

**Inside**:

Fire destroys Crane Lake home... See /3 Raising awareness of trafficking... See /12 More on PFAS and fish... See /4B Snowmobile Hot Spots...See /5B



#### ARTS AND THE ECONOMY

# Film festival a major success

Ely's Historic State Theater packed for most showings

#### by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

ELY- "I didn't know what to expect," said End of the Road Film Festival director Jacob White, "but the turnout was amazing!"

Ely's very first film festival, running concurrently with the Ely Winter Festival and the Ely ArtWalk, was a huge success. "We sold out a ton of screenings," White enthused, "and all the screenings had good attendance."

"The community support was awesome," said White. "All the filmmakers who could attend want to come back. They loved Ely for Right: The inaugural year of the End of the Road Film Festival packed the seats of Ely's Historic State Theater, with many films selling out. photo by C. Ellerbroek

its welcome, its graciousness, and its excitement that this kind of event could come to town."

The final numbers for ticket sales and attendance aren't available yet, but the film fest's initial compilation of its feedback survey indicates that approximately 40 percent of the movie-goers were

See...FESTIVAL pg. 10



#### CITY OF TOWER

**\$1**<sup>50</sup>

# Letter roils ongoing ambulance dispute

Council challenges claims by Greenwood official

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER— Despite a lengthy agenda, members of the city council here spent considerable time at their monthly meeting taking issue with a divisive letter to the editor written by a member of the Greenwood Town Board.

"I really don't think the comments were valid," said Tower Mayor Dave Setterberg, who characterized the letter from Rick Stoehr as "a primary example of misinformation."

Stoehr wrote his broadside purportedly in response to criticism by members of the Tower Area Ambulance Service (TAAS) of the recent study produced by McGrath Consulting. Stoehr's complaint, however, appeared to leave members of the city council scratching their heads.

"Our position has always been very supportive," said Setterberg, noting that the city and TAAS had provided information whenever requested by McGrath. "In fact, we had hoped we might be able to glean something from the study that would help us."

See..COUNCIL pg. 9



#### TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

# **PARTY TIME**

# An annual event and a milestone give students reason to celebrate

TOWER- Students and teachers at Tower-Soudan Elementary found a way to mix fun and learning, while taking advantage of a couple of milestones.

Tuesday marked both the 100th day of school this year as well as Valentine's Day, so there was more than one reason to make it a fun day at school, while encouraging kids to read and ponder the importance of friendships.

The teachers first laid out the challenge— to read 100 books to mark 100 days, a challenge

Top: Karmina Chosa, with her heart glasses, shows off her Valentine's Day loot.

Right: Third-grader Sherrie Peters focuses intently on her contribution toward the school's goal of reading 100 books on Tuesday in honor of the 100th day of school.

photos by J. Summit

it turned out didn't take the 80 students at the school that long.

While the younger kids are

See...PARTY pg. 10



#### VOYAGEURS NP

# Witnesses mystified by tasing

Park Service remains mum on incident

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- A South Dakota couple whose rental houseboat ran aground in Voyageurs National Park last summer is still at a loss to explain what led two park rangers to board a service boat operated by Justin Ebel and then tase the local business owner twice.

Steve and Fran, who asked that their last name not be used, had long dreamed of such a trip after having first visited VNP over 30 years ago.

"I don't remember exactly what year it was, but it was when we had one child instead of two, when we were up there, and we rented a cabin and a

See...WITNESSES pg. 9

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## **Community notices**

#### Valerie Myntti to speak at Sisu Heritage annual meeting Feb. 26

EMBARRASS- Sisu Heritage, Inc. will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, Feb. 26 at 2 p.m. at Embarrass Town Hall. The guest speaker, Valerie Myntti, of Eagles Nest Lake Three, will be presenting,"The Philosophy and Development of the Finnish Co-ops" including her family's memories of Co-op Point on Eagles Nest Lake One. This will be an interesting and personal piece of Finnish history on the Iron Range.

The public is cordially invited to join Sisu members for the afternoon. A short business meeting will include committee reports, election of board members, and presentation of the 2023 budget. Coffee an' will be served and door prizes awarded.

Sisu Heritage, Inc. is a nonprofit organization affiliated with the St. Louis County Historical Society. Its mission is "to enhance the Embarrass region by preserving and sharing its unique culture, climate and history." Memberships are \$10 per year and can be renewed or purchased at the meeting, or by mail to Sisu Heritage, PO Box 71, Embarrass, MN 55732. Embarrass Town Hall is located at 7503 Levander Rd. Please call 218-984-3402 with any questions.

# MSO 2022-2023 Concert Season kicks off with two upcoming performances

REGIONAL – The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra (MSO) 2022-2023 season featuring the music of Germany and Austria begins with a performance on Saturday, March 4 at Goodman Auditorium in Virginia at 7 p.m. On Sunday, March 5 music lovers can catch a performance starting at 2:30 p.m. at the Washington Elementary Auditorium in Ely. Tickets are available online at mesabisymphonyorchestra.org or may be purchased at the door.

#### Author Michael Fedo featured speaker at Mesabi Unitarian Universalist, Feb. 19

VIRGINIA - Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church will feature author Michael Fedo with his presentation "A Life Informed by a Lynching" on Sunday, Feb. 19 at 10:30 a.m. Fedo is the author of The Lynchings in Duluth. He will discuss how writing this story helped inform his own life as it relates to understanding racism from a minority race perspective. The *LA Times* describes this book as a "chilling reconstruction of the 1920 racial tragedy and portrayal of Northern prejudice and violence." Mesabi Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 230 7th Street S in Virginia, and the building is handicap accessible. Email https://www.mesabiuu. info/ for more information.

# Youth theater program to hold auditions for Moana on March 6 & 7

VIRGINIA- Lyric Youth Arts Theatre Education will be holding auditions for Moana on March 6 and 7 from 5-7 p.m. Students ages 8-17 may audition for cast roles. No experience is required. There are also many spaces open for students ages 11-17 to work tech for the production.

Day one of the auditions will be an introduction to youth theater programming with Director Susan Nelson. Day two will be auditions for roles. Anyone interested in tech only should come to one or both of the days. Registration is \$75 (nonrefundable), due on March 7. Limited scholarships are available.

For more information or to register, visit lyriccenteronline.org or call 218-741-5577.

#### Girl Scout cookies for sale at all-you-caneat pancake breakfast Saturday, March 4





Tower-Soudan fourth-grader Clementine O'Brien reads to Kindergarten student Ari Banks on Tuesday as the elementary students read 100 books to celebrate the 100th day of school. photo by J. Summit

#### PROPERTY TAXES

# Homeowners should fill out and return affidavit cards to keep benefit

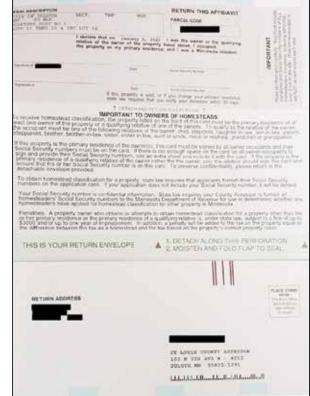
REGIONAL - Approximately 12,000 homestead affidavit cards have been sent to St. Louis County property owners in recent days, and the Assessor's Department has two important messages for anyone who receives them. First, this is a legitimate mailing, and second, it's to the homeowner's benefit to complete the card and send it back.

For certain property occupied as a person's primary residence, Minnesota state law provides a reduction to the general property tax. This reduction is available for properties that fall under the homestead classification.

To qualify for homestead classification, applicants must:

→ Have an ownership interest in the property, or be qualifying relatives of at least one owner; requires that an affidavit card or application be on file in the Assessor's Office for every homestead. If a homeowner fails to return the card, it could result in loss of homestead status. The County has also mailed homestead affidavit cards as part of their regular annual homestead renewal and occupancy check process.

Some key things to know: the cards may be light red or light blue in color. Red versions are part of the Department of Revenue project and have already been mailed out. The blue version is a regular renewal and may still be sent out in coming weeks. Recipients should write in any corrections that are needed, including if a new spouse should be named, if a deceased spouse should be removed, or if a property that is a duplex or triplex isn't listed as such.



Many homeowners have called to ask if the cards are legitimate. Mary Garness, Director of

EMBARRASS - The Embarrass Region Fair Association will host another of its all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts at the Timber Hall from 8-11 a.m. Saturday, March 4. In addition to the usual pancakes, choice of ham or sausage links, fruit cup and juice or coffee, attendees will also be able to purchase Girl Scout cookies.

Also taking place March 4 will be a sale of new and used horse tack and related equipment from 8 - 11 a.m. Sellers may rent a table for \$10 with all proceeds from table rent to be used for the fair horse show. To find out more on the days events or to rent a table, call or text Beth at 218-780-3848 or Pam at 218-780-8882. ► Occupy the property as their primary place of residence; and

► Be Minnesota residents.

The St. Louis County Assessor's Office has begun a Department of Revenue-mandated project to verify homestead status for residents within the County. This project "We have been receiving a lot of phone calls from people wondering if these cards are for real," said Mary Garness, Director of Public Records and Property Valuation, "and we appreciate that people are being cautious because these cards do include Public Records and Property Valuation assures people that these are legitimate and that people should fill them out to ensure they don't lose their homestead status.

identifying information such as a social security number. So we want to reassure people that yes, these are legitimate, and also urge people to fill them out and return them to ensure they don't lose their homestead status."

For more information on the Homestead Program, visit stlouiscountymn.gov/assessor.



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#### HOME OWNER TRAGEDY

# **Crane Lake fire destroys three-bedroom home**

Local community comes together with fundraisers to support owner

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

CRANE LAKE- People in Crane Lake are rallying around Randy Stern after a Sunday morning fire destroyed his Gold Coast Road home.

The fire was reported around 11:40 a.m. in the 7600 block of Gold Coast Road, and the three-bedroom house was quickly and completely engulfed in flames. The Crane Lake, Buyck, and Orr fire departments responded, but the house was a total loss. Four springer spaniels also reportedly died in the fire. The cause of the blaze is under investigation.

Stern's neighbor, Bill Congdon, has set up a fundraiser on GoFundMe to raise money on Stern's

"One of Crane Lake's community family, Randy S., lost everything in a house fire. We are reaching out to everyone to help out in any way they can," Congdon wrote.

As of Tuesday night, 33 donors had contributed \$2,780.

Voyagaire Lodge & Houseboats is also coming to Stern's aid by hosting a silent auction Friday and Saturday nights, with the bidding commencing Friday and concluding Saturday. Live music will be provided both nights by Charlie Darmer.

Anyone wanting to contribute items for the silent auction should call 218-993-2266. To contribute to the GoFundMe campaign, go to https:// gofund.me/d6ff44f9.



Four springer spaniels died in a Crane Lake house fire on Gold Coast Road on Sunday. submitted photo

#### ELY SCHOOL BOARD

# School locker rooms finally complete at Ely

by CATIE CLARK Elv Editor

ELY- The big news from Monday's school board meeting here was delivered by facilities director Tim Leeson. "The locker rooms are 99-percent complete," Leeson told the board during a meeting with an otherwise light agenda. The condition of the locker rooms has been an issue since the start of the school year, so the news was welcome.

Leeson noted that the punch list for the school district's 21st Century building project was getting much shorter. Overall, he said, "things are pretty quiet."

It was much the same for the school board, which polished off its business in about 35 minutes, just slightly longer than the 28-minute regular meeting held last time.

#### eFrozen field trip

The school board also approved the Theater Arts trip to Milwaukee, Wis., for the high school students in the cast of the "Addams Family" production, the Ely Pop Choir, and the musical theater class to see the stage version of Disney's "United States of Frozen" musical. Ely High School will be staging its own production of "Frozen" in January 2024. Ely won the competition to be the only school in Minnesota with the rights from Disney to stage the popular musical.

The trip will also include a stop at the University of Wisconsin - Superior for a backstage tour and to observe a collegiate choir rehearsal with Dr. Michael Fuchs. The students will then spend the night at the Wisconsin Dells before heading to Milwaukee for two muse-

um visits and the musical itself. After another overnight stay, the students will return to Ely on day three

After the presentation on the field trip by Mike and Billie Rouse, Superintendent John Klarich commented on the musical, the work going into it and the competition for receive the rights. "This is the big time. Being able to stage Frozen is a feather in the school's hat."

In other routine business, the board:

► Approved the hire of Riley Bishop for a paraprofessional position for 6.5 hours per day, five days per week, effective Ian 31

► Accepted the resignation of Nate LaFond as the assistant girls track coach.

►For the 2022-23 school year, renewed Frank Ivancich as head baseball coach; Cory Lassi as head softball coach, Will Helms as head boys track coach, Eliza Vistica as head girls track coach, and Rob Simonich as head golf coach (Ely position in co-op with NE Range).

► For the 2022-23 school year, renewed Max Gantt as assistant baseball coach, Megan Wognum as assistant softball coach, and Darren Visser as assistant boys track coach.

►Accepted a \$500 donation from the Ely Pickleball Club for the sixth-grade Wolf Ridge field trip, as covered by the Timberjay in its Feb. 10 edition.

► Received a quote from the replacement of one of the district's school busses.

► Approved the first reading on state revisions to school policies on family and medical leave, chemical use and abuse,

and student discipline. Klarich remarked that given some of the actions in the current legislative session regarding public schools, the board might need to restart the reading process if the Legislature made new policy changes.

≻The board held a special meeting on Feb. 6, where is accepted the the resignation of paraprofessional Victoria Scarbrough effective Feb. 1, 2023.



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## **REAL ESTATE**



Elbow Lake-\$69,000 2.3 acre boat-access lot on Elbow Lake, with 228 ft of lakeshore. MLS#141517

Crane Lake-\$275,000 20-acre boat-access Crane Lake Property. 6 BR, 3 BA home has new septic and drilled well, water heater, gas forced air furnace and new metal roof. Deeded access across federal land from your private dock to the property. 200 amp electric. MLS#144617

Daniels Pond, Buyck-\$99,900 46.5 acres, 1,650 ft airstrip with 3,487 ft of shoreline on a pond. MLS#141325

Sandpoint Lake-\$225,000 Furnished 3 BR cabin on 2.77 acres located on the SE point just north of the Canadian customs facility. Cabin has metal roof, family room, garage and shed at the water's edge. Electric service available from Canadian Sandpoint Power Association



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**TOWER** 2 BR, 2 BA, 2-stall garage. Features include updated kitchen, enclosed porch, and boathouse. Over 2,000 ft living space and 225 ft of Lake Vermilion frontage. **MLS#144596 \$615,000** 

ANGORA Price reduced! Finish off this single level home the way you want. Exterior is mostly finished with the interior roughed in. Located on 10 acres on a dead end road. MLS#144488 \$110,000

HIBBING 37 acres of undeveloped land near Cherry. Land is mostly high with Dempsey Creek running through it. Public lands border the property to the North. MLS#144613 \$45,000



# OPINION"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO<br/>LAW...ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM<br/>OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;"<br/>The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

# *Editorial* — Park Service violations

# The public needs answers in Voyageurs tasing and cover-up

The *Timberjay's* ongoing investigation into the tasing of an Ash River business owner by rangers in Voyageurs National Park has raised troubling questions about the actions of park law enforcement. Despite the Park Service's refusal thus far to provide any information regarding the June 25, 2022, incident, the *Timberjay's* own investigation is beginning to fill in the details.

What we know is that a houseboat that had been rented by Ebel Voyageur Houseboats had run aground on rocks in Lake Kabetogama in windy weather and the couple who had rented the boat contacted business owner Justin Ebel to assist.

Mr. Ebel responded in a service boat and was able to free the houseboat and subsequently asked his clients to pilot the boat back into the protected waters of Sullivan Bay, where he could inspect the vessel for possible damage. In other words, the situation appears to have been well in hand and orderly when the park rangers chose to intervene, just as the houseboat was entering the narrows leading into Sullivan Bay.

The rationale for their intervention is unknown at this time because the Park Service refuses to answer any questions pertaining to the incident. The couple who had rented the houseboat, who spoke to the Timberjay for our update on this incident in this week's edition, said the rangers ordered them to return to the open waters of the lake, where they indicated they wished to speak to them. The purpose of the conversation is entirely unclear, particularly since the rangers had spoken to the couple earlier in the day when they were still lodged on the rocks. The couple had assured the rangers at that time that they were fine, and that help was on the way. At rangers CHOSE to escalate the situation to an extreme degree, clearly putting Mr. Ebel's life in danger.

