

**Inside:** Firefighters respond... See /12 Winter sports... See /1B Lynx get more protection... See /4B Snowmobile Hot Spots...See /5B



# THE POLITICS OF GUNS



518 Billion Dollar Surplus Social Security Tax Cuts Other issues affecting

# opics: -Second Amendment Legislation our way of life on The Range

# Town hall raises concerns

# GOP sponsored event appears part of a movement to resist gun safety laws

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

ELY-ASecond Amendment town hall set for this Saturday in Ely sponsored by Rep. Roger Skraba, of Ely, and Sen. Nathan Wesenberg, of Little Falls, is raising questions about the intention of the forum, led by the two Republicans.

The event, set for 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. comes in the wake of the decision by the Itasca County Board to declare that county a "Second Amendment sanctuary."

The Itasca County action is part of a movement across the country under which some counties, states, and municipalities are declaring autonomy against enforcement of either state or federal gun laws, arguing that any restrictions on guns are unconstitutional. That's a position at odds with more than a century of legal rulings in the U.S. Nearly a dozen Minnesota

counties have already aligned themselves with the movement, with Itasca being the most recent to adopt a resolution announcing its unwillingness to enforce gun laws.

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

Leah Rogne, of Greaney, sees the GOP-sponsored effort as part of a campaign of scare tactics designed to motivate conservative voters. "The timing of the county resolution initiative and Second

See...TOWN HALL pg. 10



Left: Ashley Thaemert, of Cook, lets her team loose out of the gate during the six-dog race on Sunday. Thaemert took first in the six-dog class.

Below: Dogs wait impatiently in the pen for their turn to hit the trail.

photos by Summit

# JOINT POWERS

# Ambulance meeting goes off the rails

by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

ELY- "Nobody is agreeing with anybody," said Winton Mayor Marlene Zorman, the chairperson and Winton representative of the Ely Area Ambulance Joint Powers Board (EAAJPB) toward the end of an extraordinarily contentious meeting held here on Tuesday.

The meeting started off with typically sedate and routine sorts of business, like approving the minutes from the previous meeting and paying the ambulance service's bills of \$1070.63. But it soon devolved into a free-for-all as a disagreement over whether the new ambulance building would be renovated, expanded, or both.

The disagreement arose during discussion of a proposal from TKDA architects for an assessment of existing conditions at the purchased building as the first step in renovating the space. That's when Morse Township representative Bob Berrini announced that the \$1.3 million federal grant recently awarded to the city for renovations of the building, would mostly go toward the construction of a 30 x 50-foot expansion of the building. "We hired an architect when we drew up plans for \$1.3 million already,' said Berrini. "We're going to have to add on to the building with (an addition of) 30 by 50."



# Mushers take center stage

# O'Brien, Thaemert top the field in eight and six-dog classes

## by CATIE CLARK

Ely Editor ELY-Chilly morning temperatures and several inches of fresh snow on the trail only added to the excitement of race day here last Sunday, as mushers from across the country descended on Ely for this year's running of the WolfTrack Classic.

Mushers competed in both six-dog and eight-dog classes for prize money and bragging rights. Conditions and

times were similar to last year, and Ashley Thaemert, of Cook, was the repeat winner in the six-dog class, besting her 2022 time by 12 minutes. Heather O'Brien, of Cook, was the winner in the eight-dog class.

Six-dog teams ran a 30-mile course, mostly along the Taconite Trail, with a turnaround at Purvis Lake. Eight-dog teams ran a 50-mile course along the Taconite, with an

See...WOLFTRACK pg. 10



Ely clerk-treasurer Harold

See..AMBULANCE pg. 9

# LAKE VERMILION

# Hearing set on campground proposal

# Rustic tent camping development proposed near entrance to Black Bay

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

LAKE VERMILION-A proposal for a new rustic campground near the mouth of Black Bay will be up before the St. Louis County Planning Commission on Thursday, March 9.

A Minnesota nonprofit, known as Rough-N-It, Inc. is in the process of acquiring approximately 45 acres on a double-pronged, boat-access peninsula with the hopes of constructing a tent campground to allow disabled veterans or other groups to

have outdoor experiences in a wilderness-like setting. That's according to Christine Wryobek, who has filed applications with St. Louis County for a rezoning of the site and a conditional use permit.

As the non-profit's name

**Right: This double-pronged** peninsula at the entrance to Black Bay could be the new home of a rustic campground.

suggests, the camp, as proposed, would be rustic,

See...PROPOSAL pg. 9





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# **Community notices**

# Upcoming Mesabi Symphony Orchestra Concert Season kickoff canceled

REGIONAL - Due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances, the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra must cancel its upcoming concerts scheduled for March 4 in Virginia and March 5 in Ely.

If you have already purchased tickets:

➤ Refunds for on-line purchases have already been made.

➤ Season ticket holders have the option to receive a prorated refund, if desired, or can donate the single-ticket cost to the orchestra. Please contact Lisa Buckman at generalmanager@mesabisymphonyorchestra.org to request a refund.

➤ Complimentary passes will be good for the April concerts.

# Cook Auxiliary Health Care Thrift Shop regular hours begin in March

COOK - Beginning March 2, the Cook Auxiliary Health Care Thrift Shop will return to its regular hours. Shopping days are every Thursday and Friday, and the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. The shop is open from 9 a.m. -3 p.m. Donations can be dropped off at the shop during these open hours as well as on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. -1p.m. when volunteers are on site. Please do not leave donations outside if there is no one there to accept them. The thrift shop is located at 320 3rd St. SE. For updated information, visit Cook Area Healthcare Auxiliary Thrift Shop on Facebook.

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

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.

# 8th District MSHS 2023 scholarships applications due by March 15

REGIONAL - Several scholarships are available from the 8th District MN State Horticultural Society for 2023. An applicant must be a graduating senior residing or attending school in the 8th District or a nontraditional student, college student, second-time winner, etc. who will be attending a college or technical school within one calendar year; no restriction as to course or school. The acceptable counties in the 8th District include Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis.

The applicant must provide evidence of an interest and participation in horticultural/gardening activities, such as a home garden, organized group such as 4-H, Scouts, church or community gardens, or through their school. Applications must be received by March 15, 2023. The winning recipients will be invited to the 8th District MSHS Spring Meeting to be held May 20 in Virginia, hosted by the Cook and Embarrass Garden Clubs. Contact Jan Dzwonkowski by phone at 218-865-6018 or email jan\_dz@q.com for an application or for more information.

# Ladies and Knights of Kaleva March 9

VIRGINIA -The ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tup 32 and the Knights will meet at 6 p.m., at Kaleva Hall. The program will be Aarikka Jewelry. Sandra Markovich will highlight the history of the company, how it has evolved and its uniqueness. Please bring pieces of Aarikka jewelry or other products from the company if you have any. We would like people to share the beauty and distinctiveness of those 100-percent Finnish crafts. Coffee will be served. Everyone is welcome.

# Candidates in Greenwood running unopposed



Jeff Maus

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

G R E E N W O O D TWP- For the first time in many years, there are four candidates running for the four open seats on the Greenwood Town Board.

Interim clerk JoAnn Bassing and interim treasurer Jeff Maus have both filed for the positions they had been appointed to last year. Incumbent Paul Skubic has refiled for his supervisor seat, and John Bassing has filed for the seat currently held by Mike Ralston, who did not file.

# John Bassing

John Bassing, who is married to JoAnn, served a three-year term from 2015 - 2018, serving most of that time as the board chair. He subsequently ran for supervisor several times but lost by small margins. He has remained active in township affairs, working on the broadband committee, assisting with budget planning, and more recently chairing the ambulance committee. He has also been serving as deputy clerk.

"We have a big broadband project coming," he said. "It is going to happen."

But John said he wants to find ways to include the portions of the township that are not currently included in the area that received funding for the broadband project, including Isle of Pines and the Dells area.

John has also acted as the township's resource for budget planning for the last 10 years, he said.

"I am most proud of the year we had a one-dollar levy."

John has recommend-



John Bassing

ed keeping the levy at \$150,000 for 2024, and the board will bring this proposed levy to the annual meeting. Residents will vote on the levy at the annual meeting on March 14.

"Our township reserves are still at a good level," he said. "We've reduced our costs."

Other issues of importance to John are improving ambulance service and rebuilding the fire department.

# Paul Skubic

Incumbent Paul Skubic is running for his third term on the board. Along with Mike Ralston, he was often a dissenting voice against the current board majority, especially on topics relating to the fire department.

"We have to get the fire department back in order," said Skubic. "It is total chaos."

Skubic said the fire department would be his major focus. He said he wanted township residents not to have to worry about "us not having a department."

Skubic said he has enjoyed his time as a supervisor and wants to continue helping out the people in the area. Skubic works full-time in Biwabik as an equipment operator. In his free time, you may find him snowmobiling, his passion. He just returned from a 650-mile trip in Canada and on the Lake of the Woods.

# **JoAnn Bassing**

JoAnn Bassing just retired from her long-time career as a dentist, with offices in Chisholm and

Virginia. "I've been a dentist for 44-1/2 years,"



Paul Skubic

she said. She previously worked with her husband John, also a dentist, but John retired a few years ago.

"I'm not ready to completely retire," she said.

JoAnn said after serving as interim clerk she has seen how important the position is to keep the township running smooth-

"I've made so much progress getting things turned around," she said. "I just want to continue."

Coming into the office as interim, JoAnn said she "realized things were not being done the way they were supposed to."

JoAnn said the clerk plays crucial roles for the board and the citizens: getting information out to residents and board members; making sure meetings are posted properly; working cooperatively with residents; and working with election judges.

"We are lucky to have great election judges to work with," she said.

JoAnn said once she is settled into the position, she would like to create some internal control documents that specify duties for both the clerk and treasurer, so that when a new clerk or treasurer is elected, they know what to do.

"I walked in with nothing," she said. "I did a lot of learning on my feet." JoAnn said she did get help from current chair Sue Drobac, who had previously worked as clerk, but was also in the position of working with an interim treasurer, who was also new to the job.

JoAnn said the clerk's office will be posting regular office hours, as was done in the past, but the actual hours have not been



JoAnn Bassing

set yet.

## Jeff Maus

Jeff Maus, who is running for treasurer, said he has definitely made good progress after being appointed as interim treasurer.

"It's just working with numbers," he said. "That's my favorite part, step-by-step. I like that."

Maus said he has gained a much better understanding of the township's accounting software, and has been working with the Minnesota Association of Townships, as well as the state auditor's office, to get the township books back in order.

He also researched investment options for the township's reserves and found a much higher interest CD option at Frandsen Bank, which is now earning the township about \$11,300 a year, instead of the \$150 from keeping the money in a regular savings account.

"We need to be aware and be fiscally responsible," he said.

Another goal is correctly categorizing township spending, and not just recording items as miscellaneous. This will help with budgeting in the future, he noted.

"I hope people get out and vote," said Maus. "It is still important."

Maus is a longtime fire department member, First Responder, and now also serves as the township's fire chief.

Township elections are set for Tuesday, March 14. Polls are open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m., with the annual meeting to follow once voting is completed, at approximately 8:15 p.m.

# **GROWING SEASON**

# Spring Gardening Spectacular to take place March 8

MT. IRON - University of Minnesota and St. Louis County Extension will be conducting an educational event for all northern gardeners on March 8 at the Mt. Iron Community Center, 8586 Enterprise Dr. S. from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration begins at 9:15 a.m.

The "Mountain Iron Spring Gardening Spectacular" will feature professional horticulturists and commercial growers speaking on a wide range of topics including All American Plant Selections, Soil Fertility Essentials, Growing the New Colorful Cauliflowers, New and Favorite Annual and Perennial Flowers, Growing Apples, Pears and Plums, Growing Irish and Sweet Potatoes, and Controls for Recent Tomato Diseases.

In addition, there will be a growers' panel sharing some their best techniques for growing vegetables and flowers in northern Minnesota. Program content will be based on trials and re-

Cauliflowers, search performed by the avorite Annunnial Flowers, ern Minnesota.

> The cost of the program is \$25 per person which includes a light lunch, refreshments and program materials including the 2023 Vegetable and Fruit Variety Lists. For more information and to register follow the link, z.umn.edu/slcgarden or call 218-749-7120.





# BREITUNG

# **Township planning recreation improvement projects**

## by STEPHANIE UKKOLA Staff Writer

SOUDAN- The town board here is working on several projects to improve the safety, beauty, and enjoyment of outdoor recreation in Breitung Township.

At their regular meeting on Feb. 23, the board discussed a proposed Culture and Tourism Grant from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board which includes dock replacement at Stuntz Bay, replacing dock decking at McKinley Park, updates to the McKinley Park playground, which is currently in poor condition, the installation of a sound system and bullhorn, a large capacity canopy to replace the canopy that was destroyed last year, and replacing serving tables and picnic tables that are in poor condition.

