching about systemic racism. The service is at 10:30 a.m. Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 230 7th Street S in Virginia. The building is handicap accessible. Visit <http://www.mesabiuu.info> for more information.

HONORS

Embarrass Region Fair Association wins Touchstone Energy® Community Award

EMBARRASS - Lake Country Power (LCP) selected Embarrass Region Fair Association of Embarrass, as the winner of its annual Touchstone Energy® Community Award. The co-op chose this organization to recognize a community of hard-working volunteers who rallied together to prevent the fair from almost folding.

As winner of the Touchstone Energy® Community Award, the association was awarded a plaque and \$500 to go toward maintaining the fair.

“We’re trying to keep the fair going each year and show how important it is to our community and the surrounding areas,” said Tana Johnson, who submitted the application to Lake Country Power. “On behalf of the Embarrass Region Fair Association and all our hardworking volunteers, we thank you for selecting our application. It means so much for our organization, community, and our volunteers.”

The Embarrass Region Fair Association has been a volunteer, member-operated organization for more than 80 years. In



Representatives from the Embarrass Region Fair Association accepted this year’s Touchstone Energy Community Award from Lake Country Power during a Saturday pancake breakfast honoring first responders and law enforcement. Gustave Schroeder, chair of the board, is pictured in the center holding the \$500 check along with Vice Chair Lisa Gibson, holding the plaque. Also pictured from left Sue Beaton, Mike Johnson, Rodney Dale, Shireen Lee, Tana Johnson, Vi Hildebrandt, Bonnie Meier, Janine Patten, and Roland “Charlie” Fowler along with several law enforcement officers.

2010, there was a real possibility that the annual fair would not continue, and the organization would cease to exist. The community rallied together, restructured the governing board, found solutions to problems and brought the organization out of the red and into the black. The association now has a strong volunteer base, a healthy budget and established relationships with organizations and individuals in-

terested in supporting the vision for growth.

In 2022, more than 180 volunteers logged over 2,500 volunteer hours. It’s estimated that between 7,000 – 10,000 people are impacted by the efforts of the Embarrass Region Fair Association. The fair drew over 4,000 people last August. The fairgrounds, Timber Hall, riding arena and storage buildings are used throughout the year by

various groups for events.

LCP is one of several Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in Minnesota providing a local award to encourage and recognize local community contributions. Embarrass Region Fair Association will compete with winners from other Minnesota-based electric cooperatives in February for statewide recognition and \$2,000.

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College Lab Assistant 1 – Academic Support Coordinator
Temporary, Part-Time (.75% FTE)
Anticipated Start Date: February 6, 2023

Minnesota North College – Vermilion Campus in Ely, MN is seeking to fill a temporary, part-time, .75% FTE (30 hours per week) College Lab Assistant 1 – Academic Support Coordinator position.

This position exists to provide academic support and resources to students in the form of study skills, tutoring, and learning assistance in the Academic Resource Center.

As the TRIO Academic Support Specialist, the position is tasked to help increase the retention, graduation, and transfer rates of TRIO participants by both fostering a campus climate and providing academic resources supportive of student success.

This position is 30% institutionally-funded and 70% funded by a TRIO Student Support Services grant from the U.S. Department of Education to serve students who are first generation, low-income, or having a disability and persons who are from these groups are encouraged to apply.

For position details, qualifications and application procedures, please view the postings at:
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COUNTY SCHOOLS

Christensen gets new term as ISD 2142 board chair

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINA- ISD 2142 school board chair Pat Christensen will continue in that position after being reelected at Tuesday’s annual organizational meeting, one that featured a routine slate of business house-keeping items that generated little discussion, save for the selection of the district’s official newspaper.

The meeting began with the ceremonial swearing-in of newly elected District 3 member Rob Marinaro and District 5 member Lynn Hilde, who served on the board the past year as an appointee to fill out the term of the late Lynette Zupetz and was elected to the position in November.

District 2 member Nathan Briggs, also elected in November, was attending an out-of-town training and was not present for the ceremony, but had already signed the legal oath of office, as had Marinaro and Hilde.

In addition to Christensen, vice chair Bob Larson, treasurer Chet Larson, and treasurer Hilde all were elected to continue with those responsibilities.

The *Cook News-Herald* has

District’s legal newspaper choice again generates debate

long served as the district’s official newspaper for legal notices and was listed on the meeting agenda as the recommended choice again.

However, for a second consecutive year, member Chris Koivisto recommended that the district choose the *Timberjay* instead.

“I still think that I prefer to see the *Timberjay* as the official newspaper for the school primarily for the coverage that it has by comparison to the *Cook News-Herald*,” Koivisto said.

Cook News-Herald Publisher Gary Albertson countered Koivisto’s comment by claiming that his newspaper’s circulation is larger than that of the *Timberjay*, although no actual circulation numbers for either newspaper were included in the discussion. Duluth-based *Business North’s* annual directory of regional businesses lists the *Timberjay’s* circulation at 3,091, but doesn’t list the *Cook News Herald*. It does list a purported circulation of 902 for the Albertson-owned *Tower News*, but notes that the figure is “unverified.”

In a bid letter emailed to Superintendent Reggie Engebritson and multiple board members on Tuesday, *Timberjay* publisher Marshall Helmberger said that the *Timberjay* had “substantially higher circulation and much broader distribution” than the *Cook News-Herald*.

Helmberger also pointed out that the *Cook News-Herald* is out of compliance with a state law that requires newspapers to publish legal notices on their websites. A check of the *News-Herald* website on Tuesday revealed that it hasn’t been updated since Dec. 16, 2021. Legal notices appearing in the *Timberjay* are posted on the newspaper’s website weekly and are freely accessible to the public and are archived and searchable, Helmberger said.

Helmberger’s letter was not presented or discussed in the meeting, but Cook/Orr Editor David Colburn reinforced the same points in comments he made to the board.

“I disagree with that statement altogether,” member Chet Larson said after Colburn’s comments, noting that the *Cook*

News-Herald is a designated legal newspaper for St. Louis County.

Albertson ignored comments about being out of compliance with state law regarding website publication and instead highlighted that articles he writes about ISD 2142 also appear in other publications he owns, providing expanded coverage around the district, although he made no mention of the district’s legal notices appearing anywhere other than in the *News-Herald*.

Albertson also reminded members of the *Timberjay’s* investigative reporting surrounding the district’s promotion of a \$78.8 million bond issue in 2009 that resulted in findings by the state Office of Administrative Hearings and the State Auditor that the district had “engaged in an inaccurate and misleading campaign” for the issue, which Albertson said “cost you about a half million dollars in legals (fees) to fight them.”

The *Cook News-Herald* has also provided 80 scholarships to Cook and Orr students over the years, Albertson said.

“We are big backers of the district,” he said.

The *News-Herald* was approved as the district’s official newspaper on a 3-2 vote, with Koivisto and Marinaro dissenting. The rate the paper will be charging was not discussed.

In other business, the board:

- Maintained the established board member salary of \$400 per month and raised the hourly rate of compensation for attendance at special meetings committee meetings, and workshop and conference sessions from \$12 to \$15 per hour. Meal per diem rates were held the same at \$15 for breakfast, \$20 for lunch, and \$25 for dinner.

- Established board member committee assignments.

- Designated Fradsen Bank, North Star Credit Union, and Ely Area Credit Union as official depositories for district funds.

- Selected Colosimo, Patchin & Kearney, Ltd. as the district’s legal counsel.

- Reconvened in a one-item official session to immediately terminate North Woods Custodian Ethan Olson.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Health officials brace for most infectious COVID variant yet

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Last year, Minnesotans and the rest of the country got used to the COVID Omicron variant spawning offspring after offspring, with each successive subvariant seemingly more capable of avoiding vaccine or disease-induced immunity.

And now what’s been deemed the most contagious variant to date by the World Health Organization, XBB.1.5, has established a tiny foothold in Minnesota, raising the specter of yet another possible surge in cases. XBB.1.5 is estimated to be twice as infectious as any previous variant by health researchers.

The targets of a special COVID booster released last September, BA.5 and BA.4, have disappeared almost entirely from the Center for Disease

Control’s variant tracking list after being the leading causes of infections in late summer and fall. XBB.1.5 now accounts for 28 percent of COVID cases nationwide, according to the CDC, but stark regional differences attest to its potential to dominate the COVID variant landscape in quick order.

Seventy-two percent of the COVID cases in the New York and New England region are now attributed to XBB.1.5, with the projection it could soon be as high as 86 percent. It took only six weeks for XBB.1.5 to go from one percent of cases to the mid-70s. Much smaller but quickly escalating rates of XBB.1.5 are to be found further south along the East Coast and on through Florida to Texas. Rates in the rest of the country, including Minnesota, are well below the national average, but based on past history and XBB.1.5’s unique mutations

that is expected to change soon.

On Monday, Minnesota Department of Health Public Information Officer Garry Bowman provided the *Timberjay* with the state’s most recent estimates of variant distribution from Jan. 3, and true to pandemic-long form, Minnesota’s scenario lags behind that of other regions, but reflects tendencies that have already occurred elsewhere.

Of note is that while BA.5 has accounted for about 40 percent of cases since the first week of November, recent genetic sequencing for the latest report put the percentage of cases at 28 percent, reflecting the decline seen elsewhere. Taking its place as the dominant variant of the moment is BQ.1.1, comprising 34 percent of cases.

And as for XBB.1.5?

“In Minnesota, XBB.1.5 has been detected, but in a very limited number of clinical samples to this point,” Bowman

said. “I think the trends we are seeing will remain in place, with BA.5 continuing to recede and BQ.1.1 continuing to grow along with the XBBs.”

Based on the New York/ New England experience, Minnesota health officials will be on the watch for an XBB.1.5 take-over through at least February.

An encouraging sign thus far is that while XBB.1.5 is more contagious, the resulting illness appears to be no more severe than other recent variants. While more initial and breakthrough infections are anticipated, it remains to be seen what the actual effects may be on hospitalizations and deaths.

Free tests ending

Since last April, Minnesotans have ordered 2.5 million free at-home COVID tests from MDH, and on Monday announced “the last chance” for people to order four additional free tests through the online or-

dering program.

“Testing is essential in getting the proper treatment to those who need it and preventing the spread of COVID-19, and the state’s free online ordering program made it simple for Minnesotans in every corner of the state to easily access critical testing,” said new health commissioner Dr. Brooke Cunningham.

Tests can be ordered online at <https://mn.gov/covid19/get-tested/at-home/index.jsp>.

Minnesotans can also place orders through the MDH COVID-19 Public Hotline at 1-833-431-2053 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Language assistance is available.

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

VNP incident

The Park Service’s lack of transparency
over alleged tasing is troubling

Back in August, the *Timberjay* filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the National Park Service, seeking information on an incident that led to the alleged tasing of a local businessperson at Voyageurs National Park.

Tasing is a serious use of force and given that the incident may have taken place on the water, it was potentially a life-threatening use of force. Given the widespread concerns about over-zealous law enforcement at the park in the past year and a half, the public has a clear interest in understanding what led to the alleged incident. We say alleged because at this point, no federal officials have been willing to confirm or deny that the June 25 incident in question involved the use of a taser. To date, it is only unofficial sources who claim the individual in question was tased. It was the Park Service’s lack of transparency that prompted our FOIA request.

