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# the TIMBERJAY



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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## CITY OF TOWER

# Overrun a holdover of a troubled time

Cost overruns on city projects has plagued city finances for years

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER— The recent revelation of a nearly quarter million dollar cost overrun on the city of Tower's so-called trailhead project adjacent to the East Two River is, once again, highlighting a pattern that has been at the heart of the city's ongoing financial

difficulties. For years, the city has faced costly overruns on capital projects ranging from streets to the airport, to the renovations at the downtown harbor, projects which in many cases had to be backfilled with other city funds.

Over the course of the past decade, cost overruns have left deficits in city

accounts totaling well over \$800,000, an amount that's twice the city's annual levy.

The cumulative effect of those overruns left city coffers all but drained by the end of 2018. The city's general fund reserves were nearly exhausted and the clerk-treasurer at the time had pulled cash from reserve accounts earmarked for

**Right: Contractors work to excavate mucky soils near the East Two River last fall. The soft soils led to an enormous cost overrun on the city's trailhead and kayak launch project.**

future capital purchases, the city's storefront account, the

See...PROJECT pg. 9



## GREENWOOD

# Draft study raises more questions than answers

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- A township committee here got its first look at a draft copy of an ambulance study the town board commissioned several months ago, and members of the committee didn't sound pleased. Committee members raised questions about the study's limited scope and its lack of focus on any possible region-wide solutions to the rising costs of rural ambulance service.

The proposal for the study, prepared by the McGrath Consulting Group at a cost of \$55,475, was titled: "Regional Opportunities for EMS: Review of Service Providers." The township wanted a comprehensive assessment of greater cooperative opportunities in providing emergency medical services (EMS) in Greenwood Township and surrounding areas of St. Louis County. Township officials had indicated they hoped the study could help find a feasible means of providing Advanced Life Support (ALS) service for residents in the area.

Instead, the draft study, titled "EMS Options to Improve Response Times and Enhance ALS Delivery," focused on establishing a community paramedic (CP), who would work to increase access to primary and preventive care and decrease the use of emergency departments, and

See...STUDY pg. 9

## FINANCIAL WOES

# Care center seeks donations

Ely nursing facility facing challenges from vacancies, worker shortages

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

Every business owner knows that it doesn't matter how many debts or assets you have. You must have cash on hand to meet expenses and pay the staff every month - or you shut your doors and go out of business.

The Boundary Waters Care Center is close to the edge of that cash liquidity cliff. BWCC anticipates an infusion of revenues from grants and the state of Minnesota in the latter half of the year. The nursing home will also be able to hire new staff for less money come August. Until then, the BWCC is letting the community know

**Above: Life-long Elyite Linda Williams (l) and her granddaughter, BWCC CNA Alicia Cole.**

**Right: Adam Masloski, executive director of BWCC in Ely, is asking the community for donations to keep the facility operating.**

photos by C. Clark

it could use some help.

### Lower revenue, higher costs

Five factors are driving BWCC's current money crunch: staffing costs,

See...CARE CENTER pg. 10



## CITY OF ELY

# CBD sales top Ely council agenda, with retailer in waiting

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

The topic of businesses potentially selling CBD and other legalized cannabinoid product lit up the Ely City Council chambers on Tuesday for the second time less than two months.

In mid-December, the council backed a three-month

moratorium on the issuance of any more permits allowing the retail sale of edible cannabinoid products inside city limits. At their meeting on Jan. 17, the council not only heard from a businessman wanting to open an edible cannabinoid lounge in Ely, council members shot down a proposed cannabinoid ordinance at its first reading so they could

have more time to study the issue.

### Smoke shop and lounge

John and Heather Chaulklin of Cook want to open a new business named the "Northern Lights Smoke Shop and Lounge" to sell cannabinoid edibles in Ely. John Chaulklin presented his business proposal at the city council meeting to encourage Ely

to grant his new business a license to sell CBD products.

The Chaulklins currently have an accepted offer on a store location on Sheridan Street contingent on "the licensing that we need to get from the city to open up our store, and that licensing is going to require us to get a tobacco license, a food license and CBD license."

Since Ely currently has a moratorium in force on any new retail cannabinoid businesses, Chaulklin's presentation is moot until Ely passes a cannabinoid ordinance or decides not to allow any further cannabinoid sales.

See...CBD pg. 11



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Community notices

**NLAA to hold auditions for Little Shop of Horrors Jan. 23 and 24**

ELY - Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA) invites everyone age 16 and over to audition for its upcoming production of "Little Shop of Horrors." Auditions will be held Jan. 23 and 24 at the MN North Vermilion Campus Theater at 6 p.m.

The production is seeking singers, actors, dancers, offstage/backstage help with set, lights, sound, costumes, props, a puppeteer and a singer with a big, hungry voice.

"Little Shop of Horrors" has been called "a story of a hapless nerd and his blood-thirsty exotic plant" or "a cautionary sci-fi allegory about human desire" or "a fun doo-wop musical with catchy tunes" or "a romantic musical comedy" or a combination of all of the aforementioned. Anyone interested in auditioning should come prepared to sing, act, and move. Show performance dates are March 23 - April 1.

Little Shop of Horrors is presented through a special arrangement with Music Theater International (MTI). MTI also supplies all authorized performance materials. View their whole catalog and all that they offer at [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com).

**Discovery awaits dinosaur lovers of all ages Jan. 21 at Minnesota Discovery Center**

CHISHOLM- Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) Paleontologist, John Westgaard 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.

EXPERIENCE MUSIC

Lyric Center features music for all ages and any occasion

Upcoming concerts include Open Mic Night, Solkela, Annalla and Saaristo

VIRGINIA - The Lyric Center for the Arts, a subsidiary of the Laurentian Arts and Culture Alliance, is featuring a variety of musicians in the coming days. Especially for some unconventional holidays.

Steven Solkela and his Overpopulated One-Man Band take the Lyric Annex stage on Wednesday, Jan. 25 for an evening of music titled "A Funny Minnesota." The concert begins at 7 p.m. and will feature songs relating to the Land of 10,000 lakes. The concert will be a "pay what you can" format.

On Thursday, Jan. 26, the Lyric's popular Open Mic Night returns at 7 p.m. as part of weekly Downton Arts programming, in conjunction with REVIVE Virginia. Festivities will kick-off with select performances by music students of local artist and instructor Sara Softich.

"Some of Sara's stu-



Above: John Saaristo performs an Anti-Valentine's Day Show at the Lyric Center Annex on Feb. 16

Right: Steve Solkela and his Overpopulated One-man Band.



dents performed at our last open mic and it was so much fun to not only see and hear the kids play, but also provide a stage for them to do so. This is what Downtown Arts Virginia is all about. Arts access to people of all ages," said Lyric Executive Director Paul M. Gregersen. Open Mic Night is free to at-

tend, and all are welcome. On Thursday, Feb. 2, folk singer Mel Annalla will perform a Groundhog's Day concert at the Lyric at 7 p.m.

"Mel's show is going to be fun regardless if the groundhog Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow or not," Gregersen said. "It's also Mel's birthday, so ev-

erybody will have a good time in a festive and warm atmosphere, even if winter decides to drag on."

Annalla's concert also serves as part of Thursday Downton Arts Virginia programming. Free-will donations of \$10 are suggested.

SHADOW OR NO?

Mel Annala invites music lovers to celebrate his birthday and Groundhog Day at the Lyric Arts Center Feb. 2

VIRGINIA – Mel Annala will be playing at the Lyric Center for the Arts ANNEX on Thursday Feb. 2 from 7-9 p.m. Annala will be performing Americana, folk and rurals roots music in a combination birthday and Groundhog day show. "From a very early age I have tried to have at least one birthday every year. This year is no exception. I would like to invite everyone to help me celebrate," Annala said.

Annala names a few of his influences to include Guy Mitchell, Buddy Holly, and the Beatles. After playing in a variety of bands over the years including a stint as a bass player in a country band that played the Officer's Club while serving overseas in the Navy, Annala began a solo career in 2006. He says he's scaled back on his performance schedule these days to make more time for family, but

he still finds joy in making music. "I may not be performing as much as I used to, but every time is a complete joy. As I get closer to my next birthday I can't help but look back on all the great folks I've met and the wonderful places I've had the pleasure to make some happy noise. It's with this in mind that I'd like to extend an invitation to everyone to stop by The Lyric Center for the Arts on Thursday February 2nd for a very special Groundhog Day Birthday Celebration." The Lyric Center is located at 510 Chestnut Street in Virginia. For more information visit <https://www.lyriccenteronline.org/event/mel-annala/>



Mel Annala (right) Lyric Center features music for all ages and any occasion



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# Marijuana legalization moving through legislature

## Recent survey shows majority of state residents approve

The bill would permit persons age 21 or older to:

Employers would be prohibited from requiring job applicants to be tested for marijuana as a condition of employment, except in cases where such testing is required by law. Random drug testing would not be allowed, although employers would be able to require tests if they suspect employees of being impaired, violating work rules regarding cannabis, or being involved

Those hoping that

The most notable public opponent is Minnesotans Against Marijuana Legislation (MAML), a coalition whose members include the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, the Minnesota Sheriff's Association, the Minnesota Trucking Association, the Minnesota School Bus Operators Association, the Minneso-

The new state agency

Once regulations are in place, producers would have to be licensed before they could begin growing a crop that takes up to nine months to mature. Processing, inspection, testing and distribution would follow. That makes it probable that products would not be available for sale until sometime in 2025, Winkler estimated. Hemp-edibles regulation under the new agency would be impacted by stricter regulations and licensing.

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# OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

## Editorial

### Headed for a cliff

GOP House looking to force cuts to Medicare and Social Security

One out of five residents in St. Louis County are over the age of 65, which means virtually all of them qualify for one of the most important parts of the American safety net—Medicare.

Prior to the passage of Medicare in 1965, the cost of medical bills and insurance for elderly Americans was utterly unaffordable for most seniors, leaving the aged just one illness away from either bankruptcy, death, or long-term disability.

Medicare changed all that because it covered the cost of hospitalization and most medical procedures. For an elderly person who suffers a stroke or who breaks a bone in a bad fall, or who has ongoing heart problems that put them in the hospital, often for extended stays, the costs of medical treatment can hit six figures within a matter of days. For most elderly people or couples, those kinds of expenses would be ruinous. Under Medicare, they’re covered.

For seniors in St. Louis County and across the country, Medicare and its related program, Social Security, are critical to enhancing the quality of life, or even making life possible.

Unfortunately, Republicans in the House now say they want to force cuts in both Social Security and Medicare as part of their newfound interest in going after so-called entitlement programs.

While we tend to think of “entitlement” as a negative, in the case of Social Security and Medicare, it’s an appropriate term because those who have paid into the system should be “entitled” to receive the benefits they’ve paid for. If you buy collision insurance for your car, you’re entitled to a check to cover repairs if you get in an accident. Both Social Security and Medicare are what’s known as social insurance. You pay in through payroll taxes during your working career and you’re entitled to benefits at a later point in life.

We don’t know the specifics of some of the cuts that Republicans hope to force into law. Some have mentioned increasing the age of eligibility, while others have suggested reducing benefit levels for future retirees. Either way, the impact would be felt by millions of Americans, either now or in the near future.

You might think that the GOP, with its razor thin majority in the House, and a Dem-

ocratically controlled Senate and White House, has little chance of actually enacting Medicare or Social Security cuts into law. Yet the radical wing of the GOP doesn’t operate by the normal rules of political engagement. They’re hostage takers and they’ve already named their planned hostage—the American economy.

In normal times, a House speaker would be able to bring radicals in line. But new House Speaker Kevin McCarthy was the first hostage taken by the GOP’s radical fringe, and his negotiated release essentially handed the inmates the keys to the asylum. In a closed door hearing last week, Republicans outlined their plans, which included forcing deep spending cuts across the board, including in mandatory programs like Medicare and Social Security. They don’t plan to negotiate these cuts with the Senate or the White House. In fact, a screen shot of a slide from that closed door presentation specifically states that no negotiation will be permitted unless the Senate goes along entirely with the House plan. In other words, it’s our way or the high-way.

And linked to all that is the promise to block any increase in the debt limit and force a U.S. government default on its bonds unless the House extremists get their way on their spending plans. According to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, we reached the debt limit as of this week and she estimates we can only stave off a default until sometime in May.

Under normal circumstances, it would be easy to write off all the GOP rhetoric as just that. In the end, there have usually been enough Republicans who aren’t willing to spark a global financial crisis to get the debt ceiling raised, even if the process is sometimes ugly. But the extraordinarily weak position of Speaker McCarthy puts all that in doubt, since he clearly lacks the ability to control his rump faction of fanatics. He’s effectively given them the reins in the House and they appear more than happy to take the whole thing over the cliff, Thelma and Louise style.

Unfortunately, if they’re successful in forcing their wanted cuts to Medicare and Social Security, they could be taking a lot of old folks, and folks who will be old soon enough, over the cliff with them. Buckle up.



## Letters from Readers

### Ask Stauber to vote in our best interest

The IRS has the oldest IT system in the federal government. Each year more than 260 million returns are filed and some are still transcribed by hand due to the outdated IT system. This is why some returns filed during the pandemic have yet to be processed. The Inflation Reduction Act is giving the IRS \$80 billion to start to address the IT problems and the backlog of returns. It isn’t enough to solve all of the problems including the underpayment or no payment of taxes by some of the very wealthy individuals and corporations, but it is a start in the right direction. Not paying the taxes that you owe is a crime, but the IRS does not have enough folks in the field to get the job done. That, plus decades of underfunding the agency has led us to this crisis. The average low-and-middle class citizen pays their taxes but the tax cheats don’t

pay their taxes. Without tax monies we can’t fund schools, community infrastructure, roads, bridges, advanced education, police, fire, public safety and on and on- the entities that make society work and keep us safe. This is good for ALL of us whether you are blue, red or independent. In Pete Stauber’s latest newsletter put out on Friday, Jan. 13, he is proud that the first piece of legislation coming from the 118th Congress is a bill they passed to rescind the funding of the monies to improve and update the IRS! He claims the act is going to target low-and-middle income citizens and small businesses. He says nothing about the billions of dollars owed by the very wealthy families and very wealthy corporations across our country. Please, fellow citizens, take the time to look this up on legitimate sources and take the time to email or call Pete Stauber and ask him why he is voting against the best interests of Minnesota District 8.

Pamela Kelsey Bemidji

### Stauber voted no for a reason

Pete Stauber voted no, as pushed by Carol Orban of Ely because of Democrats’ outrageous spending which caused the high inflation today and worse to come in 2023 with ridiculous \$1.7 trillion bill passed recently. Carol, how do you like prices at the grocery store? How about your heating costs? Gas prices have gone down some but still over a dollar a gallon higher then when Trump was president and we were energy independent where we are now begging enemy countries for more oil.

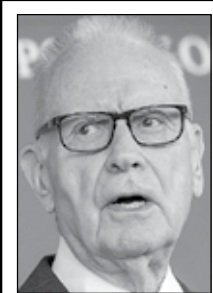
President Biden’s administration has been a disaster for America and everyone can see it, unless one is blind!

Dave Akerson Tower, formally from Ely!

## COMMENTARY

### The hard work of deciding how to vote

As Congress and many state legislatures get under way for the year, there are lots of new lawmakers out there starting to learn the ropes. It’s an exhilarating, exhausting time, and they’ll have plenty of questions about the challenges. But here’s one thing they might not even have imagined: The hardest part of their new jobs may be the most basic—casting a vote on legislation. It seems odd, doesn’t it?