The Stuntz Bay Association has committed \$7,500 towards the project. All together the estimated cost for these projects is \$60,000. The most expensive item on the ticket is \$23,000 to replace the playground, followed by \$14,800 for the Stuntz Bay dock, \$9,000 for picnic tables, \$7,200 for the large canopy, \$3,000 for the McKinley Park dock decking, \$2,000 for the sound system and bullhorn, and \$1,000 for serving tables. The project is to be completed by September 2023.

A \$30,000 match is required from the township, part of which is covered by the \$7,500 commitment from the Stuntz Bay Association. The Old Settlers Association, Stuntz Bay Association, Tower-Soudan Civic Club, and the Tower Soudan Events Board have written letters of support. The board passed a resolution to apply for the funding at the January meeting. IRRR should make a decision on the application in March or April.

## Also in recreation

➤ The board passed a resolution to apply for a DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant for improvements to the Soudan Park and Recreation Area including installing lighting from the hockey rink to the baseball field, replacing a damaged water line, planting trees at the wayside rest area, installing a disc golf course, updating playground equipment, and replacing the chain link fencing. Cost estimates are being updated.

➤ The McKinley Park bike trail project funding was approved to be extended until June 2024. Mesabi Bituminous is contracted to complete the project in September 2023. This project was \$61,000 over budget. The board made a resolution to apply to IRRR Regional Trails Grant Program for another grant to make up for the shortfall.

## **Thompson Farm Road**

Chairman Tomsich stated that he contacted Commissioner Paul McDonald to help mediate a land purchase from the county that has been in the works for years.

A small parcel of land near the Thompson Farm Road and the township's gravel pit is needed to move the Thompson Farm Road. The board had moved to purchase the lot in June 2021 after having the parcel surveyed and given a legal description. Since then, changes in staffing at the county have made the purchase difficult to complete.

➤ The board discussed a potential land trade with Wayne Kultala. Kultala owns a small triangular parcel of land located between the township's gravel pit and Highway 169. The land owned by Kultala is located near the planned Thompson Farm Road relocation and where an ATV trail will be built. The lot up for potential trade is on 4th Ave. between Gordon St. and Main St.

## **Other news**

In other news, the Breitung Town Board:

➤ Heard that \$75,000 was granted from CDBG for road work on Church St.

Started a conversation about extending broadband fiber lines to McKinley Park and residential areas.

► Approved a request by Club Mesabi for use of the Breitung Community Center facilities on Saturday, Aug. 5 as a gathering place for the annual Great River Energy Mesabi Trail Tour.

➤ Accepted a road and bridge report that stated extreme temperature conditions have made the skating rink difficult to maintain. The John Deere 1025, used to snowplow sidewalks, needed extensive repairs. The sewer laterals on Poplar St. have been inspected with cameras in preparation for an upcoming project. New hockey boards have been installed.

➤ Passed a motion authorizing refinancing of wastewater board's \$258,000 obligation needed to get specs on water filtration plant.

➤ The township election will be held at the Breitung Community Center on Tuesday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Erin Peitso is challenging incumbent Tim Tomsich for the two-year term for supervisor. Matt Tuchel is running unopposed for the three-year supervisor term. Incumbent Jorgine Gornick is running unopposed for treasurer.

# TOWER-SOUDAN

# **Costs rising rapidly for water treatment plant**

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER — Delay has proven costly for the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board's longplanned new drinking water treatment plant and members of the board talked about a path forward at a special meeting held Feb. 17.

Three years ago, the announcement of a \$3.375 million grant from the Army Corps of Engineers seemed to ensure the project would move forward. The new plant, estimated at the time to cost \$3.4 million, was the primary focus of a broader project that Tower officials hoped would also include installation of a new water main to replace the city's aging connection to its drinking water supply. Between the Army Corps funding and anticipated help from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation and some state bonding dollars, TBWWB and city officials were excited at the prospect of completing both parts of the overall project without incurring significant debt.

Nearly three years later, however, the project remains in limbo as bureaucratic delays at the Army Corps and last year's failure of the Legislature to approve a bonding bill have tied up funding. Meanwhile, the pandemic-fueled spike in inflation, particularly in the cost of construction, has only exacerbated the problem by driving costs much higher. SEH engineers Jason Chopp and Kevin Young outlined the latest engineer's estimate, now pegged at \$5.5 million for the drinking plant alone, an increase mostly driven by the rising cost of the treatment equipment, which is now \$500,000 more costly than prior estimates. SEH representatives offered no update on the city's water main project, which appears on the shelf for now barring unexpected new funding. That project, originally estimated at about \$1.1 million, would undoubtedly come in higher today.

TBWWB officials are holding out hope that both projects

could still move forward, depending on whether they can convince the Army Corps to increase its funding allotment and if they can obtain additional state bonding support. Mike Larson, of SEH, said both outcomes are possible, noting that the Army Corps had awarded its funding based on 75 percent of the total project cost. With the project estimates now far higher, both Larson and wastewater manager Matt Tuchel said the Army Corp officials they've spoken to seem open to the possibility of boosting their funding support.

Larson said the TBWWB's latest bonding request was increased to \$2.25 million, but whether that new higher level is ultimately funded remains to be seen. He said last year's bonding request, which the Legislature never approved, had included \$1.5 million. Legislators have discussed the possibility of approving an earlier bonding measure using last year's framework and Larson said that could happen as early as next month. Yet, given the rising costs, last year's bonding request would still leave the wastewater board short of funding.

"If the bonding bill and Army Corps both increase, we would have enough for the water main as well," said Tuchel.

"That's a couple of big ifs," said Tower Mayor Dave Setterberg.

"We'd be jumping for joy if both of those things happen," said Tuchel.

Meanwhile, the Army Corps funding, even at current levels, still isn't available more than two years after their announcement. Corps officials did send the city of Tower a draft of a project funding agreement earlier this month, but the city has yet to sign the agreement, for which it will serve as fiscal agent on behalf of the TBWWB. At the same time, the Army Corps has just started an environmental analysis of the project, a task they say they hope to have completed in about six weeks. But city officials and SEH engineers aren't holding their breath given the past Corps' track record.

Should sufficient funding fall short, the city and the TB-WWB would have to weigh whether to fill the gap with a hefty loan from the state's Public Facilities Authority, which could substantially raise water rates in the two communities to cover the debt service.

There's more than one downside, however, should the project fail to move forward. The wastewater board has already spent about \$253,000 on engineering and design of the project, funded by a temporary loan, which the city council and the TBWWB opted to extend this month. If the project moves forward, that debt can be rolled into the total project funding. If not, however, ratepayers in Tower and Soudan will be stuck with the cost of repayment, without the benefit of improved drinking water.

See WATER...pg. 5

# **REAL ESTATE**



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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

# Editorial

# **Rail safety** Are we willing to learn from the mistakes of the past?

There but for the grace of God.

It's worth considering that the recent environmental disaster created by the train derailment near East Palestine, Ohio, could have devastated virtually any community along any rail line in the country— and that includes downtown Cook, Orr, and Virginia, which are all connected by the heavily-trafficked Canadian National rail line.

While railroads overall have a generally good safety record, and Canadian National has a better record than most, the impact of rail accidents when they inevitably occur, can be profound. Millions of tons of hazardous chemicals and highly flammable fuels are routinely shipped by rail, so when a derailment occurs, the results can be catastrophic.

If a company proposed building a toxic chemical plant in Cook or Orr, we suspect most residents would be dead set against it, for fear of accidental releases. Yet the cumulative equivalent of a chemical plant quietly moves through our communities on a regular basis on the CN line. And while derailments aren't commonplace, we've reported on several of them over the years. So far, the area has been fortunate that the wrong rail cars weren't part of the accident.

East Palestine, Ohio, certainly isn't the first community to be devastated by a rail accident. Indeed, they've been relatively lucky since no one has died so far from the effects of the release of tons of hazardous chemicals, even though fish and other aquatic organisms in the area haven't been so lucky.

Given the risks posed by railroads, appropriate regulation is the key to public safety. Over the years, tragic rail accidents have, on occasion, provided an impetus for new safety regulations, and that's appropriate. Humans learn most effectively from our mistakes, which is why investigations are critically important, both to understand the causes of accidents as well as to devise regulatory steps to reduce their likelihood in the future. Unfortunately, the U.S. has been going the wrong way on rail safety over the past several years. The rate of rail accidents averaged around 2.5 per every million miles driven from 2013-16, but jumped beginning in 2017 and reached a rate of 2.97 accidents for every million miles driven, as of 2019. That's a 19 percent increase over just

three years. It's not entirely clear why that's happened, however, it's worth noting that increase coincided exactly with the Trump administration, which proved to be a pushover for the industry.

While Trump was in Ohio last week in an effort to put the blame for the accident on President Biden, it was Trump who killed a new rule promulgated by the Obama administration, that would have required improvements in the braking systems on trains, dramatically improving stopping distances. That rule might not have made a difference in the most recent accident, but stopping distance is a critical issue for train safety across the country.

The Trump administration claimed the costs associated with the improvements exceeded the benefits, but the administration later acknowledged, after reporting by the Associated Press, that it had failed to calculate more than \$100 million in benefits from the rule. Most former presidents who kowtowed to the rail industry on safety wouldn't have the gall to attack their successor over a derailment. But one thing we know for sure about Donald Trump is that he's utterly shameless. He'll twist anything for political advantage.

While some sense of regulatory balance must be achieved in order to make the economy run, when we tilt the scale too far in the favor of industry, there is a cost- one that most often falls on small, low-income communities like East Palestine. When you hear politicians talk of the need for deregulation, keep in mind who is most likely to pay the price for those decisions. It certainly won't be rail company executives living in their gated communities.

Safety improvements rarecome at the behest of the industry. It takes laws and regulations enacted by government to make them happen. Regulation has already made the rail sector safer than it used to be, and certainly safer than it would be if left to industry to decide. In the wake of a major rail accident like the one in Ohio, it's worth asking whether we'll learn from the event and take steps to reduce the danger the next time. One thing we know for certain is that there will a next time. The only question is which community will be in the crosshairs.



# Letters from Readers

# The Tower Ambulance is worth keeping

Congratulations should go out to the crew of EMTs and EMRs for their Award for Excellence with clinical performance measures from the EMSRB. This is an objective confirmation that we are very lucky to have a great service based on great people.

A successful ambulance service should be measured by lives saved and patient care, not by profit or loss.

It's unfortunate that insurance, Medicare and Medicaid do not cover the cost of having people ready and able to save lives. This revenue is based on bringing people to the hospital. It doesn't adequately cover our neighbors that fall and can't get up, calls when transport is declined, keeping staff in town ready to go, and having safe equipment available. Our ambulance staff are doing this without frills like new uniforms or even a rental house. So not only are they saving lives but are keeping costs down.

Ambulance services in larger towns and cities can survive because they have shorter distances, hospitals, and a larger volumes of calls. We still need an ambulance The service comes for anyone in need from Greenwood to Eagles Nest, so everyone should help support it.

If you don't like how the service is run, a joint powers board will give each township a say in running the service. If you don't want to be in the ambulance business, then support TAAS until a better contract is offered. Call your township supervisors, county commissioners and state representatives to say we need an ambulance and it needs more funding. We pay \$85 on our property taxes for Solid Waste Service fee. We can pay less than this to have an ambulance service. Surely saving lives is worth more than garbage.

> Kevin Norby Tower City Council

# ALS offers superior care no matter what

The Feb. 24 Timberjay editorial, Applause for area ambulances, long and cleverly written, would have you believe that Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance services provide care that is superior to that of Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance services. That's a fantasy, it isn't reality. Some of the statements in the editorial are very misleading, including the statement: "In small towns, emergency medical responders have greater incentive to follow their training because they know that those they serve will very likely be people they know." Another is "The EMSRB'S performance measures were applied to all ambulance services, including those that offer ALS levels of care in our region, yet many of those failed to qualify for the EMSRB recognition received by three of our local services." Let's separate fantasy from reality. I can assure you that if you are seriously injured or sick, there is no more welcoming sight than a paramedic team that steps out of a fully equipped Advanced Support ambulance. Life

The whole care package that comes with an ALS ambulance is something to behold. I witnessed it first hand last week when a City of Virginia ALS ambulance responded to a scene where I was present. Nobody knew who the paramedics were, that didn't matter. What mattered was that there was an injury that included very severe pain. I can tell you that the paramedics, along with their ALS equipped ambulance handled the situation with such care and professionalism that I will never forget it. I wish I had a video of the incident, it would be an eye opening educational tool and it would lay to rest any fantasy about the difference in care that comes with an Advanced Life Support ambulance.

That being said, we all know that the *Timberjay* editorial is obviously taking aim at Greenwood Township's efforts to study and to bring a higher level of sustainable ambulance service to our region. Times change and ambulance care has evolved to a much higher level of care, and that requires paramedics and ALS equipped ambulances. We need to take advantage and work toward it. Fantasies aren't helpful.