This incident absolutely must be investigated by an Interior Department Inspector General and the results of that investigation should be made public. If an investigation reveals that the rangers involved acted improperly, as we believe any independent analysis would conclude, they should be disciplined and subject to additional training, or be removed entirely from their position of trust. We have seen too many cases in recent years where overzealous law enforcement officials abuse their authority - and this incident suggests that the officers involved are predisposed to that kind of overreach. Without significant action to address their abuse, they will almost certainly engage in such actions in the future. This time, these two officers injured someone without legitimate cause. Next time, it could be worse.

The infractions here, unfortunately, go well beyond these two officers. The leadership at Voyageurs National Park, including Superintendent Bob DeGross and enforcement chief Josh Wentz, has been violating the Park Service's own policies regarding the release of information for months. A 2015 Park Service manual reviewed by the Timberjay calls on Park Service law enforcement officials to cooperate as much as possible in answering questions from media. Further, the manual lists releasable information, which includes charging documents, criminal complaints, the time and place of an incident, and much more. To date, despite numerous phone calls and emails seeking answers to questions, and a Freedom of Information Act request filed last August, no one from Voyageurs or the Park Service generally has been willing to give this newspaper the time of day. It's been more than six months since we filed our FOIA request, and we've received no relevant response. While we were able to obtain copies of the citations and the brief probable cause statements attached to them, that was only because we found another government agency that could provide them. To date, the National Park Service has been nothing more than a black hole. When an agency circles the wagons to this extent, you know they're involved in a cover-up. It's time the Park Service came clean on what transpired during this reprehensible incident. The public has a right to know.



# Letters from Readers

#### How many of us protested another war based on false pretenses?

How many Russians are brave enough to publicly protest the war in Ukraine? How many Americans were brave enough to publicly protest the war in Iraq?

Twenty years ago, on Feb. 5, 2003, Colin Powell gave his "Weapons of Mass Destruction" speech at the United Nations. The war began in March when George Bush ordered the bombing of Baghdad followed by a full-scale invasion of Iraq by American and allied soldiers.

#### Jim Ganahl Cook

# Clarifying the indemnification debate

This past Friday's articles in the local papers on the Tower Area Ambulance Service (TAAS) gave evidence of a clear lack of understanding of the indemnification clause in the Ambulance Vehicle Replacement Agreement. The clause in the previous contract was not there to transfer township or Band liability to the city, nor was it there to protect township or Band employees, and it did not address township or Band performance or actions, all of which are clear in the wording of the clause, written as follows: "11. INDEM-NIFICATION. The City agrees to defend and indemnify the Band and/or the townships against any claims brought or actions filed against the Band and/or the townships for injury to, death of, or damage to the property of any third person or persons, arising from the city's performance under this agreement" (emphasis added). The clause continues with language on statutory tort limits. It then explains: "The intent of this subdivision is to impose on the city a limited duty to defend and indemnify the townships [and Band] for claims arising out of the performance of this agreement ... to simplify the defense of claims by eliminating conflicts between parties and to permit liability claims against both parties from a single occurrence to be defended by a single attorney." The clause closes with more tort limit language. Again, the clause is a part of the agreement by which the townships and the Band donate funds to the city for ambulance vehicle replacement.

Clearly, the clause does not apply to performance by the townships and/or Band, only performance by the city. The purpose of the language was to prevent the townships and the band from suffering solely because they contributed financially toward ambulance replacement. It is reasonable to assume that any claim or action filed against the city with regard to the TAAS could/would be filed against the TAAS financial partners as well. This could/would result in a claim filed or action being taken against each of the townships and the Band for an incident that took place wholly within the city limits with only TAAS medical personnel because the townships and Band contributed financially. To ask that the city defend and indemnify the townships and the Band in this case is entirely reasonable as the city owns the TAAS, controls the TAAS, and

hires TAAS employees. The city clerk/treasurer is quoted as saying: "If two parties respond, whoever makes the mistake should be responsible." In such a team event, both parties will be visited with a claim or action. What the indemnification clause addresses is that, for example, if a team event involving TAAS and a second party in the Town of Kugler is followed by a legal claim or action, all the townships and Band should not have to provide their own defense solely because they made a financial contribution to the city for ambulance replacement but that the city should defend and indemnify them in consideration of their contribution, a defense the city must present regardless.

#### Bakk lobbying for a second toxic industry

The Timberjay devoted front page news to Tom Bakk's new role as a registered lobbyist for the tobacco industry. Here's a critical fact that many in Bakk's former Senate District need to know: on Jan. 24, Tom Bakk registered as a lobbyist for mining company Twin Metals, which is barred by Interior Secretary Haaland's Jan. 26 public land order from developing its toxic mining in the fragile headwaters of the BWCA Wilderness. Together with his tobacco industry client, Bakk is the promoter of both indoor and outdoor pollution.

Secretary Haaland's order is the most important conservation measure to protect the Boundary Waters in 45 years. Haaland's order rests on diligent scientific work by professional land managers at the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The order prohibits the most toxic industry in America from mining on federal lands along waterways that flow directly into the BWCA Wilderness.

Twin Metals' mine plan has rightly been rejected by the Minnesota DNR and the federal Bureau of Land Management. Twin Metals does not have federal leases to mine the public's minerals on the public's land. It does not have the right to use state land for its toxic waste disposal, as it had proposed. Its method of waste storage has already been rejected by the DNR as wrong for northern Minnesota's wet climate. In short, there is no mine plan to review, no rights to the public's land, and lousy technology. Seventy percent of Minnesotans support a ban on sulfide-ore copper mining in the Boundary Waters headwaters; Secretary Haaland's order is a new and much-needed layer of protection. While Bakk stands with his toxic mining client, the rest of Minnesota is thankful.

that point, the rangers should have found something better to do. Instead, they chose to lurk in the vicinity.

Ebel informed the rangers that he intended to lead the boat to sheltered waters and said they could talk to his clients at that point. The disagreement on a plan of action escalated and park rangers subsequently boarded Ebel's boat and tased him twice.

By all appearances, this incident was a flagrant violation of law enforcement protocols. In this case, the rangers gave the houseboat an unreasonable and potentially dangerous order, knowing that it conflicted with the plan that had already been developed by Mr. Ebel.

When Mr. Ebel resisted, as was reasonable on his part under the circumstances, the park Steven Lotz Rural Tower

Becky Rom Ely

# Why don't you get it?

Brené Brown, Ph.D., MSW, research professor at the Uni-

versity of Houston, is well-known for her many books and podcasts on courage, vulnerability, shame, and empathy. While conducting training workshops in shame resilience, she asked participants to list all the emotions they could recognize and to name them as they were experiencing



people responded, and the average number of emotions named

was three. Three! Just happy, sad, and angry.

She asked, "What about shame, d is a p p o in t m en t, wonder, awe, d isgust, embarrassment, despair, contentment, boredom, anxiety, stress, love, overwhelm, surprise, and all of the other emotions and experiences that

them. Over five years, 7,000 define what it means to be hu-

man?" She remembered a quote from her college days from philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein: "The limits of my language mean the limits of my world."

We have all seen toddlers get so frustrated when they're struggling to do something without success or attempting to express needs or ideas when they don't have the needed vocabulary. They may throw a tantrum, toys, or themselves on the ground or retreat into stubborn silence. I saw one little guy who wanted to get a drink from a drinking fountain that was way too tall for him. He desperately wanted to do it himself, fiercely resisting my offer of help. He stomped his feet in frustration, yelling, "Me! No! Me!!"

Similarly, Brown asks us to imagine going to the doctor's office in severe pain, only to find our hands are tied and our mouth is duct-taped, so we can't describe our pain. She suggests that the despair and rage we would feel parallels the frustrated hopelessness and possibly destructive level of anger we feel when we are unable to articulate our emotions.

She dug in with three years of research and distilled

87 emotions and experiences which she laid out in a "map" in her most recent of eight books,

"Atlas of the Heart." Opinions about what constitutes emotions vary with the perspectives of philosophy, sociology, psychology, neuroscience, medicine, mental health, and other disciplines. Brown chose to include experiences in the categories of emotional realities in our lives rather than arguing about what is an emotion and what is not. She maps them out into chapters by families of associated words,

#### See EMOTE...pg. 5

#### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEM

# Greenwood to consult attorney on payment for McGrath study

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

G R E E N W O O D TWP- The Greenwood Town Board, on Tuesday, approved the recommendations of the township's ambulance committee, which the board formed last year to review and advise on the results of the McGrath Consulting Group study on ambulance service options.

The committee met on Feb. 8 to develop recommendations on possible changes to the Mc-Grath study draft, released to the town board last month. Among the recommendations is that the town board consult with the township attorney on its rights to adjust the \$42,600 still owed to the consulting firm.

"We are highly unsatisfied," said committee chair John Bassing. The board approved the removal of some sections of the draft that the committee felt weren't relevant to the discussion, such as criticism of the Greenwood Town Board and its history of controversies. The recommendations also question why the consultants did not request input from the township's longest serving First Responders.

The board appointed Bassing as the board's new liaison with Mc-Grath, and also directed that all communication go through the town clerk's office. The board will also contact the IRRR, which is funding part of the study, to let them know of the township's concerns.

"This report was 80to 90-percent boilerplate," said Supervisor Barb Lofquist.

The board will also request that McGrath

complete the study as their proposal laid out. The draft study did not address several of the major issues the township was wishing to explore including looking at potential changes in the area's demographics and most importantly, according to the committee, ideas for greater shared services and regionalization of ambulance services.

The original proposal sent by McGrath to the township stated an objective of the study would be to identify the advantages and challenges associated with regionalization, to develop a recommendation for an organizational chart for a regionalized call force, look at which EMS stations should be utilized in a regionalized service, and develop a proposed budget and capital plans for a regionalized service.

According to the proposal, McGrath said their study would "answer the questions, can Greenwood Township and surrounding areas develop and improve EMS through greater cooperative efforts; what level of EMS is most appropriate and cost effective within the service area; and what is the most cost-effective means in providing ALS services." The draft study re-

The draft study released barely looked at the idea of regionalization, the committee noted, and while it did propose some ideas for bringing ALS/ paramedic support to the area, it did not describe how those ideas could be implemented within the current, existing structure.

"We've learned a lot from this study," said committee member Lee Peterson at the Feb. 8 meeting. "We've learned about studies, and about con-

"Our transfers take

four-plus hours," he said.

"It's harder to find place-

ments for patients, and we

are having to drive farther

bulance services are seeing

patients who are sicker and

require more care while on

dition to sustainable reim-

bursement levels, they need

\$35,000 for tuition for

a paramedic," he said.

"Small, rural services do

help with training costs.

route to the hospital.

In addition, rural am-

Rieber said that in ad-

"It can cost up to

for an open hospital bed."

sultants. We've learned we have to do things ourselves and make our own decisions."

The committee noted that some of these problems might have stemmed from the consultants' insistence of just working with one member of the town board, Mike Ralston.

"There was a lack of community with the full board," said Peterson. Ralston is not running for re-election to his seat on the town board in March.

The committee talked about the idea of a large regional service, possibly served by a private ambulance service.

"My goal is a better ambulance service in the real world," said committee member Lee Peterson at the Feb. 8 meeting. "Right now, we have one that is broke, in the red."

Peterson said that both the Virginia and Hib-

bing ambulance services have ALS.

"The status quo in the outer areas profits them," he said. "They need the transfers. They don't want anyone else to have the transfers."

"Maybe we are better off to have a private ambulance service, just saying this, take over Virginia and the entire area. Then the transfer funding would help everyone."

"There are opportunities to make this work if there is cooperation," committee member Rick Stoehr said.

"I like the idea of reaching out to Tower, Vermilion Lake, Kugler, and Eagles Nest," said Peterson, "to try to work to a conclusion that we need a new ambulance service, a new model."

# Study highlights statewide ambulance issues, criticizes state oversight

transport times.

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- The challenges facing rural ambulance departments are not unique, and they mirror the struggles seen by local services in Tower, Ely, and Cook.

At a hearing held on Jan. 19 in St. Paul, legislators got a quick preview of the issues, their history, and possible solutions that would require new rules and funding sources at both the state and federal level.

Dylan Ferguson, executive director of the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMS-RB) opened the hearing with a discussion of staffing issues facing ambulance services statewide.

"There are 30,000 credentialed Emergency Medical Service responders (EMS) in the state," Ferguson said. "But only 41 percent are actively practicing in an ambulance. Fifty-nine percent are not providing patient care at all."

"Why are people leav-

**EMOTE...**Continued from page 4

ing the field?" he asked.

Ferguson said that 65 percent of those who let their credentials expire are under the age of 40, and 45 percent were under the age of 30.

"Any industry that cannot retain their youngest workers is not sustainable," he said. "We cannot recruit our way out of this."

The labor shortage is most pronounced in rural parts of the state, where the vast majority of EMS workers are volunteers.

Many are leaving the field due to low pay, he said.

"This is not the fault of the ambulance services," Ferguson said. "Current reimbursement practices make it not practical to raise wages."

Ambulance services receive funding when transporting a patient to a hospital, or between hospitals.

"Twenty-eight percent of the time an ambulance leaves the hall there is no transport," he said. "So, there is no pay."

Additionally, almost half of all transports are for patients 65 and older, who

are on Medicare.

"You lose money on almost every single Medicare call," he said. "And in outstate Minnesota, 68 percent of calls, on average, are Medicare." Medicare reimbursement rates are set by the federal government, and currently are approximately \$400 per transport.

Ferguson said a threefold approach is needed to help solve these issues: increasing funding to recruit and educate workers; changing the reimbursement model to value ambulances as an integral part of the health care system, not just a transportation method; and creating incentives for EMS workers to remain active in the system.

Jim Rieber, director of EMS for the community of Perham, in western Minnesota, said his service sees about 1,600 calls a year.

"It's hard to stay competitive with busier services," he said. "We have challenges recruiting and retaining. Factory workers in our area are paid more than beginning EMTs." Rural services face

additional challenges with

neth- not have that money availtives able."

> But larger cities are also having trouble staffing their services.

Kevin Lee, who manages EMS for North Memorial Brainerd Region, said they are not able to adequately staff their ambulances right now.

"These are full-time jobs with benefits," he said. "I have seven paramedic openings and nine EMT openings right now."

"I've been in this area for 23 years," Lee said, "and have never seen this level of staffing shortages."

All the speakers agreed that EMS is an issue that needs to be addressed statewide, as well as a concerted effort to increase the Medicare reimbursements from the federal government.

"Key aspects get lost in the shuffle," said Ferguson. "It's the cost of readiness. The cost of having an ambulance service available everywhere in the state, responding 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. That can't come from the current reimbursement model only. There is no state funding for this cost of readiness," he said.

#### **EMSRB** study

The Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor released a study last February which detailed many of the challenges facing ambulance services, along with some significant criticisms of the EMSRB and the oversight they are providing to ambulance services in the state.

"The EMSRB has been

largely ineffective in its regulation and support of ambulance services in Minnesota," the study's summary concludes. "And the board has failed to provide sufficient oversight of the agency's activities."

#### To learn more

➤ Link to the legislative hearing talks: https://kstp.com/kstp-news/ top-news/first-responders-to-discuss-ems-ambulance-services-across-minnesota/

► Link to the Legislative Auditor report: https://emsinminnesota. com/2022-ola-report/

> EMS in Minnesota website: https://emsinminnesota.com/

Key recommendations from the study include restructuring how ambulance primary service areas are created, modified, and overseen, as well as adopting more stringent statutory requirements for renewal of ambulance service licenses.

such as: places we go when we search for connection, places we go when things are uncertain, places we go when life is good. She pairs up many words that are often used incorrectly for each other such as empathy/sympathy, envy/jealousy, awe/wonder, stress/ overwhelm, sadness/desadness/grief. pression, She felt the same questions that maps address were central to understanding the physical world and our internal worlds: "Where am I? How did I get here from there? How do I get there from here?"