LEE HAMILTON

And it actually took me a couple of decades in Congress before I realized it. I’d never reflected on the question until a constituent asked point-blank what I found most difficult about the role. I thought about the long hours, the time away from home, the criticism and pressure from pretty much every side (yes, even back then). Then I realized that it wasn’t the frustrations of the job that made it difficult, but its very core: deciding how to vote.

This isn’t always the case. Sometimes, voting on a bill can be straightforward: Maybe it’s a matter of

no consequence, or it’s clearly what your constituents need. But you have to remember that legislators are asked to vote on a stunningly complex array of issues, some of which they’re familiar with, some of which they’re not, and many of which have real consequences for real people. Often, these are complicated issues, with aspects that extend far beyond the black-and-white views expressed in tweets and sound bites. So, for a legislator who is truly trying to do her or his best for the country, the state, or the community, deciding how to vote

See **VOTE**...pg. 5

## I’d like a word, please...

Sometimes I just need a good rant about how we sometimes massacre our perfectly good language. January’s full moon was the Wolf Moon, so what better time to howl about it? To balance the scales, I’ll first honor those finely-tuned linguistic folks, the dictionary makers and linguistic society members, who choose a Word of the Year (WOTY—yes, it really does have an official acronym.)

The criteria for the chosen words and/or expressions differs between organizations, but they are all considered to be words that reflect

the cultural events and trends of the previous year and may be newly-created words. Criteria often includes the number of times a word is looked up, and surges of lookups can be tagged to events in the world that triggered the interest. For example, “Queen Consort” lookups surged when Edward was crowned. It is the official title for the king’s wife, and since Queen Elizabeth II reigned for 70 years, the term hasn’t been used since King



BETTY FIRTH

George’s reign ended in 1952. Other words that spiked in 2022: oligarch, omicron, endemic, LGBTQIA, codify, sentient, metaverse, denier, and COVID. Newly-created words include blob (a giant, single-celled organism found in leaf litter); boomerang generation (young people returning to live with parents); cannamoms (mothers taking microdoses of cannabis to relax and help ease their mental load); cheugy (referring to people who follow cheesy or out-of-date trends and embrace them); cryptocurrency (virtual money such as Bitcoins, Ethereum and Ripple; there are more than 6,000 cryptocurrencies in the world.) Several words expressed aspects of

living better by consuming less and enjoying life to the fullest: de-consumerism, frugalism, mys, and slow working. If these aren’t familiar, crank up your online dictionary and go for it: gender fluid, JOMO, FOMO, GOAT, metrification, neopronouns, woke, and zennials. Professional linguistics make the determinations for WOTY in some organizations, while others have public voting on the final choices. I’m a self-professed word nerd, and I’m happy to know that there are many others out there that are as goofy about words as I am, and in fact, way more so.

There are multiple online dictionaries, each with its own focus, attributes, and strengths.

The Oxford Dictionary is considered ideal when writing a thesis or research paper, while the Collins Dictionary with over 4.5 billion words is excellent for learners, translators, and teachers. The Google Dictionary supports several languages, has an audio pronunciation tool, and autosuggest tool if you know the first few letters. The Urban Dictionary features urban words and slang. Online dictionaries are relatively new, so Dictionary.com, which was created 20 years ago, is considered “old and trusted” as a leading source of word definitions on the internet. Then there is Wiktionary,

See **WORDS**...pg. 5



Letters from Readers

Carbon-free energy proposal needs safeguards for cost, reliability

On Jan. 5, the Minnesota Legislature proposed a bill to transition all electricity sold in the state to be carbon-free by 2040. The bill must consider potential impacts to the reliability and affordability of the essential electric service provided by Minnesota cooperative utilities to their 1.7 million members.

As new energy generation and transmission facilities are built to meet clean energy requirements, existing generation facilities are being retired early and are being replaced with renewable resources, such as wind and solar. This significantly impacts reliability as variable resources (i.e. wind and solar) cannot be counted on to always be available when needed. This bill would accelerate this troubling trend.

It is currently not possible to expect the electric system to function in Minnesota without significant gas, coal and/or nuclear generation. Technology to fully transition these generation fuels to renewable resources is not developed yet, much less deployed.

Both MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator) and NERC (North American Electric Reliability Corporation) recently issued warnings about potential energy shortfalls during extreme weather in the Midwest. These warnings extend year-round for the next several years. In fact, just this

past Dec. 23, MISO declared a maximum generation emergency event to maintain the reliability of the electric system. These maximum generation events are warnings the system is nearing a point that rotating power outages may be required, and they are predicted to happen more often in the coming years.

Minnesotans are already experiencing rising costs of goods and services throughout the economy. Developing new renewable generation facilities, equipment, and infrastructure to support carbon-free energy will take significant time and money. Forcing premature energy resource decisions through mandates, as is the case in the proposed legislation, will only drive costs up.

These new mandates are not needed to transition to a cleaner electricity system. Minnesota’s clean energy transition in the electric utility sector is already well underway. In 2005, 65 percent of the state’s electricity was generated by coal. Today, that number has dropped to 26 percent and is projected to be 50 percent. No other state in the country has reduced

Additionally, 30 percent of our energy generation comes from renewable sources, up from just five percent in 2005. By 2035, renewable energy generation in Minnesota is projected to be 50 percent. No other state in the country has reduced

electric sector carbon dioxide emissions more successfully than Minnesota.

Let’s not forget about the hefty investments over the years to meet emissions reductions mandates for carbon dioxide emitted from existing fossil fuel power plants like coal and natural gas. Consumers are still paying for these investments through their electric bills. Meanwhile policymakers favor shutting down these clean, efficient baseload power plants in the interest of intermittent energy produced by renewable technologies.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Help keep energy reliable and affordable to all Minnesotans, especially rural electric cooperatives. Make your voice heard on these issues by reaching out to your local legislators.

Here is what we ask of our state legislators:

- Eliminate the separate renewable energy mandate in the proposed carbon-free legislation, which complicates the overall goal of reducing carbon emissions.
- Eliminate the 2030 and 2035 compliance milestones. These milestones are unnecessary and will force premature and costly resource decisions before more effective and economical technologies are available to meet the 100 percent carbon-free objective

as affordably and reliably as possible. In the near term, these milestones will accelerate the closure of generation and add to the reliability challenges we’re already experiencing.

- Exclude gas resources with limited capacity factors, otherwise known as peaking plants, from the generation facilities used to determine compliance with the mandate. These peaking facilities are crucial when energy demand is at its highest – usually the hottest or coldest days of the year in Minnesota.
- Exclude non-Minnesota generation in determining compliance for those utilities whose carbon-emitting resources are located entirely outside of Minnesota.
- Put cooperative boards in the role of balancing reliability and affordability in the event meeting deadlines would put them at risk. The bill currently relies on state regulators to do that for all utilities, which is not appropriate for cooperatives, who rely on locally elected governing boards to balance these concerns.
- Include all carbon-reduction resources and technology in the mandate. This includes lifting the nuclear moratorium to allow small modular nuclear generation as a possible energy resource and allowing generation facilities to count carbon capture technology as part of

their carbon emission reductions.

- Cooperatives were founded by individuals working together to make their voice heard, leading change and bringing power to the people in rural areas. Today, we must remain unified and make our voices heard to ensure the transition to carbon-free energy maintains the affordability and reliability of electricity for all of Minnesota residents, especially rural electric cooperative member-owners.

**Mark Bakk**  
**General Manager**  
**Lake Country**  
**Power**

We welcome your letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to [marshall@timberjay.com](mailto: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. We want to know what you think!

VOTE...Continued from page 4

requires hard work.

The first consideration is—or at least, should be—the views of the people a lawmaker serves. Members of Congress and state legislators get inundated with calls and emails from constituents and hear plenty of feedback on key issues at public meetings. From time to time, those sentiments all run in the same direction, but often they conflict, so a legislator has to work hard to find the majority’s sentiment. Similarly, lawmakers rely on the reams of material produced by experts,

think tanks, lobbyists, and even colleagues with particular expertise, but those can often conflict, as well. Making a decision involves sorting through a host of arguments—from legal and economic to practical and moral—and then making a judgment about which are most compelling. Because it’s a good bet that at some point, you’ll be called to account for how you voted.

Then, of course, there are the political considerations. These have become both simpler and more complex over the

last few decades, as partisanship has grown. On the one hand, politicians these days are often expected just to fall in line with what the congressional or legislative leadership expects. But if the electoral politics of the last few years has made anything clear, it’s that voters do not follow party leadership dictates, and depending on the constituency, any politician interested in re-election needs to look beyond the loudest and most vociferous voices.

Finally, legislators do not arrive in office as

blank slates waiting to be written on. They have their own experiences and convictions to draw from. At some point, everyone who holds office has to come to a decision on what he or she is willing to compromise on and what is beyond the pale—and, in the most dramatic instances, what is worth losing an election over.

You can see, then, why deciding how to vote is rarely the easy part of a lawmaker’s job. On some issues, you’ll vote your conscience. On others, you’ll follow the wishes of your constituents, or

of the party leadership, or of colleagues you trust and respect. On others, you’ll become an expert as quickly as possible and then spend time parsing shades of gray. Yet on every vote, you’ll be expected to have an opinion and to be able to defend it, sometimes in the face of withering criticism. So, in the end you’ll cast your vote and then move on, because the next one is coming on fast.

*Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

WORDS...Continued from page 4

a collaborative multilingual dictionary, which also includes a thesaurus, a rhyme guide, phrase books, language statistics and extensive appendices. “It aims to describe all words of all languages using definitions and descriptions in English.” They’re not shy about large goals. Their aim is to include enough information for deeper understanding beyond just a definition, so etymologies, pronunciations, sample quotations, synonyms, antonyms and translations are included. You can become a contributor, but only if you follow strict guidelines.

Merriam-Webster, a well-known name in print dictionaries, has chosen “gaslighting” for the 2022 WOTY, reflective of our tumultuous political environment. Originally it meant “psychological manipulation of a person over an extended period of time that causes the victim to question the validity of their own thoughts, perception of reality or memories and typically leads to confusion, loss of confidence, and self-esteem, uncertainty of one’s emotional or mental stability, and a dependency on the perpetrator.” The term has broadened to mean “the art or practice of grossly misleading someone, especially for personal advantage.” Related words are “fake news” and “deep

fake.”

Popularity of online word games such as Wordle (and imitators Quordle, Heardle, Squirrel, Swordle, etc.), WordPlay, Word Master, Words with Friends, and a multitude of crossword puzzles is a delightful indication that people haven’t given up on using complete words and enjoy being playful with them. Wordle was created by Reddit software developer, Josh Wardle, for his partner, who loved word games, and then offered it to the public in October 2021. Participation grew from 90 players in November to over two million in early January! The New York Times Co. bought Wordle for a low seven-figure sum. These games are said to benefit mental acuity, but be warned: they can be addictive. One friend told me she was playing Words with Friends with 20 different people. I got hooked on WordPlay, a Wordle clone, that lets you play as often as you wish, unlike Wordle which gives you one chance a day.

I found that dictionary

and newspaper sites have lots of language-related games for kids and adults that can make learning fun and just give you a break from cleaning the oven.

I’ve been so immersed in word fun and trivia, that I’ve left myself little room to rant. So, I’ll rant briefly. It is really time for us to move on beyond “awesome” and other overused, overstated superlatives. Awe is defined as “a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder,” and awesome as “extremely impressive or daunting, inspiring great admiration, apprehension, or fear.” I see that Dictionary includes an informal usage, “extremely good, excellent” as in “The band is truly awesome!” This is what I feared. Once the dictionaries acknowledge a use there’s no going back. But I will still lobby for saving those superlatives for the special occasions they were meant for, like viewing the Grand Canyon, witnessing the birth of a human being or a litter of kittens, or getting into the college of your choice. A waiter re-

sponded “awesome” when I gave him my order. It really wasn’t. I didn’t jump on the table and sing my order. I didn’t say it in five languages. I just said it, not awesomely.

Another annoyance are all the abbreviations, used even when speaking, such as: obvs or obvi for obviously. It’s actually harder to say “obvs.” OMG, texting has not been a positive influence, IMHO. And “like.” Like we’ve got to like get rid of these like unnecessary words that like clutter up our language. I used to have hope that people would outgrow the “likes,” but then I heard an offender’s very young children overliking, and I realized it’s hopeless. I’ll have a better chance lobbying for world peace.



the

TIMBERJAY

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Week of Jan. 23

**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 Feb. 21.

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.

**Township filings Breitung**  
Incumbent Tim Tomsich and Erin Peitso both filed for the two-year supervisor seat, currently held by Tomsich. Matt Tuchel has filed for the single three-year seat, currently held by Greg Dostert. Incumbent treasurer Jorgine Gornick filed for the two-year treasurer seat.

**Greenwood**  
Incumbent Paul Skubic filed for Supervisor 1 (three-year seat), John Bassing filed for Supervisor 2 (three-year seat) currently held by Mike Ralston, JoAnn Bassing filed for Clerk (one-year seat) and Jeff Maus filed for Treasurer (two -year seat). JoAnn Bassing has been serving as interim clerk and Jeff Maus has been serving as interim treasurer, as well as fire chief.  
Vermilion Lake Township filings were not available by press-time.

**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. 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.

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WINTERTIME FUN

Skating parties underway in Soudan

SOUDAN- Skating parties are held at the Soudan Skating Rink every Tuesday and Saturday, weather permitting. There is free food, games, and lots of fun for all ages. Loaner skates in almost every size are available in the warming shack.  
Hours are Tuesdays from 4 – 6 p.M. and Saturdays from 12 – 2 p.m.  
Sponsors so far this year are Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board, A & W Company, and Brew Pub Pizza Company. If you are interested in helping sponsor this event, please contact Jim “Chimpy” Tuominen at Zup’s in Tower, 218-753-2725.  
**Below: Rink attendants Neva Levens and Wyatt Gorsma had the snacks all ready to go.** photos by J. Summit



**Above: (from left) Luca Sundahl, Caleb Gornick, and Isaac Tuchel took a break from their hockey game for pizza and root beer floats. Right: Jason Semo got skates on his daughter Eva, who skated on the small rink reserved for younger children.**



KEEPING THINGS CLEAN

Tower Car Wash now offering annual memberships

Automatic car wash still open, memberships available to use the self-serve wash bay

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Vandalism and thefts caused Tower Car Wash owner Tom Anderson to shut down the self-serve car wash bay last summer. As he researched ideas to reopen the self-serve wash, he is now ready to start a new membership-only self-serve car wash service.  
The automatic/touch-free car wash bay will continue to operate as usual, with no memberships required.  
The new system will allow

Anderson to closely monitor the use of the car wash bay, and to make sure the area is left clean, free from debris, and is used properly. Members will be issued a unique entry code to gain access to the bay. Members will be required to clean the bay after each use, and there will be shovels, brooms, dustpans, and disposal containers available for members to use.  
In the past, Anderson said, they struggled as some customers left garbage or oily, greasy messes in the bay. They also had issues with thefts and vandalism

of the coin-operated machine. The new system will have cameras installed to ensure the bay is left in clean condition. If not, members can forfeit their access.  
Memberships, priced at \$129 for one year, allow a single user to access the car wash as many times as desired. The self-serve wash will only serve passenger cars, vans, and trucks. Commercial vehicles, OHVs/ATVs, and trailers will only be allowed by appointment. No snowmobiles will be allowed.  
Anderson said interest in the service has been high, and he

has had constant inquiries from those wondering when the self-wash bay would be reopened. He is currently in the process of installing the technical equipment required for the upgrade, and once the self-service bay is in operation, has additional improvements planned to upgrade the equipment.  
If you are interested in learning more about the self-serve car wash membership, check out the informational ad that will run in the Jan. 27 edition of the *Timberjay*.