Lee Peterson Greenwood Township

staff close by and ready to go.

If the state, county or a private company will do it better, then great! Let's see a plan and a contract proposal. We need to keep the ambulance until something better comes along. We reached out to Essentia to see if they could do a service here like they did in Buhl. They said no. It's not a good business model and they would lose money, too.

We should not starve our service out of business then hope that someone will come to the rescue. Hope is not a plan. We need TAAS to save our loved ones and our neighbors. We all may need to pay a little more to keep the service.

# We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

# Searching for joy in the smallest of things

It'd been a long winter already when I was hit with a flu bug that sent me into quarantine for two weeks. After a few days,

determined not to let the isolation drive me crazy, I came across a magazine article that threw out an unexpected challenge. "Search for the smallest things in your immediate environment, then go exploring!" In my restless state of "monkey mind," I followed the lead. Looking up, I rose from my chair and strolled toward a

messy area across the room the floor right in front of the wood box.

That's where my broom hangs on a nail with the dustpan, handy for sweeping up and disposing of what I like to call

the "cosmic debris" that collects there. Previously, I would have swept it up and pitched it into the nearby garbage pail without a second thought. But instead, I followed instructions, grabbed my headlamp and magnifying glass and took a second look.

second look. At first glance, as familiarity would have it, I saw nothing of interest — just wood chips of varying sizes.

KATHLEEN

MCQUILLAN

Then I noticed some shreds of old straw and dried grasses with tinv leaves! I also spied a few body parts from some dead, dismembered creatures that I assumed had once taken residence in my woodpile. These flakey chips, separated from the neatly stacked firewood to which they'd clung for nigh onto a year, were now fascinating "foo-foos" in line for my ad hoc analysis. As instructed, I scribbled a note about what I had observed. "Random remains and pieces of ash and birch bark separated from cambium cell layers". But wait. Was this cambium? No worry. I went for my smart phone.

Google provided a detailed explanation. I was probably

looking at tiny specks of "outer bark, or possibly inner bark (the phloem) detached from the cambium layer." Not likely anything from sapwood or heartwood, both more dense with components like sap that provide greater integrity. Google had done its job well. My little pile of floor sweepings had just turned into a refresher course on tree anatomy. I hadn't thought about these terms since 10th grade biology class! What a nice way to have idled away the past hour.

On a mission now, I moseyed over to the dining room table. I seldom have guests, so little dining takes place there. Instead, situated as it is, in front of twin south-facing windows with the best lighting in the house, this has become my makeshift art space.

Honestly, I'm not much of an artist, although I have always wished to be. One of my main handicaps has been my fear of color. Although I've made some strides to overcome this obstacle to my artistic abandon, "chromatic engagement" still does not come easy. Lately, I discovered the joy of indulging in a beautiful tin box of "water colour pencils made by British craftsmen in Keswick since 1830" — a gift from my mother when she was no longer able to use them. They have truly inspired my creativity while fostering some very fond memories

## See SEARCHING....pg. 5

# Letters from Readers

# Ely's future is in the eye of the beholder I've been reflect-

ing on two very different events I took part in earlier this month: Ely's City Council meeting Feb. 7 and the inaugural End of the Road Film Festival at Elv's Historic State Theater Feb. 9-12. While a few laments were heard on Feb. 7 that "Ely is dying," the weekend that followed told a far different story as all four days of the ERFF saw hundreds people-both resiof dents and visitors-clearly enjoying themselves at the theater and other locations around town. While those who have served (too many?) years on the Ely City Council pine for the "good ol' days" of the 1950s through the '90s, they fail to recognize that declining populations and public school enrollments are not unique to Ely but are common in small towns all across the Midwest. Further, Ely went from two grocery stores to one not, as Councilor Jerome Debeltz implied at the meeting, because we are a dying town but because business owners made a personal decision to retire from store ownership. Meanwhile, our fabulous local dentist has a waiting list hundreds of patients long-that doesn't sound like a dying town to meand Elton Brown's "Meet New Elyites" series at Tuesday Group can't keep up with all the new neighbors joining our community!

What really excites me is that many of the leaders who made the film festival happen, as well as new leaders of other organizations in town, are Gen Y and Millennials. They bring so much creativity and dynamism, enthusiasm, and hospitality to all they do—the very qualities that help a community thrive!

Speaking of hospitality, when Councilor Adam Bisbee, at the Feb. 7 meeting, said his "no" vote on sending a letter to President Biden would give those opposed to copper-nickel mining a voice, Councilor Paul Kess responded, "We as a council always welcome people to come and speak." But those words rang hollow after Debeltz's earlier tirade about having to listen to "these people" yet again. The only sense of welcome or hospitality I felt at that meeting was that, for once, one city councilor acknowledged that not everyone in this community believes copper-nickel mining is the be-all and end-all for Ely. Whichever way Bisbee leans personally, I am grateful he understands his role as representing ALL the people of Ely. Finally on this matter, I felt heard. Thank you, Councilor Bisbee.

One other distinction between Feb. 7 and Feb. 9-12 is this: contrary to some council members' insinuations, none of the dozens of people who came to oppose the council's proposed action were from the Twin Cities or elsewhere beyond our region. On the other hand, hundreds came from miles away for the End of the Road Film Festival. I heard someone call it "better than Sundance!" That's the type of positive experience that encourages folks to come back to our special little town.

To all who made the ERFF such a success: THANK YOU!

> Heidi Mann Ely

# Local ambulance staff deserve the recognition

Congratulations to the Tower Area Ambulance Service for well-deserved recognition (Timberjay/ Feb. 22, 2023, Applause for area ambulances)! Ambulance Director Dena Suihkonen and the entire TAAS staff, along with the Tower City Clerk, Michael Schultz and the Tower City Council members who work with TAAS deserve the same 'Kudos' for a job well done. The representatives in the townships served who support TAAS should be appreciated as well.

Tower and surrounding township citizens should be pleased that TAAS ranks so highly on the EMSRB's list of outstanding rural ambulance services. Rural public safety services are struggling not only in our area but in every region of Minnesota and generally throughout the U.S. During my tenure as mayor of Tower it was evident that changes needed to be made and we began that process. Financial transparency, fiscal responsibility and ALS service for TAAS were our goals. Outside assistance and advice was sought just as TAAS representatives are currently doing. But there is no easy fix to the challenges that such services face.

Those who are serving TAAS are doing their best to serve our area citizens and they need to be given the latitude, time, and resources to do so. Undue criticism at seemingly every step of the process only undermines the work that TAAS is striving to accomplish. It seems that the same critics are constantly in the face of those who are willing to work on behalf of our emergency public services. That needs to stop!

We need to thank TAAS employees and representatives for their willingness to 'hang in there', finding the long-term solutions needed to bring stability to public health, safety, and emergency concerns.

So, seek out our fire and ambulance leaders and workers and thank them for bringing such impressive recognition to our city and townships. They deserve it!

> Orlyn Kringstad Tower

# Support for film festival was humbling

On behalf of the End of the Road Film Festival team, I want to extend our gratitude to the community for showing up in a huge way to support this brand-new event!

When I started working on this project in October 2021, I had no idea it would grow into such an amazing event. We expected to have a few sell-out screenings, but never imagined we'd have such great attendance at every single screening. Neither theater was ever empty, even on Thursday afternoon and Super Bowl Sunday evening!

The energy in the theater was infectious and full of excitement and support. I heard personally from many Filmmakers-in-Attendance who were blown away by the enthusiasm and support they received from our community. Many had never been to Ely before and are already planning their trips to come back to visit, as well as planning to submit their films in the

future.

The theater staff was on their top game managing the huge influx of visitors to Ely's Historic State Theater. The entire team did a fantastic job organizing this event, managing a generous crew of volunteers, and turning the State Theater into a hub for filmgoers and filmmakers alike to come together and share the magic of film.

The amount of community support has been humbling, to say the least. So many of our local organizations and businesses joined together to make this a great experience for everyone involved, and we couldn't be more excited to continue growing with them into the future.

> Jacob White Director End of the Road Film Festival

# I can't expose Greenwood residents to unnecessary risk

As a resident of Greenwood Township, I have a right to voice my opinion(s) as to how the township uses its resources. We all have that right.

I regret not having stressed that my letter to the editor published on Feb. 10, 2023 was written by me as a resident of Greenwood Township and to make it clear I was not speaking for the Greenwood Township Board.

For that I apologize.

I would like to thank Mr. Lotz for his letter in the Feb. 17 edition that provides a concise and accurate description of the functions and the necessity for the indemnification language as previously written and agreed upon to be incorporated in any agreement where multiple entities are involved. With that explanation in mind, it would be completely irresponsible for me as a township supervisor to willfully agree to a contract with any entity that exposes the residents of Greenwood Township to any unnecessary risk.

Rick Stoehr Greenwood Township

# Health care providers should care equally for all

In last week's editorial, the statement was made, "In small towns, emergency medical responders have greater incentive to follow their training because they know that those they serve will very likely be the people they know." Our family has provided healthcare in some form or fashion from 1939 through today and, hopefully, for sometime into the future. We have never heard our mother-in-law/mother, ourselves, those in our employ, or our daughter refer to applying greater incentive to our training for hometown folks. The statement runs counter to any bioethical training we have received and does not provide justice, which is a pillar of medical care. Aristotle, more than two thousand years ago, defined justice as the principle that equals should be treated equally. To assert that we would start to deliver healthcare and think this person is from our hometown so we'd better follow our training more closely is inaccurate to our experience and insulting.

Dr. JoAnn Bassing Dr. John Bassing Greenwood Township

**WATER...**Continued from page 3

## **Project benefits**

The new drinking water plant, if ultimately built, will help ensure that the two communities continue to have safe drinking water. While Tuchel said that all the drinking water that leaves the current plant is fully treated and safe to drink, he noted that he has had to regularly monitor for other contaminants that are byproducts of the decontamination process, and the TBWWB has experienced occasional violations of those contaminant levels.

drinking water has been getting additional treatment since the completion of a ewellhead protection study several years revealed the presence of surface water contaminain good faith to address the issue. He hinted that

is aware of the situation but hasn't taken action against the TBWWB because they are aware the communities are working the issue. He hinted that could change, however, if the project were put on a long-term hold. At this point, Tuchel said moving forward with the drinking water plant is critical and he suggested possible changes to the project scope if necessary to reduce the cost. The current design calls for a 250-gallons-per-minute capacity although Tuchel

said that could be reduced to 125-gallons capacity to trim the cost of the project, if needed. That would likely be sufficient most of the time, but it could fall substantially short during periods of peak demand, at which point, the older plant could be utilized to bolster capacity. It's kind of do or die right now," Tuchel said. "We have to make this go. I don't think holding off is going to benefit us at all."



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The communities'

**SEARCHING...**Continued from page 4

of my mom.

As I scanned the table and its array of scattered art supplies, I spotted a classy little double-barreled, red plastic sharpener that came with the pencils. I gently twisted the cap, carefully opened it, then spilled the contents into a small white porcelain dish. Once again, I turned to my headlamp and magnifier. Oh my goodness! There, in the bowl was a stunning bouquet of color mixed among tan wood shavings — the tiny, sharpened tips of colored pencils.

Azure, emerald, ruby, lime, burnt sienna, and gold. My eyes twinkled with delight! This is what I'd been dumping in the trash without ever giving it a moment of thought. Proof that I really was having fun playing with color!

At this point, I had to sit down with a

tion in the wells that serve the two communities.

Under current state rules, the TBWWB's drinking water is now considered a surface water source, rather than a groundwater source, and needs to be treated to a higher level than the current plant was designed to do. Tuchel said the state's Health Department Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

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

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

## Official Newspaper:

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

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

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

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

cup of coffee and take a deep breath. Hmm. Where should I look next? There, across the room was the wall with books. One shelf was devoted to things I'd scavenged from travels near and far. Seashores, the North Shore, dunes, and deserts, even the trail to our beaver pond had gifted me with mementoes from the natural world. I have some buffalo (or are they mastodon) bones, uncovered by wind in the sand hills of North Dakota. A set of nice deer antlers found under some dead brush on the banks of a nearby creek. A pint jar of sand from Lanakai Beach in Hawaii. And a chunk of dried water lily root, six inches long and two inches in diameter, found in the pond I'd paddled over in my inner tube as a young child. I'm shocked at how long I've hung onto this stuff! Next, I reached for a sand dol-

lar — three inches across, rough to the touch, but such a lovely ivory hue. I picked it up in 1980 while walking the beach near Sanibel Island on the coast of Florida.... Headlamp and magnifier, please.