Yet, despite months since the filing of our request, the Timberjay has received exactly nothing from the Park Service. No information. No answered questions. Nothing. It’s time for Washington to take notice of the Park Service’s failure.

We recognize that FOIA does, in some cases, limit the release of law enforcement data. That’s true of most state laws prescribing access to government information as well. But these laws don’t give law enforcement a free pass to ignore the public’s requests for information. Some basic information is always supposed to be made available and officials always have some discretion about the release of even law enforcement information. But, so far, the Park Service and federal law enforcement have simply circled the wagons.

The U.S. Attorney has filed petty charges in the case, against the local business owner, Justin Ebel, and as of late December those charges had been dismissed. None of the charges against Mr. Ebel appeared to justify a tasing even if he had been guilty of the infractions.

The actions of the Park Service and the U.S. Attorney in Minnesota are unusual and unacceptable. They differ markedly from other cases, including another tasing incident at a New Mexico national park in 2020, when the

Park Service responded in a far more transparent manner when an individual was tased by a park ranger after straying off a marked trail and initially resisted providing identification. Within days of the incident, which was video recorded by a private individual and posted online, prompted park officials there to release nearly 15 minutes of body camera footage and to launch an investigation into the actions of the ranger.

Here in Minnesota, we can’t even get the Park Service to confirm whether any body camera footage of the incident exists, much less release it to the public as was done in New Mexico. Will the Park Service critically investigate the decision of law enforcement officers at Voyageurs to resort to the use of a taser? Who knows? They’re not talking.

Let’s be clear. Because of the actions of the Park Service at Voyageurs, we don’t know all the specifics of this case. It is possible, although it seems unlikely, that there are mitigations that could have made the tasing justified. Yet, if so, why would the Park Service and U.S. Attorney be so reluctant to provide details of the case? It looks an awful lot like a cover-up of law enforcement excess.

It’s been a concern in more than the Ebel case. As we reported late last summer, there is increasing concern among park users and business owners who provide services to park users, that the park law enforcement has become overly aggressive since the arrival of Josh Wentz as the park’s chief law enforcement officer. The alleged tasing of Justin Ebel, who operates a houseboat service in the park is just the most egregious example.

If the Park Service won’t take the matter seriously, it’s time for higher level officials to do so. Minnesota’s two U.S. senators, Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith could play a role in pushing for an investigation of the incident. Rep. Pete Stauber could do the same. This is federal property, which is why state rules on the release of information don’t apply. If anything’s going to change, it’s going to take pressure from officials in Washington to make it happen. Let’s demand that it does.

MLK*

* MOUNTAINTOP LEGACY KEEPERS

Joe Heller



Letters from Readers

Too much money and power in the hands of a few

We have too much of our wealth concentrated in too few people. Unrestricted descent of wealth results in the arrogant incompetence of people with too much power. Deaf to criticism, blind to facts, surrounded by people whose voices are muffled because of where their lips are so firmly planted.

Those who are born rich assume their whims must be the product of their own better judgment. Too much power in the hands of too few people inevitably leads us all to avoidable catastrophes. This is the historical basis for having a democracy in the first place - hereditary monarchs and dictators always lead everyone else to colossal mistakes.

For a while, after World War II, we had a truly significant part of our country’s population in the “middle class.” Decent pay - enough to save for retirement, own a home, raise a family was in the cards if you worked at it.

A significant part of the taxes actually collected came from people who had more than enough income. Those who died leaving a lot of money behind were still able to give plenty to their children. It was understood that even the rich people had to help pay for the aircraft carriers.

Education was considered a good thing - college tuition was cheap enough that a person could work and go to school at the same time without having to borrow anything - let alone mortgage their future lives with debt that cannot be discharged in bankruptcy and can also be collected from a person’s future Social Security income.

Our country had been through the Great Depression and World War II. We’d seen the results of automatically assigning leadership roles to the

children of rich people. Rich kid officers weren’t very good and couldn’t be relied on by their enlisted men. By 1944, we’d winnowed them out. But we’ve forgotten those lessons and now we worship the wealthy - because they have so much more than they need.

Meanwhile, remember that the failed coup of January 6 was just a practice run. It was organized - and paid for - by people with too much money. It was just luck that they were too dumb to pull it off that time.

The people in the background - who provided the money - are still out there. They’ll be back, pushing their enlisted dummies up to the front where they’ll take the bullets.

Dave Porter
Minneapolis

Humans can find better ways

“History is not destiny!” Ideology shackles minds, but we have keys to unlock them. The keys are curiosity and courage. To doubt, question imposed boundaries, realize human capacity for imagination to discover and create meaning for new possibilities. We can and must remake social organization to save the planet and to serve everyone.

The authors of “The Dawn of Everything” reject the “conveyor belt” version of history that offers no choice. Evolution of human culture moves from simple to complex, backward to advanced and savage to civilized. The Agricultural Revolution created a one-way street to our top-down way of life.

A “natural state,” untouched by civilization grants total freedom and equality bound only by the laws of nature. Domesticating plants and animals necessitated settlement and civilization. Whether born of an optimistic or pessimistic “state of

nature,” civilization required a social contract of rights and duties.

Consequently, we give up freedom and live with hierarchy and bureaucratic authority. If “past is prologue,” history of civilization sets the context for all that is to come. Historical determinism holds that events establish social outcomes and human beings are mere subjects, passive, powerless and trapped.

Critical thinking questions old assumptions that escape scrutiny and snare many into learned helplessness. Liberation begins with teaching children the values of caring, cooperation, kindness, respect and sharing.

“Civilization” casts them into conquest, dominance, exploitation, greed and indifference. Rather than impose a “civilized” version, imagine social organization in terms of what we teach children.

Social organization can be matriarchal and/or patriarchal, more fluid than fixed and a product of imagination, not of nature. We can create a different and better way of arranging our lives in a sane, sensible, and sustainable way. Humans are wired to rule and to be ruled. Ancient civilization appears as more herstory, than history!

Harold Honkola
Stillwater

Your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words. Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay’s* editorial page.

What’s good for our workers is good for us all

I grew up on a tree-lined street one mile from the General Motors Tech Center. The people of my neighborhood, like iron miners on the Iron Range, organized decades before I was born for better wages and working conditions. Miners fought hard to form the United Steel Workers. My grandfather helped form the United Auto Workers.

Nearly every adult male in my family worked directly, or indirectly, for the auto industry. Everyone felt the effects of its “economic ups and downs”. The financial impacts of strikes and lay-offs would

ripple through most households. And yes, there were class disparities. If you worked for the Big Three — Chrysler, GM, or Ford — your family did better than those who did not. Members of the union had benefits and safeguards that helped keep them afloat during difficult times. But there were plenty of people who worked in non-union jobs that lacked any guaranteed supports to help weather inevitable “boom and bust” cycles and their consequential

rippling effects.

When I moved to northern Minnesota in the late 1970s, I was assigned to second class status, as new arrivals often were, with the moniker, “pack sacker”. Despite this subtle buff from local residents, the immutable nature of the Iron Range’s labor culture felt comfortably familiar. I not only understood, I identified with the economic mood swings that periodically swept the region during the 1980s and the decades that followed. With every round of contract negotiations came uncertainty and dread of a potential strike.

During a recent MPR interview, a University of Minnesota labor researcher provided

some interesting facts. Today, “organized labor” includes just 10-percent of the American workforce — down from the 1950s when nearly a third of American workers belonged to a union. We can be proud because Minnesota ranks among the highest states in the nation with union membership hovering around 17-percent. Studies show that the higher the number of organized workers, the higher the average wage of non-union workers. And, a stronger union presence creates a more fertile environment for success when unorganized workers attempt to form unions.

The news media has covered a number of recent success stories that indicate growing

interest to form unions in companies such as Starbucks, Amazon, Chipotle’s, and REI (a recreational equipment retailer), all employers of typically younger and lower paid workers. In addition, unions are also finding success among paraprofessional care providers to children, elderly, and people with disabilities — an employment sector known to be grossly underpaid despite the high levels of stress and the array of skills needed to meet the physical and emotional demands of these occupations. Under the banner of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), an impressive number



KATHLEEN
MCQUILLAN

and their consequential

Big opportunities for new elected officials

Congratulations to our incoming Minnesota Legislators for District 3 and elsewhere in St. Louis County, Rep.-elect Roger Skraba (R), Rep.-elect Natalie Zeleznikar (R) and Sen.-elect Grant Hauschild (D). These new leaders will participate in one of the most important legislative sessions in history, with once-in-a-generation opportunities to help our communities make major investments in infrastructure, energy savings, improved public health and a cleaner environment.

Passage of Minnesota’s Climate Action Framework, shaped by many Minnesota voices, offers a unique opportunity for investing in our state’s families and communities, creating new jobs, and improving our health, agriculture, forests and environment.

See: <https://climate.state.mn.us/minnesota-climate-action-framework>.

Our legislators must help all Minnesotans access these benefits with the massive Federal funding of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

The IRA, a “bank account for energy savings” helps every American invest in energy-efficiency upgrades by electrifying their homes, other buildings, and transportation. Check out what the IRA offers you at Rewiring America’s easy IRA Savings Calculator:

<https://www.rewiringamerica.org/>
“If St. Louis County successfully ramps up to 100 percent electric adoption by the end of the IRA (2032), \$652.9M in residential electrifica-

tion benefits will have been invested across every community, generating 1,098 direct and 3,820 total new jobs in St. Louis County.”

https://map.rewiringamerica.org/states/minnesota-mn/county/st._louis_county

Environmental Defense Fund’s Alex DeGolia, discussing Minnesota voter poll results, including special emphasis on Iron Range and southern Minnesota communities, stated:

“A recent poll (Sept 18-19, 2022)...found broad support among majorities of Minnesotans for ambitious climate policies – including those that limit carbon pollution, encourage more use of clean energy, and reduce pollution from specific sectors such as transportation and agriculture. Majorities of Minnesota voters also want the Governor and state lawmakers to do more to support these and other climate policies.”

<https://blogs.edf.org/climate411/2022/12/08/minnesotans-are-ready-for-state-lawmakers-to-take-bold-climate-action/>

Please contact Reps-elect Skraba and Zeleznikar and Sen.-elect Hauschild asking them to provide strong bipartisan support for Minnesota’s Climate Action Framework; allowing our region’s families to participate in our new clean energy economy and to improve our children’s future.