GREENWOOD

Greenwood Fire Department year-end report

GREENWOOD TWP- The Greenwood Fire Department responded to 50 fire calls and 131 EMR (ambulance) calls in 2022. The department held monthly trainings on topics including cancer awareness, pump training, bloodborne pathogens, right-to-know, hazmat awareness, dollhouse burn (house fire training burn), fire boat operations, hose testing, scene command simulation drills, and more. This year, the department is holding training meetings two times per month.  
Six fire department members responded to 10 or more calls. Eleven members on the 2022 roster responded to five or fewer calls in 2022. Of the four firefighters who responded to no calls in 2022, one just retired from the department, and two have been removed from the roster due to lack of activity.  
Seven EMRs responded to 10 or more calls, with two members, Kristal Strong and David DeJoode responding to the vast majority of EMR calls, with 95 and 90 responses, respectively.  
Fire Chief Dave Fazio and Assistant Chief Mike Indihar were removed from their leadership positions by the town board in September. Jeff Maus was appointed interim chief, and then was the sole applicant for the permanent chief position.  
In 2021, there were 28 fire calls and 200 EMR calls.  
In 2020, there were 46 fire calls and 185 EMR calls.  
In 2019, there were 40 fire calls and 166 EMR calls.

2022 Fire Department Roster		
Fire Calls- 50 • EMR Calls- 131 (ambulance calls)		
Department members	Fire responses	EMR responses
Hunter Gilbert/ FF/EMR	0	0
Mickey Scipioni/FF	0	n/a
Josh Sherman/FF	0	n/a
Donovan Strong/ FF/EMR	0	0
Dave Fazio/EMR/FF	2	0
Craig Gilbert/FF	2	n/a
Eric Milbridge/FF	2	n/a
Tom Mortaloni/ FF/EMR	3	22
Howard Ankrum/FF	5	n/a
Mike Indihar/FF	5	n/a
Roth Indihar/FF	5	n/a
Tammy Mortaloni/ FF/EMR	8	15
David DeJoode/FF/EMR	15	90
Jeff Maus/FF/EMR	15	21
Kristal Strong/FF/EMR	15	95
Jet Galonski/FF	19	n/a
Brian Trancheff/FF	22	n/a
Rick Worringer/FF	26	n/a
Belinda Fazio/EMR	n/a	0
Peggy Nelson/EMR	n/a	15
Rod Politano/EMR	n/a	18
FF= fire fighter • EMR- First Responder • n/a- not applicable		

COMMUNITY NOTICES

**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 River 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.  
**Kenzie Rasmussen named to Dean’s List at MSU- Moorhead**  
MOORHEAD- Kenzie Rasmussen, of Embarrass, has been

named to the Minnesota State University Moorhead dean’s list in recognition of academic achievement fall semester 2022. Rasmussen is majoring in Nursing. Students must maintain a 3.25 or higher grade-point average and carry 12 graded credits to qualify for the honor. MSU Moorhead is a comprehensive university offering more than 130 majors, emphases and options, 14 graduate degree programs, 38 certificate options, and 16 areas of teacher licensure preparation. MSUM is a member of the Minnesota State system.



EDUCATION

# Ely Memorial High School Holiday Concert

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- If the spirit of Christmas should be year-round, then it's never too late for a holiday concert. Many in Ely agreed when the Ely Memorial High School bands presented their 2022 Holiday Concert on Jan. 12 to a packed Washington Elementary School Auditorium.

The concert was originally scheduled for Dec. 15 but was canceled because of bad weather.

The theme of the concert was "Holiday Traditions with a Twist." It was the first holiday concert program from the Ely Schools' new music teacher, Karl Kubiak.

The program included a wide variety of winter holiday selections, including one number entitled "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." Four different ensembles performed, including the sixth grade band, the symphonic band, the wind symphony and the combined mass band.



Karl Kubiak

The mass band was the last on the program. The ensemble of all the student musicians performed just one number, "All Is Calm." The number was based on the melody of "Silent Night," and featured clarinet soloist Chambriel Ridings. The concert was the last opportunity to hear Ridings play as a soloist before she leaves at the end of month for New York City to perform at Carnegie Hall.

After multiple competitive auditions, Ridings

was selected during the summer of 2022 to perform at Carnegie Hall Feb. 1-5, and at the Sydney Opera in August, as part of the international Honors Performance Series.

The student musicians of the Honors Performance Series must fund their own airfare and travel expenses to participate. Half of the voluntary donation proceeds from this concert were dedicated to defraying Ridings' \$5,500 cost to travel to New York.

Anyone interested in contributing a donation to help Ridings participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity may do so by stopping by Frandsen Bank to donate to "Chambriel Ridings," or sending a check to Honors Performance Series in Chambriel Ridings' name to the Ely School's address: 600 E Harvey, Ely, MN 55731, or online at Chambriel's Go Fund Me page: <https://go-fund.me/f1861e70>.

More information about the Honors Performance Series is available at [www.honorsperformance.org](http://www.honorsperformance.org).



**Chambriel Ridings was the soloist at the Ely Memorial High School Holiday Concert on Jan. 12. Half the proceeds of the concert were dedicated to her travel fund to help defray the cost of her trip to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City at the beginning of February.** photo by C. Clark



**The Ely Memorial High School bands performed their winter holiday concert on January 12.** photo by C. Clark

# Ely Winter Festival is just two weeks away

ELY- It's only two weeks away from the start of the 30th Ely Winter Festival, which will be held Feb. 2-12. The complete schedule of events is listed online at [elywinterfestival.com](http://elywinterfestival.com).

The 2023 Ely Winter Festival pin is available at Northern Grounds, Zup's, Grand Ely Lodge, Potluck Kitchenware, Piragis Northwoods Company, and online at the festival website for \$6.00. One dollar of that amount will help fund the school musical production of Frozen.

The festival needs volunteers to help run the event. Please email [snow@elywinterfestival.com](mailto:snow@elywinterfestival.com) if you can help.

For more information contact Shauna Vega at 218-365-SNOW or [Shauna@elywinterfestival.com](mailto:Shauna@elywinterfestival.com).



**Snow sculptors at work at the 2022 Ely Winter Festival.** file photo

## Upcoming Events

### Ely Public Library

ELY- The Ely Public Library will hold a candy science event from 1-2:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, which will explore the science of candy through a series of experiments. Pre-registration is required.

Preschool Storytime at the library is held every Friday at 10:30 a.m.

The monthly board meeting for the library will be on Wednesday,

Feb. 1 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The Get Crafty with Tricia group at the library will make glitter votive candle holders for Valentine's Day. Please register in advance.

### Northern Lakes Arts Association

The NLAA spring musical will feature everyone's favorite mean green carnivorous plant from outer space in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Auditions for people ages 16 and older will be held on Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 23-24, starting at 6 p.m. at the Vermilion

Campus Theater. The production is looking for singers, actors, dancers, tech help, a puppeteer. The performance dates are March 23-April 1.

### Ely Folk School

ELY- The Ely Folk School will hold its monthly Makers' Market and Mixer at 209 E. Sheridan St. on Saturday, Jan. 21. The market will be from 2-4 p.m. and the mixer will be 4-5 p.m. It will also hold a free Artist Meet & Greet event on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 2-4 p.m. at the same location, where the public can meet the local

artists displaying works in the Ely ArtWalk.

The Ely Folk School will offer a one-time class in snow sculpture on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 2-5 p.m. in the pocket park next to the school's 205 E. Sheridan location.

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 in-

dividual films and for the omnibus festival pass for the End of the Road Film Festival are now on sale online at [elyfilmfest.com](http://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.

## 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 [ElyTuesday-Group@gmail.com](mailto:ElyTuesday-Group@gmail.com) or call her at 218-216-9141.

2023 Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

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

►Jan 31: Marne Kaeser will speak about the 1854 Treaty.

►Feb. 7: Understanding and updates on the War in Ukraine with Elyite Tatiana Riabokin.

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



ravens come visit  
search the snow covered garden

a gentle glide in

## 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.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

# Volunteers in Education ready to bloom under new director

## Student tutoring service offers sense of fulfillment for willing volunteers

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- It's been a tough couple of years for Volunteers in Education (VinE), the organization that provides volunteer tutors to many area schools on the Iron Range.

Like the schools they serve, VinE took a hit from the COVID pandemic, having to deal not only with periodic school closures and distance learning but also the loss of many of its longtime volunteers over concerns about the virus.

Then in July 2022, VinE's new executive director Anne Varda passed away, dealing another blow to the organization.

"We were just starting to move back into the schools and then that happened," said VinE board member Bailey Conger.

Such challenges might have been insurmountable for similar small nonprofits, but the passionate members of VinE's board persevered, and now the program is ready to take flight again under the reins of new executive director Teresa de Venecia.

de Venecia brings a wealth of educational experience to the position. After obtaining a degree in elementary education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she taught fourth grade for a number of years before returning to the university to obtain a master's in educational administration. She parlayed that into a position as director of instruction.

"That was tough," de Venecia said. "Especially when new standards were coming out in 1998.

It meant a lot for updating curriculum and needing to do that in a way that would get the job done as quickly as possible, but do so in a way that would bring teachers along so that they wouldn't feel like they were being too bombarded."

de Venecia is no stranger to working with multiple schools and districts like VinE does thanks to her work with the Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. CESA works to support schools through such things as providing professional development for teachers, support staff, principals, and district leaders, serving as consultants on curriculum and educational practices, facilitating cooperative purchasing to maximize available resources, and enabling sharing of special education teachers and other professionals to meet student needs.

"I worked for Sisa in Ashland," she said. "I worked for 14 school districts in one big project in northern Wisconsin where I was coordinating all the curriculum K-12 and re-writing curriculum up to the standards."

de Venecia relocated to Duluth in 2014 with her husband, Eric, and two children, Nathan, now a 24-year-old computer engineer for John Deere in Fargo, and Gretchen, who is a 20-year-old student at UW-Madison.

And how did someone in Duluth find out about the opening with VinE?

"The *Timberjay*," de Venecia said. "I have a sister who lives in the area, and she knew that



**New VinE Executive Director Teresa de Venecia brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to her new leadership position.**

I was starting to look for employment opportunities. She saw the posting and my goodness; the way Bailey had worded it sounded like everything that I've been interested in working on for years and years and years."

The match does indeed seem to be a good one when you listen to what de Venecia finds appealing about VinE.

"I love the program and the way that they bring community tutors to help the kids in the local schools and within their own communities, for a couple of reasons. It connects the community with the school so that those tutors get an idea of what the schools are like and can communicate and share that with their peers in the community. And, of course, it's wonderful for the students, and the

teachers could tap into that."

"I love running programs that have lots of dimensions to them," she continued, "and this one certainly is that with all the locations where we serve students. Also, I loved the challenge as I was reading the job posting. I could tell that there was a lot involved with it, but that I had a lot of experience with most of it so I felt pretty confident. I was excited to prove to myself, as well as VinE and the communities and their schools and their kids that we could all together make this work. It's been a rough go for VinE for the last few years, and I feel like I can help them get going quickly and successfully. So, I like the challenge. But I like what the program is doing for kids."

de Venecia noted that the impact of tutors in the lives of children extends beyond the mere teaching of academic content.

"Those relationships between the tutors and those students, if they can be solid, trusting relationships, that's part of creating a foundation for social-emotional well-being," she said. "That is a very important component that all school districts are paying very close attention to right now. While it's not our primary goal, it's certainly something that we want to be wrapped into what we're doing."

The first order of business when de Venecia started the job on Jan. 2 was to write a grant for funding, something that proved to be a learning experience about the organization.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to learn a lot of information in a very short amount of time," she said. "I corresponded with lots of people in a short amount of time, so I learned, I met a lot of people and had questions answered, and I probably made a much longer list of questions that I should be asking in the near future. Now it's time to reach out to principals and try to get coordinators back in schools and get the tutors as soon as possible, get everybody trained and ready to help kids as soon as possible."

Conger noted that VinE volunteers have spanned a wide age range in the past. One group has been retired people who have had the time and really wanted to get back into schools. The other group has been students, peer helpers who are sophomores, juniors, and

seniors who tutor in elementary classes. That latter arrangement could be more difficult to do in the Rock Ridge district due to the new configuration of school buildings that has separated the older grades from the younger ones, she said.

"There's a lot to be said for a small school like North Woods because we're all in it together," she said.

At one point, VinE had 90 active volunteer tutors serving around 500 students, and de Venecia is eager to find new volunteers and bring them into the VinE program.

"Working with kids is so fulfilling and seeing the needs that they have and knowing that over time, you can see that you're helping them meet, if not their own goals, goals that their teachers have set for them," she said. "It's so fulfilling to see that you're making a difference. If you take all of those kids together and think about the difference that we are making as an organization with those tutors, the difference that they are making, they're helping so many. I think there are a lot of people that are really receptive to it, it's for us to find those people, and do our networking as efficiently and in such a broad way that we can reach people as soon as possible."

Those interested in finding out more about becoming a volunteer tutor with VinE can go to the organization's website at [vine-mn.org](http://vine-mn.org).

COMMUNITY EVENTS

# Tomassoni memorial hockey game to raise ALS funds is Sunday in Chisholm

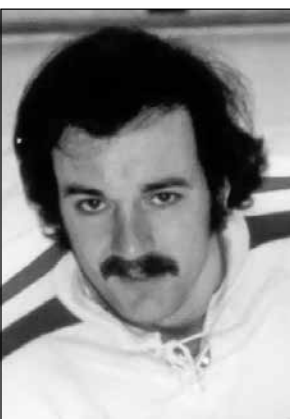
CHISHOLM- The spirit of Dave Tomassoni will fill the Chisholm City Sports Arena this Sunday, Jan. 22 as a memorial game for the beloved late state senator and ultimate hockey fan will be played at 1p.m. between the Hibbing-Chisholm U12A and the Duluth Icebreakers U12A teams. The Hibbing-Chisholm U12A team includes North Woods students Aleah and Sophie Bangs

and is coached by Caitlyn Bangs.

Last year, as Tomassoni battled ALS, he performed the honorary puck-drop at a Hibbing-Chisholm U12 Hockey Game. Now, after his passing last August, an annual game in Chisholm will be played in his honor. Senator Tomassoni's son, Dante, will perform the honorary puck-drop this year.

The event is orga-

nized in partnership with Never Surrender Inc., a charitable organization focused on raising money to fight ALS and help families affected by the disease. Admission to the game is free, but fans are encouraged to donate to Never Surrender Inc. via the Black Woods Blizzard Tour ride. Information on how to donate will be available at the game. Please come out and join us for this event!



David Tomassoni

## Trinity Church to host community meal on Thursday

COOK- What could be better to take the chill off a cold winter's day than free tater tot hotdish? That's the main attraction for the community meal hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook on Thursday, Jan. 26 from 4-5:30 p.m. The menu will also include sides and dessert. It will be served inside with drive-thru available. It's free and open to the public.

## Annual NWFA photo contest is underway

COOK- It's time to get your camera out of hibernation and start snapping photos for the Northwoods Friends of the Arts annual photo contest.

The cost to enter is \$10 per photo, which includes identical mats and sleeves for each photo, with the sizes again being 5x7 or 8x10. Students 18 and younger may enter up to three photos without cost.

The deadline for entry, getting your photo to the gallery, is Saturday, Feb 25, 1 p.m.

There will be one contest winner receiving \$100 and a runner-up is awarded \$50.

The voting exhibit is March 2 - 31. Open gallery hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Those viewing the exhibit will vote for two favorite photos, making winners "the peoples' choice."