There, on its gently domed surface, was etched a faint perfect star. Points emanated from a tiny hole at the center, an intricate pattern that captured my imagination. I knew little about this shell or the creature that once lived inside. Again, I turned to Google. The bisque-like object was home to a sea urchin with "five jaw sections, fifty skeletal bone parts and at least sixty muscles" - all squeezed into this three inch circle! When alive, the velvety bottom was "covered with short spines that helped the urchin travel across its ocean floor and shore habitat". Its age is counted much

like trees, by "rings" visible on the underside of the shell. If undisturbed "the urchin's lifespan is six to ten years".

After carefully studying my specimen, I could find no sign of rings. Perhaps they'd been scrubbed away by years of wave action before I found it. In place of rings, I found a dozen symmetrical branches that looked like tiny balsam trees! Folk lore has it that she who finds a sand dollar will surely have good luck. I think it's true.

Never would I have expected that this silly "challenge", supposed to be an antidote to boredom, would produce such positive results! I guess there's truth in that old adage, "We never stop learning." And yes, "it's 'the little things' that count.

# **TOWER-SOUDAN LOCAL NEWS**

HOCKEY DAY IN SOUDAN....JUNIOR VERSION

# Week of March 6

# 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 March 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.

# St. Martin's Lenten schedule

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

Stations of the Cross will be prayed Friday evenings 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.

# 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.



Hockey Day in Soudan, on Feb. 25, featured a youth hockey skill competitions (with cash prizes), and an enthusiastic pond hockey style game. Players from Tower-Soudan and Ely participated.

Left: Players assembled at the start of the games.

Bottom left: Gavin Bialke and his English bulldog Maggie played their own unique version of hockey.

Below: The players, some who play on the Ely youth teams, and others who just play for fun, competed in a pond hockey style game.

photos by J. Summit





# TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS Roxanne Tea running for Vermilion Lake Supervisor

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

VERMILION LAKE TWP- A relatively new township resident is running for an open supervisor seat on the Vermilion Lake Town Board. Roxanne Tea, who moved to the township several years ago, now lives on Pike Bay. Tea is a recreation planner for the Laurentian District Office of the USFS in Aurora. Vermilion Lake Township has almost no forest ser-



vice land, just one small parcel, so there is no conflict with her serving on the town board, she said. Tea said she has a passion for, and believes in the importance of, civ-ic duties.

"I am interested in what is happening in our township," she said. "And I am curious to learn more. I want to do good things for people."

"I was raised and went to college in Utah," she said. Roxanne and her husband Aaron Kania, moved to Minnesota to be closer to Aaron's family. Kania is the District Ranger at the Kawishiwi Forest Service Office in Ely.

The couple has settled into life on Lake Vermilion, and has enjoyed meeting their neighbors, as well as becoming acquainted with other residents in the township. "We love our neighbors here," she said. "We feel very fortunate to be living here."

They both are active in the Wagoner Trails Club, helping maintain the ski and hiking trails in Tower. "Recreation can improve our landscape," she said. "It's fun to see the area becoming a hub of trail networks."

Incumbent treasurer Steve Lotz is also on the ballot, running unopposed.

Township elections will be held on Tuesday, March 14 at the Vermilion Lake Town Hall. Polls are open from 1 - 8 p.m. with the annual meeting to follow at 8:15 p.m.

➤ March 5- Nathan Thompson

➤ March 12- Greg Kuchan

➤ March 19 and 26-Pastor Ellen Taube 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" Tuominen at Zup's in Tower, 218-753-2725. Sponsors this week include Carol Page Fogarty, Jorgine Gornick, and the Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board.

# FOURTH OFJULY 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 those big bangs have been rising. Fundraising for this year's

fundraising for this year's 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 Association with proceeds from the pull tab gambling income and, but as of 2022, that funding has been used up. This is the first year the events board needs to raise the money for fireworks and to hire 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 activities that make Tower-Soudan's Fourth of July one of the nicest small-town events in our region. Starting in 2017, the events board has held fundraisers, sales, and received contributions to continue 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 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 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.

# Little Church annual meeting on March 11

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church of Vermilion Lake Township will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, March 11 at 10 a.m. The election of officers will also take place. The committee always welcomes guests and new members. Everyone interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained is welcome to attend.

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

# Additional students named to Minnesota North College Dean's list

HIBBING– The Minnesota North College Dean's list for Fall Semester 2022 has been announced. This list includes students from all the colleges in the new Minnesota North system. A few area students were left off the list published last week. Congratulations to the following list of students who completed 12 or more credits while earning a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.25 or higher:

> Charly Flom, Embarrass Michael Trucano, Soudan

# VOTE TIM TOMSICH

# Breitung Township Supervisor

Tuesday, March 14

Your continued support is appreciated. EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Paid for by the candidate on his own behalf

# **EDUCATION** Ely school board discusses early release days

by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

ELY-Ely school board chair Ray Marsnik started the meeting with the announcement that the board was sending a letter to the high school Nordic ski team "recognizing their good work for this school year."

Most of the rest of the 45-minute meeting was taken up by discussion of whether the district should adopt a new model of teacher in-service professional development known as early release days. Several teachers from both Washington elementary and Ely Memorial High School attended the board meeting to show their support for the idea.

In an early release program, students are released from school an hour early, typically one day a week, and the rest of that school day is used by teachers for "embedded professional development time within the contract day," according to an informational handout included in the school board agenda packet. The advantage of such a program is more time for collaboration, for planning student activities, for teachers to share individual and group strategies, for custodial deep cleaning and other projects and for support staff to meet with case managers and teachers.

Early release would also make it easier to collaborate with surrounding districts on professional development, since some other area schools have already adopted the program. The downside of early release would be challenges for both childcare arrangements and for afterschool activities. Early release days would also impose shortened schedules for lunches and for shared staff.

The early release program under consideration would use most Wednesdays during the school year for professional development.

Marsnik expressed two concerns about using early release. "Looking at the instructional year, that's 1,750 minutes cut from classroom time," Marsnik said. He also questioned how it would affect the Q Comp program.

"Early release would give us more flexibility," said Washington Elementary Principal Anne Oelke. She noted that under Minnesota's Q Comp program, professional development "is supposed to be within the contract day" for teachers. She added that 88.9 percent of the district's teachers were in favor of early release for professional development.

Liz Townsend, the special education teacher for grades 6 through 12 said, "What we are missing is collaboration and this would give us the opportunity for that."

Superintendent John Klarich remarked that he had had a "complete turnaround" while watching

the district's staff make Q Comp work. "I do support what our teachers are asking for here."

The issue of early release was only a discussion item at the board meeting. After the meeting, board member Tony Colarich remarked to the Timberjay that the school board would need to make a decision about early release before they could finalize the district's calendar for the 2023-24 school vear.

In other business, Klarich advised the board not to progress to the second reading on the changes in school policies. The board approved a first reading on changes to three policies on Feb. 13. Klarich stated that there was action in the Legislature that could make further changes to the three policies necessary, making it prudent to wait until the legislative session was over.

In other business, the school board:

► Heard director of

# In Brief **Tuesday Group** facilities Tim Leeson who schedule

said there had been no

progress on the punch list

for the 21st Century Facil-

broek for the assistant

girls track coach as recom-

mended by Tom Coombe,

Athletic Director, per the

current master agreement

between ISD No. 696 and

the Ely Education Asso-

ciation and school board

nation of Kara Kahle from

her Kindergarten teaching

position effective June 5,

ignation of Kim Kerntz

from her Cafeteria Aide

position effective March

ignation of Rachel Frey

from her paraprofessional

position effective March

for a paraprofessional po-

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2023.

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:

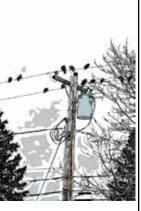
▶ March 7: Northern Lakes Arts Association Updates with Ian Lah

►March 14: Meet new Elvites

►March 21: Ely Community Resource Mentor Program with Ryan Stewart

# **Breathing Out**

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



pigeons on the wire perhaps an afternoon nap soon a quick flight, gone

# Libraries

## Ely library

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

# **Babbitt library**

Nonday	10 am-6 pm
Tuesday	10 am-6
om	
Vednesday	10 am-6 pm
Thursday	10 am-6 pm
Friday	10 am-6 pm
Phone: 218-8	27-3345

# Ely Economic Development Authority moves forward IRRR allocation,"

by CATIE CLARK Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely Economic Development Authority met on Feb. 28 for a mostly routine agenda. The meeting began with a 15-minute presentation by Vicki Hagberg and Katherine Lahti of the Northland Small Business Development Center, which is part of a small business outreach program sponsored through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), supported by both local moneys and federal matching funds.

The center provides no-cost consultant services to help people start their own small businesses. It can provide guidance on determining feasibility, writing business plans, finding financing and other business essentials.

Hagberg noted that the center had already provided no-cost small business consulting services to entrepreneurs who have started local businesses in Ely. "Our services are most valuable," she said, "when we have a good partner like John Fedo." Fedo is the city of Ely's economic development consultant.

# January activities

In his monthly report, Fedo remarked that the EEDA website continues

to garner and respond to questions on business and project assistance in Elv. EEDA has also continued to seek a partnership with the Ely Housing and Redevelopment Authority on a market-rate housing project.

He also noted that JPJ Engineering prepared design and cost estimates for infrastructure upgrades in the East Sheridan St. commercial corridor and that EEDA would use for approaching funding sources.

He reported that Ely businesses would receive close to \$1 million of the \$1.4 million available as grants and forgivable loans through the Min-

FOODSHARE MONTH

nesota DEED-Northland Foundation for new and existing businesses along the Ely-Tower Highway 169 corridor. Contracts for the final awards will be announced "shortly."

"final steps are being made," to receive the already allocated \$1.6 million in federal funds for the construction of the Ely Trailhead facility. He also said that EEDA would be seeking "additional funds through budgeted

iRRR trails Improvements money," to complete trail access and landscaping work not covered by the original federal and state awards for the new facility. "We are after an

over from last July." EEDA: ment of its January bills, totaling \$34,318. Fedo stated that the professional services con-

# The Ely Area Food Shelf needs you ELY- The Ely Area Food Bank, the food shelf usual to distribute, it must delivery of food. Nancy

Food Shelf needs every- is asking that the pub-

also purchase food, some-

Schwartz, who manages one's help during its March lic help with contributing times at retail prices, to en- the food shelf, would like

Donations can be made online at elvareafoodshelf. org or mailed to the Ely fundraising drive, which non-perishable food items sure there is enough for the to find 100 people to step Area Food Shelf, P.O. Box

Hours: Monday - Friday,

runs until April 2. Because of increases demand and due to less food donations from the Second Harvest every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Because the food shelf has received less food than

food shelf's clients.

The food shelf has set a goal to raise \$75,000 to support its acquisition and

up and commit to donating \$30 or more every month for a year to help the food shelf continue its mission.

796, Ely MN 55731

Support groups AA - Alcoholics Anonymous **OPEN AA - 7:30** p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely. SUNDAY NIGHT AA at St. Anthony's Catholic Church is canceled. ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely. BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church. AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend. **BABBITT AL-ANON -**Thursdays, 7 p.m., at

Woodland Presbyterian. **CO-DEPENDENTS'** 12-step support group, 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Wellbeing Development, 41 E Camp St. Ely. ADULT BASIC **EDUCATION GED** Study materials and 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.

# WolfTrack Classic check-in and Musher Dinner



While the WolfTrack Classic dog sled race was on Sunday, the dog sled teams had to check-in with the race veterinarian, Chip Hanson, on Saturday afternoon at the Vermiliion Campus of Minnesota College North. The check-in was followed by the annual fundraiser Musher dinner. Left: Ely Chamber of Commerce executive director Eve Sebesta caught applying cheese to spaghetti at the Musher Dinner. Right: girl greets sled dog at the race check-in on Saturday. photo by C. Clark

# Upcoming **Events**

# Ely Folk School

ELY- The folk school will hold a class in Scandinavian loom beading on every Thursday starting on March 10 through March 31, from 2-4 p.m. at 209 E. Sheridan St.

The folk school will hold a one-session chocolate truffle making class on Saturday, March 11, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

A complete class schedule, registration and tuition/fee information are linked off the "learn" tab at elyfolkschool.com

The folk school will hold an Irish Dance on Saturday, March 18, from 7-10 p.m. at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. 1st Ave. No experience necessary. All dances will be taught. \$10 per person, kids free with parent.

# **Ely Public Library**

ELY- A new Kahoot will begin at 3 p.m.,

Wednesday, March 7, and run until Monday, March 13 at 8 a.m. This kahoot is an online trivia game on the first five books in the Owl Diaries series by Rebecca Elliott. Participants must sign-up in advance and provide the library with an email address in order to play.

The Library Scientists group will run a weeklong session for grades 4-7 on how to make sewable circuits. The sewable circuits class will meet from 3:15-4:45 p.m. starting on Monday, March 6 and ending on Friday, March 10. Each day will build on the knowledge learned earlier in the week, so kids should plan to come all of the days. Participants will end the week with at least one project they created. Kids will need to register in advance, so the library knows how many supplies to order.