I admire Brown's advocacy for lifelong learning and the requisite mistakes along the way coupled with her honesty and transparency about her own process. She admits publicly when she has been wrong in her previous teachings, and then offers her updated perspectives. She recognized she had been regularly misusing some words, and her thinking on emotions shifted. For example, with a life full of demanding commitments, she would often say she was "overwhelmed" instead of "stressed." Through her research, she came to realize that stress can be alleviated by getting a massage or eliminating some demands, while being overwhelmed means an inability to function, requiring a complete break from life as usual to regain

balance. She saw that her dramatic overuse of "overwhelm" to describe her life was also increasing her internal stress.

As with most of us, a look into Brown's childhood dynamics foreshadows her interests and choices of work as an adult. Brown's parents looked good from the outside: caring neighbors who were smart, funny, wellliked people, but inside the home, they were "wildly unpredictable." There were no normal discussions of anything important in their lives. The family motto was, "We are all good," and no one better question that nor damage the façade. As kids do, she thought she and her siblings must be the cause and she took on the blame and shame as the eldest. She was the observer, the one who could read people and the vibes, the one to sense a storm coming. She was the one who learned how to sidestep blowups by understanding people and what she needed to give them to avert unpleasantness. She felt weird because she could read people and situations and could see what was coming. She was surprised by "how little other people seemed to understand or even think about the connection between feelings, thinking, and behavior.' She was pained by the hurt people were capable of inflicting.

After several years of destructive self-medicating, she worked on her issues in therapy and figured out boundaries for herself. She said, like everyone, she had to learn how to choose loving herself over making other people comfortable. She added that it was the hardest work she had ever done and continues to do.

I struggled with the same issues and experienced similar dynamics in my family home. My father was charming, confident, and successful in his career, but he could not abide "negative" feelings or difficult personal conversations or situations that required him to be emotionally present, vulnerable, and understanding. His response was to escape into silence, leaving the room or the house. Eventually he walked out on my mom, leaving a note after 26 years of marriage. We had fearfully walked on eggshells, careful not to disturb him, although he was engaging and playful when things were going his way. My mother's motto was, "What will people think?" She did not have the tools to provide emotional support for my brother and me either. Her self-medication of choice was alcohol, fitting right into their cocktail social set. I became the timid observer, the watchful one, the peacemaker, and

turned to writing to process my puzzlement about the family and the world, full of adults who couldn't be relied on for explanations, guidance, or emotional support. Fortunately, my curiosity remained intact. It's easy to understand why clear communication and processing became priorities for me, and I applaud Brown's commitment to defining human emotions and experiences to improve our understanding of each other.

She knows that courageous curiosity is key in all areas of life, and particularly in relationships and communication. She recognizes that when we stop learning, we stagnate in uninteresting, ineffective, and often dysfunctional ruts. Children can be great models for, and leaders into, open-minded exploration of the world around us. Unabashedly, they ask a million questions, including the ones we may find difficult to answer. When that open curiosity is nurtured and maintained into adulthood, the result is a many-layered asset, which can be a conduit for joy into our lives while also building resilience. Both are useful survival tools in our world that can be a very difficult home. Having an excellent understanding of the language the natives speak makes it easier.

#### TIMBERJAY

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#### 6 February 17, 2023

#### **TOWER-SOUDAN LOCAL NEWS**

## Week of Feb. 20

#### 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 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.

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

Breitung Town Board-12 noon on Feb. 23

#### **Vermilion Country** School annual meeting set for Feb. 23

TOWER- The Vermilion Country School will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. at the charter school, located at 1 Enterprise Dr. in Tower.

The public is welcome to attend.

#### Hockey Day set for Saturday, Feb. 25

SOUDAN- Hockey Day in Soudan will be on Saturday, Feb. 25 with a youth hockey game starting at 1 p.m. More details to come.

#### St. Paul's Ash Wednesday service

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Ash Wednesday Service is at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 22 with a soup lunch to follow. Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. through Lent the church will be serving soup and showing a movie. All are



I LOVE TO READ MONTH

Silas Snyder read to his sisters, Sadie (left) and Saija (right), during the school's 100th Day of School celebration on eFeb. 14. Students read over 100 books in the morning and then were treated to pancakes. photo by J. Summit

## COMMUNITY EVENTSw Lots of fun planned at Mardi Gras at St. Martin's

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church is hosting a Mardi Gras celebration on Friday, Feb. 17. There will be fun for the whole family beginning at 5 p.m. through 8:30 p.m. It's an open house style event - come when you want and stay as long as you want.

Drawings will be held throughout the evening at 6:15, 6:45, 7:15, and 7:45 p.m. You must be present to win one of the door prizes. A prize will be given for the best costume. Kids each receive one free drawing ticket; for adults the cost is \$1 for each ticket.

There will be a kids' activity area with games to play, a decorate your own cupcake station,



and an art project. The pinata will be broken at 7:45 p.m.

Bingo begins at 6 p.m. Cost for bingo is \$5 for 10 games; prizes include gift certificates/ gift cards to local businesses.

A cribbage tournament will begin at 5:45 p.m. Cribbage will be played in teams of two, each player pays \$10 to enter, winning team takes home half of the pot. For this event we ask that you

sign up with Maryann (218-753-4310) by Monday, Feb. 13.

There will be a cash bar for adult beverages and lots of food. Some of the items you will find on the menu include jambalaya, chili, a variety of meatballs and wings, Mardi Gras meringues, meat and cheese tray with crackers, and much more.

This year there are added bucket raffles with great prizes (see photo at left for a few of them), a silent auction and the 50/50 cash drawing. Winners will be announced at 8:15 p.m.

The cost is a freewill offering. We hope that you will join us for this feast before Lent.

#### FOURTH OF JULY

# Fireworks on the 4th? Everyone's support needed by April 1 to get this year's fireworks ordered

TOWER- Fourth of July in Tower and Soudan always ends with a big bang, that is, the fireworks display, but the costs for used up. This is the first year the those big bangs have been rising. events board needs to raise the has held fundraisers, sales, and

tion with proceeds from the pull tab gambling income and, but as of 2022, that funding has been

ties that make Tower-Soudan's Fourth of July one of the nicest small-town events in our region. Starting in 2017, the events board Fundraising for this year's money for fireworks and to hire received contributions to contin-

your contributions are tax-deductible. This \$18,000 needs to be in place by April 1 in order to have the fireworks display this year.

The TSLVEB would also

welcome to attend

#### St. Martin's Lenten schedule

TOWER-St. Martin's Catholic Church is happy to announce their schedule of Lenten activities.

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22) Mass will be at 9 a.m. Ash Wednesday Mass will also be at St. Mary's (Cook) at 5:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed Friday evenings (beginning Feb. 24) during Lent at 5 p.m. A fish dinner will be served after the stations.

Bible Study continues through Lent; meeting on Friday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the Upper Room.

The regular Mass schedule follows through Lent:

Sunday Mass -10:30 a.m.

Wednesday and Friday Masses - 9 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is available on Mondays from 2 to 8 p.m., and on Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m until the start of Mass.

fireworks display is now underway, and funds need to be in place by April 1 to get the fireworks ordered. Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board estimates the cost of fireworks to be \$18,000.

The group also raises the approximately \$15,000 for the parade, games, and associated event costs.

In previous years, the fireworks had been purchased on a multi-year contract by the Tower Fire Department Relief Associa-

a professional crew to light them off.

The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board was formed in the fall of 2016. A group of residents from Tower, Soudan, and Lake Vermilion realized that all events surrounding the Fourth would not be held without the community stepping forward. Prior to 2017, many city employees, volunteers, fire department, and relief association members had worked diligently organizing the many activiue the Fourth of July traditions, as well as other events.

The committee thanks those who continue to support this celebration, but much more is needed

Please email the events board as soon as possible at tseventsboard@gmail.com or mail TSLVEB, P.O. Box 461, Tower, MN 55790 if you would like the fireworks to continue. Provide information on the contribution amount you would be willing to donate. TSLVEB is a 501c3 and like to encourage each of you to consider becoming a member, and volunteer. The next meeting of the events board is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, at 4:30 p.m. in the Breitung Community Room, Soudan.

This is a time for everyone to come together and help, both personally and financially, to continue this wonderful celebration of our independence.



#### **Birth Announcement**

Tuuli Adora Herring was welcomed into the family of Tim and Amber Herring on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023. She weighed 9 lbs., 3.9 oz. and was 20-3/4 inches long. She joins her siblings Hailie, Emma, Katie, Asher, and Kenzie. Maternal grandparents are Kenny and Merrella Marsyla, and paternal grandparents are Paul and Annette Herring.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

#### **Tower Winter Farmers** Market set for Friday, Feb. 17

TOWER- The Tower Winter Market will be held on Friday, Feb. 17 from 4 - 6 p.m. at the Pike River Products building on Main Street. Winter market days are on the third Friday of the month.

#### St. James upcoming service schedule

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower will have services led by the following speakers for February. Services are Sunday at 10 a.m., with coffee an' following.

➤ Feb. 19: Diane Childs

> Feb. 26: Rev. Richard Blood

► Every Sunday, during the service, there is special music with Greg Kuchan on guitar and his wife, Denise Kuchan on electric drums.

#### **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.

If you are interested in helping sponsor this event, please contact Jim "Chimpy" Tuomin-en at Zup's in Tower, 218-753-2725.



#### **Tower-Soudan-Embarrass Bookmobile** Schedule

**REGIONAL-** The Arrowhead Bookmobiles will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesday, Feb. 22, March 15, April 5 and 26.

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

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

For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at als@alslib.info, or website at alslib.info.

#### ELY LOCAL NEWS

WINTER IN ELY

# Elyite college honors MADISON,

N.J.-Margaret Renner, of Ely, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham Campus in Madison, N.J., has been named to the Honors List for the fall 2022 semester. To qualify for the Honors List, a student must carry a 3.5 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0 and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 letter-graded hours

STEVENS POINT, Wis.- The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point honored more than 2,350 undergraduate students for attaining high grade point averages during the fall semester of the 2022-2023 academic year. Fulltime undergraduates who earned grade points of 3.90 to 4.0 on a 4.0 scale are given the highest honors designation. High honor citations go to those with grade point averages from 3.75 to 3.89 and honor recognition is accorded to those with grade point averages from 3.50 to 3.74. Ely students who earned academic distinction for the fall semester were Peter Anderson, who earned Honors, and Jon Hakala, who earned High Honors.

# 56th annual Steger Ice Ball



The annual Steger Wilderness Center Ice Ball was held on Saturday, Feb. 4. For 56 years, conservationist Will Steger and colleagues have been cutting ice blocks out of a lake near the center, hauling them with a sled and four horses, and storing them in a cave close to the center. The ice lasts every year into the fall. photo by M. Gilgosch

# **Rumored plant from outer space missing**



The Timberjay investigated a report of an alien carnivorous plant at the Vermilion college campus but only found a rehearsal of the NLAA spring musical "Little Shop of Horrors." photo by C. Clark

# **ELY-WINTON HISTORY** Windows Into Yesterday





Left: B. S. Richards House. Right: Oliver Mining Co. Superintendent's house. Submitted photos

by DAVID KESS Ely-Winton Historical Society

For many years the homes of the mining comands Mather Co.

Zenith Mine closed in the

1960s. The Zenith Mine used now. Thus it is ofhad been part of the Pick- ten difficult to determine Always white in col- were built.

that are seldom if ever

Range mines, including the Pioneer Mine in Ely.

He was known to have

rooms. Isabelle Koski and her daughter Tessie bought actual dates when houses been a rather stern man, the building in the '70s afbut a fair one. That is, ter the mines closed. They or with green shutters The Pioneer superin- until 1904, when a num- completely remodeled it into a residence. The stenographers' office and an adjoining room were turned into a large kitchen and dining room. The woodwork was left untouched. It has had several owners since the Koskis. The historical society display case in the Fine Arts Lobby at the community college will feature large colored pictures of each of these residences. Artifacts from some of them will also be included. Any additional information you might have can be shared with the director of the historical society Paul Colwell. He is available on Tuesday through Friday from noon until 4:00 p.m. The phone is (218) 365-3225.

and miscellaneous other

In Brief

#### **Tuesday Group** schedule

ELY - The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering meets every Tuesday at noon at the Grand Ely Lodge. Participants have an opportunity to order lunch. For those interested in being a host, or who have a speaker suggestion, contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com or call her at 218-216-9141. 2023 Upcoming

Tuesday Group speakers: Feb. 21: Tales

from the Arctic with Ron Haakenson ➤ Feb. 28: The Death

Positive Movement and Normalizing Death with Cheryl Boyes

► Mar. 7: Northern Lakes Arts Association Updates with Ian Lah

► Mar. 14: Meet new Elyites



puddles and melting

#### 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 10 am-6 pm Friday Phone: 218-827-3345

#### Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous

pany officials were among the most imposing in town. There are no more officials as the mines shut down in 1967. The truly imposing homes in and around Ely now are probably the million dollar plus ones out on lakeshores. But in the late 1890s and early 1900s, the mining companies built quite impressive homes for their company officials.

Probably the most impressive and also the newest is the house on Harvey St. across from the Washington School. Built in the mid-1920s as the Zenith Mine Superintendent's home, it shortly became known as the Ben Richards house. While the couple lived there for a number of years they only bought the house after the

#### Upcoming **Events Ely Folk School**

ELY- The next Makers' Market and Mixer is on Feb. 18, at the school's 209 E. Sheridan location. The market will be from 2-4 p.m. The mixer will be 4-5 p.m. for the mixer.

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.

set in a large well-manicured yard, the two and a half-story home was regarded as one of Ely's finest. Ben Richards came from Wisconsin.

The Richards tragically lost their daughter Sally in an airplane crash in Alaska in 1947. They were truly devastated. Their housekeeper thought Sally would be a perfect name for her granddaughter.

A block down from the Methodist Church on Washington St. is the house built for the Oliver Mining Co. superintendent, Bruce Strachan. He came from Ontario. It was built in the late 1890s, but the date is not certain. Such factual information was often included on land abstracts - documents tendent's house is situated on a large corner lot with large open porches. The rooms were large with high ceilings. All three houses had fireplaces and classic woodwork of the era. While they were still in the ownership of the mining companies, the yards were maintained and the houses regularly painted. Some of the occupants hired their own day help.

Across the street from the Oliver house stands the Trezona house, the home of Capt. Charles Trezona.

Captain Trezona was born in Cornwall. England into a mining family. After coming to this country he eventually rose to the position of General Superintendent of several ber of miners associated themselves with the I.W. W. (Industrial Workers of the World) in an attempt to unionize the miners. Capt. Trezona would have none of this and tensions rose. Miners would lose their jobs. Period.

Trezona was threatened with being run out of town and possibly hanged. By boarding the train to Winton, Capt. Trezona escaped any danger by getting on a buggy secretly back to Robinson. The Trezona Trail around Miner's Lake bears witness to the influence the man had in town.

Last but not least is the building that once was the Pioneer Pay Office. It was a large building that included offices, record storage, a very large vault,

ebrate International Polar Bear Day on Monday, Feb. 27, from 3-4 p.m. Learn about polar bears, play a polar bear game and do polar bear crafts. Please register in advance so the library knows how many supplies to order.

Preschool Storytime is held every Friday from 10:30-11 a.m.

#### WolfTrack Classic **Sled Dog Race**

ELY- The activities for the WolfTrack Classic start this weekend, with a beer tasting of Earth Rider Brewery brews at

at Mike's Liquor, 401 E. Sheridan St., on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 3-6 p.m. The Chamber of Commerce will have opportunities to sponsor the race available at the beer tasting.

The Wilderness Club will hold its fundraiser all-you-can-eat spaghetti Musher Dinner on Saturday from 4-7:30 p.m. at the Vermilion campus cafeteria. \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids under 10, or for students with Vermilion campus school ID.

The race will start on Sunday, Feb. 26 at 9 a.m. More deatils are at wolftrackclassic.com.

**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 pretest 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.

#### **NLAA/Reflections Dance Company**

ELY- Even though dance classes began on Feb. 13 in Ely and Feb. 14 in Winton, it's not too late to still register for instruction. NLAA members get a \$5 discount. Sign-ups and schedule are linked on the NLAA website at northernlakesarts.org.