The public is invited

to attend a reception at the gallery on Friday, Mar. 31 at 5 p.m. at which the winners will be announced.

NWFA Gallery is located at 210 S. River St.

## Pro-level scanning available at library

COOK- Do you have photos or documents you'd like to preserve in digital format? Bring your documents, letters, photos, slides or negatives to the Cook Public Library to be scanned with professional equipment provided by Minitex and the Minnesota Digital Library.

All scanned items will be converted to a digital format, so please bring your own USB flash drive to save these items.

Scanning is free but the number of items may be limited depending on time. The scanner will be available during regular library hours throughout the month of January. This program is made possible by the Arrowhead Library System.

## Cook student named to dean's list

COOK- Pierce Johnson, of Cook, a North Woods School graduate currently studying anthropology at Minnesota State University Moorhead, has been named to that school's dean's list in recognition of academic achievement fall semester 2022. Students must maintain a 3.25 or higher GPA and carry 12 graded credits to qualify for the honor.



**North Woods junior Emily Grahn and fellow students are preparing pottery for the school's tenth annual Empty Bowl event, to be held Thursday, Feb. 23 from 4:30-7 p.m. in the school commons.** submitted photo

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## PROJECT...Continued from page 1

HoodooPointCampground, and the ambulance service. The situation forced the city to borrow \$250,000 from the League of Minnesota Cities in 2019 simply to pay its bills. That debt won't be fully retired until 2024.

The city has been more cautious about spending, and project spending in particular, since and city officials were able to complete the \$1 million Pine Street reconstruction in 2022 without any major deficits.

The trailhead project, however, a long-delayed holdover from the Carlson administration, proved to be yet another ticking time bomb, one that is again threatening city finances.

### Due diligence lacking

The trailhead project, which is funded by \$600,000 from the Legislative Citizens

Commission on Minnesota Resources, or LCCMR, is the second part of a two-phase project that included walkways and lighting around the harbor, intended to provide a walking connection from the harbor to Hoodoo Point. The first phase included graveled walkways and lighting around the harbor, along with a section of floating dock.

Cost overruns and mismanagement on the first phase of the project back in 2018 and 2019 left the city on the hook for approximately \$120,000 in engineering costs owed to SEH, which had apparently been overlooked when budgeting for the construction costs. Soil testing on the project's second phase was overlooked as well and when the soils along the access road and parking area proved to be little

more than wetland muck, the cost of excavation and backfill with solid material sent the costs of the project skyrocketing. Just last week, the city council reluctantly approved a change order on the project totaling \$237,168.

City engineer Matt Bolf, of SEH, acknowledged that soil testing would have been a good idea in retrospect, telling the council that "hindsight is 20-20." Bolf, by way of explanation, noted that the area lacked good access for a drill rig. However, soil testing can also be undertaken by hand augering, an inexpensive effort that may well have revealed the presence of extensive wetland soils. The presence of wetland soils should have been no surprise, since the project maps developed by SEH showed the presence of wetlands throughout nearly the entire site. Bolf told the council that he had hoped the parking lot area, much of which had formerly been used for a small boat launch would contain better soils, but it turned out the area had been made suitable for parking in the past mostly with shallow fill. Bolf had recommended removal of the soft soils down to a depth of ten feet and backfill with pit run gravel. The additional excavation cost an extra \$93,043, while the backfilling added \$138,645 to the tally.

For now, the city has kept the financial impact of the cost overrun in check by eliminating portions of the project, including reducing the number of parking slots and eliminating lighting, and by tapping about \$84,500 in contingency dollars from

an Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation grant earmarked for the next phase of the project, which included a planned extension of Main Street to the trailhead and canoe launch. The project also includes a paved walking trail connection between the Hoodoo Point spur and the harbor. But the city still has yet to receive bids for that work, the costs of which remain uncertain. The final cost likely won't be known even when bids do come in, since unanticipated factors can significantly impact the final price tag on a project.

The city should be able to fund the road and trail extension, even if soils present another surprise. The IRRR grant also includes over \$200,000 for a so-called "green flush" toilet proposed to be installed near the civic center. Mayor Dave Setterberg said completion of the road extension remains the city's top priority for the use of those funds. "We can't leave it all torn up," he said, noting that the city should start the bidding process on that work later this winter.

While frustrated by the cost overruns on a project he inherited from a prior administration, Setterberg said he's remained focused on ensuring the overruns don't impact city finances and taxpayers as they did in the past. At the same time, he noted that the city has an obligation to go as far as it possibly can to achieve the goals they've laid out to funding entities, like the LCCMR and IRRR.

### Harbor costs the biggest factor

The city's efforts to bring development to the

harbor have been costly, consuming enormous amounts of city staff time and public dollars. Over the past 15 years, the city has spent at least eight million dollars in public funds for a new highway bridge, for dredging and sheeting the harbor, and for docks, walkways and lighting around the harbor, all without a single dollar in private investment to show for it, at least to date. The Tower Economic Development Authority, which now owns the harbor area, has issued a new Request for Proposals from prospective developers in hopes of attracting a development partner for the site. Numerous proposals for the harbor, including a proposed hotel and, later, town homes, have failed to come to fruition over the years for a variety of reasons.

While a federal highway grant and funding from the state's taconite production tax provided most of the funds for public infrastructure at the harbor, the city has poured plenty of its own money into the effort as well. As of the end of 2021, the city had spent just over \$600,000 of its own funds on the project, for everything from engineering and design, extensive legal expenses related to platting and drafting of development agreements, and maintenance.

Adding to the mix have been a number of other capital improvement projects. The city experienced cost overruns on a variety of street projects totaling nearly \$250,000 and nearly \$50,000 in airport capital projects, according to city audits reviewed by the *Timberjay*. "In the capital projects funds, the deficits

occurred because expenditures exceeded grant and tax revenues for the projects," notes the city's 2019 audit.

### Ripple effects

The impact of consistent overspending on capital projects has been wide-ranging for the city. By tapping funds from other city accounts to cover overruns, the city has slowed much-needed reinvestment in the Hoodoo Point Campground. Campground managers and customers have complained for years about the condition of the campground's public restrooms and showers as well as electrical service that doesn't meet the demands of larger recreational vehicles. In addition, leaky sewer infrastructure at the facility inundated the campground's septic system in 2018. In another case of questionable due diligence, city officials opted, upon the recommendation of SEH, to spend close to \$500,000 to extend a sewer pipe to the campground. That project ran into troubles of its own and, once completed, further added to the city's ongoing problem with inflow and infiltration into the municipal sewer system, consuming already limited sewage treatment capacity.

The city has long relied on Hoodoo Point profits to fund city operations, but the funds tapped by the city limited the city's ability to reinvest in a key asset.

In tapping the city's storefront renovation lending account, which once totaled over \$100,000, the overruns ultimately impacted the ability of local businesses to tap low-interest loan funds for improvements. Diverting

ambulance funds has made it more difficult for the city's ambulance service to purchase new vehicles as well as weather a costly transition to a paid on-call service.

In addition, the city has been forced to incur interest costs on the repayment of its \$250,000 loan from the League of Minnesota Cities.

### Progress made

A tighter rein on spending the past couple years has allowed the city to begin to rebuild its finances, but it's still far from recouping all that it lost during a period of relatively unchecked spending at city hall. The city also took steps under clerk/treasurer Victoria Ranua to establish separate bank accounts for enterprise operations, such as Hoodoo Point, to ensure that there's more transparent accounting of the uses of profits from the campground. The city also now tracks fees assessed to campers, that were supposed to have been earmarked for campground improvements, that were not well accounted-for in the past.

TEDA recently obtained a \$50,000 IRRR development partnership grant from the IRRR that TEDA is matching with a portion of proceeds from the recent sale of land, to re-supply its storefront/commercial redevelopment loan program.

The *Timberjay* sought answers to questions and comment from city engineer Matt Bolf for this story. He did not respond as of presstime.

## STUDY...Continued from page 1

who would work under the direction of an ambulance medical director. It set forth four options including setting up a partnership with Bois Forte's Vermilion Clinic where such a CP could be based, or having Greenwood hire their own staff. Other options presented were creating a contract with the Virginia Fire Department to move an ALS ambulance more centrally located in Greenwood Township (an option the Virginia Fire Department has already dismissed due to limited staffing), or to partner with another ALS provider.

The McGrath study noted that they had not reached out to Bois Forte officials in preparing their suggestion to use tribal facilities to host paramedics.

Bassing questioned why the study didn't look at the option of having Tower release their license to a private provider, such as Essentia.

"I think we need to explore that avenue," Committee Chair John Bassing said.

Supervisor Rick Stoehr said it was just a matter of time that big organizations were going to be running ambulance services.

Jeff Maus said the report did not look at how the current hospital structure in the area, with the smaller rural hospital feeding patients to specialists in Duluth, was increasing demand for hospital-to-hospital transfers.

The committee also noted that the wage cost estimates for paramedics in the study was not realistic.

"People are making \$120,000 a year at Minntac," said Committee member Lee Peterson. "We need to pay paramedics enough to live here." Peterson said

the study's financial projections showed if Greenwood hired their own staff, it would be paying around \$22 per hour, which was unrealistic.

Paramedics receive two years of training before becoming certified, Committee member Jeff Maus said.

"People in this township are willing to pay for good medical service," said Stoehr.

Maus wondered why McGrath, which is a national firm, did not find any examples of a model that would work in this area.

"Wouldn't that make sense?" Maus asked.

The McGrath study does note that Greenwood Township is contained within the Tower Area Ambulance Service (TAAS) area, but it made little mention of TAAS and never mentioned any options for adding additional support to TAAS to achieve Greenwood's goal of ALS service.

Members of the committee have expressed their desire to have the territory of the TAAS changed, to provide the possibility of more options for service from other areas. But the report did not discuss this option. Ambulance service areas are defined by a state body, the EMSRB board, which is overseen by the state Legislature.

The study stated that they were unable to get all the data requested from other ambulance services or governing bodies in the region, yet a review of the information request put out by McGrath by the *Timberjay* found it to be extremely lengthy and of variable relevance to the region. In any case, it sought an enormous amount of information from entities that had no

input into Greenwood's decision-making and that, in some cases, could be harmed by decisions Greenwood might make.

Greenwood officials have taken a go-it-alone approach, declining to support an ad hoc committee formed by the Tower Ambulance Commission, that includes representatives from area townships that are seeking their own regional solution.

Despite questions about whether Greenwood's study delivered what was promised, a representative of McGrath told members of the town board they needed to approve the draft report by Jan. 17. The town board had only been given the draft copy the week prior, and town board members balked at the quick turnaround required to review and comment on the 50-page report.

"There wasn't any time limit set forth in the contract," said Peterson. "I think they just don't want input from the public."

The draft was initially supposed to be completed by the end of December.

"It wasn't the township's fault it was delayed," said Peterson.

The committee instructed interim town clerk JoAnn Bassing to contact McGrath to let them know their review of the plan would not be completed on McGrath's timetable.

"I asked that we have until Jan. 23," said Town Board Chair Sue Drobac. "He said that was not acceptable."

Drobac said McGrath finally did agree to give the board until Jan. 23, but with the committee still reviewing the draft, and the need for review by the full town board, that deadline will surely be missed.

"What are they going to do," said Drobac. "Take our birthday away?"

"I am not even sure what we are supposed to decide on," said Drobac.

The committee set some major goals for the review process: to review the report for inaccuracies, to remove items in the report they feel are not relevant, and to bring additional options into the report.

Two people at the meeting relayed stories of their own medical emergencies, when standard Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance service would not have resulted in positive outcomes. In both cases they had family members with medical backgrounds that made sure they were transported immediately to an area hospital, instead of


waiting for the local ambulance to arrive, because the EMTs on board would not have been able to provide the level of care required. ALS ambulances are staffed with trained paramedics, who can do more advanced medical care prior to arriving at the hospital. The ambulances themselves are also outfitted with more medical equipment. They also relayed a story of a seriously-ill township resident who required a tracheotomy, something that EMTs are not able to provide.

Almost 70-percent of townships residents are age 60 or older (with a median age of 69.1).

The committee set a second meeting for Monday, Jan. 23 at 6 p.m. at the town hall. The meeting

is open to the public, and the committee is interested in hearing from other township residents on this issue. The committee set some major goals for the review process: to review the report for inaccuracies, to remove items in the report they feel are not relevant, and to bring additional options into the report.

Township members on the committee include John Bassing, chair; Lee Peterson, vice-chair; Julie Stoehr, secretary; Supervisor Rick Stoehr, Town Chair Sue Drobac; Bev Peterson; Interim Clerk JoAnn Bassing, Fire Chief Jeff Maus, and Marjorie Miller. The township is set to receive a \$25,000 grant from the IRRR to offset some of the cost of the study.

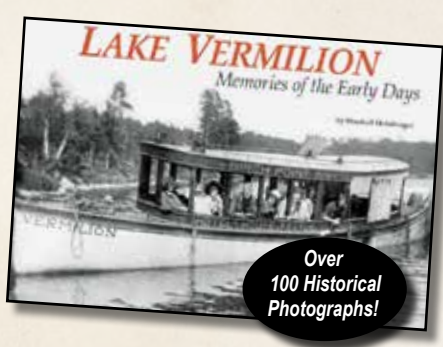


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CBD...Continued from page 1

Chaulklins' businesses

John and Heather Chaulklin have an establish e-commerce business “selling health and wellness products” through a virtual storefront on Amazon. They also opened a smoke shop selling legalized cannabinoid edibles in Cook in June, as reported in the Oct. 29, 2022, issue of the Timberjay.

Chaulklin remarked that for their edible cannabinoids, “Our clientele base is not the younger generation, it’s the over 50 crowd. (They are) people that are using it for alternative medicine, a way for them to help with their pain.” He emphasized that the business in Ely, like the one already established in Cook, was completely legal under Minnesota law.

His business model was a retail store and lounge where customers could consume their legal cannabinoid foods or beverage in a relaxing and safe lounge setting.

“What we plan on doing to the building itself is in three parts,” Chaulklin told the council. “There’s a front, middle and a back section. The front and middle, we’re going to open up and that will be retail part of our store. We plan on adding a second bathroom, making it all handicap accessible. In the back, we plan on a lounge, like a chill-out place for people to just have a beverage, consume, and relax.”

Though the words “smoke shop” is in the business name, Chaulklin stated, “There will be no smoking whatsoever, not tobacco, not THC, not (cannabis) flower, although I think Minnesota is going to pass the flower law this year.”

While Chaulklin answered several questions from the council members, he also had questions for the council about the sale of beverages.

“The only thing was mentioned (in the ordinance proposal) was the edibles, and nothing about the beverages.”

Chaulklin currently sells the edibles like gummies and the beverages in Cook to go. The proposal for the Ely business would be to sell products to take home or to consume in the lounge. He also noted there was nothing in the proposed ordinance that would cover the lounge or what hours it could be open.

City Attorney Kelly

Klun answered the question for Chaulklin on beverages, “Edibles as defined by that state statute includes beverages.”

All the council members present had questions for Chaulklin. Mayor Heidi Omerza urged the council members to move on since there would be more discussion later in the meeting: “We’re going to be discussing this later on in the agenda and probably a few more times over the next few weeks. Just for clarity, this would be the first reading of the ordinance tonight. And then there’ll be a second reading at the first meeting in February. There also could be consideration to bring this up at our study session (on) the last Tuesday of January.”

Failed first reading

When the council

members considered the first reading of the proposed CBD ordinance, number 367, Klun explained that the draft ordinance followed the tobacco ordinances and state law.