The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet on Monday, March 13 at 3 p.m. The title for discussion will be "The Lake

House" by Kate Morton.

The Friends of the Library Board will meet on Tuesday, March 14, from 1-2 p.m.

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

# **Babbitt Public** Library

BABBITT- Local author Ken Hupila will be signing and holding a discussion on both his books, "Singing Waters" and "Shore Lunch," on March 7 from 3-6 p.m.

# **COOK/ORR LOCAL**

# NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

# Miss Minnesota celebrates culture at North Woods First Indigenous title winner also pays visit to Nett Lake Elementary

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Last

Thursday was a very busy day on a very busy road trip for Rachel Evangelisto, and the current Miss Minnesota wouldn't have it any other way, because she's out doing what she loves to do, meeting the public to celebrate culture and diversity.

"I am on the second to last day of a two-week sprint of constant appearances," Evangelisto said during her appearance at the Empty Bowl event at North Woods School. "It really truly is what you make it and I have made this journey so much about just connecting with other people."

Hosting Miss Minnesota has become a regular feature of Empty Bowl thanks to North Woods art teacher and 2015 Miss Minnesota Rachel Betterley, and one need only look at the eyes and smiles of adoring youngsters to see what a special treat it is for them.

But Empty Bowl was just one event of many throughout the day for Evangelisto, a Lakota and member of the Standing

Rock Nation, and the first Indigenous Miss Minnesota in the pageant's 86year history.

"So this morning, I woke up bright and early to go to Nett Lake and talk to their elementary school," Evangelisto said. "I did a little tour of their tribal government and around their reservation. And then here, I hung out with the art students, I had some really great chili. And now I'm going to go toss a basketball with some of the basketball players."

Evangelisto also spoke to a student assembly and visited with the community education martial arts class.

Evangelisto's social impact initiative for her year as Miss Minnesota is "Celebrating Culture and Driving Diversity," and she's drawing on her Native heritage to educate the public about contemporary Native Americans, engage people in open dialogue regarding racial inequality, and empower Native youth to drive diversity and be agents of change within their communifies.

"It's really awesome for me being the first in-



Miss Minnesota Rachel Evangelisto relaxes on the North Woods stage where she's been talking with adoring young fans. photo by D. Colburn

digenous Miss Minnesota to allow kids, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to see a person with beadwork who owns their community and culture and will wear ribbon skirts to appearances," she said. "They've never seen that before. When I was a little girl, seeing that representation would have changed my life. So, to be that representation today is truly the honor of my lifetime. I'm going to empower other Native youths to take their own narrative and to build their own stories, carve those paths and

show them that it's OK to take pride in their community and culture."

Evangelisto And knows firsthand how important the influence of others can be in making those choices. She mentioned two particularly important influences in her life, 2015 Miss South Dakota Autumn Simunek and Adam Savariego, someone she said she's known for years.

"Autumn was a huge influence in who I've become as Miss Minnesota,' Evangelisto said. "Adam's a really great person in his own community who really encourages young kids to embrace their own identities. It was him who really inspired me to take that journey for myself, to embrace who I was and show other kids that they can do the same."

Evangelisto, 25, said she's doing everything she can to make the most of this special opportunity.

"I've been competing with this organization since I was just 13 years old, and now I've done my last competition," she said. "This is my last hurrah, and I'm doing the absolute most that I can to make the biggest impact, also knowing that people are still impacting me. I'm touched by how many people have touched my life. I never knew how moved I could be by a child's story or an adult's story and how impacted I could be that by that. I'll carry all those stories with me for the rest of my life."

And more immediately, she'll carry those stories with her this fall to Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, where she was awarded a Native Justice Scholarship to study Native American law.

Before rushing off to continue her busy day on the basketball court, Evangelisto shared a final thought.

"I always tell kids that no matter where you come from, what your identity is, you came from a history of people, generations of people before you," she said. "I really encourage kids to just ask their parents about their lives, ask their grandparents about their own stories, learn where they come from and embrace that identity and do the best they can in the future to honor those generations of stories."

# COOK CITY COUNCIL

# Cook council edges closer on new blight ordinance

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Residents of Cook who are concerned about blighted conditions in their neighborhoods are on the verge of having a new tool in their toolbox to combat the problem.

After months of review and legal consultation, the Cook City Council is finally ready to move ahead with a new blight ordinance, one with some teeth in it for enforcement that the current ordinance lacks.

An enforcement officer may issue a compliance order to anyone with blight conditions on their property as described in the ordinance. That order will provide a minimum of ten days and a maximum of 30 days to bring the property into compliance, although the enforcement officer will have the discretion to grant additional time if warranted. The person served with the compliance order may request a hearing with the city council. If the council finds that a violation did occur, the council has multiple options depending on the circumstances. If it is a parking violation, a fine of \$15 will be assessed that will double to \$30 if the fine is unpaid within 10 days of being imposed, and will double

person continues in violation of the ordinance constitutes a separate offense and will be fined \$100 per

authority to cut and remove weeds and grasses, or remove garbage, refuse, or any other accumulated materials at the expense of the owner and occupant. If the charges for the work are not paid, the amount will be applied against the property as a special assessment.

also elect to seek prosemisdemeanor cution as for any offense under the ordinance. The updated ordinance was presented at last Thursday's council meeting, but before it can become official, the public has to have a chance to comment on it. That chance will come at a public meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 16 at the community center. Until final council action is taken on the ordinance, the current blight ordinance will remain in effect, City Administrator Theresa Martinson said. "We were told by legal counsel when we did further review that we can use our current blight ordinance," she said. "If we received letters of complaint we have addressed

those. There was some confusion along the way but we got it figured out."

## **Recreation specialist**

Another months-long odyssey reached an end when Martinson happily introduced Therese Cheney as the city's new recreation program specialist. The primary focus of the position is to bring increased visibility to and public utilization of the community center and the city's parks.

"We've been working for some time to try to get a staff person or a contract person at this facility to promote the community center to look at ways to basically have their operwhat we might be able to do. But I think we have a beautiful facility here and it's underutilized. I don't think that everybody in the area even realizes that it's available to rent or what can be held here. As I told Teresa the other day, I'm reaching out to other communities in the area to try to find out what they have going on, just to give us some ideas. But I'm really excited about it."

Cheney also talked about the importance of collaborating with other community groups.

"Together, we can come up with some things to support everybody and hopefully bring in some revenue here as well," she that would be needed to

An online community calendar is in the works, Cheney said, and she hopes to report on her progress with that at the next council meeting.

Cheney's position is considered a contract service position where the majority of her hours may be off-site. Cheney will be paid \$625 a month, an annual rate of \$7,500.

In other business, the council:

► Learned that the surface condition of the ice rink has deteriorated from mixed weather conditions to the point that it is unusable. Given the time of year and the work

rehabilitate it, it was decided to close the rink for the rest of the season.

► Hired Steven Correll as a clerk at the liquor store.

>Formed a policies committee consisting of councilor Liz Storm and Mayor Harold Johnston to begin the process of reviewing, revising, and updating city ordinances. Other council members may also be involved in the process, although only two can work together at any one time in order to avoid open meetings law violations.

≻Changed the March council meeting date to Thursday, March 30.

For all other violations, each week that a

Finally, the city may

every 30 days thereafter.

The city also has the

ations open," Martinson said. "Tammy Palmer and I have both met with Therese Cheney, who called our office and was interested. Tammy and I have talked with Therese about promotion and some of the experience Therese has in events and the kinds of things that we could do at this community center and as a community."

"I have a background in doing event coordination for large groups of people," Cheney said. "I've also done some local things in other communities with youth and elderly, so I have some experience there. I'm just going to jump in and get my feet wet and look for ideas and then present them to see



# **Voting begins** for NWFA photo contest at gallery

COOK- It's time to head on in to the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook to be inspired by the entry in NWFA's annual photo contest and vote for your favorites.

There top vote-getter will receive \$100 and a runner-up is awarded \$50

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

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

NWFA Gallery is located at 210 S. River St.

# Student honored

ORR- Alicia Boisjolie, of Orr, has been named to the Minnesota North Colleges dean's list for maintaining a GPA of 3.25 or higher for the fall 2022 semester.

# It's Time For.....

# **COOK YOUTH BASEBALL**

Registration for the upcoming 2023 youth baseball season is open! Girls and boys ages 5-12 on or before May 1 are welcome to join! Register your child/children by March 31 by using the QR code below or on our Facebook Page, "Cook Youth Baseball".

Feb. 20 - Mar. 15: \$75 Early Bird Fee (save \$25) Mar. 16 - Mar. 31: \$100 Fee Family Registration Fee: \$150 (2 or more players)

Coaches and umpires are also needed for the season. If you are interested, please email us at **cookyouthbaseball@gmail.com**.



# STUDENT SAFETY

# Prank call prompts elementary school lockdown in Ely

## by CATIE CLARK

Ely Editor

ELY- Students and staff at Washington Elementary were sent into lockdown here on Tuesday after an unidentified person told county authorities he was armed and outside the school, intending to harm students.

The call, made to St. Louis

County dispatch at 11:50 a.m., appears to have been a hoax, although the Ely Police Department advised the lockdown until that could be confirmed. Meanwhile, schools in Duluth and Eveleth had received similar threatening phone calls about the same time.

The Ely PD responded to the

school assisted by the Babbitt PD, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, and the U.S. Border Patrol. Law enforcement quickly cleared the school and determined there was no active threat present. The Ely PD posted officers at the school for the remainder of the day as a precaution, however they believe that there was no legitimate threat to staff or students.

It is currently believed the threat received by the Washington Elementary School and other schools in the region were not credible and it appears that they originated from out-of-state.

"It is believed these were 'swatting' incidents which is the action or practice of making a

prank call to emergency services in an attempt to bring about the dispatch of a large number of armed police officers, such as a SWAT team, to a particular address," said Ely Police Chief Chad Houde in a statement issued just before 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

# **AMBULANCE**....Continued from page 1

Langowski asked, "This is the same architect, right?" Berrini replied. "This

is for a \$1.3 million new building."

"I find it quite interesting that in July, you purchased a building that was perfectly adequate for your ambulance service. And now you're saying that you have to add a 30 by 50 addition onto that same building, responded Langowski. "Up to the last meeting, we were talking just renovation.'

The discussion devolved from there, as Langowski and Berrini, joined by EAAS board member Chuck Novak, argued over one another

about who controlled the \$1.3 million grant. Berrini insisted that it was the ambulance service that controlled the grant, although that remains an open question since it was the city that applied for the funds.

Earlier discussion on the lack of a lease for the ambulance building may have helped kindle the flames.

"This is one missing piece we've had since the purchase of the building is just making that landlord tenant arrangement," Langowski noted."There is no current lease." EAAJPB purchased a building for the EAAS to use last summer. Langowski went on

to say that the EAAJPB could potentially start with a boiler-plate lease that Elv uses and modify it for the specific situation between the landlord, EAAJPB, and the tenant, EAAS.

EAAJPB member Al Forsman asked who would pay for the modification of the lease. Langowski responded that it was typically the owner who was responsible.

## **Hospital questions**

Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital CEO Patti Banks presented another agenda item to the meeting, which was a list of questions from the hospital board, intended to serve as the hospital's due diligence as it considers the ambulance service's funding request.

The questions noted that EBCH could not find any yearly IRS 990 forms filed for the EAAS since 2019 and wanted to see filings since then. If none existed, then would EAAS identify when the 990 filings would be completed? The questions also asked the EAAS to identify the length of term served by its directors, noting that Minnesota has a ten-year term limit for the boards of non-profits.

The questions also inquired about the status of the audit of EAAS's finances and whether the

ambulance service was reporting its costs, revenues and utilization statistics to the Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection System, as required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Non-compliance with the latter carries a penalty of a 10-percent reduction in all Medicare reimbursements for one year.

The EAAJPB moved to place the discussion of the EBCH questions on the agenda for the next meeting in March.

## More questions raised

Other oddities aired at the meeting included EAAS's failure to file a W-9 form with the city of Elv, since the city needs that form as part of its tax paperwork required by law. According to Langowski, the request for the form was sent weeks ago.

In addition, the EAAS did not have a budget prepared for 2023 or 2024 so the joint powers board could not discuss or approve financials. Novak said the budget numbers would be "available shortly."

The Timberjay will continue to follow this developing story. The next EAAJPB meeting will be on March 28 at 4 p.m. at Ely City Hall.

proposed development

# **PROPOSAL**...Continued from page 1

comprised of as many as 47 dispersed campsites and privies or outhouses. The facility would necessitate the construction of a large dock to accommodate the boats that would shuttle campers back and forth to two lots across the bay with road access.

County records show Lutheran Social Services as the current taxpayer on the three large parcels that make up the 45-acre property, which is currently undeveloped.