Lucy Grina and Mike Overend Two Harbors

Consider the sources of information

Recently, in the letters to the *Timberjay*, I saw a reference to *The Epoch Times* as some sort of au-

thoritative source for an assertion that was, well, pretty far out there. This was interesting because we had just received a promotional copy of that very publication in the mail. After perusing it, it was pretty clear that the “news” presented was not based on reality. The weather has been frightful, so I did some digging. *The Epoch Times* is a far-right wing propaganda sheet associated with and formed by a follower of a religious group known as Falun Gong. The founder of Falun Gong, Li Hongzhi, claims that he can levitate (float in the air like a genie) and speaks of extraterrestrials (space aliens) as a corrupting influence on humanity. He has also embraced a claim that the pyramids were built by “Atlanteans,” and not the Egyptians. He also believes in racial segregation. Falun Gong’s symbol prominently incorporates the swastika. The movement is staunchly anti-modern medicine, apparently because its adherents consider themselves somewhat superhuman. *The Epoch Times* is known for promoting wild conspiracy theories. Journalist Stefanie Albrecht spent a week at the “newspaper” where she was exposed to numerous conspiracies including Pizzagate (a false claim about a human and sex trafficking ring run out of a pizza place in Washington D.C.; a debunked conspiracy that resulted in one person inflamed by the claim firing a gun in the establishment); the use of powerful weather altering machines causing extreme weather conditions; and the Great Replacement theory (originally used by the Nazis to justify their treatment and extermination of Jewish people and now used to stoke White grievance against a more diverse society in America). More

recently, *The Epoch Times* heavily promoted the election conspiracies that sparked the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6. In fact, one of its “reporters” was present at the riot, and among the supporters of Donald Trump that day (as noted by the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in *Cheng v. Neumann*). Ok, I think you get the picture by now. The bottom line is that it is distressing that such outlets spread extremist propaganda in our communities. I can only conclude that it is designed to inflame based on emotion and fuel a divide among fellow Americans when we so desperately need to stand together. Whether on the right, left or in the middle politically, we all need to be more discerning, and not only consider the source of outlandish claims, but to think critically about whether they make sense in the first instance. And, for those who also received a free copy this “newspaper” in the mail, I did find a use for it. I used it to fire up the sauna.

Kelly Dahl Cook

Help is on the way to the North Country. Stauber opposed it

I’m sure we were all happy to learn that federal money from the Omnibus Spending Bill, the last bill of Congress before they adjourned in December, is coming to Ely.

Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith announced that \$1.3 million will give a big boost to the Ely, Winton, Morse Lake, and Fall Lake townships’ efforts to increase the safety of our towns with fast, up-to-date fire equipment and ambulance

services. Updating water infrastructure is included.

Ely is scheduled to receive part of the \$1.2 million appropriated to United Way. This money will be directed toward improving childcare in Ely. It’s perfect timing for the childcare project proposed for the former Revenue building.

The Omnibus Bill includes more money for the military and law enforcement; it also overhauls the Electoral Count Act to create more clarity about counting electoral votes after presidential elections.

This bill, plus the Infrastructure bill that passed in November, 2021, were created and introduced by Democrats, almost solely, although several Republicans voted for the infrastructure bill. President Biden is in Kentucky today with a bipartisan group of congresspeople to celebrate the reconstruction of the Brent Spence Bridge across the Ohio River that connects Kentucky and Ohio.

Rep. Pete Stauber voted no on both bills.

Carol Orban Ely

Don’t be misled about America’s role in the world

Israel is a killing machine, and its oppression of the Palestinian people is worse than the apartheid of the past South African government against their Black people. And it’s America that funds Israeli killing of Palestinians. It’s my tax money that Washington uses for this crime.

It is the American government that continues its economic wars against Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua that makes life miserable for the people of those countries and none

of them is a threat or even an enemy of us. Shame on Washington. And the Democrats are as much a war party as the Republicans. This is nothing new. LBJ killed 1.5 million Vietnamese, people who were never a threat to the U.S. and always wanted friendship. And, again, it’s my tax money that killed and are killing my brothers and sisters abroad. And its only good for the corporate interests largely but not exclusively the weapons industry that benefits and controls the Democrats and the Republicans in Washington.

Free press is a myth. Julian Assange is still in prison because the U.S. does not allow whistleblowers in the media. The media is largely bull_t when it comes to honest reporting because it is largely owned by huge corporations.

It is us, the Americans, who think America is God’s gift to the world. It isn’t. It is the mindless brainwashed people that is the gift to corporate greed and control of America. You don’t control America-it controls you. It owns you.

The war between the Ukraine and Russia is exactly what the U.S. system wanted, to weaken or destroy Russia. It could have been prevented, but the U.S. didn’t want that. It could be stopped at any time but the U.S. keeps sending weapons and spending my tax money for killing. The U.S. doesn’t care about Ukrainians; they are being thrown under the bus. Shame on the Democrats-the party that loves war (along with the other creeps).

Americans- it’s time to wake up. America is NOT a democracy.

Steve Johnson Ely

UNIONS...Continued from page 4

of these workers serving in state funded settings were successful in securing wage increases well above minimum wage levels to a range of \$19 to \$22 per hour — much closer to covering the actual costs of living in today’s economy.

Increased wages are only a part of the story. Since the passing of the Clayton Anti-Trust Act in 1914 that allowed workers the right to peacefully picket, boycott and strike for their interests, organized labor has championed other important improvements. Take, for example, last year’s many months-long contract negotiations between the Minnesota Nurses Association and negotiators representing major hospitals. Besides addressing adjustments to their pay scales, nurses demanded attention toward crisis-level staffing shortages.

The dangers due to chronically insufficient staffing increased dramatically during the COVID pandemic. Conditions became so bad that nurses were reporting unsafe conditions, not only for themselves but, of even greater concern, for their patients. The threat to strike was a last resort decision to get hospital reps back to the bargaining table to seek, in good faith, a contract that would effectively address staffing concerns. Only the right to strike, enshrined in law, could muster enough attention to end the stalemate. Through their col-

lective strength, the nurses prevailed. After months of “stall tactics”, hospital negotiators resumed talks, a contract was finalized, and a strike averted.

Efforts by organized labor have not only improved wage scales but also workplace standards. In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the eight-hour workday, the forty-hour work week, overtime pay and child labor protections. In 1963, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Equal Pay Act requiring men and women be paid the same wage when working the same job in the same workplace. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination in workplace hiring, firing and promotion practices based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. In 1970, due to high rates of workplace fatalities, President Richard Nixon signed the Occupational Safety and Health Act. These are just a few examples of landmark legislation that improved conditions for workers and their families but would never have become law without the concerted efforts of organized labor and the elected officials who allied to represent them.

Despite the decline in formal union membership over the past thirty years, organizations like the Steelworkers, Teamsters, United Farmworkers, Auto Workers, Teacher’s Unions, the American Federation of State, Coun-

ty and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and dozens of skilled trades and service unions have tirelessly rallied their members to push for contracts and legislation designed to improve conditions for workers.

This year, we should expect to see action on Paid Family Medical Leave and measures to expand safe affordable childcare — both critically important to working families. The MPR story included results of a recent survey that showed 77-percent of “educated people under 41 years of age” expressing support for unions, and a 55-percent increase over the past

year in applications to form unions. This is good news and underpins the successes we are hearing about as younger workers become more engaged in advancing their interests. One activist employee at Starbucks explained that getting involved was her way to address the huge income gaps that currently plague our economy.

If these trends continue, we’re sure to see brighter days ahead for American workers. I’ll be standing with “labor” as they strengthen their collective voices — while working hard to keep the nation’s needs met and our economy humming!



Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

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

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

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





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

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

Week of Jan. 16

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Jan. 17.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

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

St. Paul’s holding annual meeting on Sunday
SOUDAN- St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Soudan is holding their annual meeting on Sunday, Jan. 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Township election filings close on Tuesday, Jan. 17

REGIONAL- Filings for township offices close on Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 5 p.m. Area townships that hold their elections in March include Breitung, Greenwood, and Vermilion Lake. Greenwood has two open supervisor seats (three-year terms), one clerk seat (one-year term), and one treasurer seat (two-year term). Breitung has two open supervisor seats (one two-year, one three-year), and one treasurer (two-year). Vermilion Lake has one supervisor seat (three-year) and one treasurer seat (two-year). Embarrass and Eagles Nest townships, which both hold their elections in November, are seeking interested residents to fill an open supervisor seat.

Community meal set for Jan. 25 at Immanuel

TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower will host a Community Meal on Wednesday, Jan. 25 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. The menu will be meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, vegetable, bread and a variety of bars and cookies for dessert. Take-outs will also be available. There is no charge, and everyone is welcome.

“A New Journey” for St. James
TOWER- With the retirement of Pastor Doug Workman at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower, the Session has supplied the pulpit with the following speakers for January: Jan. 15, Greg Kuchan; Jan. 22 and 29, Rev. Rebecca LeMenager.

Worship services are at 10 a.m. on Sundays, with coffee served before the service, and coffee an’ afterwards in the social room. All are invited to attend.
Every Sunday, during the service, there is special music with Greg Kuchan on guitar and his wife, Denise Kuchan on electric drums.

Tower Winter Farmers Market set for Friday, Jan. 20

TOWER- Valentine’s Day is on its way. A great place to pick up some special, locally-made gifts, is the Tower Winter Market on Friday, Jan. 20 from 4 – 6 p.m. Many baked items freeze well, or talk to one of our bakers and you could probably special order for the week of Valentine’s Day. Winter market days are on the third Friday of the month, so February’s is a few days after Valentine’s Day. The market is held in the Pike Bay Products building in Tower, please enter through the side door.
Sugar and Son will be there with their lovely soap and bath bombs, so treat your sweetheart to a lovely bath. You can buy some jams, and jellies, salsa, pickles, baked goods, and you can even buy a charcuterie board to serve those on. There is also jewelry, bags, and belts, also all locally-made.
Shop local for your sweetheart this year.



Finlander Bocce Ball set for Jan. 28 at Your Boat Club in Tower

TOWER- Finlander Bocce ball will be held on Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Your Boat Club on Marina Dr. Start time is 9 a.m. sharp and the registration deadline will be Jan. 27 at 5 p.m. Registration is \$15 per person and teams must consist of two females and two males. Please note the change in location from last year.
Finlander bocce ball is played with wooden stumps with handles, that are slid on ice lanes. Scoring is the same as traditional bocce ball. There will be cash prizes for tournament winners.
Registration sheets will be available at Good Ol’ Days, D’Erick’s, Benchwarmers, Fuel and Food, and with Jolene at 218-255-2131. Fees can be paid at the marina the day of the event.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY



Lily Russell (left) and Leilana Stellmach have some fun practicing a pivoting drill during afterschool basketball practice with volunteer coaches Principal John Jirik and several parents. photo by J. Summit

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS



Alliyah Zapata graduates from Navy basic training

REGIONAL- Alliyah Zapata, a 2021 graduate of Vermilion Country School, graduated from the Navy’s Great Lakes Recruit Training Center in Great Lakes, Ill. on Dec. 2, 2022. She is now in San Antonio, undergoing training to become a Navy medic. Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, is a unit within the United States Navy primarily responsible for conducting the initial orientation and training of incoming recruits, also known as boot camp and recruit training, or RTC.

Brianna Whiteman named to FDLTCC 2022 Fall Semester Dean’s List

CLOQUET- Brianna Whiteman, of Tower, has been named to the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (FDLTCC) Dean’s List honors for the semester grading period.
Requirements for earning Dean’s List honors at

Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College include maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher while completing 12 or more course credits during the semester. Students may take daytime classes, evening classes, weekend classes, on-line classes, or a combination of the above classes.