#### Ely Public Library

ELY- The Ely Public Library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, for President's Day.

The library will hold a week-long Kahoot online

trivia game on the first five books in the Ivy & Bean series by Annie Barrows from Wednesday, Feb. 22, 3 p.m., ending on Tuesday morning, Feb. 28, 8 a.m. The library needs an email address for each personwho wishes to play, so register in advance.

The library will host a board game play testing session on Thursday, Feb. 23, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Board game designers are welcome to bring their games and game ideas and gamers are welcome to come to beta test and play something new.

The library will cel-

#### ORR CITY COUNCIL

# **Council skips on new executive committee for now** Manai hired to fill Orr Muni manager vacancy after Nieman's departure

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Few folks like the thought of adding another committee to an already full plate, and that reluctance showed up at Orr City Council on Monday when a proposal for a new executive committee was discussed.

City clerk Cheri Carter asked the council to consider establishing an executive committee that would have the authority to make decisions between council meetings on essential city operations that don't fall under any other committees.

"We've had so many weird things come along lately that we kind of need to keep things moving along," Carter said.

"Like what?" asked council member Melissa Wright.

"Personnel changes, for one thing," Carter replied. "And every once in awhile something comes up that doesn't fit under any of the other categories."

"So instead of having a special meeting this would be something else?" asked council member Bruce Black.

"Well, if we needed to schedule interviews, for example, for the deputy clerk position, what committee does that fall under?" Carter responded. The council asked numerous questions about the possible roles an executive committee would be asked to fill, but after further discussion it appeared clarity on the issue was elusive.

"Maybe we need to identify where our holes are and see if we can take it from that angle," Wright said. "Maybe it's not an executive committee. Maybe it's a personnel committee."

"Do you want to table, do you want to push it back, what do you want to do with it?" Black asked. "It's up to you guys,"

Carter said.

The item was tabled until the next council meeting to clarify the language describing the proposed responsibilities of the committee.

#### Orr Muni

An already existing committee, the Liqour Store committee, had a recommendation to replace outgoing long-time manager Charles "Chet" Nieman, who resigned due to family considerations.

After conducting interviews, the committee recommended Orr Deputy Clerk Laura Manai for the position, effective Feb. 9. Manai would keep her current benefits and salary but would be required to successfully serve a 90day probation period in her new role.

An additional recommendation was made to hire Andrew Francke as a bartender at the Orr Muni.

"I'm not sure what details go along with that," said Mayor Robert Antikainen.

It was unclear if Francke would be paid hourly or by salary, and also when his start date would be.

Black expressed reservations about the hire from a cost standpoint. The city is obligated to pay banked sick leave and vacation leave to a former bartender who is unable to work due to a medical issue, which would effectively make Francke a fourth bartender to pay when the Muni is budgeted for only three.

"My only concern is that it's more full time, and if we make it past the 90 days we're into insurance, too," Black said. "Somebody's gotta be cheap."

Council members approved the hire, explicitly stating that Francke should be made aware he would be on 90 days probation as a new employee and could be terminated without cause in that period if financial conditions warrant it.

In other business, the council:

➤Hired Cristopher Kelley for the assistant



Change is in the air at the Orr Muni, as the Orr City Council approved the hiring of a new store manager and a bartender at Monday's regular council meeting. file photo

maintenance position, effective Feb. 13.

► Approved the St. Louis County Rural Ambulance Service Assistance Contract. The county asked for a new contract to reflect updated reimbursement rates for runs outside of the city limits.

Approved a contract with Dan Mackey to write grant applications for the ambulance service for radios for the ambulance and for the fire department for vehicle acquisition, at a rate of \$1,500 each. It was reported that the fire department would like to apply for funds to go toward a new brush truck, which is estimated to cost \$300,000. If the grant is approved, the department would be responsible for five percent of the cost. It was noted that Mackey's grant writing fee could be included in the grant request. Subsequent to this action, the council approved making a funding application to the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant program.

Determined that a new fueling system at the airport will be sited near the AD building, as the location would be more convenient for pilots, have slightly lower cost for electrical service, and fuel delivery trucks will not have to drive on the apron. The cuwrrent placement of the pumps offers none of those advantages. ➤ Authorized an additional application to the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilition to cover cost overruns on the King Road Lift Station project. An IRRR grant and CDBG grant provided initial funding for the project.

► Rejected a request from FEMA to join the National Flood Insurance Program.

► Approved the purchase of snowmobile grooming equipment for Voyaguer Trail Society, Inc. The city acts as the fiscal agent for VTSI for federal grant funding and does not incur any costs related to the purchase of equipment.

# Accident near Gheen corner sends two to Cook Hospital

ORR- A man's decision to turn his car around on Hwy. 53 south of Orr Saturday night caused a collision that ended up with two individuals being taken to Cook Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Mark Leonard Mankus, 59, of Orr, was driving a 2015 Chevrolet Impala south on Hwy. 53 just north of Willow River Rd. at about 11 p.m. on Saturday when he apparently decided to turn around in the roadway, according to the Minnesota State Patrol. The Impala was struck by 2017 Chrysler Pacifica driven by 52-year-old Natalie Rae Goodksy, of Orr.

Goodsky and a passenger in the Pacifica, Lela Mae Goodsky, 75, of Nett Lake, were not injured, but a second passenger, Erica Reid Johnson, 52, of Golden Valley, received non-life-threatening injuries and was taken to Cook Hospital.

The crash log indicated that alcohol was a contributing factor for Mankus in the accident. He also was taken to Cook Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

#### VHHP kicks off Hearts campaign

COOK- Last week marked the start of Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners Third Annual Hearts for Hospice Campaign. VHHP is partnering with area businesses once again for the campaign. Make a donation for a heart in memory of a loved one that will be displayed for the month of February.

Donation cans will be out as well for free will donations. Look for the

#### COMMUNITY NEWS

tiful new bowl as dinner bowls are provided.

Reigning Mrs. Minnesota and North Woods art teacher Rachel Betterley is reprising what has become a signature feature of the North Woods event, the appearance of Miss Minnesota 2022 Rachel Evangelisto, the first-ever Indigenous contestant to wear the crown.

Don't forget to partake in the \$1 raffle basket drawing and the face painting corner put on by the Art Club. tos, making winners "the peoples' choice."

The public is invited to attend a reception at the gallery on Friday, March 31 at 5 p.m. at which the winners will be announced.

NWFA Gallery is located at 210 S River St.

#### Local theatre group announces dates and ticket sales

COOK- Tickets for the Bleak Mid-Winter

#### PLAYING WITH PEP



Under the direction of first-year instrumental music instructor Paige Stanislawski, North Woods saxophonists Cyrus Johnson, left, and Nathan Ploof belt out some golden oldies last Friday as part of the pep band that played at the North Woods boys home basketball game against Littlefork-Big Falls. Seniors were honored at halftime of the game, and Brendan Chiabotti crossed the 1,000-career-points plateau in the Grizzlies' win. photo by D. Colburn Hearts for Hospice flyer and donation cans when you shop locally.

An upcoming fundraising event is planned in partnership with the North Woods boys basketball team on Thursday, Feb. 23 when they host Rock Ridge.

Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners is a local nonprofit which supports hospice and hospice eligible patients and their families with financial needs that insurances do not cover. For more information visit www.vhhp.org.

#### Empty Bowl Feb. 23 at North Woods

FIELD TWP- The tenth anniversary edition of the Empty Bowl event at North Woods School, to benefit food shelves in Cook and Orr, is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 23 in the school commons, preceding the boys varsity basketball game against Rock Ridge.

One-of-a-kind clay bowls and vases made by students may be purchased for \$10 and come with a delicious soup, dessert, and beverage meal, but you won't have to eat out of your beauEmpty Bowls is a grassroots movement by artists around the world to raise money for food-related charities and has raised millions of dollars to help end hunger.

#### NWFA photo contest deadline nears

COOK- The window for entries in the Northwoods Friends of the Arts annual photo contest is drawing near,

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 phoPlayers presention of "Awaiting the Morning Light", an original, historical fiction play written by Jesse Bangs, will go on sale Friday, Feb. 24. Seating for any of three dinner performances, March 24-25 in Cook and April 1 in Virginia, and a March 26 matinee in Cook and April 1 matinee in Virginia will be available. Tickets cost \$15 per person for dinner theaters and \$7 per person for matinees.

Check the Bleak Mid-Winter Players Facebook page or email BM-Wtheater@gmail.com for specific information on where tickets may be purchased.

#### Cook earns honors at UW-Stevens Point

ORR- Kristen Cook, of Orr, earned the highest honors designation at The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point for the 2022 fall semester. Full-time undergraduates who earned grade points of 3.90 to 4.0 are given the highest honors designation.

# online at www.timberjay.com

#### WITNESSES...Continued from page 1

boat," Fran said. "It was a lot of fun. We loved being there. We love national parks. So this has been on our bucket list like forever. Finally being retired, it was just like, yes, we can do this."

Steve said it was a billboard that first keyed them in to Ebel's Voyageur Houseboats, and the couple was so impressed by the business's website that they decided to rent a houseboat from them. As a first-time houseboat pilot, Steve said he got a thorough orientation when they arrived.

"The one we had was not their biggest by any means," he said. "It was, I think one of their smaller ones. But it was new experience. They were really good about giving me the basics."

But no amount of orientation could prepare them for the winds they encountered on their third day on the lake. Gusts on Saturday, June 25 were blowing in the range of 25-30 mph, creating a big challenge for Steve as he drove the high-profile houseboat.

And in the midst of that challenge, Steve made a rookie mistake. He drove on the wrong side of a navigational buoy.

"Coming back with that wind behind us, it had a lot of push to it and I was getting tired kind of stressed by fighting that wind," Steve said. "That was the first time I had ever been on a place where navigation required you to stay in lanes. I went to the right of the sign that marks the rocks close to the Ash River (Visitor Center), but I had to stay left. So, that was the mistake I made that we ended up on the rocks. We got most of the way over and then there was a scraping noise and we stopped. It was a spooky experience. That was stressful."

Per the instructions they had received, they radioed Ebel's to request assistance, and shortly thereafter Justin Ebel left on his service boat.

Meanwhile, as Steve and Fran waited, they fielded inquiries from people on shore asking if they needed help, and responded that Ebel was on his way. They also saw a VNP boat nearby with two rangers in it.

"They were hanging off to the side, but they just stayed in the area," Steve said. "They came over and asked us if we needed help and we told them the same story."

The rangers stayed in the area as Ebel arrived and pulled the houseboat off the rocks. Unable to inspect the boat for damage because of the conditions, Ebel told Steve and Fran that they should follow him to safe harbor in Sullivan Bay, where they would be able to dock and he could inspect the boat.

Just before the boats entered the narrows leading to Sullivan Bay, Ebel said he had his first contact with the rangers in the boat, who approached him and appeared to want to talk.

"They basically said thanks for pulling the boat off," he said. "I might have said I've had three of them today, then I just kind of proceeded to go on. They motored back up to me and asked if my guests' trip was over, and I said no, they're due in tomorrow. I said I had plans of getting them to Sullivan Bay, and that's all I basically said to them. And I kept proceeding and doing what I was doing."

Ebel looped around to retrieve a boat that had come untied from Steve and Fran's houseboat, then headed on toward the narrows.

"It was about that time that those two rangers came back and yelled at us and said they wanted to talk to us," Steve said. "It was definitely not a suggestion that they were making to come out and talk to them. It felt more forceful than that." Steve estimated the rangers were 20 to 50 feet away at the time.

"It was close enough that you could hear them pretty clearly," he said.

Steve and Fran said they had no idea what the rangers wanted to talk to them about.

"We never got a why," Steve said. "We'd been hung up for quite a while if they had questions. Why did they not come over and ask the questions then while we were stuck on the rock? That part never made any sense to me, because they were not doing anything else. They were in the area, and they were in their boat watching us. They did not go to see anybody else. They were just hanging around."

But with the angle of the houseboat and the wind, Steve found it impossible to turn the boat and follow the rangers back out into the middle of the bay where they wanted Steve and Fran to go.

"I was trying to turn the boat to point the bow back towards where the rangers were waiting," he said. 'With the wind blowing I just could not get it to do that because I needed forward speed, and forward speed was going to run me right into an area where I was concerned about running aground. It was not that far to the shoreline, and I was not going to run that thing aground again. So I tried backing up, and there was no way it was going to go backwards into that wind to get out to them. I was at a loss of what to do."

At that point, Ebel looked behind him and saw that the houseboat wasn't following him.

"He radioed us and asked us what we were doing and we told him, and he said go into the bay and I'll talk to the rangers and let them know it would be a safer place," Fran said. "I was really scared because

we were asked by the park rangers to do something but it was physically not possible and the boat was swaying. It was really, really scary."

"And I was pretty exhausted at that point, stressed and emotionally exhausted as well," Steve said. "I was having no luck trying to do what the rangers asked us to do."

SoperEbel's direction, the couple set course again for Sullivan Bay as Ebel turned around and went to talk with the rangers. They said they did not see or hear what transpired when Ebel came into contact with the rangers.

"Justin told us to continue with the plan and the rangers could come to us," Fran said. "Their boat goes much faster than our houseboat, so if they wanted to come and visit with us, there's no place for us to go going into the bay."

They were headed for an island in Sullivan Bay where they could tie up for the night, but then received a communication from Ebel's base to keep coming in and they would come out to meet them and drive the boat the rest of the way.

"At the point we were at that sounded like the best idea we'd heard in a long time," Steve said.

A few days after the incident, Steve and Fran were contacted by someone from VNP to ask them to describe their recollection of events. They said it wasn't an interrogation, but rather an opportunity to relate what they knew.

Steve and Fran are still upset about what happened to Justin Ebel and clueless as to how the rangers acted toward them.

"That was completely unjustified from our viewpoint," Steve said. "The way those rangers had been lurking there just waiting for as long as they did made no sense. It was kind of like they were looking for an excuse to write us up. I don't really know. They were kind of like vultures circling around. This is what it felt like."

"We've been racking our brains over what would cause their concern that they would want to come talk to us, and we don't know," Fran said. "We are still very concerned for Justin. He was looking out for the best interest of us, and safety first. He was doing what was best for us, and it breaks our hearts. Literally, we are heartbroken with what happened."

"One of our retirement goals is that we were going to go around visiting national parks. We love national parks and enjoy them greatly," Steve said. "We have zero interest in ever returning to the Voyageurs park after that experience, with the rangers' responses and what they did."

#### **COUNCIL**...Continued from page 1

Stoehr's charge was particularly mystifying given that Greenwood officials have been the primary critics of the study, which they have complained fell short of answering questions they posed when the township hired McGrath.

Setterberg also dismissed Stoehr's suggestion that Greenwood residents provide considerable financial support to ambulance service through taxes they pay to St. Louis County. "It would be nice if that were really true," said Setterberg, who noted that the county provides little financial support for the ambulance. He provided a document listing the county payments to the TAAS from 2009-2019, showing an average of about \$10,000 a year, or roughly two percent of the service's total revenue. And Greenwood's tax contributions represent only a tiny fraction of the county's total tax base. Setterberg said he researched the county payments in order to avoid making misleading claims as Stoehr had done. "If you're going make statements, you should have the facts to back them up," he said. Setterberg also took issue with Stoehr's claim that Greenwood residents provide financial support for the ambulance service through the fees they pay when they use the ambulance. Setterberg cited the fact that the vast majority of those ambulance calls to Greenwood and elsewhere are paid by Medicare and Medicaid, which often don't cover the actual costs of providing the service. "He makes a lot of comments, but really has no facts to back them up," said Setterberg, responding to Stoehr. Council member Kevin Norby took issue with Stoehr's suggestion that meetings by an ad hoc committee established by the Tower Ambulance

Commission were a violation of the open meeting law. Norby noted that the committee, made up of representatives from area townships, has no decision-making authority but has been trying to discuss options and ideas without every suggestion creating new headlines in local newspapers. Appellate case law in Minnesota has clearly established that ad hoc committees comprised of multiple jurisdictions and without any decision-making authority are not subject to the open meeting law. Greenwood has been invited to participate in the ad hoc committee but has, to date, declined

cover the roughly \$8,000 payment.