Sofar, St. Louis County planning officials have offered a mixed assessment of the proposal. While a staff report on the requested conditional use permit appears largely supportive of the proposal, a separate staff report on the requested change in zoning takes a

far more skeptical tone. The area is currently zoned Residential, which would not allow the construction of a campground. Wryobek is requesting a rezoning to Shoreland Multiple Use, or SMU, a category that would allow a campground as a conditional use.

But county planners, in their staff report on the rezoning request, say that it would amount to "spot zoning," that would typically not be allowed without a clear public benefit, something the report concludes that Wryobek has yet to demonstrate.

"The current zoning was established for the protection of existing residential development and to restrict incompatible uses," notes the report. "There are multiple areas on Lake

Vermilion that are zoned SMU that would support the requested commercial planned development. These areas where specifically identified during the Lake Vermilion planning process to allow for commercial development to continue and expand if needed."

Wryobek said she's aware of the current shortage of tent camping opportunities in the area and had selected Vermilion because it could provide disabled individuals with a rustic, wilderness-like setting as well as motorized access to Trout Lake, located in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. "That's why Lake Vermilion is so appealing to us," she said.

Not surprisingly, news of the proposed development has raised concerns with neighbors in the vicinity, who received notice of next week's hearing late last week. The property in question includes nearly 7,000 feet of prominent shoreline on Vermilion's far west end. With high rock bluffs and palisades, it's been a landmark that has managed to avoid any significant development despite the pressures the lake has faced for decades. It's one of the largest undeveloped tracts of privately-owned property still remaining on the lake, one that neighbors, like Jim Aune, have long assumed would see major changes one day.

"We live right across from that property," said Aune, who was one of the nearby residents to receive notice of next week's public hearing. Aune said he had contacted some of his wealthy acquaintances when the property in question was put up for sale by Lutheran Social Services, to see if they might be interested in buying the land to head off significant development on the site. "Personally, if that property is developed it would be a huge loss for me," he said. "It's beautiful land. I'd hate to see it split up."

Aune, who built his current residence on Black Bay Road back in 1979 said he's seen lots of change on the lake over the years, particularly the trend of building ever larger summer homes along the shore."I'd hate to see it become like Lake Minnetonka," he said.

Ironically, Wryobek's

could help prevent the subdivision of this large and prominent tract. And while Aune has concerns about the proposal, he said he recognizes the need for more tent camping opportunities on the lake and agreed that a tent campground wouldn't be the worst use for the site. "If that were the case, that this was rustic and it was run responsibly, I would not necessarily be against that," he said.

Thursday's public hearing on the proposed campground is set for 10:45 a.m. at the St. Louis County Government Services Center, located at 201 S. 3rd Av. W., in Virginia.



**Area Solid Waste** Facility

# site hours

Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am–3pm Tue: 9:30am–3pm Wed: 11am–5pm	Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am–6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am–3:30pm
County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon—5pm	Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat:, Sun 8am–5pm
Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30–4:30pm Thu: 10am–5pm	Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am–4pm Tue, Wed:10am–4pm Sat: 8am–noon
Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am–1pm	<b>Regional Landfill</b> 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon–Fri: 8am–4:30pm Sat: 8am–3:30pm
Winter hours effective Oc St. Louis County Environme <b>1-800-45</b> Office hours 8-4:30 M www.stlouiscount	0-9278 onday through Friday

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Questions? Gloria Erickson @ (218) 365-0878 or gloria@dovetailinc.org

March 18, 2023 10am - 12pm

Instruction by USFS Superior National Forest Service Personnel

# Location:

Kawishiwi District Ranger Station (front parking lot) 1393 Hwy 169 Ely, MN 55731

# Cost: FREE

We will be outside. Please dress appropriately for the weather conditions, including boots for walking.

# TOWN HALL ... Continued from page 1-

Amendment town halls being held in our region makes it clear that this is an effort to gin up fears of gun confiscation and gov-ernment overreach," said Rogne, a retired sociology professor.

The addition of Sen. Wesenberg as part of the forum is raising further concerns, given the newly-elected lawmaker's penchant for extremist views. At a Capitol rally in January, Wesenberg indicated support for the arrest of Gov. Tim Walz for his actions to address the COVID-19 pandemic. He also referred to the COVID vaccine as a "death shot," a claim that appears wildly at odds with the actual experience of those receiving a COVID shot. Since they became available in 2021, the vaccines have been given more than 12 billion times around the world, including 620 million times in the U.S.

Rogne called Wesenberg "a poster child for the far right," and argues that Wesenberg is using the Second Amendment town halls to stir up conservative voters.

Rep. Skraba sug-

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Thursday, March 16

5:30-6:30 PM

**Ely School Media Center** 

gested he's not aware of Wesenberg's views."To be honest, I don't even know the guy. He reached out to me about doing the event."

This isn't the first time that Skraba has aligned himself in public events with individuals with extreme views. During his last campaign, Skraba sponsored a showing of the widely discredited movie 2000 Mules, which made false claims about fraud in the 2020 election.

While Skraba said he has concerns about some of the gun safety legislation currently percolating through the committee process in St. Paul, he said he's not advocating for St. Louis County to become a 2nd Amendment sanctuary.

Skraba said he's looking for input from constituents on a wide range of issues. A flyer promoting the event lists Second Amendment legislation, the \$18 billion budget surplus, Social Security tax cuts, and "Other issues affecting our way of life on The Range.'

"I want to get a feel for where people are on these issues," said Skraba. "And I want to know peoples' feelings on the marijuana



Amendment Sanctuary" packed the county board meeting in Grand Rapids on Tuesday. process by which the county board approved the resolution, since the item was a last-minute add-on to the agenda, which gave the public no advanced notice. Only supporters of the resolution appeared at the earlier meeting, suggesting it had been orchestrated by some

photo by. F. Schumacher

bill as well. I try not to pick a side."

state, as well as rural Hauschild, to develop legare facing severe financial challenges.

## Gun bills pending

expressed concern about a bill that would require Minnesotans to secure their guns and ammunition in

# WOLFTRACK...Continued from page 1

extended turnaround loop that included a crossing of Bear Head Lake.

## Saturday vet check

The dog sled teams reported in with the race vet, Dr.ChipHanson, between 3 and 5 p.m. at the Vermilion Campus of Minnesota College North. Hanson and two veterinary interns checked the dogs' immunization records. In the past, Hanson said he used to inspect all of the dogs before they raced. "We have found that it's not necessary for this race," he said, noting that a close inspection of each dog's health wasn't crucial given the short duration of the race. In the past, the WolfTrack course was much longer, formerly extending all the way to Cook and back.

# Itasca board faces pushback from recent vote

County Board declaring the county a "Second Many were critical of the county commissioners.

Skraba said he's also

concerned about the future of nursing homes in the ambulances and said he's working with his DFL counterpart, Sen. Grant islation to assist ambulance services in the region that

Meanwhile, Skraba

locked cabinets or safes. He said the government shouldn't be telling gun owners how to handle weapons and ammunition within the confines of their own home."It's the government telling you what you can do with your Second Amendment right," said Skraba. "It's a right, not a privilege. This isn't where government is needed."

Other firearms legislation currently advancing in St. Paul include a universal background check requirement for private sales of firearms. Similar measures have been approved in 21 other states, but the measure is strongly opposed by some gun advocates. Law enforcement organizations, such as the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association are in support of safe storage requirements, universal background checks, and a mandatory reporting requirement by gun owners if a firearm is stolen. The Legislature is also considering a so-called "red flag" law that would allow for the seizure of an individual's guns if a court finds that they present an imminent danger to themselves or

others. Other provisions in the pending legislation would limit the purchase of assault-style rifles to those 21 years of age and older and prohibit the sale of large capacity magazines.

Gun advocates argue that such laws would have little impact in reducing gun violence, but would infringe on the rights of gun owners.

With the DFL in control of the Legislature, the prospects for gun safety regulations appear much stronger than in the recent past.



Alice White leads her excited dogs through the start of the eight-dog competition at last Sunday's WolfTrack Classic in Ely. photo by J. Summit

Winners

The top eight places (4:35:48), Shown McCarty Clayton Schneider

(4:31:47), Bucky Tippett Schouweiler (2:12:56),

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The check-in and immunization check were followed by the Vermilion Campus' Wilderness Club Musher Dinner. The fundraiser dinner was an allyou-can-eat spaghetti affair which packed the college's cafeteria.

in both the eight-dog and six-dog categories all received prize money. The top eight in the eight-dog category were Heather O'Brien with a time of 4:20:18, Rita Wehseler (4:24:36), Brian Bergen (4:36:25), Nick Vigilante (4:41:26), Neal Seeger (4:43:34), and Scott Edgett (4:47:22).

The top eight places in the six-dog category were Ashley Thaemert with a time of 2:11:48, Erin

(2:15:52), Steve Goedken (2:17:39), Derek Nechuta (2:19:25), Dusty Klaven (2:26:19), Julia Cross (2:36:01), and Ann Stead (2:38:23).

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# COUNTY SCHOOLS

# Native group faults school district's Indian Ed performance

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- The ISD 2142 School Board zipped through its agenda on Tuesday, with little discussion and few questions.

A letter from the district's American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) went without discussion, at either the board's Feb. 14 working session or Tuesday's meeting.

The AIPAC contends the district is not in compliance with established Indian Education program requirements established by the Minnesota Department of Education, and they provided a list of ten recommendations citing needed areas of improvement.

"We attest that the school board and/or district are not compliant with Minnesota Statutes and that the school board and/or district are not meeting the needs of American Indian students," the letter, signed by AIPAC Chairperson Hannah Chosa, stated.

The board voted unanimous-

ly to receive the letter and has two months in which to make a response.

The list of ten recommendations from the committee is twice as long as the list the committee presented last year with its finding of noncompliance. Unlike last year, no one from AIPAC was present at Tuesday's meeting to elaborate on any of the recommendations, which for the most part lacked specific examples of violations and instead cited relevant standards that are in noncompliance.

The recommendations include:

► A catch-all statement that the "District is to be in compliance with MN State Statutes pertaining to Indian Education.'

► Full collaboration with AIPAC in writing all aid/ grants pertaining to Indigenous Education, approval of Indigenous Education expenditures, and provision in a timely manner of up-to-date budgets, testing data, attendance data, graduation rates, student count data, and other information requested by AIPAC.

≻That the board and district officials read and adhere to AIPAC bylaws.

▶ Reinstatement of the Indian Education Director position.

▶ Be in compliance with teaching American Indian educational standards in all classrooms.

► Use Indigenous Education funding to supplement curriculum, not to replace curriculum funding from general education sources.

► Use the Self-Assessment Rubric provided with last year's vote of nonconcurrence and work toward attaining excellence.

► Hold collaborative meetings with AIPAC and the school board at least twice a year.

► District should comply with requests for accurate, specific information regarding the Tribal Nations Education Committee, MDE Office of Indian Education, Bois Forte and Fond du Lac and others in a timely manner.

with the MDE Office of Indian Education with any questions they may have pertaining to the district's Indigenous Education program and Minnesota statutes.

In other business, the board:

► Heard a presentation from Teresa de Venecia, Executive Director of Volunteers in Education (VinE) about the group'

s efforts to re-establish their tutoring programs at North Woods, Northeast Range, Tower-Soudan, and Cherry by April 10.

► Had a second reading of a bullying prohibition policy.

► Approved the 2023-24 school calendar.

► Revised an agreement for a \$50,000 gift from an anonymous donor intended for a greenhouse at Northeast Range/Babbitt Elementary School after cost estimates for the project far exceeded the designated funds. \$30,000 of the funds will be re-designated for a grow room for the school. and \$20,000 will be reallocated

The district is to consult to the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability to fulfill the donor's original intention of a greenhouse.

≻Hired Karen Klatt and Sandra Negen as paraprofessionals at Northeast Range.

► Hired Susan Thomas to the Indigenous Support II position at North Woods.

► Hired Michael Weske as full-time custodian at North Woods

► Hired the following coaches: North Woods head softball, DeeAnn Sandberg, with assistants Becca Bundy and Alli Sandberg; NW head girls golf, Kandi Olson; NW track assistant, Dan Squires; Northeast Range, head baseball, Aaron Donais; NER head girls golf, Ethan Stachovich; NER head softball, Misty Roseth.

≻Hired Blake Scofield as part-time North Woods fitness center supervisor.

# **2022 Lights of Love Donation List**

The VHHP Board of Directors would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to the success of the 2022 Lights of Love Campaign. A special thank you to the volunteers in the communities of Cook, Orr and Tower for their work in coordinating the ceremonies!