“We’re regulating what’s legalized edible cannabis products to date, as if they were cigarettes. That’s probably the easiest way to frame this ... We did work with the chief in creating this language.”

Klun stated that the proposed ordinance would work in two ways: “So the function (of the ordinance) is not only to balance the owners desire to sell the legal products in Ely, but also the city’s desire to ensure that no business activity strays into illegal activities or substances that would not be allowed in our community.”

Klun also pointed out that any ordinance adopted by the city would need to morph as Minnesota considered new legislation on cannabis and cannabinoid products.

Though all the council members voiced concerns over the proposed ordinance, Al Forsman was the most vocal. “I remember within the last couple of months reading an article about stores that were selling a product that was much stronger than what was legally allowed ... there were hospitalizations that were actually followed because of that.”

Forsman queried Police Chief Chad Houde about the police department’s ability to police the amount of cannabinoid in an edible product and Houde said that it was

currently not possible.


Earlier in the meeting, Forsman also expressed concern over retail cannabinoid getting into the hands of minors, “According to the Minnesota Poison Control System, there were 94 children under age six who accidentally ingested edibles in 2022. That’s a 334 percent increase compared to 2021.” Those 94 children were hospitalized because of eating cannabinoid gummies or drinking cannabinoid beverages.”

Since the proposed ordinance was a late addition to the agenda, Forsman remarked that he did not feel like he had enough time to study the ordinance and the issues it raised. He also said that he could not be at the first council meeting in February, so he would not have opportunity to

hear citizen opinions at the proposed public hearing.


The other councilors present shared most of Forsman’s concerns. The council voted to reject the first reading of the proposed ordinance, with five votes to send the ordinance language back to be redrafted. Mayor Heidi Omerza voted to approve the first reading. Councilor Paul Kess was absent.

The council will still hold a study session to consider edible cannabinoids on the last Tuesday of January. Because of this action by the council, the earliest that a public hearing could be held on a revised ordinance would be March, which is still before the expiration of the current moratorium.



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<div><b>2014 ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD</b><div><b>\$12,752</b><div>#7866A</div></div></div>	<div><b>2013 F150 XLT</b><div><b>\$10,980</b><div>#25414A</div></div></div>	<div><b>2013 ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD</b><div><b>\$13,974</b><div>#7887</div></div></div>	<div><b>2015 EDGE SEL</b><div><b>\$17,980</b><div>#25386A</div></div></div>	<div><b>2021 MACH-E PREMIUM EXT. RANGE</b><div><b>\$56,954</b><div>#7900</div></div></div>







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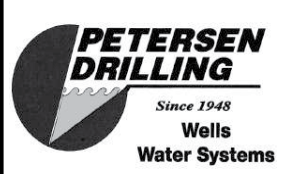
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## MINING

# House to vote Monday on Northshore UI extension

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A bill to provide extended unemployment benefits to Northshore Mining workers in Babbitt and Silver Bay passed the Minnesota Senate last week, but action on a companion bill in the House is still pending.

More than 400 Cleveland-Cliffs workers at the Babbitt mine and Silver Bay pellet processing facility have been in limbo since last May when the company idled both facilities in response to changing company needs and an ongoing dispute with the Mesabi Trust over royalty payments on ore extracted from Babbitt. Cleveland-Cliffs is not expected to restart production until at least April, while unemployment benefits for

workers started running out last November.

The bill provides for 26 weeks of additional unemployment, retroactive to the date at which an individual's initial benefit ran out. The measure received bipartisan support in the DFL-controlled Senate, passing 56-10, but not before Republicans objected to a clause exempting Cleveland-Cliffs from having to pay more into the state's unemployment fund as a result of the extra benefits.

District 3 Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, said the break for Cliffs was based on previous unemployment extension bills, and also because of the importance of the company to the regional economy.

"The reason for that is because this is one of the largest employers in my

district," he said. "I want to make sure that these workers get back to work as soon as possible. I want to make it as easy as I can for that to happen."

But in a departure from political norms, Republicans were reluctant to provide any break to the corporate mining giant.

"If I was a mom-and-pop business owner, which I am, I would not be getting the same treatment that Wall Street seems to get," said Sen. Rich Draheim, a Republican from Madison Lake, during a Senate committee hearing on Tuesday for the bill. "I have a hard time bailing out a company that had \$20 billion in revenue last year."

The cost of the bill will be paid from the state's \$1.7 billion unemployment insurance trust fund, which is funded by

company taxes. The additional payment would affect Cleveland-Cliff's "experience rating," which is used to calculate those taxes when extended benefits are paid. Hauschild's original version would have exempted those benefit payments from being used to calculate the company's experience rating, lowering their contribution to the trust fund.

Hauschild agreed to an amendment that would subject Cleveland-Cliffs to the increased rate, but excludes Dyno Nobel, a small company that provides blasting services at the mine whose workers have also been affected by the closure.

District 7B Rep. Dave Lislegard, DFL-Aurora, authored the corresponding legislation in the House, and District 3A

Rep. Roger Skraba, Republican-Ely, has signed on as a co-author. Introduced Jan. 4, the bill was assigned to the House Workforce Development Finance and Policy Committee.

On Tuesday, an amended version of the bill reflecting the changes made in the Senate was reported out of committee and referred to the House Ways and Means committee, which was scheduled to consider the measure that evening, according to the House calendar.

Late Tuesday evening, the *Timberjay* reached Skraba by phone for an update.

"It passed," he said. "It could have gone to the floor tomorrow, but it's only a ten-minute session to read a bunch of bills. Right now it's scheduled for Monday. I think there

will be some movement to try to knock it down to 13 weeks. But what we're looking at right now is 26 weeks retroactive to when their unemployment ran out."

Skraba called out those who would angle for reducing the length of the extended benefits, decrying the supposed money-saving tactic at a time the state has a \$17.6 billion surplus.

Noting that the mine and pellet facility may not reopen before the extended benefits run out, Skraba was skeptical that another unemployment insurance extension could be pushed through if that happens.

"That's a really hard sell," he said. "Even the workers know that. They're thankful that we're doing what we can do."

## TOWER AREA AMBULANCE SERVICE

# Ad hoc committee recommends forming joint powers board to oversee service

Would take over ambulance operations from the city of Tower

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- What will the Tower Area Ambulance Service (TAAS) look like in the next few years? An ad-hoc committee formed by the Tower Ambulance Commission has been looking into options, and cost estimates, to ensure the department is financially stable in the coming years.

While the idea of adding 24/7 Advanced Life Support (ALS) and paramedic services has been discussed, the group said the costs of such a move, estimated by Cook's ambulance director to be over \$300,000 per year, make that option unrealistic.

"A better alternative for townships like Greenwood that want this coverage is to consider funding a local paramedic as a first responder at the scene and then rides with TAAS to the hospital."

The ad hoc group, consisting of elected officials from the city and townships that are part of the ambulance service area, has been meeting since last fall. Greenwood Township opted not to participate in the group, instead funding their own study of ambulance service options, which was set to be completed in December, but the final re-

port has yet to be released.

The ad hoc group released their draft report last week. The report outlined six options, and also noted that if the outside study currently being funded by Greenwood Township comes up with a better plan that all the involved communities approve of, then that may become the plan that is adopted.

But for now, the group decided the most viable option was reorganizing the ambulance service under a joint powers agreement where Tower no longer has ownership, and the service is run by a new partnership of the participating townships and the city.

This would mean more costs, work, and responsibilities for the greater area. Costs would increase because currently Tower provides supervision, audit services, and helps subsidize staffing because the city allows its current staff to cover some paid on-call time as part of their regular duties (saving the ambulance department that payroll cost).

The draft notes that this option would require a strong leadership position and an active joint powers board. The leadership responsibilities would need to include business manager duties, which are cur-

rently handled by the city of Tower, not the current ambulance director. The board would also need to do their own grant writing, handle the audit process and insurance costs, and basically function as a stand-alone nonprofit.

Funding a joint powers arrangement could be handled by either increasing the current per resident contribution, or creating a tax district based on property values (to replace the current subsidy arrangement). Raising an additional \$130,000 a year would require either increasing the per capita subsidy to \$32.50, or a tax levy of approximately \$11 per \$100,000 of market value (based on estimates from the county auditor). If Greenwood does not participate in the tax district, according to the draft report, the tax levy would need to be \$30 per \$100,000 in market value.

Another option reviewed included doing nothing, but noted that according to annual audits, the service is losing from \$90,000 to \$113,000 a year, with the deficit mostly due to revenues not covering depreciation of both the ambulance and other expensive required equipment. The audits have also found that department expenses are higher than in the past due

to the paid on-call (POC) rates and the state requirement to provide 24/7 coverage. The draft states that reducing the payroll and POC rates would risk losing staff, missing calls, and possible loss of life.

Another option would be for the city to maintain ownership of the service but have the service area contribute more to cover the overall cost of equipment. But the draft notes that the entire community is not supportive of giving more money without more control over the service.

Other options briefly discussed included combining services to create a larger service, hiring a private company to run the service, or creating a new regional service. But none of these, at least at this time, are viable options according to the report.

Members of the ad hoc committee included elected officials from each of the participating governmental units in the ambulance service area: Kevin Norby, Tower; Chuck Tekautz, Breitung; Frank Sherman, Eagles Nest; Frank Zobitz, Vermilion Lake; Julie Suihkonen, Kugler; Jeff Dam, Bois Forte. Barb Lofquist, Greenwood, only attended the final meeting.

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# SPORTS

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## NORDIC SKIING

### Another overall first for Devine

Standout Ely senior tops the field in sprint competition in Duluth

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

DULUTH— Ely senior Zoe Devine topped the field at the Duluth-Marshall sprints here on Saturday, finishing just ahead of frequent rivals Lydia Kraker and Rowan Bixler, both of whom hail from the Nordic ski powerhouse Duluth East.

Devine has topped the

field twice in the last two weeks, suggesting that she could well be one of Section 7's top contenders at this year's state meet. Devine, competing at the Duluth Nordic Center, finished the 1.3-kilometer sprint with a time of 3:33.0, four and a half seconds ahead of second-place finisher Kraker and 5.7 seconds faster than Bixler.

Other Ely girls posted

strong times and mostly finished in the top third in the field of 69 competitors. Phoebe Helms finished in 18th place with a time of 4:00.0, just three one-hundredths of a second ahead of teammate Ava Skustad. Right behind was Claire Blauch, who finished 20th with a time of 4:05.8. Anna Dunn finished in 22nd place with a time of 4:13.2.

**Right: Ely's Zoe Devine takes part in the Duluth-Marshall sprint competition on Saturday.**

photo by R. Brophy

For the boys, Eli Olson led the squad, finishing in 13th place in a field of 69 with a time of 3:29.9.

See **NORDIC ...pg. 2B**



## BOYS BASKETBALL

### Ely defense stymies Huskies

Bianco hits 31 points in 56-44 win, boosting Wolves' record to 11-1

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ELY- The Ely Timberwolves stifling zone defense was a puzzle the Bigfork Huskies couldn't solve on Tuesday, as the Wolves came away with a 56-44 win on their home floor. Senior Joey Bianco had the hot hand for the Wolves, hitting for a game high 31 points, in a game that was decided in the first half when Ely forged its lead.

The score was knotted at 6-6 when the Wolves made their first push to edge away from the Huskies, a 7-0 run fueled by a pair of Bianco buckets and a trey from freshman Jack Davies.

Bigfork closed to within three at 13-10, and that's when the defense really stepped up. Over the next eight minutes the Wolves' zone was nearly impenetrable, shifting quickly to close

**Above: Ely senior Joey Bianco eyes the prize while under pressure from two Bigfork defenders Tuesday night in Ely.**

**Right: Ely's Jack Davies and Jake Cochran get in the face of a Bigfork player.**

photos by D. Colburn

off passing lanes and harass Huskies shooters while allowing only two Bigfork baskets.

Ely took advantage of the stagnant Huskies offense by going on a 16-4 run, with ten of those points coming from Bianco. Davies and sophomore Caid Chittum knocked down three-balls in the streak to push the Wolves out to a 29-14 lead with 2:50 remaining in the half. Ely cooled off down the stretch

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



### Grizzlies drop three straight

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods boys basketball team hit a rough patch this past week, dropping consecutive games to Mt. Iron-Buhl, Red Lake, and Fond du Lac.

Friday the 13th was indeed an unlucky night for the Grizzlies, who squared off against Mt. Iron-Buhl on a night when the Rangers were hosting their Hall of Fame

inductions.

MIB's senior guard Asher Zubich, a shoe-in for MIB's Hall of Fame as the school's all-time career scoring leader with over 3,000 points, wasn't about to disappoint the packed gym, slicing and dicing the Grizzlies for 53 points in the Rangers' easy 98-62 win. Zubich was 7-of-9 from three-point land, 19-of-26 overall, and hit eight of nine free throws.

See **GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B**



**The Grizzlies' Brendan Chiabotti eyes the bucket under heavy pressure from a MI-B defender.** photo by D. Colburn

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Win some, lose some

Grizzlies on a roller coaster in recent games

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- It's been a run of feast or famine on the basketball court for the North Woods girls in their past three games, trounced by Mt. Iron-Buhl and South Ridge but running roughshod over Littlefork-Big Falls.

The Grizzlies were coming off a dominating 89-16 win at Littlefork-Big Falls as they hit the road Tuesday for a tilt against South Ridge, hoping the momentum from that big win would carry over into the contest against the Panthers.

The Grizzlies went up 7-5 on a three by Tatum Barto, but then hit a dry spell as the Panthers reeled off 12 unanswered points to grab a 17-7 lead. Another three by Helen Koch at the 7:45 mark helped North Woods keep pace at 25-16, but the Panthers responded with a 15-4 run to take a 40-20 lead. North Woods trailed 45-26 at the half. North Woods was more competitive in the second half but didn't have the firepower to make a dent in the Panthers' lead and lost 87-59.

Koch led the Grizzlies in scoring with 18, and Hannah Kinsey knocked down 14.

Littlefork-Big Falls put up little resistance against the taller, stronger, and faster Grizzlies on Monday. Stymied by the Grizzlies withering full court pressure that forced turnover after turnover,

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

## RECOGNITION



**North Woods junior Tori Olson was recently named to the Minnesota State High School Golf Coaches Association All-State team for her performance at the 2022 state golf tournament last spring. Olson finished 15th and was one of only three sophomores to crack the top 20 to make the all-state squad. It was Olson's highest finish yet in three state tourney appearances.**



GIRLS BASKETBALL



# Timberwolves sink Cook County

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The Timberwolves sunk Cook County on Monday with a keelhauling score of 67-26.

Taller and faster, Ely dominated the hardwood, often moving the ball down court at speeds that left Cook County in its wake.

The Wolves set pace from the

**Left: Ely's Sarah Visser looks for a way through heavy pressure during Monday's match with Cook County.** photo by C. Clark

very start, notching five buckets before Cook County sank a shot. The Wolves kept the pressure on, taking a 44-11 lead by the half.

The Vikings stepped up their game after the break, with more aggressive running, steals, and rebounds. But as the Vikings tried a faster pace, the Wolves went the other way, slowing things down, a pace that worked to their advantage thanks to their comfortable lead.

Ely only added 23 points in the second half, but it didn't really

matter as they continued to expand their lead.

Madeline Perry led the way offensively for the Wolves, with 20 points, including a trey. Clare Thomas added 12 points, while Hannah Penke contributed nine points, a stat she was able to pad with three from the charity stripe. Grace LaTourell added nine points, while Maisy Sundblad and Sarah Visser both added five.