He said making the now-enormous ambulance payrollishis first obligation. "Our payroll is \$10,000 every two weeks," said Schultz. TAAS's payroll costs jumped sharply in the wake of its 2018 transition to a high-wage, paid on-call system.

Norby noted that every ambulance service in the region is experiencing financial challenges. Schultz said the challenges are statewide and even national in scope.

City officials all expressed frustration that the township has, to date, declined to bring its conto the city official capacity, instead relying on letters to area newspapers or town board meetings to air their grievances. "Greenwood has never come to the city of Tower about any issue when it comes to the ambulance or anything," said Setterberg. "They have not asked us for information, they have not brought concerns, they have not made any recommendations. What we hear from them is either through the paper or the grapevine." have left the city and township officials still searching for a path forward. Wastewater manager Matt Tuchel noted that the latest construction estimates had jumped again, this time to \$5.5 million.

The temporary loan was supposed to have been rolled into a planned Public Facilities Authority, or PFA, loan that was anticipated to fund the portion of the project cost not covered by grants. The extension approved Monday is the only one that the city can request and if the project doesn't move forward in the interim, the money will need to be repaid.

In related action, the council approved the acceptance and signing of a project partnership agreement with the Army Corps to help advance the release of the \$3.375 million in grant funding. That approval was contingent on no significant material changes to the contract

by the Army Corps.

such as occasional spikes in trihalomethanes and other chemicals.

He said the TBWWB had looked at other sources for water, but found that other options were significantly more expensive than construction of a new water plant.

#### **Other action**

In other business, the council:

 Approved a motion to authorize bids for roof replacement at the train depot. The city has received a \$29,550 culture and tourism grant from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation and is pursuing a \$10,000 grant toward the project from the Minnesota Historical Society > Approved a motion to submit a letter of support for the reorganization of the Lake Vermilion Chamber of Commerce. > Heard from longtime resident and community volunteer Richard Hanson under public input. "I want to say I'm so pleased with what's happening on Main Street," he said, referencing the significant new development and improvements to downtown businesses. He also urged the council to consider seeking new broadband grants to assist with the further growth of the community.

cover expenses.

➤ Appointed Sherry Anderson to a vacancy on the Tower Economic Development Authority.

➤ Gave the second reading to Ordinance 82M, which authorizes the planning and zoning commission to serve as the board of adjustment in the absence of a designated board.

➤ Heard from Schultz that he is waiting for appraisals on the city's cabin lease lots for possible adjustments in the lease rates.

➤ Tabled a decision on official newspaper until next month, pending additional information.

> Approved a request the Tower Ambulance Commission to purchase a certificate of deposit with funds currently in the ambulance replacement account in order to earn more interest. ➤ Briefly discussed the potential need for new ordinance language to address short-term vacation rentals. Council member Joe Morin suggested the city start considering the issue as the rentals have become more popular in town. Briefly discussed possible submissions to Congressman Pete Stauber's office for a congressional earmark. Setterberg suggested a major infrastructure project, but the council didn't discuss specifics.

Norby also took issue with the premature release of a preliminary report drafted by the ad hoc committee, which was unexpectedly released in a Greenwood meeting packet.

In addition, Norby addressed Stoehr's allegation that the city had violated the provisions of its agreement with area townships, under which the townships contribute to the city's ambulance replacement fund. While Norby acknowledged that the city was late in finalizing a promised business plan for the ambulance, he said that was because they weren't happy with the initial draft and wanted to produce a better product. In either case, he noted that the city had presented the business plan to area townships recently, well before Stoehr's letter.

Clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz acknowledged the ambulance service was late in making payments to the ambulance replacement fund for transfer miles driven by the ambulance. He said the check has been cut for months, but he's been waiting for the ambulance service's cash flow to improve enough to

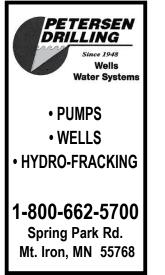
#### **Drinking water plant**

In other business, the council greenlighted a request for an extension to a \$258,000 temporary general obligation note that paid for engineering and design on the proposed new drinking water plant for the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board. While the TBWWB has made interest payments on the note, the principal is due next month and will need to be renewed or the city will have to repay the funds.

The city had expected that the TBWWB would have moved forward with its new water plant by now, but delays in processing a \$3.375 million grant from the Army Corps along with significant cost increases over the past two years,

**READ THE TIMBERJAY!** 

In comments to the council, Tuchel said the water plant was advisable as a backup for the existing water plant. He noted that the TBWWB learned several years ago that the wells the communities rely on for drinking water are connected to surface water around the East Two River and that the well water contains certain viruses. While Tuchel said the TBWWB disinfects the water before it's distributed to homes in Tower and Soudan, the side effects of the disinfection create their own problems,



► Approved a motion to transfer \$15,000 from the Hoodoo Point Campground account to the ambulance to



#### THE TIMBERJAY

#### PARTY....Continued from page 1-

still learning to read, the older students took time during the day to read aloud to them, helping to rack up the titles.

The students took even less time to polish off 100 pancakes, cooked up by their teachers, which has become a tradition here that annually marks the 100th day of school.

The main school hallway was filled with students and bins of books, ranging from picture books, easy readers, and graphic novels, to young adult novels, which were not

going to be read in a single sitting but were clearly the favorites of the older students taking part.

A large poster on the wall gave students a chance to write down the titles of the books they had read, and the 100 lines were quickly filled up, and additional book titles were added in any available empty spot.

The 100th day of school coincided with Valentine's Day, so after a morning of reading, counting games, and pancakes, the afternoon was taken up with classroom parties celebrating friendship. Who says learning can't

be fun?

**Right: Preschooler** James Donohue enjoys his share of the 100 pancakes cooked up by the Tower-Soudan elementary teachers.

photo by J. Summit



#### **FESTIVAL**...Continued from page 1



from outside the 55731 zip code area.

The comments on our feedback showed that many of these folks from out of town had never been to Ely before or had never visited in the winter," said White.

#### Looking forward

White would like to see the film fest grow to where it will be self-sustaining. "All of our costs this year were covered by grants and sponsorships, so in that respect, we set ourselves up for (financial) success," he added."Our ticket sales will go to support next year's event."

The balance sheet from the event wasn't done when the Timberjay talked with White earlier this week, so the numbers on the festival's revenues aren't available yet, but White said he'll make them public once they're finalized. "I want complete transparenEly for people to remember that arts jobs are real jobs," White explained, "and that we need our arts economy to be vibrant and reliable to help diversify the jobs



Left: The marguee at Ely's Historic State Theater was lit up for last week's first annual End of the **Road Film Festival.** 

#### Above: Jacob White interviews Becky Gawboy of Tower to record her views of the film festival. photo by C. Clark

available in our town. It's thanks to our sponsors and our grant donors like the Blandin Foundation and the Minnesota State Arts Board that we could support these jobs for the festival."

#### Filming the film fest

Throughout the film fest, White was in the pass-holder lounge continuously interviewing filmmakers, his own staff, festival volunteers, festival sponsors and festival attendees. The ongoing interviews gave the public a rare look at the actual filmmaking process. White said that he wasn't the only person collecting footage and that two other festival staff members were roaming the festival shooting stills and video and conducting "person on the street" style interviews.

"We'll use the material to promote the work of our filmmakers using our platforms," said White. "We'll use our platforms to reach our audience wherever they are so we can uplift the event and participating filmmakers."

#### **Festival awards**

The film fest gave out 13 awards, including categories for best regional, Minnesota, and indigenous films. The awards were presented at an intimate private dinner at the Grand Ely Lodge for filmmakers, the festival team, and the event's sponsors.

#### Short films

☞Best Indigenous Short: "Kicking the Clouds" - Sky Hopinka.

™Best Comedy Short: "Kaijuburbia!" (Filmmakers in attendance).

ISBest Northland Voices Short: "Ice Ball." Best Memento

Vivere Short: "The Poachers" (Filmmaker in attendance).

Best Creative Spirits Short: "You are not alone" (Filmmaker in attendance).

Best Humanity Short: "A Voice for the Wild."

**Feature-length films** IS Best Picture: "The Race to Alaska."

IS Best Cinematography: "Spirit of the Peaks."

Best Regional Film: "Iron Opera" (Filmmakers in attendance).

r Best Minnesota Film: "Northern Nights, Starry Skies" (Filmmakers in attendance).

Rest Director: "After Antarctica" (Will Steger in attendance).

IS Best Documentary: "Bring Her Home" (Filmmakers in attendance).

🖙 Best Story: "Daughter of a Lost Bird."

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Matthew Holmes, MD Nicholas Vidor, MD Cvnthia Sandberg, NP

Charles Tietz, MD-GYN Services Timothy Sprouls, DDS lames l

cy on the finances," he said.

While the event was supported by over 45 volunteers, the film fest also had a paid staff of 15, not including the staff of the State Theater. "It's important to

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#### Covid-19 testing and vaccinations available.



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#### FIRE PROTECTION

# Some Greenwood residents want fire response from Cook

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOODTWP-A resident and former township supervisor asked the Greenwood Town Board, Tuesday, to secure better fire protection for residents in the western portion of the township.

"Greenwood does not have an automatic page set up with the Cook Fire Department," said Kirsten Reichel. "Given our location, Cook could respond quicker, they are only 13 miles away."

Property owners in the formerly unorganized township do receive better fire protection when the lake is open, due to the township's fire boats. And it was property owners in that area who had initiated the annexation process, back in the late 1990s.

"As annexed properties, we expect to have guarantee of the basic services the township promised to provide," Reichel said. "We feel it is up to the board or the current chief to negotiate an agreement with Cook."

Reichel said the area in question has two resorts and 15 homes with year-round residents.

"We still pay taxes to the township, but we don't have access to the recreational amenities at the town hall and paved trail," she said, pointing out it takes her 40 minutes to drive from her home to the town hall.

She also asked that the fire department explore mutual aid options with the Buyck Fire Department.

The Greenwood Fire Department, Chief Jeff Maus explained, does have a mutual aid agreement with the Cook Fire Department, and in cases of a structure fire in that area will call out the Cook Fire Department even before Greenwood leaves the fire hall.

Maus said the department had spoken with the assistant chief in Cook in the past about setting up the automatic, "box alarm," system, but no action had been taken.

Maus noted that geography was a huge factor. "There is a lake in the way," he said. sent an unsigned letter to Supervisor Mike Ralston stating their intention to resign if the board did not remove Maus as chief and give the department the authority to elect their own officers. The board had previously removed member Mike Indihar.

Maus said he had contacted all the members who had left gear and asked them to get in touch with him if they didn't intend to resign.

Department member Jim "Jet" Galonski was at the meeting and suggested no one intended to leave the department. "Nobody isresigning.Nobody signed a letter," he told the board.

"Jim Galonski did get in touch with me. But he did turn in his gear," Maus said, noting he could not discuss

Wireless Charging

individual personnel issues at the public meeting.

The vote to approve the "voluntary quits" was 2-1, with Supervisors Sue Drobac and Rick Stoehr voting in favor, Supervisor Paul Skubic voting against, and Supervisor Barb Lofquist abstaining. Supervisor Mike Ralston was absent.

The board also voted 3-1, with Skubic voting against, to terminate Belinda Fazio from the department due to lack of participation.

## Other fire department actions

Maus said the department was in the process of setting up a box alarm with Virginia for any structure fire calls at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. He also said that their EMS department has a 1.6-million-gallon dry hydrant system at the golf course, which is being repaired, and the department will be allowed to use that as a water source in the winter if needed on a fire call in the township.

The board approved changes to the rules for pension credit, increasing the required responses to one every two months (six per year), and attendance at 12 trainings. Previously a department member only needed to respond for two calls in a year to earn pension credit.

Maus also noted that Greenwood's pension, set at \$3,000 per year after fully vested, was higher than other larger area departments, and that Greenwood paid a higher hourly wage. The six-call requirement works out to an average of 12 percent of the annual calls, he said, which is on the low end of requirements for other area departments.

Mausgotboard approval to pay the administrative assistant \$25 per hour to enter about 225 previous calls into the computer system. This work was not completed under the previous fire department leadership, he said, and is required for some state reporting systems as well as for grant applications. He felt this work was on top of the regularly required duties, so should qualify as

a special job. Maus also got approval to purchase a laptop and Microsoft software subscription for the administrative assistant to use, since her home computer (Chromebook style) was not compatible with the township's systems.

Maus also got permission from the board to start working to get the department's First Responders certified to administer some medications on scene before the Tower Ambulance arrives. This would mean additional training to become an EMT, and possibly to become members of the Tower Ambulance Service.

"We would like to have Greenwood have the highest level of medical care possible," he said.

Maus will also contact the ambulance services medical director to see what other options may be



#25143 FCTP

Reichel, who herself was a member of the Cook Fire Department years ago, said she understood the logistical challenges. But she insisted her neighbors wanted a box alarm system set up with Cook within a month, or else the residents would look into the possibility of being annexed by Beatty Township.

"Cook is just as well trained," she said. "Members can't be a firefighter until they finish their training."

That section of the township is part of the Cook Ambulance District and is happy with that service, she said.

The board said they would contact the Cook Fire Department as soon as possible to begin discussions on setting up the automatic alarm and would keep Reichel informed on any progress.

#### **Firefighters removed**

The board passed a motion to accept the "voluntary quit, with option to return after six months" of department members David Fazio, Rick Worringer, Tammy Mortaloni, Howard Ankrum, Jim Galonski, Hunter Gilbert, and Tom Mortaloni. These members were among the ten members who, last month, had left their gear bagged up at the town hall and had



#### PUBLIC SAFETY

# Awareness: the first step needed to reduce sex trafficking

#### by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

VERMILION RES-ERVATION- Sex trafficking isn't as black and white as is often portrayed on television police dramas. That fact, along with its outsized impact on Native American communities across the country, were just some of the points made during an all-day-conference sponsored by Bois Forte Victim Services and hosted by Fortune Bay Resort Casino earlier this month. The event on Feb. 6 brought together about 150 people, ranging from law enforcement to tribal officials, nonprofits, schools, and the public, with an interest in becoming part of the solution to the longstanding problem.

Presenters included professionals working with victims of sex trafficking and law enforcement working to arrest those responsible for trafficking both juveniles and adults. The final speaker of the day was a woman who was trafficked herself as a young person.

#### What it is like to be trafficked

KiloMarie Granda brought many in the audience to tears as she related her own life story, which included a tough discussion of the overlap of victims and offenders, as well as her journey from a difficult childhood in a family with a long history of sexual violence, child abuse, and rape. As an adult she has earned her PhD in psychology, specializing in sex trafficking trends, as well as a master's degree in criminal justice.

"I am a lifelong survivor of abuse," acknowledged Granda, who said she hopes her story will help others break the cycle. "I am still ashamed. I see myself as a victim. I blame myself."

Her mother was trafficked by her own father, and the same thing happened to Granda when she was a teen. She was also



university system, and at the Minnesota Legislature, working with elected officials on crafting new legislation, but even as a professional with a PhD, she could not escape the culture of trafficking and abuse, witnessing it for both herself and others.

At this point in her life, she is taking time to heal, as she suffers from serious health issues as well as the effects of past traumas.

#### Trafficking

Human trafficking is a complex set of crimes that usually requires cooperation from many agencies to prosecute. Representatives from many of these agencies were at the workshop, and they spoke about state and federal laws, how these relate to tribal sovereignty, and how these agencies are working together to prosecute offenders and give assistance to victims.

When a third-party benefits in any way from a sex act, that is considered trafficking, Taylor Lambrecht told the audience. Lambrecht works with the Human Trafficking Investigators Task Force (MN-HTIF) and Tribes United Against Sex Trafficking (TRUST). He spoke along with co-presenter and Fond Du Lac investigator Molly Berhow, who also works with TRUST.

The two, who work together on this issue, took turns speaking and responding to questions throughout their afternoon presentation. To prosecute the crime they need to show actions, means, and pur-



Left: KiloMarie Granda. Above: Molly Berhow (left) and Taylor Lambrecht. Workshop speakers were given gifts after their presentations. photos by J. Summit

media, where they find their school names and other identifying information. A "dupe" account pretending to be a girl will ask for a photo and this can turn into what is called "sextortion," where a teen is blackmailed to produce more sexually-revealing photos or even money.