New director named for Duluth Superior Area Foundation



DULUTH — The Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation announced today that it has named Jessica Lind Peterson as its new development director and that she will fully assume all development responsibilities when Mark Dan-

ielson retires in June. “We are excited to bring Jessica aboard and fortunate that she and our organization will benefit from Mark’s knowledge during a transition period over the next six months,” foundation President and CEO Shaun Floerke said. He added: “Jessica brings energy and enthusiasm about our work in our community, which is her hometown. She has an accomplished track record in the development world. She also knows what it takes to start charitable innovations from scratch. “She will benefit from

time working side-by-side with Mark. Over the past 11 years, he has given so much to our organization as development director. He has put his love for our region, as well as his knowledge as an attorney, to use to help others make an impact through charitable giving.” Throughout her career, she also has worked as a playwright, author and actor. Peterson holds a bachelor of arts degree in English literature and theater arts from the University of Minnesota Duluth. She also holds a master of fine arts degree in creative

writing from Hamline University in St. Paul. She grew up in Duluth and graduated from Denfeld High School.
The DSACF was chosen to manage the Gunderson Trust Fund in Tower, changing it from its former trust structure to a community foundation fund.
“The foundation does so much good in our region,” she said. “I am excited to work with the team and our generous donors to grow that impact and make our region stronger. This is a dream opportunity to be

part of an organization making a difference in the place I call home.” Floerke said the foundation will celebrate Danielson’s career and accomplishments later in 2023, closer to his announced June retirement date. “Mark is one of the most successful development directors in the history of our organization and in the Twin Ports region,” Floerke said. “We’re lucky to have two strong leaders working together in the next six months to put the foundation on a path to further success in years to come.”

LAW AND ORDER

New St. Louis County Sheriff's deputies for Ely



Josh Kolar

Ryan Norland

Sean Norland

Joe Olufson

Eight new St. Louis County Sheriff's Office deputies were sworn in at ceremonies in Duluth on Dec. 19, and four of them have been assigned to work out of the Ely office. Deputy Joe Olufson should be a familiar face to many, having previously served with the Ely Police Department for over a year. Others coming to Ely include brothers Sean and Ryan Norland and Josh Kolar. Another familiar face in the Ely office, deputy Josh Engel has moved to the Cook office to fill a vacancy there. Submitted photos

EDUCATION

Ely school district reduces deficit

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- An improving financial outlook was the upshot of Ely school district's annual audit, which headlined the school board meeting here on Monday. According to auditor Devin Ceglar, from Walker, Giroux, and Hahne, the district paid off nearly \$5 million in deficits from the prior year. That still left the district \$1 million in the red, but reflected marked progress over the course of the year.

A yearly independent audit is required by both state and federal law. Ceglar, a partner at Walker, Giroux, rounded figures during his presentation. The *Timberjay* has replaced those with the actual dollar amounts from the 93-page audit report.

Ceglar started with the district's overall net position, noting that the district had total revenues of \$15,087,586 and total expenses of \$10,226,579, for a positive change-in-net of \$4,861,007. When the \$5,957,545 deficit from the 2020-2021 is subtracted from the 2021-2022 change-in-net, the district's end-of-year net is a much-lower deficit of \$1,096,538.

As of June 30, 2022, the district had a total of \$17,923,332 in capital assets, which was an increase of \$11,649,920 over the previous year.

That amount represents not only the new construction at the district's facilities, but also a new bus.

The district reduced its outstanding debt to \$15,395,000, which is \$313,000 less than the previous year. By law, the state limits the amount of debt that the district can issue to 15 percent of the market of value of all the taxable property in the district. For ISD 696, that limit is \$103,191,692, which is much higher than the district's actual debt.

The district did have some cost overruns which were much higher than what was budgeted. "The general fund lost \$463,774," Ceglar pointed out. He explained the loss by comparing the amount that the district budgeted for each line item versus the amount that was actually received or spent, calling the difference a variance.

"Typically, you want to see positive variances," Ceglar explained. "When there are negative variances, that means that revenue didn't come in as anticipated or expenditures were higher. So, as you can see ... the total revenue (variance) was a positive \$216,498 ... Then when you go to expenditures, the general fund overspent by \$682,272, (mainly) for district support services (\$245,996), regular instruction (\$396,328), and special education instruction (\$137,234)."

Accounting practices

Ceglar also reported that the audit identified a few areas of "material weaknesses and significant deficiencies" in accounting practices. The audit determined that the district "did not possess the technical expertise to comply" with all of the government's accounting reporting standards, but that the cost of training the district's staff "exceeded the benefit that would result." That finding is fairly typical of governmental bodies in the region.

Ceglar also noted that the district lacked the staff to achieve a complete "segregation of (accounting) duties," so that each step in the accounting process would have a new set of eyes reviewing transactions. "Our recommendation is that, for example, four accounting steps should be done by four different people," Ceglar remarked, "but most government entities are too small," noting that the problem of small accounting staffs included "90 percent of all our small government clients."

Ceglar also recommended that the district adopt an annual review of all outstanding checks, to either reissue them or turn them over to the state as unclaimed property. He also recommended that the district should adopt a more timely practice of

making adjustments for interest and fund transfer corrections within one-to-two weeks of the receipt of the district's bank statements.

In other action, the school board:

➤ Designated that it would meet every second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m.

➤ Designated the *Ely Echo* as its official district newspaper for 2023 for the printing of legal notices. No other paper submitted a competing bid.

➤ Designated the Klun Law Firm as the district legal counsel for 2023. The district superintendent and chairperson of the school board were authorized to contact legal counsel at a rate of \$125/hour. The rate in 2022 was \$120/hour.

➤ Designated Boundary Waters Bank, U.S. Bank, Minnesota School Liquid Asset Fund and the PMA Financial Network as the district's financial institutions.

➤ Designated Spencer Aune, Finance Manager and Jordan Huntbatch, Payroll, Benefits & Finance Coordinator, as the district staff members who are authorized to conduct electronic fund transfers for the district.

➤ Approved the payment of \$1,250 for 2023 dues for the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools.

➤ Approved the 2023

Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate of \$0.655/mile for reimbursing school district travel.

➤ Approved the December 2022 financial report, December 2022 receipts of \$2,551,720 and December 2022 disbursements of \$819,159.

➤ Established school board compensation for 2023 at \$223/month plus \$30,000 life insurance for directors, \$287/month plus \$30,000 life insurance for the board chairperson, and an additional \$64 for each board member for monthly study session. These are an increase of 7.1 percent over the previous levels, which is the current rate of inflation. The annual inflation rate for the United States was 7.1 percent for the 12 months ended November 2022 according to U.S. Labor Department consumer price index data published on Dec. 13.

➤ Accepted the resignation of Molly Holtz from her paraprofessional position effective Feb. 4.

➤ Heard from director of facilities Tim Leeson, who remarked that the pipes in the Early Childhood Family Education room burst on the day after the holiday break started, but that the pipe failure was discovered immediately, "preventing damage much worse than wet carpets." He also reported that the historic Workman murals have been rehung.

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.

2023 Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

➤ Jan 17: Helen Tome of the Ely Free Clinic will speak about their services, especially their new dental offerings.

➤ Jan 24: Linda Ganister will speak about the Ely Winter Festival.

➤ Jan 31: Marne Kaeske will speak about the 1854 Treaty.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

Monday	10 am-6 pm
Tuesday	10 am-6 pm
Wednesday	10 am-6 pm
Thursday	10 am-6 pm
Friday	10 am-6 pm

Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics

Anonymous

OPEN AA - 7:30

p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.

SUNDAY NIGHT AA - at St. Anthony's Catholic Church is canceled.

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN

AA - Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.

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

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

For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.

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

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

ADULT BASIC

EDUCATION GED

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

CAREGIVER

SUPPORT GROUPS:

Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living.

Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B.

Upcoming Events

Ely Public Library

ELY- The Ely Public Library will be closed on Jan. 16 for Martin Luther King Day.

The library will host a Kahoot starting Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 3 p.m. and ending on Friday, Jan. 20 at 8 a.m. The subject of the Kahoot will be the Selection series of five romance novels by Kiera Cass. The prizes will be a tieria, a necklace and a Kiera Cass book. Registration and participation in the Kahoot will be online at www.elylibrary.org.

The library will also hold a craft event on Jan. 20 at 3 p.m. where participants will make a scarf and then go for a walk wearing it.

Ely Folk School

ELY- The Ely Folk School is holding a community contra dance on Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Ely Senior Center from 7-10 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults. Kids are free with a parent. No experience necessary. All the dances will be taught at the

A little Monday morning excitement



On Monday, Jan. 9, a 9:00 a.m. firealarm saw Ely's finest responding to a carbon monoxide alarm at the Wintergreen shop at 205 E. Sheridan St. According to a sewing room employee at Wintergreen, the alarm went off shortly after the temperature was turned up on the furnace at the beginning of the work day. The Ely Fire Department sent in a crew with self-contained breathing apparatus equipment to survey the business before determining no fire was present. Photo by C. Clark

event.

Makers Mornings at the Ely Folk School are held every Thursday morning from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for makers to meet, talk, craft, and have coffee. Makers mornings are free community events.

End of the Road Film Festival

ELY- Tickets for individual films and for the omnibus festival pass for the End of the Road Film Festival are now on sale

online at elyfilmfest.com. The film festival is Feb. 9-12, which will overlap with Ely Winter Festival. The \$75 pass for the entire festival is good for admission to all the films though purchasers of the whole-festival pass must

still make seat reservations online for the films they wish to attend. Tickets for individual films are \$10. The festival pass and tickets to individual films can also be purchased at Ely's Historical State Theater.

ORR CITY COUNCIL

Pay raise approved for Orr Ambulance Service volunteers
City council punts Cote land purchase proposal down the road again

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- While Orr City Council member Bruce Black was re-elected in November to continue on with the council, two other electees, Mayor Bob Antikainen and council member Hannah Manick got their first indoctrination into issues the council has wrestled with before.

Topping those items was consideration of a new pay scale for Orr Ambulance Service volunteers, something ambulance director Donna Hoffer said was both well-deserved and needed to retain current volunteers and enhance the recruitment of new ones.

“EMS in northern Minnesota is hard,” Hoffer said. “It’s difficult work, it’s volunteer work. We have to get up in the wee hours of the night. Nobody wants to volunteer, and it’s becoming harder and harder to get people to serve, especially during a pandemic when people are concerned about their own health.”

Hoffer reminded the council that ambulance services are required to be staffed 24 hours a day,

seven days a week with at least a driver and an EMT on call to respond to page outs. Currently, a driver does not have to be an EMR or EMT, as long as a qualified EMT is in the back with the patient being transported, she said. EMTs have been paid \$4 an hour for on-call hours, while EMRs received \$3/hr. and drivers \$2/hr.

Hoffer presented two alternatives for the council to consider. Both would raise compensation for EMTs to \$5 and EMRs and drivers to \$4, but under the second proposal personnel would take their first 40 hours of on-call time at the existing pay scale and qualify for the increased rate for any additional hours they are scheduled. Doubling the rate for drivers to \$4 was justified, Hoffer said, because without them an ambulance can’t run.

Cost estimates were developed using the proposed EMT compensation rate, and Hoffer assured that council that the ambulance service budget would accommodate either option. She also indicated that the “overtime” option would be more cumbersome to adminis-

ter.

Council members approved the option that provides the straightforward hourly increases on a 4-0 vote, with Manick abstaining. As part of the package, run compensation will go up \$10 to \$50 and medical transport will go up \$25 to \$125.

Land proposal tabled again

For a third consecutive meeting, a proposal from Dennis and Ericka Cote to buy a 4.43-acre parcel behind their property and a 4.44-acre parcel behind the Carefree Living facility was on the agenda, and for a third time it was tabled by the council. At prior meetings, the issue was tabled over unanswered questions about the future of the long-term care facility and how that might impact the second lot in the Cotes’ proposal.