BOYS BASKETBALL

# Ely's Davies, Bianco proving a dynamic duo

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY— Ely freshman Jack Davies has become a player to watch in Section 7A this season. The five-foot-six-inch point guard has been red hot from beyond the arc in recent weeks and he's been leading the potent Wolves' in recent games.

On Monday night, hosting Cook County, Davies poured in 39 points, including 11 treys, to lead the Wolves to a 90-45 shellacking of the Vikings. Ely was unstoppable in the early going, racking up an astonishing 31-1 lead at one point.

Davies wasn't the only one having a good night. "Joey Bianco had another great game," said

Head Coach Tom McDonald, noting that the senior guard just missed a triple-double with 23 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds. Senior Erron Anderson added ten boards of his own, while senior Jason Kerntz added 13 points. Sophomore Caid Chittum grabbed nine rebounds.

Last Friday, in Nashwauk, Ely put another "W" on the

board with a 61-52 win over the Spartans. "We played pretty well but N-K had a nice game against us," said McDonald. "We had a 12 point lead in the second half but that evaporated quickly when they started to get hot from the outside. They actually took a 49-45 lead with about five minutes left but we pulled together and got the win."

Davies again led offen-

sively, with 28 points, including eight treys. Bianco posted another strong double-double performance, with 19 points, ten rebounds and seven assists. Anderson pitched in with nine rebounds.

## WOLVES..Continued from page 1B

and went to the locker room with a 32-20 advantage.

Senior Erron Anderson got the Wolves on the board first in the second half, and a basket by senior Jason Kerntz gave Ely its largest lead of the game at 38-22. The Huskies refused to go away but couldn't make any headway against Ely's zone. The lead never fell

below double digits as the teams matched each other point for point in the period, with Ely preserving its 12-point halftime edge for the win.

Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald was quick to credit the team's defensive effort after the game.

"It's really fun to watch our guys play defense

out there because they're just working so hard and moving all over the place covering people," he said. "I thought we made things really tough for Bigfork tonight. They hit some shots in the second half, but I thought we really, really clamped down on their shooters in the first half."

The Huskies keyed on

Bianco in the second half, and McDonald was pleased with the way the rest of the team stepped up.

"Joey's game is to get to the rim, and they were really helping off on him," McDonald said. "He couldn't do what he always does, get to the rim, so we needed guys like Jason Kerntz to get to the rim,

which he did in that second half. We needed the other guys stepping up to make things happen when things were tough for Joey."

Davies was the only other Ely player in double figures with 13.

McDonald said his squad looked physically and mentally tired at times, having come off a 90-45

win on Monday against Cook County, and he said he was glad to have a couple of days off before his 11-1 Timberwolves hit the road to take on 8-5 Mt. Iron-Buhl on Friday.

## NW GIRLS..Continued from page 1B

the Vikings gave up 24 points to the visitors before scoring their first basket. Kinsey was locked in on her mid-range jumpers, scoring 22 of her team-leading 30 points in the first half. Koch drained three trifectas in the period as the Grizzlies led 56-8 at the half. There was little drop off to the Grizzlies performance as Head Coach Liz Cheney substituted freely in the second half, with the running clock the only thing keeping North Woods from threatening the century mark in the 89-16

beatdown.

Nine players for North Woods scored, with Koch the other player in double figures with 19.

It was a different story for the Grizzlies in a Jan. 12 home tilt against MIB. The tradition-rich Rangers have been to every state tournament played since 2011 and topped the Grizzlies 102-46 last year, so North Woods knew the enormity of the challenge going in.

The Grizzlies hoped to capitalize on a size advantage down low with Kinsey and River Cheney, but the

Rangers tossed a wrench in that plan early with strong pressure defense and hitting the boards hard.

Buckets by Kinsey and Talise Goodsky kept the Grizzlies in the game early, trailing 5-4, but then the Rangers turned up the heat, forcing four Grizzlies turnovers that they turned into scores.

Speed was the name of the game for the Rangers, who generated basket after basket on fast breaks off North Woods turnovers or missed shots. Eight minutes into the game the

Grizzlies were already down by 19, 29-10. Passing lanes that appeared open for the Grizzlies suddenly disappeared as the Rangers stepped in to swipe the ball and race downcourt for more scores. MIB showed why they will be a contender for another sectional championship by piling up a 45-point lead at the half, 65-20.

The Grizzlies didn't back off their intensity in the second half, and fared better when the MIB starters headed to the bench at the 11-minute mark. North

Woods played the second half even, 31-31, and wound up on the short end of the 96-51 score. Kinsey led North Woods with 16 points and Cheney scored 14. MIB junior Jordan Zubich, who already has eclipsed the 2,000-point plateau for her career, led all scorers with 28.

Coach Cheney said the fast pace of the first half worked against her squad.

"What was disappointing in the first half was that we got tired, and everything we prepared for we started making mistakes," she said.

"We can't do that when we play MIB. We don't have the ball handlers that MIB has. They instantly hassled our ball handlers and that kept us from getting the ball into our bigs."

The Grizzlies, with a record of 6-8 after Tuesday's loss, were scheduled to play Nashwauk-Keewatin at home on Friday, then have a short break before traveling to Red Lake next Thursday.

## GRIZZLIES..Continued from page 1B

MIB broke out of the block fast in this one, building a 17-7 lead in the first three minutes. The pace slowed momentarily, then MIB was off to the races again, extending their lead to 37-22 with six minutes left in the half. Jared Chiabotti and Louie Panichi popped in deuces and Jonah Burnett canned a trey down the stretch, but the Grizzlies headed into the half trailing 51-30. But the Grizzlies found no answers during the break, as MIB continued to dominate in the second half for the 36-point win.

Burnett led North Woods scorers with 18 hard-earned points, followed by Brenden Chiabotti with 14 and Panichi with 10.

The Grizzlies had little time to rest as they were back on their home floor Saturday afternoon to take on Red Lake.

This was a hotly contested affair between evenly matched teams, with Red Lake edging ahead 16-8 in the early going. A basket by Eli Smith knotted the score at 22-22, and the Grizzlies took the lead on a break-away dunk by Burnett, 26-24. Red Lake answered with a pair of threes, and with five minutes left in the half held a 39-32 edge. Burnett ignited a small rally in the final minute of the half with a tip-in off a missed free throw and a long three at the buzzer to pull North Woods within 50-48 going into the break.

North Woods stayed close during the early part of the second half and took the lead 69-68 on consecutive treys from Ben Kruse and Jared Chiabotti. The lead flipped back and forth as the teams fought to a 90-90 tie with just over four minutes to play. Red Lake went up by four, but Kaden Ratai hit a pair of free throws to make the score 94-92 in favor of Red Lake. But the Grizzlies remained stuck on 92 as the Warriors stretched the lead to 101-92 with under a minute to play, and Red Lake iced the game from the line for a 105-97 victory.

North Woods had four players in double figures, with Jared Chiabotti leading the way with a game high 33

points. Burnett scored 19, Brenden Chiabotti tallied 14, and Panichi added 13.

The Grizzlies hosted Fond du Lac on Tuesday with an eye toward getting back on the winning track, but the Ogichidaag gave notice right from the outset that they would give North Woods all they could handle and more. After Panichi got the Grizzlies on the board to start the game, Fond du Lac pushed out to a 22-11 lead after nine minutes of play in a game that was one of the most physical the Grizzlies have played all season. But by the 4:24 mark the Grizzlies had clawed their way back to within one, 32-31, in a run that included a pair of treys from Burnett and one from

Panichi. The Ogichidaag stretched the lead back out to seven before a Jared Chiabotti triple cut the lead to 42-38 at the half.

North Woods took its second lead of the game, 51-50, on a fast break bucket by Burnett with three minutes elapsed in the second half. For the next several minutes the teams traded blows, with Fond du Lac claiming a 64-60 edge.

The Ogichidaag had been whistled for multiple technical fouls during the game, but with 9:30 remaining it was the Grizzlies' turn to get slapped. The ensuing two free throws by Fond du Lac and a flurry of baskets

suddenly gave them a 73-62 cushion and a lead they would not relinquish the rest of the way. Every move the Grizzlies made Fond du Lac countered, and North Woods tossed up mostly blanks from three-point range as they tried to come back. Fond du Lac hit the century mark from the free throw line in the game's closing minute, handing the Grizzlies their third consecutive loss, 100-86.

The Grizzlies were scheduled to play on the road at Northome on Friday, followed by a Tuesday trip to Cherry.

## NORDIC..Continued from page 1B

Milo McClelland finished 22nd with a time of 3:45.1 and Tory Hughley finished 28th in 3:49.1. Hughley finished in eighth place later in the day in the three-kilometer free-style event, with a time of 8:42.0. Nathan Hoffmeister finished 18th in the field of 42, with a time of 9:12.5.

For the girls, Sydney

Durkin finished ninth with a time of 9:37.0 and Rena Johnston took 13th in 10:06.9.

The Wolves now head into a bye week after an action-packed stretch during which they competed in five meets in two weeks. "We get a chance to recover and shift our training," said Head Coach

Todd Hohenstein. Skiers will face more intensive meets as they shift into the pursuit format ahead of the sectional competition and the state meet. "Instead of just one 5km race, most skiers will now do two 5km races," said Hohenstein. "In addition, two skiers will make up a relay team for a shorter event. One group

of skiers need to adapt to a longer distance and another needs to transition to a shorter distance but faster."

The Wolves will be back in action on Jan. 28, when they host the Ely Invite at Hidden Valley, beginning at 11 a.m.

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GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Township increases monthly pay for clerk

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

Controversies following the reduction in clerk pay led to two former clerk’s resigning

GREENWOOD TWP- The town clerk here finally has a pay raise. At their regular meeting Jan. 10, the Greenwood Town Board agreed on a 4-1 vote to increase the wage for the town clerk from \$1,487 to \$1,853 a month, Supervisor Mike Ralston voting against.

Interim Clerk JoAnn Bassing brought the issue to the board. She was appointed to fill the position after the former clerk, Debby Spicer, quit due to conflicts with the board over her pay. Spicer had refused to complete tasks that had previously been part of the clerk’s duties, saying she wasn’t paid enough to take on tasks that weren’t specifically required by state statute for a township clerk.

The board had reduced the clerk’s pay back in the summer of 2021, when now Chair Sue Drobac was clerk. In response, Drobac resigned from the position, citing the lack of time to properly complete the required and expected clerk duties.

Bassing had discussed the issue with the board at a previous meeting, noting that while she had been willing to put in a lot of extra hours to get the township office operating properly, she felt the township had a responsibility to make the salary for the job commensurate with the hours needed to complete the duties, both required and expected. At the Jan. 10 meeting,

Bassing had said she was not sure if she was going to file, but as of Jan. 17, she was the only person to file for the clerk open seat.

The pay change will go into effect in February.

Ambulance subsidy

There appeared to be a minor softening of the town board’s position on paying the township’s share of the \$15 per capita ambulance subsidy for the Tower Area Ambulance Service.

Drobac wondered if the township could set up a meeting with Tower Council members, or send a letter, to start a discussion on the issue of the indemnity clause, which the ambulance commission had voted to remove.

Greenwood is the only member of the group that has refused to pay the subsidy amount for 2022.

“The issue left is the liability,” said Supervisor Barb Lofquist. “That can be discussed.”

Supervisor Rick Stoehr said township taxpayers are indirectly supporting the ambulance through a small subsidy the service receives from St. Louis County.

Lofquist wondered if they should get their current attorney to review the issue.

“We should ask if our butts

are covered,” she said. “The other townships think it is. I think we should pay them [Tower Ambulance].”

“Are we going to die on that indemnification hill or not?” asked Ralston. “If they put it back in, we can pay it back.”

Drobac said she trusted the opinion from their former attorney, Mike Couri, who had insisted the clause be inserted into the ambulance subsidy agreement. The clause puts all responsibility for any issues that arise on an ambulance call scene on the city of Tower, even if it stems from actions of township employees who are First Responders, and not members of the Tower Ambulance Service.

The board took no formal action on this issue.

Board members received a copy of the Tower Ambulance Ad Hoc Committee’s draft report on options for management of the ambulance service.

Supervisor Barb Lofquist, who attended the final meeting of that committee, said the report had no names attached to it, and she had no idea who had written it. “I am not going to another meeting,” she said.

Lofquist said the draft’s recommended option of forming a joint powers board to run the service was not in the township’s best interest because of the tax implications.

“We already got screwed on 2142,” she said, referencing the school district’s reorganization plan where the tax burden fell heavily on Greenwood property owners.

Lofquist said the results of the McGrath ambulance study, which had just come to the town board members in draft form, “will make a big difference” in the discussion on this issue.

Other business

In other business, the town board:

➤ Discussed several issues brought up by interim Treasurer Jeff Maus, including combining the township savings accounts into one account, and then just tracking funds through internal bookkeeping. The township has some dedicated savings accounts, such as the Isle of Pines bridge replacement account. Maus said this was the recommendation from the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) and the state auditor. Ralston asked how interest payments for each account would be accurately tracked. The board tabled the request and will seek more information.

Maus, along with interim Clerk JoAnn Bassing, asked for permission to make some changes to the township’s accounts in the township’s accounting software, known as CTAS, so they accurately reflect

township financials. Bassing said the CTAS numbers (a state accounting system for townships) were inaccurately entered about 15 years ago, and there was no way to change them. She said if they could start the year with the accurate year-end information from 2022, the CTAS accounts would be accurate moving forward, and this would give the town board an “extra layer of balancing” for the township financials. This would also make it easier for the clerk and treasurer to be working on the same month’s financials for each month. As it is, said Bassing, the clerk’s ledger duties lag a month behind.

Ralston asked if the township should have an audit done. Supervisor Sue Drobac said they had talked to an area accounting firm previously about the issue, and they said it wasn’t needed and would be very expensive.

The board voted 4-1 to allow the changes, with Ralston voting against.

➤ Approved a contract with township attorney Mitch Brunfelt for 2023. The cost was the same as 2022. The vote was 3-2, with Ralston and Paul Skubic voting against.

➤ Heard that six people had signed up for the community CPR class set for Jan. 18.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Scott A. Cheney

Scott Alan Cheney, 56, of Angora, passed away peacefully with family by his side after an unexpected illness. The family would like to make a special thank you to Dr. Ellety and the nurses and care team at the Cook Hospital for the superior care they provided to Scott throughout his life and during the time of his passing. A memorial luncheon will be held at the Gilbert VFW on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 3-5 p.m. Burial will take place privately at a later date.

He is survived by his father, Wayne Cheney of Cook; siblings, Rob (Barb) Cheney of Angora, Tina (Brian) Sklors of St. Michael, Kim (Greg) Dertinger of Gilbert, Kenneth Cheney of Virginia and Jillene (Herbert) Clapsaddle of Gilbert; uncle, Peter Miller; and many special nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Esther M. Jowaski

Esther M. Jowaski, 97, of Cook, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 24 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Growing and Grace Building Fund at Trinity Lutheran Church. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Beatrice H. Lamppa

Beatrice Helen Ranta Lamppa, 95, of Virginia, formerly of Babbitt, died on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023, at Edgewood Vista in Virginia. A celebration of life will be held in the spring at Pike Apostolic Lutheran Church in Embarrass. Inurnment will be in the Embarrass Ceme-

tery. Memorials are preferred to Pike Apostolic Lutheran Church. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, Carlen (Caroline) Lamppa of Aurora, Dr. Michael (Charlene) Lamppa of Savage, Bernadette Bradshaw of Kansas, and Russell (Melanie) Lamppa of New Hope; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Curtis A. Palmer

Curtis Alan Palmer, 68, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023, at Essentia in Duluth. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, Jan. 17 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook, with a luncheon following at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Cook.