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# **GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP**

# Firefighters say they have not "voluntarily quit"

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

**GREENWOOD TWP- Two** of the seven firefighters that the Greenwood Town Board designated as "voluntary quits" from the Greenwood Fire Department tell the *Timberjay* they have not resigned and have no plans to quit. The two department members, Rick Worringer and Jim "Jet" Galonski, were among the top responders in the fire department last year, responding to 26 and 19 calls respectively. Of the 18 firefighters on the roster in 2022, only six members responded to at least 10 of the 50 fire calls recorded during the year. Four on the roster responded to zero calls, and three of these have since been taken off the roster, and one has retired. With the recent action of the board, the department roster includes only seven members.

At their Feb. 14 meeting, the board passed a motion 2-1 to accept the "voluntary quit" with the option to return after six months. Those effectively dismissed by the action include former chief David Fazio, Tammy Mortaloni, Howard Ankrum, Hunter Gilbert, and Tom Mortaloni in addition to Worringer and Galonski. They were among the ten firefighters who sent a letter to supervisor Mike Ralston protesting last year's dismissal of Fazio and the hiring of current chief Jeff Maus. The unsigned letter stated that the firefighters would not respond to fire calls until their conditions, which included the dismissal of Maus, were met by the board.

"We find the board and Mr. Maus's new leadership punitive and dictatorial," stated the firefighters in their letter. "This style of leadership creates mistrust and deflates morale, causing deleterious affects (sic) on job performance and safety. We therefore require that by the conclusion of the town board meeting on Jan. 10, assurances are given to the firefighter rank and file, that Mr. Maus will be removed from the fire department, and the rank and file will be allowed to determine who their officers are, and most importantly will have final approval of any individual that is appointed chief."

The town board did not comply with the firefighters' demands and some of the firefighters responded by handing in their gear.

Last month, on advice of their legal counsel, the board accepted the firefighters' decision to quit the department. Supervisors Sue Drobac and Rick Stoehr voted for the motion, Paul Skubic voted against, and Barb Lofquist abstained.

Board Chair Sue Drobac said the threats made in the letter, which affect the entire Greenwood community, were what spurred the board to act.

'We gave the letter to our township attorney [Mitch Brunfelt] to review," she said. "Even though it wasn't signed, it identified the 10 department members at the meeting. He said the letter they sent, and leaving their gear, was called a voluntary quit."

But some of the firefighters disagreed.

"We are not resigning," Galonski told the Timberjay. "They will have to fire us. None of us have quit.'

Galonski said this move, in addition to the removal of some inactive personnel and former assistant chief Mike Indihar, means the department only has seven active firefighters on its roster.

Worringer told the Timberjay that the firefighters who sent the letter had no intention of resigning, but were stating that they would no longer respond to 911 calls "until those conditions are met."

"That means we intend to remain on the department, attending trainings and meetings, and will resume responding when our requests are addressed," said Worringer. "No one has to be a rocket scientist to understand that. This is what we have been doing, up until the evening of Feb. 21, when we were told by the chief that we 'are no longer employees of Greenwood Township.'

Worringer said the town board actions go against established township written employ-



Greenwood Fire Department members attended the Jan. 10 board meeting and walked out when the board did not act on their demand to remove Fire Chief Jeff Maus. Rick Worringer is pictured at the far right, seated next to Jim "Jet" Galonski. file photo

ment and discipline policies.

"The Worringer said, board's 'voluntary resigning' of rank-and-file firefighters does not even afford these employees the three-step process of discipline that the town board recently approved." He cited the document: "If the disciplinary action involves the removal of a qualified veteran, the appropriate hearing notice will be provided and all rights will be afforded the veteran in accordance with Minnesota law."

"None of us have received that invitation," Worringer said. "It seems that the town board does not have the courage to tell us that we are fired, instead they come up with a vague term that seems to have no definition anywhere. This is how they are protecting themselves and projecting all the blame for this crisis on the firefighters.'

Fire Chief Maus said the discipline section of the personnel policy states

"The town board may dismiss an employee for substandard work performance, serious misconduct, or behavior not in keeping with the township standards."

"A reasonable person would deem the letter written to the board and the firefighting gear being returned to be voluntarily quitting," Maus said. "The board took action to dismiss those associated with the above action for abandonment of an emergency services position."

Maus added that "prior to the board taking action, all of those involved in the above activities were given the opportunity to separate themselves from the statements made in the letter, respond to 911 calls, and be an active member of the fire department. Most chose not to change their stated position."

Worringer said that four of the firefighters in question attended the Feb. 21 blood borne pathogens and AWAIR training, which was required at least annually and had last been offered on Jan. 11, 2022. Worringer said the training was attended by three other firefighters and no first responders.

"We were attending in order to fulfill our training requirements as we intended. What this means is, at the time of this writing, only three firefighters and none of the EMS responders are

legal to respond to 911 pages," Worringer said.

"All the firefighters are asking for is to have a pleasant work environment as opposed to one that is punitive and dictatorial, and to have a town board that provides support, instead of publicly berating their performance," said Worringer. "We are not rabble rousers or disgruntled employees. We did not ask for any of this. We want to continue to serve the community.'

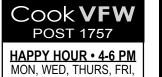
Drobac said the threat in the letter, saying that these department members would not respond to 911 calls, puts their sense of community into question.

"They told the board they will stop going to 911 calls if the board will not do what they say," she said. Drobac noted these department members all have the option of rejoining the department after six months.

"We want everyone to get along also," she said. "But pretty much from day one, these department members have harassed Jeff Maus," Drobac said.













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# GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Penke ties three-point mark

# Ely junior hits eight consecutive treys to tie single game record

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

ELY — Ely junior Hannah Penke appears to have tied a state record as she led the Timberwolves to Left: A referee closely eyes the feet of Ely's Hannah Penke as she shoots a three-pointer during Ely's Friday night home contests with South Ridge. Penke led the Wolves with 31 points on the night. photo by J. Greeney a 69-52 victory over South Ridge in their regular season finale here on Friday. Penke, who is new to the team this season, has played a key role in Ely's success thus far, and she showed it once again against the Panthers as she connected for eight treys in a row, apparently tying the state girls record for the most consecutive threepoint shots in a single game. That's according to records posted on the website of the Minnesota State High School League.

It was a solid finish to Ely's 21-4 regular season, its most successful in team history, and it left them ranked as the third seed heading into the Section 7A playoffs. The Wolves were set to host 14th seeded Silver Bay in the opening round starting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, as the *Timberjay* went to press. An Ely victory would send the Wolves to Hibbing Memorial at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, against either Bigfork or Cook County.

Against the Panthers, Ely demonstrated the kind of play it will take to advance in the playoffs. "I was proud of our defensive effort, and it was just fun to watch us shoot the ball," said Ely Head Coach Max Gantt. The Wolves connected for at least 14 treys, accounting for well over half of their points. "When shots are going in like that is just feels contagious,"

See WOLVES...pg. 2B



# **Grizzlies roll** Top Rock Ridge and Chisholm back-to-back





# GIRLS BASKETBALL Grizzlies downed by Floodwood

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FLOODWOOD- The North Woods girls battled furiously to overcome a big first-half deficit at Floodwood last Friday, coming almost all the way back in the second half before fading at the end for a 75-64 loss.

A fast Floodwood five took command early, converting turnovers into points as they bolted to a 26-8 lead. When the Polar Bears went up by 25 at 38-13, it looked as though they would walk away with the rout, but the Grizzlies had other things in mind. North Woods ended the half on a 13-3 run to cut the deficit to 41-26.

Riding the hot hand of Helen Koch, who led North Woods with 28 points, the Grizzlies kept up the heat in the second half and closed the gap to just one, 49-48. Floodwood had a bit more gas left in the tank down the stretch to come away with the 75-64 win.

## by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods boys treated the home fans to two big wins last week, an 83-80 thriller over Class AARock Ridge and a thorough pasting of Chisholm.

The Wolverines of Rock Ridge were a formidable foe coming into Thursday night's tilt, a tall, athletic crew sporting an 18-5 record against mostly AA and AAA foes. But the Grizzlies wasted little time setting the tone, using treys by Johan Burnett and Brenden Chiabotti and a bucket and one by Kaden Ratai to go up 9-4 early. North Woods wasn't afraid to take the ball into the lane, utilizing the drive and dish effectively to connect for baskets and to draw fouls as they extended the lead to an 11-point advantage, 30-19, on a three-ball by Above: The Grizzlies' Jared Chiabotti goes high and outside for a shot under intense pressure by Rock Ridge defenders.

## Right: The Grizzlies' Kaden Ratai works to keep a Rock Ridge ball handler out of the paint.

photos by D. Colburn

Jared Chiabotti. The Grizzlies were up 45-38 at the half.

Rock Ridge came out hot in the second half, reeling off seven points to tie the score 45-45, then adding an 11-4 run to go up 56-49. Burnett canned a pair of threes to keep North Woods close, and a triple by Talen Jarshaw knotted the score at 65-65 with 9:27 remaining. The lead traded hands twice before Brendan Chiabotti connected on a triple to tie

See NW BOYS...pg. 2B



# Ely at 19-6 ahead of regular season finale



## by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

HILL CITY — The Wolves posted back-to-back wins this week to improve to 19-6 as they head into their regular season finale on Friday, against Fond du Lac.

Playing at Hill City on Monday, Ely outpaced the Hornets 59-43. "We played well enough to win," said Ely Head

## Left: Ely senior guard Joey Bianco goes inside for a layup in heavy traffic against South Ridge last Friday.

photo by J. Greeney

Coach Tom McDonald. "We struggled shooting the ball from the perimeter and played well enough defensively."

Senior point guard Joey Bianco had another big night for the Wolves, pouring in 22 points, while adding nine rebounds and eight assists, narrowly missing a triple-double. Freshman Jack Davies added 15 points for Ely.

Ely notched a more impressive performance against South Ridge last Friday, as they topped the Panthers 56-32. "We played really well defensively against their huge lineup," said

# See ELY BOYS...pg. 2B

Grizzly in double figures with 14.

The Grizzlies finished the regular season at 14-12. North Woods got a boost in the Section 7A tournament seedings by virtue of their Feb. 7 overtime win at Cherry, locking in a Wednesday tourney home opener against the Tigers. The winner of that game was scheduled to move on to the tournament quarterfinals in Hibbing on Saturday.

# ARCHERY North Woods archers score well in Rapids

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

GRAND RAPIDS – North Woods archers scored well at a tournament in Grand Rapids on Sat., Feb. 18, with the middle schoolers taking team titles in both bullseye and three-dimensional target shooting events.

In the bullseye competition at the high school level, Cadence Nelson placed second among 11th grade girls and second overall. In the ninth-grade boys group Blaze Markwardt captured first and Lincoln Antikainen took third.

Peyton Swanson set the mark for the middle school boys division, winning first overall and first among seventh-graders. In the sixth-grade boys group,

See ARCHERS ....pg. 2B

# SAFETY NET

# **Thousands in county to lose SNAP benefits**

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- More than 20,000 St. Louis County participants in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and more than 350,000 participants statewide, will see their food budgets take a hit in April with the end of emergency SNAP benefits instituted at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Temporary emergency benefits enacted in March 2020 helped Minnesotans with low incomes buy food during the pandemic, providing a minimum additional benefit of \$95 a month on up to hundreds of dollars, depending on family size. A recently approved federal spending bill calls for emergency SNAP benefits to expire in February. Most recipients will receive their final emergency assistance in March. SNAP benefits will return to regular amounts in April.

"It's been three years that they've had it every single

month as part of their budget," said Dusty Letica, director of the St. Louis County Economic Services and Supports Division. "We have roughly over 20,000 individuals in St. Louis County alone that are on SNAP that will be affected by this change. That's ten percent of the entire population of the county. It's going to be a significant decrease for some households."

"That extra support during the pandemic was a welcome relief for people who count on SNAP," said Human Services Commissioner Jodi Harpstead. "We know that many Minnesotans still struggle to put food on the table. Without the additional federal benefits, that will become even more difficult."

The base income qualification for SNAP benefits is 130 percent of poverty level, and program participation has grown throughout the pandemic, Letica said. In 2020, the average number of St. Louis County SNAP recipients per month was 13,541. That

number grew to 17,717 in 2021, 19,496 in 2022, and stands at 20,297 currently.

While the pandemic has waned, food security continues to be a problem for many Minnesotans, especially with the escalating cost of groceries. Letica said his staff is referring clients to area food shelves, but they are already being greatly taxed by the current conditions. Second Harvest, a regional food bank, has reported that its partners have reported a 30-percent increase in visitation.

Letica emphasized that only the additional emergency SNAP payments are going away.

"Individuals should know that the regular SNAP program will stay the same, as long as they remain eligible," he said.

Changes in income affect SNAP eligibility, and one group often overlooked that could see changes are Social Security recipients. Letica noted that because of last year's inflation rate, Social Security had an 8.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment, a significant increase that could have an impact on SNAP benefits that Social Security recipients may be receiving.