That was the rationale again as council member Lloyd Scott moved to table the proposal until the June meeting this time, saying that he did so in part to relieve the Cotes of having to attend more council meetings in the interim. City clerk Cheri

Carter reported that the city had been contacted by a closing company last week about the Carefree property.

Dennis Cote was obviously displeased with the extended delay, which will impact plans for developing the property to accommodate seasonal

tourism.

“So in June, if they decide they don’t want it, are we just going to go and table it again because somebody next year may want it? Campers come in June and it’s going to be empty,” he said. “It’s not going to be bringing people into town, it’s not

going to be bringing any revenue into town, nobody’s going to be buying fuel or bait at the stores. We didn’t know about this last month or the month before or the month before or the month before that. And now we know about it today. I mean, that seems kind of strange.”

SUDS FOR SOOT



Orr Fire Department volunteer Daniel Holman demonstrates the operation of the department's new washing machine that is specialized for getting carcinogens, toxins, soot and chemicals out of turnout gear, which leads to better safety for volunteers. courtesy of Orr Fire Department



Cook VFW awards winners of Voice of Democracy contest

Cook VFW representative Pat Lamwers went to North Woods School recently to present awards to the top students in the local post's Voice of Democracy essay contest for high schoolers and coloring contest for elementary students.

Top left: High school winners were Alex Burckhardt, 2nd place, Emily Trip, 3rd place, and Avery Thiel, 1st place.

Top right: Grades 3-6 winners were Esme Brodeen, 2nd place, Allison Huffman, 1st place, and Christian Tschida, 3rd place.

Bottom right: Grades K-2 winners were Myray Maroste, 2nd place, Hannah Huffman, 1st place, and Addie Holter, 3rd place. submitted photos



North Woods third-grader Nova Rutchasky races ahead of classmate Shainah Christiansen during a halftime exhibition at the North Woods game against Ely last week. The girls also got to sit on the team bench during warmups and stood with them for the national anthem. photo by D. Colburn

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Kabetogama Lake Canister Site
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Sat: 8am–noon

Portage Canister Site
6992 Crane Lake Rd.
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Regional Landfill
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Sat: 8am–3:30pm

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"I may be naïve," he said. "I am put in the position of serving the community. Individuals feelings should be set aside. I see an abuse of power. You need to serve the people, not your personal opinion. Due to this abuse of power and personal vendetta,

“I don’t believe those
on the board who made

The vote failed 2-3.

The assembled fire department members all

Drobac put forward a motion to terminate Mike Indihar from the fire depart-

Reporting on the rest of the board's actions at the meeting will be in next week's paper.

The meeting got off to a raucous start with four residents from Fredenberg Township, on the outskirts of Duluth, who gave public

- A new land use definition for Commercial Short-Term Rental.

Bourbonais explained that the county used the same liability numbers required of contractors with the county but remarked that extending those to

The second testifier was Melissa Bell of Fredenberg, who opposed the ordinance changes because she believed the county was incapable of enforcing standards fairly. "I've been told many times (that the county) does not have the manpower to regulate conditions and standards. If our department is so overworked already, what is the solution because I've seen double standards. I've seen big business get away with whatever they want and everyone turns their eyes (away), but small businesses, homeowners trying to keep up their property taxes and make a little extra money, they're gonna get handed all these

At the conclusion of the public hearing, the county commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the proposed changes and additions to the short-term

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Hensley dismissed the charges for assaulting or resisting an officer, disorderly conduct, interfering with a government employee or agent, and improper display of vessel registration, with Ebel incurring \$120 in processing fees.

The *Timberjaya* attempted to contact Ebel by phone for comments about the outcome, but he had not responded as of press time on Wednesday. The newspaper will continue its efforts to report on this incident until full details, including confirmation of the alleged tasing, are obtained.

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Photo by Cecilia Rolando, Ely

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CITY OF TOWER

Council questions handling of trailhead project

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER — The city council here had questions over the handling of the trailhead project near the city’s harbor and cost overruns that forced significant cutbacks in the project as well as the tapping of contingency funds from a related road extension.

The questions arose as the council was faced with approving a \$237,168 change order as a result of soft, wet soils discovered once excavation began on the driveway and new parking lot being built along the East Two River, just north of the Hwy. 169 bridge.

“Isn’t it customary to use soil surveys prior to this kind of work?” asked new council member Josh Zika.

City engineer Matt Bolf agreed that such tests are typical, but he said the lack of road access and tree cover on the site complicated any soil testing. He also said that the city couldn’t use funds approved by the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources, or LCCMR, to pay for soil testing, since the project needed to be approved before any reimbursable funds could be expended.

The lack of testing came back to bite in this case, as additional soil removal and refill added nearly a quarter million dollars

to the cost of the project. “So certainly, hindsight is 20-20,” said Bolf. “This is not an ideal situation to be in,” he acknowledged.

Bolf said the entire area was “not conducive” to a city road but that under the circumstances, they opted to dig out the soft soils down to about ten feet to ensure that the road and parking area would hold up. In order to cut other costs, city officials opted to reduce the size of the parking lot and eliminated the plan for lighting at the site, which will include a trail kiosk and a kayak and canoe launch.

Those deductions helped trim the project cost by \$152,664, still leaving an \$84,504 estimated cost overrun. The city will cover that extra charge with contingency funds from a related \$461,900 grant from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, although that will all but eliminate the \$90,000 in contingency funding incorporated into that grant. The IRRR funds are earmarked for construction of an extension of Main Street that will provide access to the new trailhead as well as a “green flush” toilet proposed for installation near the civic center and a few other minor improvements. Schultz said the road extension is the higher priority and he is concerned that if contractors run into similar soils underlying the new road, it could easily consume all of the IRRR funds allotted to

the project. “It’s a tricky situation to be in,” said Schultz.

Mayor Dave Setterberg noted that the decisions that led to the current situation were made back in 2017, under a prior administration. A series of cost overruns and mistakes on project budgeting over the years was the primary cause of the city’s financial crisis, which came to a head in 2018 and 2019.

In other action, the council approved a request to apply to participate in an 18-month “Housing Institute” being sponsored by the Minnesota Housing Partnership. According to Brad Gustafson with St. Louis County community development, the Housing Partnership is interested in setting up four cohorts of city officials in northeastern Minnesota to take part in the institute. “I highly encourage Tower to apply to be a team!” wrote Gustafson in a Dec. 23 email. “This is a great opportunity to help move a housing project forward!” he wrote.

Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz noted that participation in the institute will likely entail a significant time commitment, but said that the costs associated with the institute will be covered by the Housing Partnership.

“It would be a way to work collaboratively on housing,” said council member Joe Morin. “It would help us learn the process.”

In other business, the council:

- Approved committee appointments and designations for 2023, with few changes from last year. Robert Anderson will replace council member Kevin Norby on the ambulance commission. Joe Morin will remain as acting mayor.
- Approved the hiring of Chas Hanna as the city’s seasonal maintenance worker, starting at \$13 an hour.
- Approved a two percent increase in hangar lease rates for 2023, the first change in lease rates since 2015. In a memo to the council, Schultz recommended that the city research whether the current lease rates are appropriate and in line with other regional airports.

Council member Robert Anderson said his own research suggests that the rates are too low, particularly given that hangar owners get to make use of additional airport space beyond the footprint of their hangars. The current hangar leases allow for a two percent annual increase in the lease rate.

- Heard from Mike Korpi in support of the installation of a “love lock” near the Tower-Soudan Elementary School in honor of longtime teacher Carol Alstrom, who was influential with many students. The council noted that the decision on the monument

was up to the school district, since the memorial would be on school property. The council agreed to continue to explore the possibility of making that portion of Spruce Street in front of the school a commemorative street in honor of Alstrom.

While councilors expressed general support for the idea, Mayor Dave Setterberg questioned whether the council wanted to establish a standard for naming city streets or other facilities for prominent members of the community. “I’m not against it, but what’s the threshold that must be set to do something like this?” he asked. Schultz said he would do some more research on the issue and report back.

- Approved the purchase of a new refrigerator for the civic center kitchen.
- Approved some minor updates and changes to the operating procedures for the ambulance service.
- Gave the first reading to a change in the zoning ordinance that designates the Planning and Zoning Commission to serve as the city’s Board of Adjustment in the absence of a designated BOA.
- Heard that the city is still waiting for clarification on a legal description for the transfer of the civic center area and mini-park from TEDA back to the city.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Twin Cities woman killed in Morcom snowmobile crash

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

MORCOM TWP- An Albertville woman died in a snowmobile accident in Morcom Township last Saturday, on a weekend that saw two other Minnesotans lose their lives in such incidents.

According to the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office, 55-year-old Nancy Leann Grieman was riding on the Bearskin trail at about 1:15 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7 when the accident occurred.

“It appeared the female driver, who was the only occupant of the snowmobile, had lost control while navigating a turn, causing her to strike a tree,” a sheriff’s press release said.

Grieman was pronounced dead at the scene, and the accident remains under investigation.

Grieman was a single mother of three children. A GoFundMe campaign has been started by Grieman’s cousin to raise funds for future caregiving and educational expenses for the children.

Grieman was the first of three weekend snowmobile fatalities in the state. A 64-year-old Ottertail man died after a group of two snowmobiles and an ATV he was in went into the water on Otter Tail Lake on Saturday night. Sunday afternoon, a 12-year-old boy was killed in Wabasha County when his snowmobile struck a tree.

Since Dec. 31, six people have died from snowmobile accidents in Minnesota.

HARBOR...Continued from page 1

ran into extensive delays, however, after it became clear that the city lacked clear title to some of the property in question. It took more than three years to unwind that knot and, in the meantime, the COVID pandemic sparked a run of inflation that put the construction cost of the planned town homes out of reach. Meanwhile, the city transferred its interest and ownership of the project to TEDA, which has been working for the past two years to advance the town home project under a revised development agreement signed in late November 2021.

Tower Harbor Shores announced last August that it would be unable to proceed with the town homes due to the high construction costs. At the TEDA meeting last week, the TEDA board gave its approval to a cancellation agreement with Tower Harbor Shores, which cleared the way to seek a new developer.

Tower Harbor Shores is still free to submit a proposal for a revised project and is currently expected to do so.

The RFP is giving

prospective developers until March 31 to submit proposals. The RFP sets a number of goals, including:

- Establishing new opportunities for both permanent and/or short-term residential housing as well as space for a variety of commercial ventures, with a particular interest in new dining opportunities.
- Creating an attractive and walkable development that entices travelers along Hwy. 169 to stop and explore Tower. A mix of private development and public green space is preferred.
- Making productive use of a highly visible and well-located parcel within

the city that currently has no private development.


- Growing the city’s tax base.

A firm or group responding to the proposal will be expected to provide a résumé, references, examples of previous projects, and a development concept appropriate to the site and consistent with TEDA’s goals. A firm whose proposal is accepted will be expected to enter into a development agreement with TEDA that would further define the development and establish timelines and benchmarks for advancing the project.