He is survived by his daughters, Stacy and Jessy Palmer of Orr; stepson, Jon Strong of Superior; brothers, Gary Palmer (Tammy) of Cook and Jeffrey Palmer (Meesoon) of Alabama; sister, Rebecca Palmer of Chisholm; and many cousins.

Bruce H. Scholl

Bruce H. Scholl, 85, of Babbitt, passed away on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, in Stacy. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, Jan. 19 St. Pius X Catholic Church in Babbitt. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Judith Pishler

Judith Pishler, 81, of Soudan passed away on Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023, at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.



OPERATION  
SANTA says  
THANK YOU

Another amazing  
year thanks to so  
many generous  
community members!

Tower’s Operation Santa has more than doubled its reach in the last 10 year, mirroring the increase in food shelf use in our area, as well as all across the nation. But along with the need, the amount of donations has kept pace, and also kept pace with inflation (toys cost more than they used to!). We had enough donations of toys, gift cards, and cash to purchase additional toys to meet the need this year. Some last-minute donations that came in will be used to purchase toys on sale after the Christmas holiday, which allows us to get much more “bang for our buck” and restock the shelves for next year.

We packed up large bags of gifts and clothing for 56 families with a total of 177 children. We also were able to use additional small gift items for the 53 students attending the Vermilion Country School in Tower. Plus we had some nice donations to create gift bags for the senior citizens who use the food shelf.

Thank you to the following very generous individuals, churches, and businesses who contributed cash, gift cards, toys, and warm clothing for this year’s toy drive:

Lake Country Power’s Operation Roundup®, St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Vermilion Land Office, Wendy and Chimpmy Tuominen, Cathy and Jim Wright, Nancy Larson, Bergetta Indihar, Tower-Soudan Agency, Vermilion Dream Quilters, Ron and Sue Norha, Dick and Ellie Larmouth, Joan and Jeffery Jauss, Peter and Elaine McGillivray, Michael Snodgrass, Deedee and Steve Clemenson, Steve Abrahamson, Mary Shedd and Steve Wilson, Tower-Soudan Civic Club, Little Church of Vermilion Lake Township, Faye and Dan Mobilia, Robin Athmann, Ubetcha Antiques/Uffda Thrift Shop, Aronson’s Marina, Marsha Deming, Amy and Ken Hinkel, Paul and Carol Knuti, Al and Marybeth Reller, the Lunch Bunch ladies, Ellen Meadows, Barb and George Peyla, St. Martin’s Catholic Church, Vermilion Club, Jerry and Pam Kearney, Judy Syrjanen, Jeff and Carol Maus, Annette and Paul Herring, Wayne and Georgia Suoja, Val Leciejewski, Peter and Collette Johnson, George Stefanich, Barb and Roger Rinne, Gwen Lilya, Tom Mesojedec, Richard Johnson, Beth and Andy Urban, Jet Galonski, Joanne Connell, Tim and Nancy Kotzian, LynnDee and Mark Lehto, Muriel and Lynn Scott, Marge McPeak, Kathy and Frank Siskar, Dennis and Elaine Passi, Lori and Steve Vukelich, St. James Presbyterian Church, Judy and Emmanuel Sundahl, Kevin Norby, Mary Oman, Colleen Lepper, and Maggie Manion. Plus several people who ordered and sent gifts anonymously from Amazon, and many more people who dropped off toys, clothing and gifts who left before we could record their names!

Both Target in Virginia and Walmart in Mt. Iron donated to the drive by providing discounts on items we purchased with people’s generous donations.

Thanks to the *Timberjay* for providing free publicity, and to the *Timberjay* staff for helping take donations and putting up with all the disruptions during a busy time of year. Thanks to volunteers Jeff Lovgren, Victoria Ranua, Elaine and Peter McGillivray, Corky Eloranta, Catherine Farley, Joni Teschner, and Mary Shedd.

Jodi Summit, the Timberjay,  
Kathy Lovgren, Tower-Soudan Civic Club,  
Operation Santa Coordinators





# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## WILDLIFE RESEARCH

# When humans kill wolves, packs suffer the consequences

New study suggests packs in Voyageurs National Park may be particularly vulnerable

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — A new study citing data from five national parks, including Voyageurs National Park, has concluded that human-caused mortality among gray wolves has a detrimental effect on both the persistence of packs and their reproduction. And those impacts may be more profound for wolves at Voyageurs, than those associated with other parks.

The study, published Monday in the journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, cited data from the Voyageurs Wolf Project, an intensive study effort begun in 2012 involving gray wolves that live in and around Voyageurs. While many studies have focused on wolves at a population level, this was one of the first studies to look at the implications of human-caused mortality at the pack level. The study also looked at data from four other national parks with sustaining wolf populations, including Yellowstone, Grand Teton, along with Denali and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, both located in Alaska. All of the parks included in the study have ongoing research involving GPS-collared wolves.

Wolf pack dynamics have been the subject of considerable research in general for decades, and it's well known that wolf packs do arise and disappear over time, only to be replaced by other wolf packs in most cases. Yet, the role that humans can sometimes play in those dynamics has only rarely been examined.

Based on the findings of the

study, human-caused mortality of wolves comes with significant negative ramifications for packs, including a 27 percent decrease in the probability that a pack will persist to the end of the biological year. It also was found to reduce reproduction by 22 percent the following year.

Human-caused mortality varied considerably among the various parks. Voyageurs stood

“If there are fewer wolves, any loss makes up a larger part of the pack

Tom Gable  
Voyageurs Wolf Project

out for incurring the highest percentage of wolf deaths based on poaching, at 45 percent. Grand Teton, in Wyoming, was second with 20 percent of its human-caused wolf deaths from poaching, while Yellowstone came in third at 11 percent. Poaching was not a factor at the two Alaska parks included in the study.

Researcher Tom Gable, who leads the Voyageurs Wolf Project, offered no explanation for the high poaching rate in Voyageurs, although he said poaching of his collared wolves seems to have declined in recent years. He said most of the poaching occurred during the earlier years of the study and he suggested that publicity around his research,



Trail camera footage of the Shoepack Lake pack walking along a sandy beach in Voyageurs National Park in the fall. photo courtesy of Voyageurs Wolf Project

including extensive video he's posted online of wolf and other wildlife activity in the park, may have helped to change some attitudes.

Gable noted that most of the other parks included in the study have some form of recreational hunt that might reduce the desire of some to take wolves illegally. But he acknowledged there are two schools of thought on that question. One study, published in the journal *Nature* in 2020 concluded that the introduction of a wolf hunting season in Wisconsin correlated with an apparent increase in the illegal taking of wolves in that state, possibly because the public viewed wolves as less protected. While Gable cited some criticism of that study's methods, he said most of the poaching of his study animals occurred from 2012-2017. Minnesota maintained a wolf hunting and trapping season from 2012-2014, at which point federal protections for the wolf were reinstated in the Upper Midwest.

Other types of human-caused wolf mortality included vehicle impacts, lethal control, and recreational hunting and trapping. At Voyageurs, hunting and trapping constituted 33 percent

of wolf mortality, while vehicle impact and lethal control of problem wolves each amounted to 11 percent of human-caused mortality.

According to the study, the impact of human-caused mortality on the reproductive success and persistence of packs varies based on a number of factors, the size of the pack being the most significant. The total number of mortalities in a pack also made a difference, as did the role of the deceased animal in the pack. Packs that lost a leader, such as an alpha male or female, were less likely to persist or reproduce in the future than packs that didn't lose their leaders. Indeed, packs that lost their breeding female to human-caused mortality were the least likely to persist. Small packs (with five or fewer wolves) in particular have a less than 25 percent chance of persisting if they lose their breeding female, according to the study's findings.

While the study does not state so directly, Gable agreed that the findings suggest wolf packs at Voyageurs may face more negative implications from human-caused mortality than wolves in other parks. That's true primarily because the average pack size in Voyageurs is considerably

smaller than at western parks or in Alaska.

"I certainly think that is the implication," said Gable. "If there are fewer wolves, any loss makes up a larger part of the pack." According to Gable, the average pack size at Voyageurs is just 4.7 animals, or about half the average pack size found at Yellowstone.

Gable said pack size is often linked to prey size, so wolves in northeastern Minnesota, which prey primarily on whitetail deer and beaver, tend to be smaller than in places where wolves primarily prey on larger species, such as elk, bison, or moose.

In most cases, much of the human-caused wolf mortality noted in the study occurred while wolves were outside the boundaries of the national parks identified. Wolves associated with Voyageurs spent nearly half their time outside the 219,000-acre park, where they are more likely to be vulnerable to human-caused sources of mortality. By contrast, wolves in Yellowstone, one of the country's largest national parks at 2.22 million acres, rarely stray outside the park.

## Fishing reports

### Ely area

The 2023 lake trout opener was a slow one for the majority of anglers. Despite excellent travel conditions out on the ice and anglers able to fish great spots normally off limits to everyone but snowmobilers, lakereels failed to show up. There were, however, a few groups that found active trout and really had an amazing day lake trout fishing. These groups found active trout on classic trout spots. Main lake points with sharp drop-offs were the areas these lucky groups fished. Aggressively jigged tubes and spoons were the ticket for them, as well as setting out dead suckers, under a tip up. 30-50 feet of water was the best depth to find trout.

Stream trout fishing was also unusually slow for opening weekend. Anglers did catch plenty of trout but many anglers struggled to get a limit of streamers for dinner. Anglers found trout near timber or weedbeds in ten feet of water or less. Jigging spoons or small tungsten jigs, tipped with wax worms or dead minnow was the ticket for anglers.

Walleye anglers have been locating walleyes in really shallow water for this time of the year.

10-15 feet of water at the mouths of shallow bays has been best. Best times have been during the evening hours. Deadsticking a lively minnow on an orange hook has been the best technique.

With the above average temps anglers continue to throw out tip ups for pike and continue to have good results. Active pike continue to be found in shallow bays with either a river coming into it or a weedbed in the bay. Dead suckers have been best, but live suckers have also been catching plenty of big pike.

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

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

# Snowmobile fatalities on the rise

DNR urges safe driving with peak of the season just ahead

REGIONAL — December's heavy snowfall may have set the stage for excellent snowmobiling conditions across the state, but that has also brought with it a rise in snowmobile related crashes.

"Opportunities to ride snowmobiles are entirely dependent upon the weather, and in years when there's a lot of snow, like this year, we see an uptick in riders," said Capt. Jon Paurus, DNR Enforcement education program coordinator. "It's imperative that anyone who plans to head out makes good decisions and keeps safety at the top of their mind."

Already this snowmobile season, too many rides have ended in tragedy. While the DNR doesn't yet have official reports for all fatalities, preliminary reports indicate six riders have died in crashes this

season — that's the same number as the entire 2021-2022 snowmobile season and double the number of the 2020-2021 season. Eleven snowmobile riders died in 2019-2020 and 10 died in 2018-2019. With the peak of the snowmobile season still ahead, the state could well top those troubling statistics.

It doesn't have to be that way. The DNR is offering these tips to help riders enjoy the trails and make it back home safely:

► Stay on marked trails. Minnesota's snowmobile clubs work hard to maintain good riding conditions on the state's trails. Riders who stay on groomed trails are less likely to strike an obstacle or trespass onto private property. (Civil penalties for snowmobile trespass have doubled this year.)

Riders can check trail conditions on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/snow\_depth) before heading out.

► Don't ride impaired. Drinking and riding is a primary cause of crashes and plays a role in about 60% of those that are fatal.

► Watch your speed and stay to the right. Going too fast is another main cause of crashes. Many serious and fatal crashes occur when a speeding snowmobiler loses control or strikes an object. When meeting another snowmobile, always slow down and stay to the right.

► Take a snowmobile safety course. It's required of anyone born after 1976 and recommended for everyone. People with snowmobile safety certification are less likely to be involved in serious or fatal crashes.

## LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
18 10				24 11				22 7				24 10				20 6			
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.
01/09	29	7	0.00	01/09	30	-1	0.00	01/09	27	3	0.00	01/09	27	0	0.00	01/09	29	-3	0.00
01/10	26	10	0.00	01/10	28	0	0.00	01/10	27	2	0.00	01/10	30	27	0.00	01/10	27	-1	0.00
01/11	28	10	0.00	01/11	29	27	0.00	01/11	29	26	0.00	01/11	30	25	0.00	01/11	29	27	0.00
01/12	32	22	0.09 0.6"	01/12	31	21	0.06 0.7"	01/12	31	19	0.09 0.5"	01/12	25	10	0.00	01/12	31	20	0.05 0.4"
01/13	22	10	0.04 0.5"	01/13	22	10	0.00	01/13	20	9	0.01 0.2"	01/13	16	9	0.01 0.5"	01/13	21	9	tr 0.2"
01/14	19	9	0.00	01/14	22	8	0.00	01/14	18	8	0.02 0.4"	01/14	25	12	0.00	01/14	17	9	0.00
01/15	27	19	0.00	01/15	28	18	0.00	01/15	27	18	0.00	01/15	36	27	0.00	01/15	33	16	0.00
YTD Total				YTD Total				YTD Total				YTD Total				YTD Total			
0.13 38.3"				0.06 41.6"				0.12 39.8"				NA NA				0.00 42.2"			





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## 10 INSULA



*Serving  
Lunch, Dinner  
Beer & Wine  
(sled parking out back)*

**HOURS:**  
Tuesday thru Saturday:  
11 AM to 8 PM  
Closed Sun/Mon

145 E Sheridan St, Ely, MN  
[www.insularestaurant.com](http://www.insularestaurant.com)  
218-365-4855

## 11 ZUP'S



**ZUP'S WAREHOUSE  
LIQUOR**

Hours: Mon-Sat: 8-8  
Sun: 11-6

**Huge selection of  
Beer, Wine & Liquor**  
Conveniently located next  
to Zup's Grocery

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218-365-3188

## 12 Oveson's



**Snowmobiles  
Welcome!**

Fireside Lobby  
Bar & Restaurant  
**FREE Wi-Fi**  
Swimming Pool  
& Hot Tub

4675 Hwy. 53, Orr MN  
[www.ovesonpelicanovepelicanlakeresortandinn.com](http://www.ovesonpelicanovepelicanlakeresortandinn.com)  
1-800-860-3613 • 218-757-3613

## 13 VERMILION CLUB

**& POOR GARY'S PIZZA**

- LARGE BAR •
- SNOWMOBILES  
WELCOME!

**Full Menu/Daily Specials**



3191 Hwy 77, Tower  
(Daisy Bay, Lake Vermilion)  
753-6277 Bar/Restaurant  
753-5707 Pizza

## 14 the STORE

Gas, Groceries, Pizza,  
Convenience Foods, Gifts,  
The Ledge Liquor Store

**24-Hour Pay At The Pump**

**OPEN DAILY  
5 AM - 10 PM**

6368 Highway 169  
Tower, MN 55790  
**218.753.3868**

## 15 VERMILION LAND OFFICE



**FREE  
Market Analysis**

**Barb  
Hegg**

Associate Broker, GRI  
[barb@vermilionland.com](mailto:barb@vermilionland.com)

Office: 218-666-6183  
Home Office: 218-666-0144  
Mobile: 218-742-2369

PO Box 518, 210 S.  
Highway 53, Cook

## 16 LOSSING'S POWER SPORTS

**Ski-doo Rentals,  
Sales & Service**

• Brand NEW Fleet of  
Ski-doo Rentals



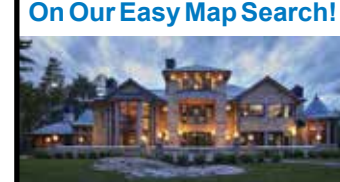
**(218)827-2635**

30 North Drive  
Babbitt MN 55706

## 17 NEXT TIME COME HOME!

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Property On The Market  
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REALTY**

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[JanischRealty.com](http://JanischRealty.com)



EMPLOYMENT

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

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*

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP  
ALS Ambulance  
Committee Meeting

Greenwood Township is holding a ALS Ambulance Committee Meeting on Monday, January 23, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at Greenwood Town Hall

**Greenwood residents:** Attend if you have an interest in ALS ambulance service in the township.

**Purpose:** The committete will make corrections to the draft report, decide what recommendations it will forward to the town board in regards to non-relevant topics, and considerations not covered in the McGrath draft report.