They explained the steps involved in luring a child, or adult, into sex trafficking, which can start online or in person.

A trafficker finds out what the juvenile wants and will then isolate them from their parents and friends. When they finally meet in person, the manipulation starts, and they make them feel like their only option is to participate in commercial sex acts.

"These kids get hooked," they both ex-plained, "and the same process is used with adults."

The grooming can be done by a family member, neighbor, or friend, as well as by strangers online. Young girls are often lured in with the promise of a modeling job.

factors Risk for youth include a history of child maltreatment, being homeless, a runaway, or involved in the foster care system, being gay or transexual, being a person of color, and substance abuse. The two said they have seen cases where a juvenile is introduced to drugs by the trafficker, who waits until they are addicted. Then they shut off the supply of drugs until the child agrees to comply.

Signs that a child is being groomed include gifts like cell phones and fancy clothes, sudden changes in attitudes towards sexuality, secrecy when a specific person calls, being heavily influenced by a new friend or boyfriend, and missing school or work.

"Every single case is different," Lambrecht said. And while they noted that youth considered at-risk are most often recruited, it can happen to a straight-A student from a two-parent household.

The two also talked about survival sex, which is treated differently under the law. This is when a person performs sex acts in return for things like housing, food, and other basic needs. But survival sex often leads to sex trafficking. And this can happen in reverse, they said, when a person leaves a trafficking situation, they don't have housing or job skills or decent clothing and will end up in a survival sex relationship.

#### What is being done

Anti-trafficking groups like MNHTIF and TRUST monitor online sites and also review any tips that come in about trafficking of minors. When a federal sting took down the largest online sex site, Backpage, back in 2018, it meant the online sex world splintered into many pieces. The site was a focus of law enforcement, who were able to monitor it for any signs of underage sex workers.

"Then law enforcement didn't know where to look and had to start again," Berhow said. Now the state task forces are monitoring multiple sites, some regional and some Minnesota specific.

Sex traffickers can be women, and recent arrests and convictions in Minnesota have included a high school cheerleader and honor roll student, a college student at a prestigious private college in St. Paul, and a mother pimping out her pre-teen daughter.

The longest sentence for sex trafficking in Minnesota was 40 years, and this went to a man who targeted children with disabilities who worked in concert with other family members, who received sentences of up to 20 years. This man once drove a non-cooperating victim up to Ely and abandoned them there.

Those involved in recruiting victims often were also once victims themselves, creating ongoing cycles of abuse.

#### Education

Education is seen as a key to reducing trafficking, and the recommendations for tribal nations are similar to that for the state as a whole.

"We need to teach kids to be safe on the internet," they both said. "We need to ensure safe housing for

homeless, runaway, and pregnant youth. We need to equip tribal police with what they need to investigate networks of sex buyers and gang-related operations."

Developing networks among enforcement communities at the tribal, regional, and state level is essential, they said, as well as sharing of information and resources.

"These cases can take years to investigate," Lambrecht said. While tips of abuse are essential, most of these never lead to an arrest. "Maybe 300 tips will lead to five cases." These cases are complicated, they said, and they also require a victim willing to testify.

#### What to do, where to learn more

Your Call MN (https://yourcallmn.org) is an online resource with information for the general community, tribal communities, and businesses like hotels. This site also has links to state and nationwide resources.

To report suspected trafficking, call 877-996-6222 or text "help" to 233733, or simply call 911 to get connected to local or state resources.

The state of Minnesota defines sex trafficking as receiving, recruiting, enticing, harboring, providing, or obtaining by any means an individual to aid in the prostitution of the individual OR receiving profit or anything of value, knowing, or having reason to know it is derived from a commercial sex act. The federal definition is slightly different and includes sex acts when it is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

sexually abused by older children.

She was kicked out her home at 16, and she ended up finding family where she could.

"It meant opening up my legs," she said. She became addicted to drugs and "found evil there." She also began recruiting other women.

"I became the exploiter," she said. "It was the only way I knew to get power back."

Survivors of exploitation and abuse don't know what normal is, she said. "We seek out what we know."

Even recovering from trafficking has its own challenges, noted Granda, as survivors are often asked to talk about their experiences. She said many end up being employed by organizations fighting such abuse, but then are required to speak on their personal experience

"We need to pay them to have time to heal," she said. "We need to stop the same trauma the pimps were doing to us." Many in the "safe harbor" movement who are former sex workers say they don't have a choice and end up in some sort of survival sex relationship because they can't support themselves just on the salary from being an advocate.

Granda said she spent time working in the state

"Traffickers are not always men and often do not use physical abuse or force."

They described traffickers as "master manipulators." Often the victims are not physically restrained from leaving, and traffickers have found other ways to keep control of these girls and make them think they don't have the option to leave.

"It can happen to anybody at any age," Lambrecht said. "They are promised things of value like food, money, drugs, shelter, gift cards, or higher status in a gang. It is a grooming process.'

Berhow said they are finding children who've been contacted in chat rooms on video games like Roblox or Fortnight, where someone posing as another child will have them contact them through another, less trackable, chat site, and then try to befriend that child.

This is happening to both girls and boys, they said.

"We are seeing an increase in young male athletes being abused," Berhow said. Perpetrators are finding enough personal information on high school athletes on social



#### FEBRUARY 25 EVENTS AT MINNESOTA NORTH COLLEGE VERMILION CAMPUS

Meet the teams 3-5 p.m. Musher dinner 4-7:30 p.m., Public is welcome, tickets \$10 at the door

#### FEBRUARY 26 EVENTS AT ELY SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Teams hit the race trail starting at 9 a.m. Enjoy warming fires, hot chocolate, coffee, and a bakery item compliments of MIDCO from 8-10 a.m.



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# **'Streaks catch Ely on a slow night** Wolves improve to 18-4 after taking two of three on the week

GIRLS BASKETBALL

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

ELY – The Timberwolves had an off-night against one of the section's toughest teams and it resulted in an 80-69 Left: Ely's Madeline Perry goes up for a jumper in heavy traffic on Monday. photo by J. Greeney

loss to the Bluestreaks here on Monday night. The loss dropped the Wolves' season record to 18-4.

SPORTS

"We played pretty poorly defensively, but give credit to Chisholm, they shot the lights out of the ball," said Ely Head Coach Max Gantt. The game was close most of the way although Chisholm's

prowess at the charity stripe allowed them to pull away as Ely resorted to fouling in the final few minutes.

"We played a little too chaotically on offense," said Gantt. "Even so, I'm super proud of the way we never gave up, but when you give up 80 points, finding a way to win is tough."

Ely's Grace LaTourell led the Wolves Monday night, pouring in 23 points and grabbing ten rebounds for a double-double. "And Clare Thomas played an exceptional game off the bench and really kept us in it at times with her 15 points," said Gantt. "This

See WOLVES...pg. 2B

BOYS BASKETBALL



# **BOYS BASKETBALL** Another Chiabotti hits 1,000

Senior guard Brenden explodes for 50 points in Grizzlies' win

by DAVID COLBURN

Above: Brenden Chiabotti does in for a lavup er to a 50-point night to lead the **Grizzlies over Littlefork-Big** Falls.



# Wolves pound Giants

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

ELY- The Timberwolves improved to 16-5 on the season here last Friday as they pounded Mesabi East, 81-38. The Wolves took command from the tip-off, building a 48-17 lead by the break and never looked back.

Seniors Joey Bianco and Erron Anderson both notched double-doubles in the contest-Bianco with a game-leading 25 points and 13 assists, while Anderson poured in a career-high 17 points and added ten rebounds. Freshman Jack Davies and sophomore Caid Chittum added ten points apiece.

It was an impressive win that came as the Wolves were heading into their final, and perhaps toughest, two weeks of the regular season as three of their final five contests are against teams with winning records. They're set to host 12-8 Chisholm on Friday and hit the road next Tuesday to take on 13-7 Mt. Iron-Buhl. They'll be back home next Friday, Feb. 24 to host 12-7 South Ridge

Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- North Woods Grizzlies fans were treated to a rare spectacle at last Friday's Senior Night game against Littlefork-Big Falls, as senior guard Brenden Chiabotti ripped the nets for an electrifying 50 points and crossed the 1,000-point career mark while doing so.

At the outset, the contest was shaping up as a potentially close one, with LBF countering the Grizzles bucket for bucket to an 18-18 tie.

But then the illusion of a close game vanished, with Chiabotti doing much of the heavy lifting with the help of his teammates. This wasn't a case of players deliberately feeding Chiabotti the ball.Rather, he was repeatedly the

#### **Right: The Grizzlies' Jonah** Burnett goes up for a shot under heavy pressure.

photos by D. Colburn

right option to go to at the right time, and he delivered, hitting on 50 percent of his shots from the field and going eight-for-ten from the charity stripe. Chiabotti was often the beneficiary of the Grizzlies' relentless full court press and stalwart defense that collected 22 steals and forced 27 turnovers.

North Woods had already put the game out of reach by

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Grizzlies take two-of-three on the week

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods girls sandwiched a pair of beatdowns around a hard-fought loss in this week's hoops action.

A road trip to play Fond du Lac last Friday gave the Grizzlies the opportunity to try out everything in their playbook and then some against the overmatched Ogichidaag, scoring an 86-22 win. North Woods dominated from the opening tip, as Fond du Lac

The Grizzlies' River Cheney and Hannah Kinsey team up to block out a Mesabi East player on Monday.

photo by D. Colburn

didn't have the personnel to match the Grizzlies in height, speed, or talent. North Woods led this one 52-7 at the half.

Nine Grizzlies scored on the night, led by Brynn Chosa's 19 points. Hannah Kinsey had 18, followed by Kiana LaRoque with 13.

See NW GIRLS...pg. 2B



# NORDIC SKIING State meet

# set for this week

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

GIANTS RIDGE – Hundreds of the state's top Nordic skiers were set to compete in the state tournament here beginning on Wednesday, although results from the two-day event weren't going to be available until late Thursday, well after the Timberjay's weekly presstime.

The Ely girls Nordic team is set to compete after placing second at the Section 7 meet last week.

The meet includes a team sprint competition, which was set to be held on Wednesday as an unusual winter storm, which first brought rain and then snow to the area, was winding down. The rainfall, highly unusual in the region in February, was likely to complicate ski conditions.

Conditions should be improved by Thursday, when the pursuit competition, which includes both classic and freestyle portions, is held. Among the skiers to watch is Ely senior Zoe Devine, who finished first in the sectional meet and is expected to be at or near the top of the field during Thursday's competition. The Timberjay will be posting results online at www. timberjay.com, once available.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

# Loss of health coverage a new threat for many

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

#### REGIONAL-COVID cases, hospitalizations and deaths remain low across the state, but another threat from the fading pandemic is looming over thousands of Minnesotans- loss of

their Medicaid health insurance

benefits At the outset of the pandemic in 2020, Congress extended protection to millions of low-income American families by guaranteeing their Medicaid assistance would continue as long as the federal emergency first declared by then President Donald Trump was in effect. Trump and President Joe Biden continued to extend the emergency through 2022.

As a result of economic conditions related to the pandemic and the continuous enrollment provision, enrollment in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program grew by nearly 20 million people from February 2020 to September 2022, reaching 90.9 million.

But Congress axed the continuous enrollment provision for Medicaid recipients in December, and Biden is set to let the national state of emergency lapse in May, jeopardizing health care for as many as 15 million current Medicaid recipients, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

High-end estimates suggest up to 375,000 Minnesotans could lose their medical assistance benefits, and perhaps as many as 6,000 of the roughly 46,000 Medicaid recipients in St. Louis County. Scenarios developed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services place the statewide range between 200,000 and 375,000 for initial removal from the program beginning July 1.

But many of those initially deemed ineligible could be found to be eligible and regain their coverage, making the final net loss in the range of 100,000 to 281,000 enrollees.

Over the next 12 months, county officials who administer the state's program locally will have to recheck the eligibility of all 1.5 million Medicaid recipients in Minnesota. Those who don't meet income-eligibility guidelines will lose their health insurance, at least temporarily.

"This is the kind of work that our counties have done forever. They recertify people for Medicaid every month, all the time," Minnesota Department of Human Services Commissioner Jodi Harpstead said this week. "But this time it is a higher volume. We've gotten as ready as we can."

Gov. Tim Walz has asked the Legislature to allocate \$22.8 million for additional staffing and contracts with non-profit organizations to make sure those who are eligible can keep their benefits.

Those who lose Medicaid benefits because they're earning too much could qualify for MinnesotaCare, a health insurance subsidy program for people who can't afford private insurance.

#### **COVID** data

COVID indicators in St. Louis County and the state were at the lowest levels since the initial downturn of the pandemic in the summer of 2021 in early February, according to data reported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, but those numbers could rise with the increasing encroachment of the highly contagious XBB.1.5 variant.

The most recent seven-day case average for St. Louis County of 15.6 is the lowest since July 2021, the month prior to the onset of the Delta wave of the pandemic. CDC data indicated a 24-percent drop in cases from Jan. 29-Feb. 4 to 121. The Minnesota Department of Health has discarded case counts as a primary indicator of COVID viral activity due to the widespread use of home testing, the results of which aren't generally reported to health authorities and therefore result in an undercount of actual COVID cases.

A more reliable measure, hospitalizations, also remain low in the county, with only 16 admissions during that period. Only four percent of ICU beds were occupied by COVID patients, and only one COVID-related death was reported.

As already seen in the eastern and southern portions of the U.S., those indicators could rise as the XBB.1.5 variant comprises a greater portion of the COVID variants circulating in the state.

In the five-state region of which Minnesota is a part, the XBB.1.5 variant has grown from 36.4 percent of cases to 60.4 percent in the past two weeks. And wastewater sampling of COVID viral load in the Twin Cities last week revealed that XBB.1.5 represented 75 percent of the strains identified.

While the University of Minnesota statewide wastewater sampling data isn't broken down by individual variants, it still indicates an increasing risk in St. Louis County. The presence of COVID virus in their sampling of wastewater systems in northeast Minnesota has increased by 50 percent in the last month and ten percent in the last week.

While research has shown that the bivalent COVID boosters introduced last September aren't any more effective in increasing overall immunity than the original COVID vaccine, a new study published last week confirmed that it is effective against the XBB.1.5 variant. While the variant is the most effective yet at avoiding protections acquired through vaccinations or prior infection, its overall effects are milder, and immunization with the booster significantly reduces the possibilities of severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths.

## HOCKEY Ely slips to Moose Lake on senior night

by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

ELY- It was senior night last Friday for the Ely Timberwolves, but the pregame exuberance wasn't enough to allow Ely to notch a win in their final home game of the regular season.

Instead, the Moose Lake Rebels skated to a 3-2 victory at the Ely Ice Arena.

At least the Wolves made the Rebels work for it. Since the winter break, Ely

has displayed the effects of hard work and increasingly effective teamwork on the ice and it's allowed them to win games with a regularity the team hasn't experienced in years.

Even in their loss, they put an impressive 49 shots on goal, split almost evenly between the three periods. In comparison, Moose Lake sent the puck toward the net only 21 times.

The Wolves were hampered, however, by the absence of one of their leading scorers, junior Drew Marolt, who was out with an injury.

Ely's first goal was by junior Deegan Richards with an assist from junior Tommy Homer. They wouldn't score again until the final minutes, when senior Logan Loe lit the light with assists from Alex Merriman and Richards. Moments later, Ely pulled the goalie to add a third forward in an intense effort to tie and turn the

game as the clock ran down. The effort was riveting for the Ely and Moose Lake fans alike as the possibility of a turnaround hung over the Ely Ice Arena. It wasn't to be, however, as Moose Lake held on for the win.

**Right: Junior Wes** Sandy steals the puck during Ely's game with the Moose Lake Rebels.

photo by C. Clark



#### NW GIRLS..Continued from page 1B-

The Giants of Mesabi presented a much greater challenge on Monday, although neither team experienced much success in a first half full of turnovers and missed shots. The Grizzlies trailed early but came back to take the lead on a trey by Chosa, 16-15. But Mesabi East recovered and ended the half on a  $12\mathchar`-4$ 

the half.