In other business, the TEDA board:

- Approved revised guidelines for the city’s commercial redevelopment loan program, which is now under the auspices of TEDA. TEDA recently received a \$50,000 grant from the IRRR, which it is matching 1-1 with a portion of the proceeds from the recent sale of lands on Mud Creek Road. TEDA now has approximately \$111,000 available for low interest lending for commercial improvements in the city.
- Appointed Joe Morin as TEDA president, replacing Steve Peterson, whose term had expired.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL



Ely tips Grizzlies in thriller

Grace LaTourell shows poise under pressure to ice victory

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- In the closing seconds of an intense battle against North Woods last week, the Ely girls hoops team needed a touch of Grace, and they got it, as junior guard Grace

Left: Ely junior Grace LaTourell eyes the bucket while under heavy pressure from North Woods' defenders.

photo by D. Colburn

LaTourell coolly iced the Grizzlies with four free throws and blocked a desperation three-ball to give the Wolves a narrow 64-61 win.

LaTourell was no stranger to late-game heroics, with her clutch free throw shooting as a sophomore leading to an upset win over South Ridge in last year's sectional tourney, and Ely Head Coach Max Gantt was confident she would come through again.

"Funny how that happened

again, isn't it?" Gantt said. "She's one of those people who will say, 'Oh, I was so nervous,' but she just blocks it out and she's a good free throw shooter. Yeah, we're lucky to have her."

From the outset it didn't look like Ely would need any special effort at the end of the game, as they were up by 12, 25-13, with only nine minutes elapsed on the clock. Sarah

See GIRLS...pg. 2B



BOYS BASKETBALL

Wolves outpace North Woods

Freshman Davies' hot hand from outside lifts Ely over Grizzlies

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook-Orr Editor

ELY- In a roller coaster basketball game with North Woods last week, the Ely Timberwolves watched a 12-point lead evaporate to nothing before catching the fast downslope again to hand the Grizzlies a 16-point thumping at Ely.

Leading 20-17, the Wolves made their first big push on a three-ball by Joey Bianco and pushing the ball inside for baskets by Erron Anderson, Jake Cochran, and Bianco to go up 29-17. But Ely went scoreless for the next four minutes as North Woods countered with a 6-0 run capped by a fast break score by Brendan Chiabotti to trim the gap to

Above: Jared Chiabotti gets up top of Ely's Caid Chittum during last Thursday's contest at North Woods.

Right: Ely freshman Jack Davies negotiates through a gauntlet of Grizzlies' defenders.

photos by D. Colburn

29-23. A layup by Bianco just before the halftime buzzer gave Ely a 33-25 cushion at the break.

Ely was back up by 11 four minutes into the second half when North Woods caught fire on both ends of the court, reeling off a 13-2 run to knot the score at 42-42 with

See BOYS...pg. 2B



ARCHERY

North Woods archers claim overall titles

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The North Woods archery season got underway last weekend with a Jan. 7 competition at Greenway, and Grizzlies archers came home with a slew of medals.

The stars of the day for North Woods were eighth-grad-

er Merilee Scofield and sixth-grader Brady Swanson, who both won their grade division, middle school grouping, and overall top spot for the tourney. Scofield bested 192 girls for the title, while Swanson outshot 203 boys for the win.

In the elementary division, Conner Anderson took first place among fourth-grade boys and third place overall.

Kaidence Scofield took second place in the fifth-grade girls category, and Shay Wilcox placed fourth among fourth-grade girls.

Laurin Glass was the champion in the sixth-grade girls group and placed third among middle schoolers.

Blaze Markwardt was on point in the boys' high school category, taking first in ninth grade, third in high school, and

fourth overall. On the girls' side, Cadence Nelson nabbed third place among 11th-grade girls and fourth in the high school division.

The team will be back in action again on their home turf when North Woods hosts a tournament on Sat., Jan. 21 at the school.

NORDIC SKIING

Wolves continue to excel

Ely's Devine takes first in massive field at Giants Ridge event

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

GIANTS RIDGE— Longtime Ely standout skier Zoe Devine is having the best season of her impressive high school career, and showed it again here last Saturday as she placed first in a massive field in the freestyle event held as part of the Mesabi Invitational.

The annual event is among the largest high school Nordic competitions in Minnesota, and this year it brought nearly 60 teams from around the Upper Midwest to Giants Ridge to take part in both classic and freestyle, or skate, skiing competition.

Devine, now a senior, has consistently finished in the top three at meets so far this season, but this was the largest field she has faced all season, as 144 racers took part in the event. Devine took first with a time of 16:09.6, topping second place finisher, Rowan Bixler, of Duluth East, by nearly 13 seconds.

"Zoe's first place finish was exciting for the whole team," said Ely Head Coach Todd Hohenstein.

Yet the Ely girls team had other reasons for excitement. Strong performances by Ava Skustad (23rd with 18:25.8) and Claire Blauch (26th with 18:34.6) in the freestyle event helped lift the team to a sixth-place finish among 57 teams in the overall competition.

Adding to that mix were senior Phoebe Helms, who finished 23rd in a classic field of 140 racers with a time of 19:13.5 and Kelly Thompson, who finished 38th with a time of 20:19.5. Helms appears back on track after suffering an early season injury that had sidelined her for a time.

Ely's young boys team, who have mostly competed at the junior varsity level until recently, showed strength as well, finishing in 19th place among 57 teams.

Sophomore Eli Olson was the top finisher for Ely, finishing 33rd in the freestyle event with a time of 15:50.0, while Silas Solum was Ely's top finisher in the classic competition, with a time of 17:07.1. Dylan Durkin finished 43rd in the freestyle event with a time of 16:19.4.

Ely's skiers looked sharp again on Tuesday as they competed at the Korkki Ski Center in Two Harbors in a classic competition. The girls team finished second behind Duluth East, while the boys finished in third place in the eight-team field.

Devine finished second this time among the girls as Duluth

See NORDIC...pg. 2B

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ely girls stay on the winning track so far in 2023

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Timberwolves are flawless thus far in 2023. They made it four straight wins on Monday against Cherry, as they topped the Tigers 66-42 in what Head Coach Max Gantt described as “a balanced attack.”

“Everybody on our team who checked-in played impressive defense,” noted Gantt. “Zoe Mackenzie and Maisy Sundblad gave us great minutes! We limited our turnovers against a pretty

solid Cherry defense. We got a ton of offensive rebounds and just out worked them sometimes. (It was) a total team effort.”

Grace LaTourell poured in 15 points to lead the offensive attack. Clare Thomas notched 11 points. Hannah Penke tallied 13 points, while Madeline Perry brought great defensive energy and added nine points on offense. Madeline Kallberg added eight points, while Sarah Visser contributed with seven.

“I’m proud of how we are

playing right now,” said Gantt. “We want to keep getting better as it’s only game 11 and we have a long season, but I’m very happy with where we are now!”

The Wolves had their toughest test of the new year last Thursday against North Woods. That game appears in a separate story on page 1B.

In a makeup game against Silver Bay on Saturday, the Wolves cruised to an 85-35 win over the Mariners.

Madeline Perry and Hannah

Penke poured in 19 points apiece in the contest, while Clare Thomas added 14. Grace LaTourell tallied 13 points, while Sarah Visser added 10. Overall, the team notched eight treys and posted 22 steals.

“We played solid defense all game and took care of business,” said Gantt. I’m proud of how we have been improving defensively and sharing the ball on offense lately.”

The Wolves also topped Littlefork-Big Falls on Jan. 3,

86-31. Penke poured in 20 points to lead offensively, while Perry added ten points and six assists. Thomas added ten points and eight rebounds, while LaTourell added ten points and six steals.

The Wolves were set to take on Fond du Lac on Saturday and head to Duluth on Tuesday to take on Duluth-Marshall. They’ll return home next Thursday to host International Falls.

At home, Grizzlies blitz Silver Bay 72-33

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- A weekend break and a 72-33 trouncing of Silver Bay on Monday were just what the doctor ordered for a North Woods girls hoops

team smarting from back-to-back tough losses to Ely and International Falls the week before.

On the road for Monday’s contest, the Grizzlies found the battle tight early in the game and used pressure defense

and turnovers to stay even and slightly ahead of the Mariners. The Grizzlies led 31-23 at the half.

The second stanza was when the roof caved in for Silver Bay, as the Grizzlies’ offense kicked into high gear, fueled again

by withering defense that allowed the Mariners only 10 second-half points. With the Grizzlies rolling to 41 points in the period, Head Coach Liz Cheney was able to get more players and combinations into the game, and nine players

notched scores.

Talise Goodsky was the leading scorer for North Woods with 14, while Hannah Kinsey was hot on her heels with 13. Helen Koch and Tatum Barto also reached double figures with ten points each.

GIRLS..Continued from page 1B



Left: The Grizzlies’ Talise Goodsky goes up for a jumper under pressure from Ely’s Sarah Visser.

Visser, Madeline Kallberg, and LaTourell all canned threes in the early surge, and the Wolves appeared to be firmly in control.

But freshman guard Tatum Barto canned a pair of free throws and Kiana LaRoque followed a baseline jumper with a fast break score for a 6-0 run that put North Woods right back in the fray. They closed to within three, 34-31, when River Cheney netted two charities and went into halftime trailing the Wolves 36-31.

The second half was nip and tuck all the way, with the Wolves fending off repeated attempts by North Woods to grab the lead. A trey by the Grizzlies’ Helen Koch

narrowed the gap to one, 39-38, and North Woods pulled even at 45-45 on a bucket by Hannah Kinsey. But the Grizzlies couldn’t get over the hump, and a three-point play on a score and free throw by LaTourell gave Ely a 56-52 lead with four minutes to play.

Trailing 60-54 with just over two minutes to play, North Woods threatened again when Koch hit another three and Kinsey scored on the baseline to get within one, 60-59, with 49 seconds remaining. LaTourell made a pair of free throws, but Cheney responded with a basket with 18 seconds on the clock. Ely managed to milk seven seconds off the clock before LaTourell was fouled and sank another two charities for a 64-61 lead. Koch raced down the court to launch a game-ty-

ing three, but the shot was blocked by LaTourell to preserve the win for the Wolves.

Gantt was pleased with the effort across the board from his team, and particularly with the play of Visser, whose 15 points included four treys.

“She’s one of those players who plays really well in big games,” he said. “You don’t always notice because she’s always helping everyone else and letting them get their points, but she carries us in games like this with her with her ability.”

LaTourell contributed far more than her game-clinching free throws, leading Ely with 26 points. Madeline Perry was also in double figures with ten.

North Woods Head Coach Liz Cheney said

that the key to the Grizzlies turning it around in the first half was taking off their full court press.

“It wasn’t as effective as we wanted it to be, so I wanted all our energy focused on our man-to-man defense,” she said. “I think they got tired and I was able to put some fresh legs in to keep us fresher.”

Cheney was upbeat about the Grizzlies’ performance despite the loss.

“This was huge for us,” she said. “We didn’t lose by 20, we lost by three points. Of course we wanted to beat Ely. But it’s good to keep the momentum building like this.”

River Cheney was the leading scorer for North Woods with 16, followed by Kinsey with 15 and LaRoque with 12.

BOYS..Continued from page 1B

9:31 remaining. The surge included a three-ball and layup by Jared Chiabotti and a pair of fast break buckets by Jonah Burnett.

But after a time out, the Wolves regained their footing and responded with a big surge of their own, riding the hot hand of freshman guard Jack Davies. A trey by Davies broke the tie, and after a bucket by Bianco, Davies scored on a layup and then drained trifectas from the left corner on three consecutive possessions as the home crowd raucously celebrated Ely’s new 58-44 advantage.