A quorum of Greenwood Supervisors may be present.

Dr. JoAnn Bassing, Interim Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 20, 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](http://www.ramsmn.org). 1/20



Current Openings  
LICENSED TEACHER

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

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

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

PT PARAPROFESSIONAL (afternoons)

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



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Care Center

FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.79/hr., \$1,500 sign-on bonus)  
PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting at \$36.22/hr. \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

Hospital/ER

PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting at \$36.22/hr. \$4,000 sign-on bonus)  
Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehab Coordinator/RN Educator  
PT Unit Clerk/HUC (Wage starting at \$17.79/hr. EMT and/or NA cert. required)

Environmental Services

FT (Environmental Tech I) Housekeeping and Laundry Aide (Wage starting at \$15.03/hr. \$1,500 sign-on bonus)  
Casual Laundry Aide (Wage starting at \$15.03/hr)

Laboratory

FT Medical Lab Tech (Wage starting at \$24.08/hr., \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

Radiology

FT Radiologic Technologist (Wage starting at \$27.77/hr., \$4,000 sign-on bonus)  
Casual Ultrasound Tech (Independent Contractor)  
Casual Radiologic Tech (Independent Contractor)

Dietary

PT Dietary Aide/Cook (Wage starting at \$14.53/hr.)

TO APPLY:

[www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/](http://www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/)

More Info? Contact Human Resources

**218-666-6220**

[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

The Cook Hospital is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Energy
- 4 Amtrak express
- 9 Sushi fish
- 12 Praise in verse
- 13 VIP on Air Force One
- 14 Tennis feat
- 15 Museum piece
- 17 Train lines (Abbr.)
- 18 Sprite
- 19 Holler
- 21 Word game with dice
- 24 Horseshoe site
- 25 Brit. record label
- 26 Not 'neath
- 28 Bolivian city
- 31 Wilson's predecessor
- 33 Observe
- 35 Castle
- 36 Caper
- 38 Music booster
- 40 GPS suggestion
- 41 Skip
- 43 Telethon array
- 45 Soft and weak
- 47 Kanga's kid
- 48 Use a shovel
- 49 Land in the Irish Sea

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
				18				19		20		
21	22	23					24					
25				26		27		28			29	30
31				32		33		34		35		
36				37		38		39		40		
				41		42		43		44		
45	46						47					
48						49		50			51	52
54						55				56		
57						58				59		

- 54 Oklahoma city
- 55 Beethoven's "Fuer — "
- 56 Kimono sash
- 57 Unruly group
- 58 Impudent
- 59 Tex- — cuisine
- 7 "The Addams Family" butler
- 8 Houston team
- 9 Picnic veggie
- 10 Beige
- 11 For fear that
- 16 Small barrel
- 20 Thy
- 21 Alpha follower
- 22 Muscat's land
- 23 Eloquent person's talent
- 27 Actor Stephen method
- 30 Stretches (out)
- 32 Marathoner's stat
- 34 Catherine, notably
- 37 Municipalities
- 39 "Nuts! Inventor Nikola
- 42 Inventor Nikola
- 44 Gut-punch reaction
- 45 Wax-coated cheese
- 46 Rover's pal
- 50 Fleur-de- —
- 51 Oft-tattooed word
- 52 Jurist Fortas
- 53 Kibosh

DOWN

- 1 Pledge
- 2 Wedding words
- 3 Mal de —
- 4 Moon mission
- 5 Brewed beverages
- 6 JFK info

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

Date: January 12, 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:

Default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 31, 2007

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$103,500.00

MORTGAGOR(S) : Christopher Lopuski, a single person

MORTGAGEE: American Bank of the North n/k/a Park State Bank

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on June 8, 2007, as Document No. 01053424, in the office of the Recorder, St. Louis County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENT(S) OF MORTGAGE: None

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

That part of the Northwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter, Section Twenty-one, Township Sixty-four, Range Twenty, described as follows: Beginning at the center of said Section 21;

thence East along the East-West Quarter line 535 feet; thence South parallel with the North-South Quarter line of said Section, 535 feet; thence West parallel with the East-West Quarter line 535 feet to the North-South Quarter line of said Section 21; thence North to the point of beginning.

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: St. Louis County, Minnesota

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE AS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE: \$62,293.11

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes including the requisites of Minn. Stat. § 580.02;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property in St. Louis County will be sold by the Sheriff of St. Louis County at public auction as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 15, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE OF SALE: St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, 100 North Fifth Avenue West, Room 103, Duluth, MN 55802,

to pay the debt then secured

by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagors, their personal representatives or assigns is twelve months from the date of sale, unless reduced to five (5) weeks under Minnesota Statutes, Section 582.032.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30, or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, the time to vacate the property is 11:59 p.m. on March 15, 2024.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGORS, THE MORTGAGORS' PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY

USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

PARK STATE BANK  
Robert R. Kanuit, #0252530  
Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A.  
302 West Superior Street, Suite 700  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802-1863  
(218) 722-0861

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE FORECLOSURE DATA

Street Address, city and zip code of mortgaged premises: 11368 Nett Lake Road, Orr, Minnesota 55771

(2) Transaction agent (if applicable); residential mortgage servicer; and lender or broker: Park State Bank f/k/a American Bank of the North

(3) Tax parcel identification number(s): 425-0030-02515

(4) Transaction Agent's mortgage ID number (MERS number): Not applicable

(5) Name of mortgage originator: American Bank of the North n/k/a Park State Bank

*Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2023*

CryptoQuip

answer

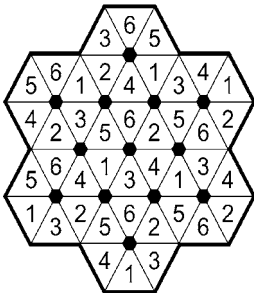
When someone affirms that a certain letter is indeed not a consonant, is that a vowel avowal?

CryptoQuote

answer

A snowball in the face is surely the perfect beginning to a lasting friendship.  
— Markus Zusak

solution



Even Exchange

answers

- 1. Tallier, Teller
- 2. Arbor, Armor
- 3. Locker, Locket
- 4. Carry, Curry
- 5. Martin, Marlin
- 6. Yearn, Learn
- 7. Senior, Sensor
- 8. Hardy, Handy
- 9. Rusty, Dusly
- 10. Breach, Breathe

Call

753-2950  
to subscribe  
to the  
Timberjay!



Super Crossword

Answers

J	A	M	B		E	G	G	S	A	L	A	D		E	L	I	T	I	S	T
U	R	A	L		D	I	A	T	R	I	B	E		T	A	B	A	S	C	O
M	I	D	I		S	T	R	A	I	T	O	F	M	A	G	E	L	L	A	N
B	A	R	N	S		I	D	A		O	T	S		L	E	E	R	Y		
O	L	E	G	C	A	S	S	I	N	I		G	I	G	I					
					A	L	P	H	A		M	A	I		N	E	E	D	S	T
R	E	L	A	B	E	L				L	A	N	D	S	U	R	V	E	Y	O
O	V	E				I	S	M	E		N	O	N		M	E	R	R	I	E
L	I	V	E	A	T	T	H	E	A	P	O	L	L	O				U	L	A
F	L	I	N	C	H		U	R	D					O	S	H	A	P	E	D
					A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N		P	I	O	N	E	E	R
C	A	T	S	E	Y	E				T	A	C	K		C	D	C	A	S	E
H	U	E			C	H	R	Y	S	L	E	R	V	O	Y	A	G	E	R	
A	G	A	T	H	A		A	A		E	S	A	I			N	U	T	S	
M	U	S	E	O	G	A	L	I	L	E	O			N	F	C	E	A	S	T
P	R	E	E	N	E	D		L	E	O		C	A	C	A	O				
					E	R	A	T			N	O	R	S	E	V	I	K	I	N
A	I	L	E	Y		O	A	F		G	A	S		L	E	V	E	E		
F	R	O	M	D	U	S	K	T	I	L	L	D	A	W	N		Y	A	W	N
R	O	S	I	E	S	T		I	F	E	E	L	Y	O		I	N	T	O	
O	N	E	T	W	O	S		P	A	S	S	E	S	O	N		N	A	S	A

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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

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

HOSPICE

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

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 confidential 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.

— **King Crossword** —  
Answers  
Solution time: 22 mins.

VIM	ACELA	EEL
ODE	POTUS	ACE
WORK	OFART	RRS
	ELF	CROYUT
BOGGLE	HOOF	
EMI	OER	SUCRE
TAFT	SEE	ROOK
ANTIC	AMP	RT
	OMIT	PHONES
EFFETE	ROO	
DIG	ISLE	OFMAN
ADA	ELISE	OBI
MOB	SASSY	MEX

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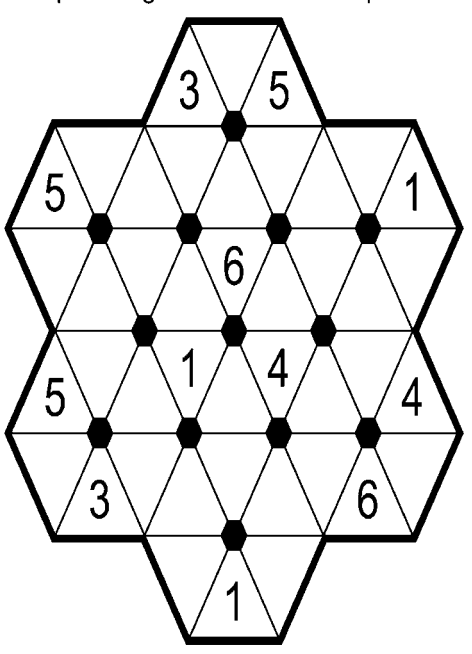
WANTED

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

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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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

E A WVKSEOO LW PZD IERD

LA ABMDOQ PZD XDMIDRP

SDNLWWLWN PV E OEAPLWN

IMLDWHAZLX.

— UEMGBA YBAEG

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Answer

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

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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Super Crossword ON A MISSION

ACROSS

1 Doorway part

5 Mix for a deli sandwich

13 Snooty sort

20 River in Europe and Asia

21 Long, bitter speech

22 Popular hot sauce brand

23 Calf-length skirt

24 Navigable sea route in southern Chile

26 Hayloft sites

28 Home to Boise: Abbr.

29 Extra game periods, for short

30 Distrustful

31 Designer for Jackie Kennedy

35 1958 Leslie Caron film

38 Head dog

39 — tai (drink)

42 Really must

47 Tag again

51 One mapping terrain

53 In excess of

54 “Woe —!”

57 Prefix with sense

58 — Melodies (old cartoon series)

59 Stand-up comedy TV series

64 Ending for form

65 Wince

66 Pakistani's language

67 Like circles

71 Daniel Boone or Johnny Appleseed

76 Lustrous gem

79 Pushpin's kin

80 Jewel box for music

84 Color

85 Kia Sedona competitor

90 Mystery's Christie

94 Org. offering tows

95 Actor Morales

96 Sundae toppings

97 Florence institute near the Uffizi Gallery

100 New York Giants' div.

103 Gussied up

104 MGM's lion

105 Tree yielding chocolate

107 “QED” center

109 Eric the Red, for one

115 Alvin of choreography

119 Klutz

122 Pumped stuff

123 Flood stopper

124 All through the dark hours

130 Show sleepiness

131 Most promising

132 “Been there myself, man”

133 Really liking

134 Combination punches

135 Sends along

136 Org. associated with the nine missions featured in this puzzle

DOWN

1 Very big

2 Common typeface

3 “The Treasure of the Sierra —”

4 Flashy jewelry, informally

5 Mag staffers

6 “Skedaddle!”

7 Tastelessly showy

8 Sports venues

9 Suffix with sect

10 Illuminated

11 “Peek- —!”

12 Skillful and clever

13 JFK datum

14 Fall behind

15 Religious convert's cry

16 Anecdote

17 Atoll part

18 Wound result

19 Actor Danza

25 Soup additive, for short

27 Strikebreaker

32 Bar drink

33 Skedaddle

34 “— little teapot ...”

36 Shiba — (Japanese dog breed)

37 Virus, e.g.

40 A.D. part

41 False god

43 German “the”

44 Sundae topping

45 Sheer linen fabric

46 Greek mountain nymph

47 Use deep massage on

48 Blackhearted

49 Strauss of

50 Sports venues

51 — double life

52 TV show since fall '75

55 Feng —

56 Old Ford make, in brief

60 Pinnacle

61 Those people

62 Kicks on football fields

63 Suffix with ball or bass

68 Spanish for “dry”

69 Lamarr of “Boom Town”

70 Esoteric

72 Camcorder button abbr.

73 Primitive kind of diet

74 Freezes

75 Creole veggie

76 Winner, informally

77 Foretell

78 Razz

81 Water, to Juanita

82 Mounts, as a gemstone

83 Formerly, formerly

86 “2001” computer

87 Train support

88 Harvard rival

89 Singer Gill

91 Golf peg

92 Melon variety

93 Golden — (senior)

98 Cavity fillers' org.

99 Mega years

101 Most preferred: Abbr.

102 Corkscrew

105 Baby bed

106 Analyzes in a lab

108 “TiK —” (#1 Kesha hit)

110 Stares at creepily

111 Enter, as to a database

112 An ex-Trump

113 Lizardlike amphibians

114 Port of Italy

115 “Hair” hairdo

116 Pumped stuff

117 Suffer defeat

118 Discharge

120 Leave — (reward the server)

121 World Cup gp.

125 GI tour gp.

126 Intersectors of aves.

127 French “the”

128 Vie for the affection of

129 “Sister Act” figure

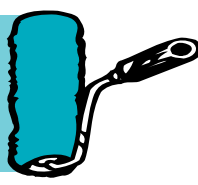
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# HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



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**CryptoQuip**

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

Clue: M equals F

VLNR ZYKNYRN UMMJXKZ BLUB  
U ENXBUJR INBBNX JZ JRHNNH  
RYB U EYRZYRURB, JZ BLUB U  
DYVNI UDYVUI?

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**Even Exchange** by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. More statuesque	__ A __ _ _ _	Penn's magical pal	__ E __ _ _ _
2. Garden archway	__ _ B __ _	Knight's suit	__ _ M __ _
3. Gym storage closet	__ _ _ _ R	Photo pendant	__ _ _ _ T
4. Tote	__ A __ _ _	Spicy seasoning	__ U __ _ _
5. Director Scorsese	__ _ _ T __ _	Hemingway fish	__ _ _ L __ _
6. Long for	Y __ _ _ _	Acquire knowledge	L __ _ _ _
7. 65+ person	__ _ _ I __ _	Detection device	__ _ _ S __ _
8. Laurel's partner	__ _ R __ _	Convenient	__ _ N __ _
9. Out of practice	R __ _ _ _	Covered in powder	D __ _ _ _
10. Fissure	__ _ _ _ C __	Mouthful of air	__ _ _ _ T __

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