North Woods came out fast in the second stanza, getting a pair of free throws from Kinsey, a trey from River Cheney, and a deuce from Helen Koch to narrow the gap to 29-27, and a Kinsey pull-up jumper at the 13:40 mark gave the Grizzlies a 32-31 lead. Kinsey picked up her

went to the bench a short time later, taking away the team's tallest defensive weapon against the Giants' inside game. But the Grizzlies responded well with Kinsey out of the game, and still held the lead when she came back in with 5:56 remaining. Kinsey's stay was a short one, as she fouled out just

With that, the Giants repeatedly dumped the ball down to 6'0" Marta Forsline, who scored nine of her game-high 31 points down the stretch as the Grizzlies' scoring machine stalled. Mesabi East pulled away in the closing minutes for a 65-53 win.

Koch led the Grizzlies in scoring with 16, followed Cheney with 10.

The Grizzlies were on the home court again on Tuesday against Greenway, and North Woods played a solid all-around game to come away with a 67-51 win. Game stats were not available as of press time.

The Grizzlies were scheduled to travel to Ely on Thursday for a rematch

squeaked out a 64-61 win in their Jan. 5 game. The Grizzlies will wrap up the regular season next week with a home game Tuesday against Littlefork-Big Falls and a Friday road game at Floodwood.

16 seconds later.

Kinsey with 12 and against the Wolves, who

#### GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

halftime with a stunning 79-point performance while holding LBF to 34, making Chiabotti's pursuit of 1,000 points the only drama left to play out. He put that exclamation point on the story with a basket at the 13:46 mark of the second half, with the game pausing for him to receive congratulations from his teammates, family and fans.

The *Timberjay* caught up with Chiabotti after the Grizzlies polished off the 115-68 win and asked him how he felt passing 1,000 points with a 50-point performance.

"It feels great," he said, "You know, my brother did it. My dad did it. Almost everyone in my family did it. So, I had to join them. I couldn't do it without my teammates. They were all looking for me tonight. They made it easy."

But Chiabotti has also made a mark in the assist department as one of the team's better passers, and that's something he's proud of, too.

"I'd rather have 1,000 assists than 1,000 points, that's for sure," he said.

Head Coach Andrew Jugovich summed up Chiabotti's performance.

"Best game that he's played all year running the floor, taking the good shots and not just forcing up threes, attacking the rim, getting the and-ones and finishing those layups," Jugovich said.

The coach wasn't as happy that his team gave up 68 points in the contest, stressing that they need to play better defense, but overall is pleased with how they're coming along at this point in the season.

"We're coming along at the right time, everyone's moving the ball, everyone's shooting well, and we're having fun," he said. "With

#### **WOLVES..**Continued from page 1B

game will hopefully get us ready for the end of the year where every game matters a ton and is basically a playoff game."

Monday's disappointment came on the heels of back-to-back Ely victories last Thursday and again on Saturday.

Over the weekend, the Wolves' defense kept the Polar Bears at bay as they topped Floodwood, 49-29. "We played great team defense," noted Gantt. LaTourell had another strong night, leading all scorers with 16 points. Hannah Penke had 10

points and contributed with focused defensive play as well. Madeline Perry had 12 points, 3 steals, and 3 assists. "She was also incredible on the defensive end," said Gantt. "Our whole team played solid defense and took care of a very patient and well coached Floodwood team. Maizy Sundblad gave us a good spark off the bench in the first half with two three-pointers as well."

Playing last Thursday in Aurora, LaTourell was nearly unstoppable as she poured in 30 points to lead the Wolves to a 58-49 win over the Giants."We played great team defense and took care of the ball. Sarah Visser had 13 rebounds for us, along with some great help on defense. Clare Thomas, Madeline Kallberg, and Zoe Mackenzie all did really nice jobs battling their bigs inside on the defensive end."

The Wolves were set to host North Woods on Thursday as the regular season winds down. They'll host Cherry on Tuesday and South Ridge next Friday in the regular season finale.

my age, I see them all as little brothers. We're a family, and it was a learning curve at the beginning. But I'm very happy to see how far we've come from the beginning of the year."

Chiabotti's big night overshadowed another

Teres.

stellar performance by Jonah Burnett, who tallied 31 points for the game. Jared Chiabotti was the other North Woods player in double figures with 13.

#### l'Falls crushed

The Grizzlies traveled to International Falls on Monday and put an even bigger beatdown on their hapless hosts, breezing past the century mark again, 119-47. Game stats were not available before press time.

#### Memories of the Early Days A fascinating look back at the early history Back By Popular of the Lake Vermilion area Demand! Written by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay VERMILION A Regional Favorite nories of the Early Days STOP IN TODAY OR CALL ... lust + Tax Don't miss your chance 100 Historica to own Lake Vermilion's most Photographs. definitive history! Pick up book(s) at Timberjay office in Tower or have book(s) mailed, for \$39.95 each. The Timberjay P.O. Box 636, 414 Main St Tower, MN 55790 • 218 753 2950 **BOOK ORDER FORM** Quantity of Books -Name Address\_ City\_ State\_\_\_ \_ZIP Code\_ I'el.# Credit Card Information VISA MC DISCOVER Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_CVV\_ Billing address if different from above -Book Total - Pick Up 829.95 + tax (\$32.16) Book Total - Mail \$39.95 Total charged to credit card 🖇 \_\_\_\_\_ Paid by check 💲 \_\_\_\_\_ Check #\_\_\_\_\_ Pick Up \_\_\_\_ Mail

#### **GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP**

# Town board meeting public comment changes denied

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- The Greenwood Town Board, Tuesday, denied a request from resident Lee Peterson to move public comments at the meeting to the top of the agenda.

"The public can't comment on approving the agenda, minutes, claims, payroll, and treasurer's report," he said. "I see no need to move it," said Board Chair Sue Drobac. "Those things are the board's work. I don't see that residents should have to comment on those things."

Peterson stated that residents "definitely should" be able to add corrections and note any ommissions.

Supervisor Rick Stoehr wondered if the board could try the move on a trial basis, but Drobac said, "I don't see any reason to."

The board took no action on

the request.

Peterson said, "That's enough for me, it's a tragedy to me," and then stood up and left the meeting.

Public comment used to be at the end of the agenda after the board had discussed both old and new business, but had been moved up to right after the approval of the agenda and acceptance of the board's reports.

#### 2024 budget and levy

The board voted to propose a \$150,000 levy to the voters who attend the annual meeting on March 14. The proposed budget, prepared by John Bassing with help from interim clerk JoAnn Bassing and interim treasurer Jeff Maus, sets township spending at \$323,980, down from the 2023 budget of \$360,785.

The 2023 budget included one-time revenue from the American Rescue Plan Act, most of which has been set aside for future broadband projects.

The 2024 budget does include a \$60,000 contribution to the township's capital replacement fund, and a \$43,000 contribution to the fire department equipment fund. The 2024 budget does not have a line item amount for the Tower Ambulance subsidy or EMS pension.

The budget worksheet showed an anticipated balance of \$644,683 at the end of 2023, and an anticipated balance of \$504,702 at the end of 2024.

Township levies in 2012-2014 were over \$450,000, but were dropped significantly lower starting in 2015. Levies the past six years have been set at \$150,000, as the township slowly lowers township reserves to a more reasonable level.

#### Ambulance subsidy indemnification

The town board appears to be sticking with its insistence on the inclusion of the indemnity language in the ambulance subsidy agreement.

"We give them money as a gift," said John Bassing. "We are not part of their business."

Bassing also said the city was delinquent in making their transfer miles payment to the subsidy account, because of the ambulance's poor financial condition.

"They breached the contract just like they did in 2021," he said. "They could have transferred the money from their general fund."

The board discussed sending a letter to the Tower City Council, asking for an explanation of why they won't accept the language that Greenwood is demanding.

"We need to start communicating with them," said interim treasurer and Fire Chief Jeff Maus.

"Nothing has changed on our side," said Drobac.

#### **Other business**

In other business the board: ➤ Heard the town hall water supply is again basically arsenic-free, after the installation of a new filtration unit. The board also is doing the required maintenance on the water softener.

➤ Approved a \$100 donation to the Tower-Soudan Historical Society.

➤ Approved a \$500 donation to the Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board and appointed Jim "Jet" Galonski as the township representative.

➤ Approved sending flowers to First Responder Krystal Strong, who is recovering from an injury. Strong is one of the department's top two responders on medical calls.

➤ Convened a meeting immediately after the regular meeting to perform the township's annual Board of Audit.

#### **Obituaries and Death Notices**

#### **Mark Leustek**

Mark Leustek, 53, of Ely, died on Monday, Jan. 30, 2023. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. Arrangements are with Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his mother, Cissy; brother, Aaran (Vicki); Aaran's children, Nathan (Ashley) and their son Ronan and baby girl due in three weeks, Nicolette, Patrick and Preston (Kristine); aunts, Candy, Geraldine, Patsy and Mary; uncles, Tim and Joe Thompson; numerous cousins and friends.

#### Henry Goodsky Jr.

Henry "Hank" "Whiz" Goodsky Jr., 82, of Nett Lake, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, at his home. The family would like to thank all the nurses at Cook and Virginia for taking such good care of him. A wake was held on Tuesday, Feb. 14, and a Traditional Service was held on Wednesday, Feb. 15, both at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center in Nett Lake. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Hank was born in Nett Lake to Henry Sr. and Helen (Burnside) Goodsky. He attended Orr High School, and shortly after joined the Marine Corps in 1959. He honorably served his country for four years, and then another two years in the Marine Corps Reserves. After his service, he went to UMD, earning his Bachelor Degree in CD Counseling. He went on to teach at UMD as a CD counselor and as a teacher in Ojibwe culture. After leaving teaching, he became a carpenter, working for many companies; Bois Forte being his last before he retired.

In his younger years, Hank enjoyed duck hunting and ricing and was an avid basketball and softball player. He enjoyed bowling and loved to bring his kids with him to bowl. Hank loved to attend Pow Wows and often would MC and sing at the gatherings. In later years, he enjoyed watching the game show network, and was a dedicated fan of the Vikings and the Twins.

Hank enjoyed laughing and making people laugh, and he liked to flirt with women. Hank's most treasured moments were time spent with his family and grandchildren. He was a lovable and adorable man; he will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his children, Leon (Yvonne) Goodsky, Lana (Vincent Ellis) Goodsky, Tammy Strong, Natalie Goodsky, Brandon (Nicole) Benner, Trasi Porter-Goodsky, Kelly King and Erica Johnson; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews; and the Barto family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; infant daughter, Karen Goodsky; brother, Gene Goodsky; sisters, Alma Lumbar and Bonnie Guenthner; and grandson, Dillon Goodsky Sr.

#### Jeremy M. Hoagland

Jeremy Marck Hoagland, 47, of Virginia, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023. A wake was held on Thursday, Feb. 9, and a Traditional Service was held on Friday, Feb. 10, both at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center in Nett Lake. Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his lifelong partner, Oneka Wilkerson of Orr; mother,

Rhonda Hoagland of Nett Lake; brothers, Joseph Hoagland (Ruth Porther) of Nett Lake, Jacque Love of Rush City and Juan Love of Virginia; sister, Renika Love of Minneapolis; sister/cousin, Toni Wakemup; children, Justin Wilkerson of Fayal Township, Audriana Cook and Jordaan Wilkerson, both of Alabama, LaShae Brooks of Wisconsin, Marcus Hoagland and Malcolm Hoagland, both of Orr; 13 grandchildren; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

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#### New 2023 Style releases arriving daily





Vermilion Country School would like to thank the Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board and the Tower Fire Department Relief Assocation for their generous donations used to purchase two ping pong tables for use by our students. They are already being put to good use!



**Superior Fuel** is now offering service maintenance plans for fuel oil and propane appliances. Plans are available for as little as \$1 a day for homeowners and commercial businesses in Ely and surrounding areas.

#### **PLAN BENEFITS**

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#### THINKING OF SPRING

# **Region faces elevated spring flood risk**

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL-The North Country is facing the prospect of more flooding this spring, although an unusually limited amount of frost in the ground this winter could allow more of the melting snowpack to work its way into the ground. That should help the region avoid the major flooding that hit the area last spring.

As of this week, the National Weather Service (NWS) office in Duluth is reporting an elevated risk of minor spring flooding in the months ahead. As of this week, a NWS gauge in Duluth reported just four inches of frost in the ground, a far cry from the several feet of frost that is more typical of a northern Minnesota winter. But mild temperatures and early heavy snow helped keep frost from penetrating the ground, according to NWS meteorologist Bryan Howell.

Most other indicators, however, are pointing to an above average risk of spring flooding.

Most of the snow that's fallen across the region this winter came with temperatures hovering around the freezing mark, which meant the snow had a higher moisture content than is typical.

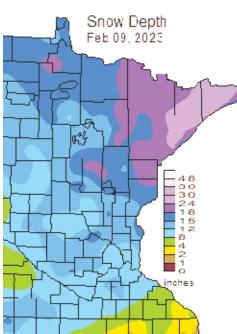
In much of northeastern Minnesota, the water content in the snowpack ranges from the 70th-100th percentile, with estimates ranging from 2-8 inches of water content. That's actually somewhat higher than the water content in the snowpack last year at this same point in the winter.

That was before this week's storm, which added more than half an inch of liquid precipitation equivalent to the snowpack across most of the region - an exceptionally wet storm for mid-February in northern Minnesota.

Wetter storms, with increased amounts of mixed precipitation, have been a trend in northern Minnesota in recent years, and are a likely signal of the changing climate. Climate scientists have noted that warmer air holds more water vapor, allowing for heavier precipitation than was typical **Right: The most recent** snow depth map shows 18-30 inches of snow on the ground across the region. But the snowpack contains an unusually high amount of water as well.

#### in the past.

While mid-winter this year had been relatively dry in much of northern Minnesota, that trend appears to be changing. In addition to this week's sloppy snowfall, both the 6-10 and 8-14 day outlooks call for above average snowfall. The 90-day (Feb.-Apr.) outlook also calls for above average precipitation. A similar pattern beginning last year at this time prompted historic flooding in parts of the region.



# POLLUTION IMPACTS More on fish and PFAS

'n our Jan. 27 edition, I reported on a recent study in L the journal Environmental Research that linked higher levels of chemicals known as PFAS and PFOS in human blood to the regular consumption of freshwater fish.

These chemicals, which are slowly being phased out by most product manufacturers in the U.S., including Minnesotabased 3M, have been slowly accumulating in our environment ever since they came into widespread use in the 1950s. In more recent years, we've come to better understand their danger to

public health.

more than one meal per month of common locally-caught fish, such as walleye, northern pike, bass, or lake trout. Fish that feed lower on the food chain, like perch, sunfish, whitefish, and stream trout, can safely be eaten once a week according to the DOH.

For males over age 15 and women who don't plan to become pregnant, the DOH recommends no more than one meal per week of walleye, northern pike, or bass.