Down 14 with just over three minutes remaining, the Grizzlies tried to get back into it from three-point range, but a solitary trey from Burnett with a minute left was the best they could muster as the Wolves coasted to a 65-49

win.

The Grizzlies had trouble solving the Wolves’ 2-3 zone defense, and Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald said that was a difference-maker.

“I thought defensively we were really, really good,” he said. “Offensively we had some lulls in there, but I thought our defense kept us in the game the whole time. Even if we were late we got a hand up on their shooters and made things difficult for them. We played well for 36 minutes.”

McDonald lauded Davies, who led the Wolves with 23 points, for his role in breaking the game open.

“I thought they were going to pull ahead and take it from us, but Jack had a big one. And then he had another one and got us the momentum there,” McDonald said. “He hit

three of them in a row. He struggled in the first half a bit, but once he got his rhythm, he was really good.”

Bianco also hit double figures with 17, and McDonald acknowledged the challenge the Ely senior faces every time they take the floor.

“He always gets the other team’s best defenders, and tonight (Louie) Panichi and Burnett did a great job on him,” McDonald said.

“He’s got to work hard to get his points. But I thought he did a nice job when things got tough for him of finding the open guys and we knocked down some shots.”

North Woods Head Coach Andrew Jugovich zeroed in on the Grizzlies’ over-reliance on the three-ball as the primary culprit in his team’s loss. North Woods shot dismally from beyond the arc, connecting on only five of 32 attempts.

“We’re not a three-point-shooting team by any means,” he said. “Our goal in practice this week was to work the ball inside, and when we did you could see that it works. We told them not to force the three, and we forced the three and that’s what lost the game.”

Burnett hit four of the five threes the Grizzlies made and finished with a team-high 26 points. No other Grizzlies scored in double figures.

NORDIC..Continued from page 1B

East’s Bixler was out to settle the score from Saturday’s competition. In a six-kilometer classic race, Devine finished with a time of 22:20.3, about 36 seconds behind Bixler.

Helms continued to look stronger, as she finished in tenth place among the 56 racers competing in the girls classic event with a time of 24:02.9. Junior Claire Blauch was right behind in 12th place with a time of 24:28.1. Thompson finished at 15th with a time of 24:54.7.

On the boys side, Solum again led the way for Ely, finishing in tenth place with a time of 22:00.3, while Olson finished at 18th with a time of 23:27.6. Milo

McClelland finished at 21st, with a time of 24:01.9, while Tory Hughley finished at 22nd with a time of 24:14.3.

“Two Harbors is always a light-hearted and refreshing event,” noted Hohenstein. “The kids still ski hard but often dress up in different costumes and just enjoy the day being outside competing.”

The mild conditions likely affected the skiers’ performances. “The warm conditions made waxing a little tricky,” said Hohenstein. “You just never know what type of weather you’ll get off the big lake until you arrive.”

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

WINTER RECREATION

Area trails still feeling effects of last month’s storms

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Plentiful snow and winter recreation typically go hand-in-hand, but the region is still feeling the effects of two December snowstorms which left area ski and snowmobile trails a mess. The first snowstorm dumped anywhere from one-to-two-feet of wet snow throughout the North

Country, leaving brush and many trees bent over under the weight, blocking trails that had only been cleared days or weeks before in many cases. The second storm brought less snow, but pummeled trees already stressed by heavy snow with an extended period of high winds, which blew down more trees and left the snow littered with branches and pine needles.

While trail clean-up is mostly completed in many areas, the conditions have created other challenges as well, particularly for snowmobile trails which require grooming to maintain good trail conditions. The snow is providing a thick layer of insulation that is keeping area swamps from freezing enough to support the weight of heavy groomers, according to DNR trail crews. What’s more, the intense

Right: Groomed ski trails are generally in good shape now after clean up in wake of storms.
photo by V. Ranua
cold that typically settles in here in the North Country in late December and early January has yet to arrive, further delaying freeze-up of those traditional trouble spots. Unfrozen creek cross-
See TRAILS...pg. 5B



THE NEIGHBORS

Here kitty, kitty, kitty

When a bobcat becomes a regular visitor

There was a critter afoot. I pointed that out to Jodi several days before Christmas. Someone had dumped the butchered remains of a deer on our property back in November and I had dragged it all to a big rock that sits just outside our west picture window. Something had dragged it off the rock and ate a good chunk of the remaining meat around the ribs. I tossed the remains back up on the rock and chalked it up to a fisher, since they’d done that kind of thing before. But the next day, shortly before dusk, the critter showed up again. It was a bobcat, the first one I’d ever seen in the wild. I’ve suspected we’ve had bobcats near the house before, since I’d seen what I was pretty sure were their tracks in the past. But this was the first time I’d ever seen one of our more secretive neighbors in the flesh. I was in the house, sitting on the couch that faces the window, and I froze out of concern for spooking the animal. I assumed immediately that a bobcat would be wary, unlike their cousins— the Canada lynx — which tend to be pretty lackadaisical around humans. It turns out I needn’t have worried. The cat seemed unconcerned by my movements that first day, nor the movements of others over the next week or so, when he (or she?) became a regular visitor to the deer carcass and other meat scraps we tossed up on the rock as a

Above: The bobcat who came for dinner stares intently while taking a break from feeding.
Right: The cat looks up exposing its lower fangs.
Lower right: The bobcat comes up with a short-tailed shrew after diving head first in the snow.
photos by Max and Marshall HelMBERGER

kind of offering. Several others got to see the cat although it failed to make its cameo when we invited friends for an early dinner and cat-viewing a few days after Christmas. But for those of us who saw it, it was definitely a close encounter. The “rock,” a glacial erratic about the size of a big round pickup truck, sits less than ten feet from the window and it’s been our perfect viewing platform for birds and beasts of all kinds over the years. This bobcat was just the latest in a long line of performers on our unofficial outdoor stage. It was, perhaps, about time. Bobcats have been on the ascendency in northern Minnesota in recent years. DNR biologists currently estimate their population in the state at an average of about 7,000, although the numbers vary considerably from fall to spring. As recently

See BOBCAT...pg. 5B



LIFE ON THE LAKE



April and dogs loaded up for a trip to the island.

Slush Mush

My biannual pilgrimage back to the island has started, but it is always fraught with peril. This year is no exception, and in fact, will go in the logs as a not-too-great travel year. You know, neither rain, snow, sleet or hail shall keep me from my appointed rounds. Well, nobody said anything about slush! Since I moved back from Montana, I have never not been home for Christmas. The first year was close and I was putting up my Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. Sadly, this year has beaten my record and my Christmas tree will remain in the box until next year. I braved slush that first year, too and it seems to be one of the biggest weather-related factors in my getting back home. At least for wintertime! Early on, it looked like it would be a fabulous year for ice travel. The wind had died down long enough for the colder temperatures to set up a nice crust of ice over the top of the water. Experienced, tried and true ice people had started to check the ice depth and venture across. Six inches, 8, then 9 and finally 11 inches in some spots! Yah! From there on, Mother Nature read the ice making recipe wrong! And so started the snow and with it, the deterioration of travelable ice. Let the biologists and ice experts assault me, but as I understand it, to get good ice you must follow a strict recipe. Too much snow, too soon, is a bad thing and your ice, or at least, enough ice, won’t set up. Firstly, it insulates the ice, and the cold doesn’t get down there to make any more. Secondly, the kind of snow, wet icky stuff, is a great environment to create a slush layer. I’m sure there are more scientific and other magical factors involved, but what I know is this: bad ice this year. We northerners are a resilient lot though, and after we’ve dried our tears and squared our shoulders, we adapt. There probably won’t be many ice castles out there this year, though goodness knows, ice

See SLUSH...pg. 5B



**MARSHALL
HELMBERGER**



**APRIL
WAMHOFF**

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

A man wearing a black beanie, a black jacket with "LATE CREEK" printed on it, and olive green pants is holding a large rainbow trout. He is standing in a snowy field. The fish is silver with a pinkish-red stripe along its side and a yellowish-orange tail.

the best time to for catching walleyes.

Trophy pike were active this last week as several in the 40" range were landed this last week. A few pike were caught by lake trout anglers looking for trout. These pike were caught 10-15 feet under the ice, over 40-60 feet of water. These pike must be looking for ciscos or trout when they are found out that deep. Anglers targeting pike found them working weedlines and river mouths, in 10 feet of water or less. Dead suckers or smelt were the baits of choice for these anglers.

*Courtesy of Arrowhead
Outdoors, Ely. See more at
ArrowheadOutdoorsEly
MN.com.*






"Ice fishing is pure simple fun for both kids and adults," said Benji.

Check the DNR's learn to ice fish page (mndnr.gov/GoFishing/Learn-Ice-Fishing.html) for more information about ice fishing, including a recorded webinar with tips and techniques anglers can use to have fun catching sunfish, crappie and perch.

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01/02	27	18	0.00		01/02	28	19	0.00		01/02	27	18	0.00		01/02	21	16	0.00		01/02	27	18	0.00	
01/03	18	12	0.00		01/03	19	13	0.00		01/03	18	14	0.00		01/03	18	12	0.14	1.0"	01/03	18	12	0.00	
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01/05	25	-2	0.00		01/05	24	3	0.00		01/05	24	4	0.00		01/05	18	-2	0.00		01/05	24	0	0.00	
01/06	19	-10	0.00		01/06	16	-18	0.00		01/06	15	-9	0.00		01/06	19	-9	0.00		01/06	17	-17	0.00	
01/07	23	-10	0.00		01/07	23	-17	0.00		01/07	18	-8	0.00		01/07	27	-8	0.00		01/07	22	-15	0.00	
01/08	25	-3	0.00		01/08	24	-1	0.00		01/08	22	-5	0.00		01/08	30	12	0.00		01/08	25	-9	0.00	
YTD Total			0.00	37.2"	YTD Total			0.00	40.9"	YTD Total			0.00	38.7"	YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			0.00	41.6"

amount of corn now routinely distributed across the landscape mostly to aid deer, has altered the ecological balance here. Corn is a rich source of energy and it has made it possible for birds and mammals that would normally succumb to a North Country winter to survive here where they couldn't in the past. Those critters, in turn, make it possible for predators that rely on them to survive. That

The widespread feeding of corn combined with climate change is altering our region. For now, it appears that bobcats are among those species benefitting from the changes

For me, I'll give up my dreams of safely driving to my home on a plowed road in my car, and I'll hook

the doggie box to the snowmobile. The dogs hate it, but they go. They may get that resistance because I've tipped them a time or two or three. We'll take that mode of transportation until we transition to the side by side and then, eventually back to the boat. You must learn to adapt to live on an island. Patience isn't a bad quality either, but I'm still working

ings and water tracks in area peatlands are posing challenges for grooming operations, both for the DNR and local clubs. That's impacted grooming operations along the Arrowhead Trail, which provides the backbone for the trail network between Tower and International Falls. Even so, DNR trail crews report that conditions on both the Arrowhead and the Taconite trails have improved markedly in the past week and are now listed in fair condition. Snow depths range from 14 to 28 inches throughout the area with a trail base of one to four inches.

trouble spots still remain on the Taconite Trail, near the Pike River crossing and around Pfeiffer Lake, and on the Arrowhead Trail, near Lost Lake and The Landing.

The Putnam-Fishing Lakes trail also remains largely ungroomed as state grooming operations focused initially on the heavier-use trails.

December's heavy snow has also impacted lake ice conditions, which are reportedly rough in spots with significant areas of slush, another impact of the heavy snow that fell last month.

Cross country ski trails are generally in better condition, although the heavy snow has complicated trail

grooming to some extent. The Tower ski trails are now tracked and in generally good condition, although the trails remain littered with debris, mostly pine needles, which blew off the trees during the storm that struck just before Christmas. The area has seen almost no appreciable snow since then, which would otherwise have covered much of that debris and improved ski conditions.

Meanwhile, ski conditions at Hidden Valley in Ely are reportedly excellent, with trails groomed for both classic and skate skiing. The most recent grooming reported as of Tuesday was on Thursday, Jan. 5.












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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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Project Overview
The Tower Economic Development Authority (TEDA), an EDA established under Minn. Stat. 469.091, and located in Tower, Minn., in St. Louis County, is seeking proposals for development of approximately 3.0 acres located on a downtown harbor with direct boat access to Lake Vermilion. The property is owned by TEDA and there is paved road access and municipal water and sewer to the edge of the property. TEDA is seeking a development partner interested in constructing a mixed commercial/residential development on the property that would serve both residents of the community as well as visitors and prospective new residents. The harbor is located just off Hwy. 169, the primary traffic corridor in this portion of St. Louis County and is highly visible to travelers along the route. A current plat of the area is available upon request.

Project Goals

- To establish new opportunities for both permanent and/or short-term residential housing as well as space for a variety of commercial ventures, with a particular interest in new dining opportunities.
- To create an attractive and walkable development that entices travelers along Hwy. 169 to stop and explore

Tower. A mix of private development and public green space is preferred.

- To make productive use of a highly visible and well-located parcel within the city that currently has no private development.
- Growing the city's tax base.

Scope of Work
A firm or group responding to this proposal will be expected to provide a resumé, references, examples of previous projects, and a development concept appropriate to the site and consistent with TEDA's goals.

A firm or group whose proposal is accepted will be expected to enter into a development agreement with TEDA that would define the development and establish timelines and benchmarks for advancing the project. A project that could begin construction in 2023 is preferred.

A firm or group that enters into an agreement with TEDA will be expected to undertake the development project for its own benefit utilizing its own resources. TEDA will provide the land (at a negotiable price) and assist in seeking financing for additional infrastructure, including road, water and sewer extensions. Potential funding sources include tax abatement or the state Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

Evaluation Metrics
In making its selection, the seven-member TEDA board will rely on a variety of factors,

including:

- Prior experience- The successful proposer will be expected to bring individuals with successful and relevant development experience to the project.
- Demonstrated financial resources- The successful proposer will be expected demonstrate sources of financing, or a financial plan, consistent with the proposed project.
- Consistent adherence to the project overview and goals set forth in this RFP.

Submission Requirements
In addition to a business resumé, preliminary financial plan or letter of credit, and references, interested parties should submit a letter of interest along with a narrative concept plan and/or drawings by Friday, March 31, 2023. The TEDA board will likely seek an in-person presentation from potential partners with qualifying proposals. Submit all materials in pdf format to teda@cityoftower.com, attention Marshall Helmsberger, Executive Director

Submission Deadline:
Contact: Marshall Helmsberger • 218-750-2510.
teda@cityoftower.com

TEDA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 13, 2023



Posting for Executive Director

The Range Association of Municipalities & Schools (RAMS) is seeking an organized, communicative and innovative leader to serve as a full-time Executive Director who will be responsible to the RAMS Board of Directors and our members for leading the organization's effort to promote collaboration and cooperation amongst our communities and school districts located within the Taconite Assistance Area. The ideal candidate will share this vision and use his/her leadership skills to positively impact the cities, townships and schools of Northeastern Minnesota. Having knowledge about the Iron Range is critical to embracing the vision of RAMS and its purpose for our members.

For more information on this great career opportunity go to the RAMS website at: www.ramsmn.org. 1/20

**POSITION OPENING
Ely Public Schools
Paraprofessional**

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

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

Benefits include:
➤ Paid sick leave, personal days and vacation
➤ Health and life insurance
➤ Flexible spending account
➤ PERA retirement

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

A complete application must include the following:
➤ District Application
➤ Resume
➤ College Transcripts
➤ 2 letters of recommendation

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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$17.23/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: Jan. 20, 2023; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 13, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICES

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP NOTICE

Effective January 1, 2023 a vacancy will exist for Supervisor E on the Eagles Nest Township Board to serve a term until December 31, 2024. The Eagles Nest Township Board will appoint this position at the January 17, 2023 Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Any person appointed to fill the vacancy in the office of supervisor must be an eligible voter, be 21 years of age, and have resided in the town for at least 30 days.

To express interest or for more information contact Eagles Nest Township Clerk at eaglesnesttw@citlink.net.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 13, 2023

WARNING – ICE HAZARD

An Aeration System will be in operation on Birch Lake, Lake County, during periods of ice cover to protect structures. Thin ice and open water will occur along 291 Birch Rd, Ely, MN. The area will be surrounded by "Thin Ice Warning" signs and should be avoided. Contact your local DNR Conservation Officer with concerns.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 13 & 20, 2023

**Notice of Election
MORCOM TOWNSHIP
State of Minnesota, County of St. Louis**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that we will hold a township election on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at the Bear River School.

**Offices open for election:
1 Supervisor, 3 year term
1 Treasurer, 2 year term**

Filing period closes on January 17, 2023. Contact Sasha Lehto, at 218-969-5812 to make an appointment to file. Open office hours will be held from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 12059 Hwy. 22, Cook, MN 55723 for filing as well.

Sasha Lehto, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 30, 2022 & Jan. 13, 2023

**GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP NOTICE
ALS Ambulance
Committee Meeting**

Greenwood Township is holding a ALS Ambulance Committee Meeting on Monday, January 16, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at Greenwood Town Hall

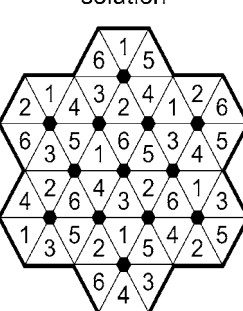
Greenwood residents: Attend if you have an interest in ALS ambulance and perhaps becoming a committee member

Purpose: The Committee will review Greenwood's recent ALS survey and recommend a plan for the future


A quorum of Greenwood Supervisors may be present

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 13, 2023

solution



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

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.

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HARD-TO-SEE FEE

ACROSS

1 Suddenly blazing star

5 Put stress on

11 Volcano in Sicily

15 Meadow songbird

19 Supreme Norse deity

20 Net-tending player

21 Donahue of TV

22 Genesis garden

23 Very ornate designs of the 1700s

25 Be mindful of

26 Bill with Lincoln

27 Sports site

28 Apr. and Dec.

29 Longtime metal alloy manufacturer

31 M.Sgt., e.g.

33 Friz Freleeng’s real first name

36 Mean-spirited sort

37 Fill-up sites with star logos

42 Crows

43 Oscar winner Brody

44 Like a straight line, in brief

45 Work to get angry dog

48 1993 event at Mount Carmel Center

55 Comic actor Danny

56 Spill the info, with “up”

58 Region

59 Raines of old Hollywood

60 Active person

62 Spring forth

65 Thingamajig

67 “Please help!”

70 Venue of the 2002 Humanitarian Bowl

73 Log chopper

74 Brief summary

76 Sprung forth

77 Trail

79 Prefix with dynamic

80 Henna applicator

81 Read hastily

83 Gibbons, e.g.

87 Something Plus White toothpaste claims to remove

92 Water, humorously

94 Sports side

95 Potting stuff

97 TV journalist Chung

98 Mimicked Daffy Duck

101 A cut from the short loin

105 Playwright Fugard

106 Vocalists

107 Simile middle

108 University in northern California

110 McKellen of “X-Men”

112 Mosul native

117 Aquarium

118 One of 18 on a golf course

119 They’re in eight answers in this puzzle

122 Slushy drink

123 Superior to

124 Works the rudder

125 Dimple site

126 Play roster

127 Joins in matrimony

128 Cherished “Mother”

129 Held on to

DOWN

1 With 11-Down, “Sleepless in Seattle” director

2 Aroma

3 Destructive habit

4 After a while

5 In days past

6 Carl Sagan book

7 Roman censor

8 Blissful

9 Nothing at all

10 One of 18 on a golf course

11 See 1-Down

12 One’s wifey

13 Nephew’s sister

14 Gucci of fashion

15 Unlike righties

16 Farewells

17 Go back to the way it was

18 Belfry sounds

24 Call off

29 Foofaraw

30 Jeer at

32 Christmas trees, usually

34 Single-pot meal

35 Verdi heroine

37 Job to do

38 Pulitzer winner Ferber

39 Diagnostic pic

40 Ran on TV

41 Clothes, colloquially

42 Ewe’s call

45 LGA guess

47 Emperor before Galba

49 A la — (menu words)

50 Hammond instruments

51 Potential plant

52 “Three Sisters” sister

53 Tighten up a muscle

54 Destiny

57 Under wraps

61 Kyoto sash

63 Actress Kelly or Shearer

64 Suffix with prophet

65 Andean llamas

66 Quantity: Abbr.

67 Little quarrel

68 Classic cookie

69 Kosovo native

71 “No” votes

72 Apple device

75 Opening in a parka, say

78 Lacks

80 DeLuise of “Hot Stuff”

82 Large city in Colombia

84 Window unit

85 Kazan of film

86 Search for

88 Green with Grammys

89 Ill-bred man

90 “Oh, woe —!”

91 Jordanian queen dowager

93 Tile artwork

96 Like some trading

98 Milk-related

99 Cornell University city

100 Gives off light

101 Used a rotary telephone

102 Puts in

103 Big T-shirt size: Abbr.

104 Some chair craftspeople

106 Hot pot spot

109 Movie or play

111 “Zip- — -Doo-Dah”

113 Pebble, e.g.

114 Tennis! Arthur

115 Ear swab

116 “— that special!”

119 1940s pres.

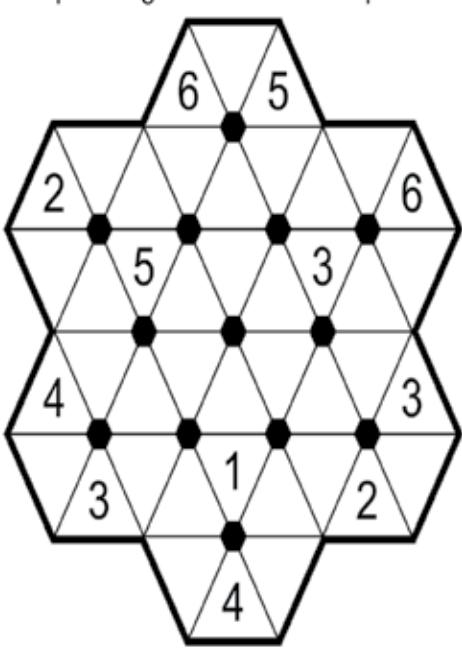
120 Suffix with Israel

121 Hush-hush govt. gp.

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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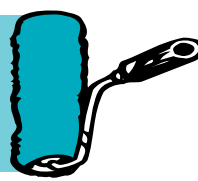
Answer

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

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126						127						128								129			



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