These are statewide recommendations which don't take into account the fact that there are significant dif-

ferences in the levels of PFAS and PFOS in fish depending on The study was concerning, the lake. In general, it appears

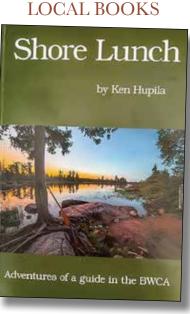
MARSHALL

**HELMBERGER** 



While eating freshwater fish, like walleye, can contribute to higher levels of PFAS and PFOS in humans, current guidance suggests the levels are low enough to safely consume one meal per week for most adults, and one meal per month for children and women who are pregnant or may become pregnant.

its own guidance for PFAS graphic included in the recent and PFOS, which is both more study showed fish tested from a specific but in a way not as handful of northern Minnesota helpful. According to guidlakes had PFAS or PFOS in the ance they've issued, you can 1,000-10,000 parts per trillion eat an unrestricted amount of range. That's pretty low and fish if it contains less than 10 would mean you could eat fish micrograms/kilogram of these from lakes in our region without chemicals, two meals per week much concern about PFAS if it contains between 10-20 mg/ and PFOS. But the testing also kg, no more than one meal per found that contamination levels week if it contains 20-50 mg/kg, varied quite a bit in different and no more than one meal per water bodies and different species of fish. It would be nice month if it contains 50-200 mg/ kg. Any fish with over 200 mg/ to know with some certainty, kg of PFOS and PFAS should which is what more testing not be eaten. could provide. That would all be helpful When we're talking about information if we only knew fish and fishing, there's a lot at the level of PFAS or PFOS in stake for Minnesota, and particthat walleye we just caught. ularly northeastern Minnesota. That's why we have argued If those who enjoy catching and for more lake-specific testing, eating fish can continue to do so in our region with relative particularly from some of the state's most popular fishing peace of mind, that would be lakes. There's reason to believe good news, indeed. that the fish caught in lakes like Vermilion is relatively low in PFAS and PFOS. Indeed, a



# Ken Hupila recounts his years as a **BWCA guide**

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

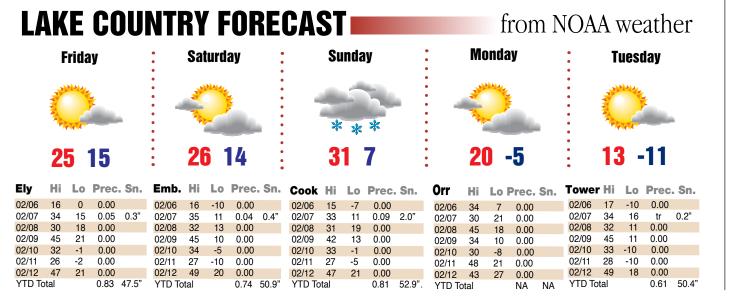
REGIONAL- After more than three decades as a wilderness guide in the Boundary Waters, Ken Hupila has more than a few stories and thoughts to share, and you can get a taste in his most recent book, 'Shore Lunch, Adventures of a guide in the BWCA," recently published by the Ely Echo. Wilderness guiding is a long, long tradition, notes Hupila in his introduction. Long before European settlement, fur traders used native guides to make their way through the labyrinth of lakes and rivers that make up the Canadian Shield. Hupila dedicates the book to his father, who worked summers as a Boundary Waters guide himself back in the 1930s and 40s, leading guests from his own father's resort. For the younger Hupila, following in his father's footsteps just came naturally. Hupila leaves little doubt but that summers spent guiding in the wilderness offer plenty of variety, including getting up close and personal with people from everywhere and all walks of life. And 95 percent of them were great people, according to Hupila, including the ones he had doubts about at the beginning. Hupila presents his stories in short vignettes, usually accompanied by a few color photos. Hupila, who spent his professional career as an educator at the Ely High School, took up photography in a serious way back in 2001 and he's shown a talent for it over the years. Anyone with an interest in exploring the canoe country and who has ever wondered what the life of a wilderness guide might be like, it's worth looking for "Shore Lunch' next time you find yourself in Ely. We couldn't find a price listed anywhere in the book, but it's a paperback so odds are you can afford it.

and we followed it up with an editorial the following week urging better guidance from state health officials about the levels of PFAS in fish in Minnesota lakes. We do know that Minnesota lakes, including those here in northern Minnesota, contain these chemicals, which don't break down naturally.

Since then, I've learned more about the issue and it turns out the Minnesota Department of Health is now providing some general guidance on the safe consumption of fish from Minnesota lakes based on typical levels of contaminants like mercury and PFAS and PFOS.

Those recommendations vary somewhat, depending on the circumstances of an individual. For pregnant women, women who could become pregnant, or children under age 15, the DOH recommends no that inland lakes in northern Minnesota have lower levels of PFAS and PFOS than in other parts of the state, which is encouraging up to a point. Lake Superior, and the rest of the Great Lakes, are known to have higher levels of these chemicals than many other lakes and that's prompted another recent health advisory, for the rainbow smelt that many Minnesotans net along the shores of Lake Superior in the spring. The states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan have all issued advisories recommending no more than one meal per month of these small fish, which for reasons unknown appear to accumulate PFOS more readily than other fish.

It should be noted that another organization, the Great Lakes Consortium for Fish Consumption Advisories, which is made up of all the Great Lakes states, has issued





## **EMPLOYMENT**



#### COME JOIN OUR TEAM! Waschke Family Chevrolet is currently seeking an Auto Body Technician and an Automotive EAMILY DRIVEN Detailer. Stop in and apply in per-son 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

#### **Behavioral Health Outpatient Therapist** Closes: 03/01/2023

Position Purpose: Responsible for providing outpatient mental health therapy services within the Behavioral Health unit, to support status as a National Health Service Corp (NHSC) approved site. Perform diagnostic assessments, develop treatment plans, and conduct psychotherapy for children, adolescents and adults in a manner that is both culturally sensitive and appropriate utilizing the proper psychotherapeutic techniques.

#### **Excellent Benefits:**

Medical & Dental- Free • Annual leave • Sick leave • 401k match • 15 paid holidays • Flex plan • Basic Life Insurance • LTD • Voluntary benefits available by payroll deductions

Website Address: https://boisforte.com/jobs/

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 10, 17 & 24, 2023

**POSITION OPENING** 

**Ely Public Schools** 

Paraprofessional

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for

Paraprofessionals for the 2022-2023 school

> Associate's Degree/equivalent or complete a Para Pro exam with a passing score (www.

Preferred experience working with school

and communicate effectively in a collaborative

Paid sick leave, personal days and vacation

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

A complete application must include the fol-

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN

55731 or email lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us.

Contact the District Office for a complete job

Ability to perform job description duties

Evidence of ability to work cooperatively

year; background check required.

Qualifications include:

ets.org/parapro)

Benefits include:

PERA retirement

District Application

College Transcripts

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

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Flexible spending account

> 2 letters of recommendation

Starting Rate of Pay: \$17.23/hour

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description.

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email jay@piragis.com for more details and application process

#### Seasonal Retail Staff: Summer 2023

Full and Part-time positions available April-October. Flexible work schedule. Apply in-person, online application at www.piragis.com or send a resume to jay@piragis.com

#### **Customer Service Team**

30+ hours per week; seasonal, with potential for year-round. Duties include assisting customers over the phone, receiving merchandise, fulfilling orders, etc. Ideal applicants are self-motivated, organized, detail-oriented, and able to multi-task. For more information or to submit a resume, email orders@piragis.com, call (218) 365-6745, or stop by the store at 105 N Cèntrál Avenue. Í tfn

#### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

The Kabetogama Lake Association is seeking an Executive Secretary to provide administrative support to the Board of Directors. This is a year-round, part-time, partially remote position with administrative, financial, and marketing related duties.

The Executive Secretary is responsible for tracking lodge taxes and association expenses, paying invoices, preparing related finanreports, and other administrative tasks. Additionally, this role serves as a main point of contact for potential visitors seeking information about Kabetogama businesses and local activities.

For complete job description, please visit www.kabetogama.com/jobs or email your resume to jobs@kabetogama.com. Contact Sara with questions at 218-875-2001. tfn

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

State of Minnesota County of St. Louis District Court Probate Division 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court File No: 69VI-PR-23-15

Estate of Caroline Renee Skalski, aka Caroline R. Skalski and aka Renee Skalski, Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

is ordered and notice is given that on March 6, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. a hearing will be held in this Court at 300 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Virginia, Minnesota for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent,

Г

and for the appointment of Lisa Ann Jackson, whose address is PO Box 578, 17 Burton St., Buhl, MN 55713 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an Unsupervised administration

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

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within

#### \$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, weekend only) Casual Radiologic Tech (Independent Contractor)
- **Dietary**

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

#### TO APPLY: www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/ More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220 humanresources@cookhospital.org

The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits duding PERA retirement, Health and Dental covi age, Life and LTD

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Timberjay!

#### **Nurse Practitioner** Closes: 03/08/2023 Position Purpose: The Nurse Practitioner

provides diagnostic, preventative, and therapeutic health services to patients and fam-ily members at the Bois Forte and Vermilion Clinics; with the ability to function as an independent practitioner. The Bois Forte Health & Human Services and IHS goal is to raise Indian Health status to the highest possible level.

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**OPEN POSITIONS** 

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) PT Unit Clerk/HUC (Wage starting at \$17.79/hr. EMT and/or NA cert. required)

(Environmental Tech I) Housekeeping

and Laundry Aide (Wage starting at

\$15.03/hr, \$1,500 sign-on bonus) Casual Laundry Aide (Wage starting at

Laboratory FT Medical Lab Tech (Wage starting at

The Cook Hospital is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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\$15.03/hr)

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Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 10, 17, 24, and March 3, 2023

> four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: Feb. 3, 2023

BY THE COURT Andrew R. Peterson District Court Judge Turnquist, Amy Court Administrator Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner Angela Erickson Sipila Sipila Law Office LLC 412 1<sup>st</sup> St S Virginia, MN 55792 Attorney License No.: 024501x Telephone: 218-741-5000 Fax: 218-741-5000 Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 10 & 17, 2023

**Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Specialist** Closes: 03/01/2023

cial

Wages based on experience.

Deadline to apply: February 22, 2023; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 17, 2023

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP **BOARD OF AUDIT**

The Bearville Town Board of Audit will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Bearville Town Hall. This meeting will consist of auditing the books for the year ending December 31, 2022 and preparing proposed levies to submit to the Annual Town Meeting. All meetings are open to the public.

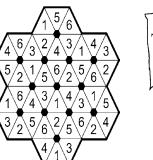
#### MARCH MEETING DATE CHANGE

The Bearville Town Board of Supervisors' March meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Bearville Town Hall.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk 218-376bearvilletownship@gmail.com 4495

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 10 & 17, 2023

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



Subscribe to the TIMBERJAY! Call 218-753-2950 **Position Purpose:** The Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Specialist will provide adult mental health rehabilitative services (ARMHS) services to support clients with a serious mental illness diagnosis in the form of instruction, support, and skill coaching either in the client's home or in the community. Services provided will strongly emphasize personal goal setting and developing strategies to achieve them, skill building, client advocacy, and connecting clients with community resources. The Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Specialist will enable the client to develop and enhance psychiatric stability, social competencies, per-sonal and emotional adjustment, independent living, and community skills when these abilities are impaired by the symptoms of mental illness.

#### **Excellent Benefits:**

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Website Address: https://boisforte.com/jobs/

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 10, 17 & 24, 2023



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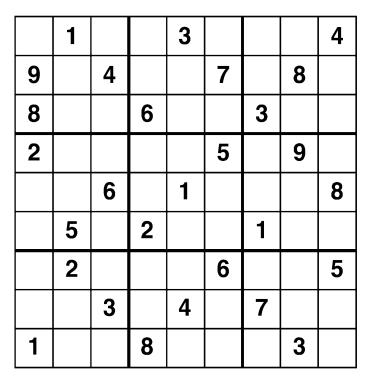
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ELWES

XANAX

# Weekly SUDOKU

## by Linda Thistle



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

## DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ••



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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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LAWN CARE BUSINESS FOR

SALE- On Lake Vermilion. Call with questions, 218-750-4510.

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3/10

(NOMELTURE)

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.

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DAY CAMP AT THE FARM

registration is open! See www.

cookscountryconnection.com

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3

for details! 2/24

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Industrial Lumber

• Trim

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#### HAIR CARE

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

#### HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their fami-lies 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.

TOPS- Meetings every Monday at 4:45 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia.

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP-Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Al-Anon Family Group is a community-based mutual is a community-based mutual support program for the friends and families of alcoholics. It is confidential and open to any-one 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

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#### MARINE



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MARINE

**Centrally Located On** 

Lake Vermilion

Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage

# Super Crossword

#### ACROSS

43 Mob member 1 Soprano's 48 Adept last note, 49 "Entertaining perhaps Mr. Sloane' 6 Jordanians, playwright Joe e.g. 50 "Atlantic City" 11 Oscar winner director Louis Rockwell 14 Mazda model 52 Prefix with 19 NBA Hall of 33-Down Famer -53 Fellow soldier Thomas 55 Bird that travels to and 20 Tanzanian national park 22 "Burnt" or "raw" color 23 Bird from Richmond? 25 Trident, e.g. 26 Winter D.C hrs. 27 Fermented

Oscar

- from work? 58 Notable time 59 Potentially offensive, in brief 62 El — (certain current) 63 Stand for art 64 Bird wearing honey drink a hard hat? 28 Fashion's 69 Far — eye can see 71 Ending for de la -29 Patron switch
- 87 Some small DOWN batteries 88 In - (while not present at the event) 90 Bird performing under the big top? 92 Abbr. of fair hiring 93 Store clerk on "The Simpsons" 95 Business agt. 96 Peels the of skin off of 97 Bird that plays bebop? 103 Real admirer 104 German subs 105 Absorb a loss 106 "Sure, sign me up!"

108 The Gem

111 Mournful

State: Abbr.

1 Bees' place 37 Mo. in fall 2 Horned 41 Commotions Egyptian 42 Extremely goddess 3 Surrounded 43 Particles with a belt 4 Witch 5 Mythological fire-breather 44 Kitchen wrap 6 Korea's place 45 Result of 7 Peruse 8 Brow's shape 46 Toledo's lake 9 Catcher Yogi 47 Pack of coins 10 Be disdainful 50 2,002, in 11 Nose partition 12 Elite souad 51 Comeback to 13 1986-2001 54 Two wives of Earth orbiter 14 Feral horse 15 Drive along 56 En pointe, in 16 "That rings —" 57 Ranch in 17 "I love you,"

in Mexico

18 Symbol on a

#### ODD BIRDS 75 Aides: Abbr. 77 Spiteful types 78 Buckeye State sch. 79 Slugging stat 81 The Evil One 85 Mutt's threat 86 Pitching star 89 Fishers with seines, say 90 Dead skin at backcombing the base of a fingernail 91 Lycra, e.g. 93 "Trainwreck" director Judd 94 Word before jury or larceny 97 Betrayer of Jesus 98 "Take — out of crime!" 99 "— the Greek" 100 Big name in restaurant

2nd St. NE, Cook, at 7:00 pm Sunday. For information cal 218-666-2820 or 218-780-7670

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

MEETING OPEN AA Thursdays at 7 p.m. a 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 / PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give vourself a break. There is a way out with the help of othe recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous. We have been there. For meeting or othe information call 218-728-3199 (Narcotics Anonymous is non-profit organization.)

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS East Range meetings and infor mation, call 218-749-3387 o www.district8online.org.

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



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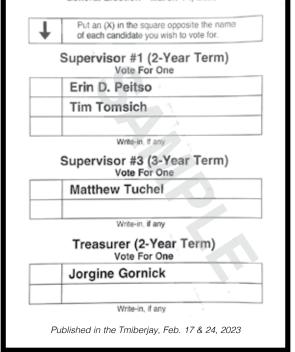
<ul> <li>associated with a "fire"</li> <li>30 A handful of</li> <li>31 Bird partially composed of element #56?</li> <li>33 In less peril</li> <li>36 Seek the affection of</li> <li>38 Archery asset</li> <li>39 Solo of sci-fi</li> <li>40 Bird that always</li> </ul>		f y 7 6? & set 8 fi 8	bolt 73 Cell material 76 Bird nesting in winter			<ul> <li>song</li> <li>112 Bird living in the Sistine Chapel?</li> <li>115 Being tried, as a case</li> <li>116 Movies' main stories</li> <li>117 Rub down</li> <li>118 Chairs, e.g.</li> <li>119 Waco-to- Austin dir.</li> <li>120 Cary of "Saw"</li> </ul>			, .w"	<ul> <li>a Symbol of a one-way sign 21 Wish-fulfilling spirits</li> <li>24 Innovative</li> <li>29 River in a Foster tune</li> <li>30 Flu symptom</li> <li>31 — -chic (fashion style)</li> <li>32 Will, biblically</li> <li>33 Part of NASA</li> <li>34 Shady shelter</li> </ul>			cry of sorrow 66 Relative of a univ. 67 Refuse to talk 68 Kimonos, e.g. 69 Out of port			1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2.g. 1 1 2.g. 1 1 2.g. 1	<b>113</b> Dir. 135			
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Town Election Ballot Town of Breitung General Election • March 14, 2023



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#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

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 Sixtyfour, 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 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 ΒY FOR REDEMPTION BY LAW MORTGAGORS, THE THE PERSONAL MORTGAGORS' REPRESENTATIVESORASSIGNS 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