The end of the emergency SNAP benefits isn't only a loss to recipients, Letica said. It will also impact retail food sellers in the county. Together, the SNAP and emergency SNAP programs pumped \$50,646,000 into the St. Louis County economy in 2022. That's close to double the \$27,763,000 what was distributed in 2020. Statewide, since March 2020, \$1.3 billion in emergency SNAP benefits have gone to more than 350,000 Minnesota households.

And as extra pandemic benefits disappear, from food aid to medical assistance, Letica also has concerns for his staff, who have to implement the changes and will undoubtedly be the focus of much angst from those affected by federal decisions made in Washington, D.C.

"This next year will be the

most challenging in my 16 years at the county for staff," he said. "Retention and well-being is going to be of utmost importance for me because they're probably going to be receiving some unpleasant phone calls from individuals who are significantly impacted and frustrated, and rightfully so. How do we handle those and not take them personally, and then continue on with our jobs and trying to help the next person? It's certainly going to be challenging."

Governor Tim Walz's budget proposal includes several proposals to help increase food security for Minnesotans, improving food distribution and access for Tribal nations and families across the state. Both bodies of the Minnesota Legislature have approved an additional \$5 million for the Minnesota Food Shelf Program, and that bill now goes to Governor Walz for action.

# WOLVES..Continued from page 1B -

said Gantt.

The Wolves have several players who have demonstrated their ability to hit from beyond the arc this year, noted Gantt. "Hannah got hot and just had a really good game," he said. "Grace LaTourell actually has the best percentage and most makes from three for us on the year."

Buoyed by her eight treys, Penke finished the game with 31 points, one of her highest totals of the season. Grace LaTourell connected on four shots from beyond the arc to add a total of 14 points and nine boards on the evening. Madeline Perry posted 13 points and four assists, while Sarah Visser connected on two treys and came up with several key steals in the match. "And Madeline Kallberg had a monster defensive game taking away their post players for us," said Gantt.

Friday's contest was one of Ely's best all-around performances of the year. "Our girls showed up in a big way in what was our biggest game of the year. Now we just keep it rolling into the playoffs," said Gantt.

Penke's three-point mark will require some paperwork before it becomes official. Gantt said the state High School League will be sending documentation forms to fill out to certify her record-setting achievement.

Right: Ely's Madeline Perry works the ball around a South Ridge defender during last Friday's contest in Ely. The Wolves went on to win 69-52.

photo by J. Greeney



# **NW BOYS.** Continued from page 1B -

it again, 75-75, with just over a minute to play.

The ball changed hands ten times in the final minute of play after Brenden Chiabotti stepped to the line and sank a pair of free throws with 48 seconds left to put the Grizzlies up 77-75. North Woods collected charities from Brenden Chiabotti, Jared Chiabotti, and Eli Smith over the next 38 seconds, game we've played all year against one hell of a team," Jugovich said. "It's always hard to play here, especially with the fans we had tonight, but our boys came out and busted their butts for 36 minutes and finally got a game that they could win in a close one. We rebounded, we fought for loose balls, and we took good shots."

Senior Jared Chiabotti said defense was a key to

it up on defense, and espe-

cially we locked down on

their best shooters," he

said. "We ran to close out

and get rebounds, and we

did everything we could."

game by getting to the free

throw line and converting a

sizzling 82 percent of their

charities. North Woods

went 23-of-28 from the

line, while Rock Ridge

The Grizzlies won this

"We really just stepped

victory.

went just six-of-11.

Burnett topped the Grizzlies in scoring with 26, followed by Brenden Chiabotti with 17. Jared Chiabotti with 16, and Ratai with 11.

The Grizzlies were back on the court Friday for a sectional battle against Chisholm. North Woods had this one well in hand in the first half, building a 30-16 lead, but the Bluestreaks rallied to cut

the halftime deficit to only

three, 34-31. Chisholm

pulled to within one at

34-33 to start the second

half, but North Woods

quickly reasserted itself

on both ends of the court

with a 24-6 run to go up

58-39 and effectively put

this one out of reach. North

Woods was up by 20 with

time running down when

Brenden Chiabotti put an

exclamation point on the

beatdown with an NBA-

range trey as time expired for the 81-58 win.

Jugovich said his team really came together in the second half.

"We stopped turning the ball over, and we started hustling more. That's all we needed," he said. "They had so many fast break points in the first half from us just giving them the ball. Once we figured it out, we were fine. We just had to

7A tournament begins next week, with the Grizzlies sitting in fifth position and eyeing a tourney opener at home prior to the Carlton and Deer River games.

## Carlton

The Grizzlies ran their current winning streak to six on Tuesday with a 105-81 road win at Carlton.

Junior guard Jonah Burnett provided the North Woods highlight of the night when he connected on a three-pointer before halftime to become the third Grizzlies' player this season to eclipse the 1,000point career scoring mark. Burnett has been a standout scorer for the Grizzlies this season, whether battling inside against the big men or raining clutch threes from the perimeter. Seniors Jared Chiabotti and Brenden Chiabotti crossed 1,000 career points earlier

this season.

"Jonah has been one of the hardest workers for us on and off the court,' Jugovich said."His drive to be great is so under appreciated. The way he is playing will hopefully help lead us to a few wins once we hit section tournament time."

The Grizzlies have taken advantage of having three potent scorers during their current streak, averaging 98.8 points per game. The trio came through again against Carlton, with Burnett scoring 40 and Jared and Brendan Chiabotti hitting for 18 each. The Grizzlies will likely need all that firepower and a stout defense in their last regular season game Friday at 20-5 Deer River.

but a Rock Ridge trey with 2.9 remaining gave the Wolverines one last hope, trailing 81-80. Burnett assured the Grizzlies of no worse than a tie by cashing in a pair from the line, and North Woods took the 83-80 upset win when a desperation heave by Rock Ridge missed the mark.

Grizzlies Head Coach Andrew Jugovich began his postgame interview with a triumphant whoop.

"That's the hardest

ARCHERS..Continued from page 1B

Cooper Long took second, Brady Swanson placed third, and Buckley LeForte finished fourth. Merilee Scofield took fourth among eighth grade girls, and Kalle Nelson placed third among seventh grade girls. Laurin Glass and Michaela Brunner placed third and fourth, respectively, in the sixth-grade girls group.

In the elementary group, Connor Anderson won first in the fourthgrade boys division, Clark Danielson placed second among fifth grade boys, and Kaidence Scofield took fourth among fifth grade girls.

## **3D targets**

Cadence Nelson collected another second-place finish among 11th grade girls and CooperAntikainen took third among 12th grade girls. Blaze Markwardt took third place in the high school boys division and first place among ninth graders. Lincoln Antikainen took second in

the ninth grade group, and Riley Las took fourth in the 11th grade section.

In middle school boys competitionl,CooperLong jumped up a notch to capture first place overall and first in sixth grade. Seventhgrader Jacob Towner placed fourth, while sixth-graders Brady Swanson and Ayden Anderson placed third and fifth, respectively.

Eighth grader Merilee Scofield, seventh grader Kalle Nelson, and sixth grader Laurin Glass

execute.'

North Woods had another big night at the free throw line, going 21-of-27 for 79 percent.

Brenden Chiabotti and Jared Chiabotti tied for scoring honors with 23 each, followed closely by Burnett with 22.

North Woods was scheduled to close out the regular season on the road with a Tuesday trip to Carlton and a Friday game at Deer River. The Section

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91.71m - Grand Rapids 90.5fm - Bemidji 89.91m - Brainerd kaxe.org

# ELY BOYS...Continued from page 1B-

McDonald. "They have two 6'-9" guys on the team and we limited them to nine points on the night.'

Bianco had another big night, posting a double-double with 22 points and 10 boards along with six assists. Davies added 17 points and senior Erron

Anderson tallied eight boards.

With the playoffs set to get underway next week, the Wolves are focused mostly on staying healthy. "We're also working hard on the defensive end as our hopes will rely on how well we can defend against the better teams in the section.

I think anyone seeded one through four is good enough to win the section and anyone seeded below that will have to play extremely well to beat them."

Currently, McDonald expects Cherry, Mt. Iron-

Buhl, Deer River, and Northland to make up the top four seeds in Section 7A. Final pairings for the playoffs will be decided this weekend after the final games of the regular season.

each took third place in their grade division, and Michaela Brunner placed fifth among sixth grade

> Connor Anderson captured his second first of the day among fourth grade boys, while fifth-grader Clark Danielson scored second overall among elementary boys and second among fifth graders.

> Leah Las picked up fifth place among fourth grade girls.

girls.

# **Obituaries and Death Notices**

## Joel M. Hasz

Joel M. Hasz, 60, of Arbor Vitae, Wis., formerly of Ely, passed away at his home on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023. A funeral service was held on Thursday, March 2 at Nimsgern Funeral and Cremation Services in Woodruff, Wis.

He is survived by his children, Marshall, Taylor, Ethan and Madi Hasz; siblings, Michele Hasz and Jeffrey Hasz; numerous cousins, aunts and uncles; and many, many friends whose lives he touched through his ministry.

## **Robert C. Roberts**

Robert "RC" Roberts, 78, of Ely, passed away at his home on Friday, Feb. 24, 2023. As requested by RC, there will be no service. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely. He is survived by his brothers, Michael (Mary) Roberts of St. Cloud and Merrill (Sue) Roberts of Ely; and many nieces and nephews.

## Marilynn L. Mazva

Marilynn Lee Trlak Mazva, 76, of Ely, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her four siblings, Mickey, June, Bill (Dona) and Ed (Jan); children, Tammy Kisch of Ely and Michael (Janelle) Terrance of Naperville, Ill.; and grandchildren, Elizabeth (Riley) Kisch, Thomas (Erin) Terrance and Abigail Terrance.

# Job and career fairs to be held in Ely

# Events aimed at high school students as well as adults

ELY - Ely and Northeast Range high school students are invited to a career fair Wednesday, March 8, starting at 8 a.m. at Ely High School. Businesses interested in having a table at the career fair should reserve their spot with the Ely Chamber of Commerce.

A second career fair will be held at Minnesota North College – Vermilion campus on Wednesday, March 29, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Registration for the career fair is through NorthForce at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z7RGF8V. Preregistration is required. Businesses can also visit with Ali at the Vermilion campus event to learn about all the resources NorthForce offers.

A third event also on Wednesday, March 29, is

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

ELY - Ely and Northeast scheduled for 6-8 p.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge. Businesses that would like to have a table should contact the Ely Chamber of Commerce.

Businesses can contact the chamber office to register for the high school and Grand Ely Lodge events. They can also provide job openings for an area list. Chamber members will also have their job openings added to the Ely.org job board. The Ely Chamber of Commerce will hand out copies of the job list at all three events.

"We are focusing on three different demographics across the various job-career fairs; high school, college, and residents. NorthForce is a fantastic resource for area businesses, and we are happy to partner with them for the

Vermilion campus event. NorthForce offers a free job board at northforce.org. Their website is a great resource for individuals who relocate to Iron Range communities. The more area businesses that list jobs at NorthForce, the better draw it is for people to move here - potential new residents can see we are a strong, growing community with plenty of employment opportunities," said Eva Sebesta, executive director of the Ely Chamber of Commerce.

For questions, job listings, or registrations for either the high school or Grand Ely Lodge events, contact director@ely. org\_or call 218-365-6123.

## CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

Assumed Name: Ridlon Handyman Services PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 1118 East 11<sup>th</sup> St., Hibbing, MN 55746-5574 NAMEHOLDER(S):

Justin Ridlon, 1118 East 11<sup>th</sup> St., Hibbing, MN 55746-5574

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath

Dated: September 7, 2022 SIGNED BY: Justin Ridlon

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 24 & March 3, 2023



# NOTICE OF VACANCY ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners will make one (1) appointment for the alternate position to the St. Louis Board of Adjustment with a term ending December 31, 2024.

The St. Louis County Board of Adjustment conducts public hearings for variances from county ordinances and hears appeals from any order, requirement, decision or determination made by the planning director. Typically the meetings are during the daytime on the second Thursday of the month; however, depending on caseloads, there may be more than one meeting per month.

Persons interested in being considered for this appointment should submit an application no later than March 31, 2023 to: Phil Chapman, Clerk of County Board, 100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214, Courthouse, Duluth, MN, 55802, fax: 218-725-5060, or e-mail chapmanp@stlouiscountymn.gov.

For an online application, go to <u>www.stlouis-</u> <u>countymn.gov/clerk</u> and click "Application for Citizen Advisory Committee". Applications are also available in the County Auditor's Office in the Duluth Courthouse and the Government Services Center in Virginia, and in the Ely Government Services Center, or by emailing <u>chapmanp@stlouiscountymn.gov</u> or calling 218-726-2385.

NANCY NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER BY: Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board

Published in the Timberjay, March 3 & 10, 2023

# EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Eagles Nest Township Annual Township Meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm and will be located at the Eagles Nest Town Hall. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held at the same place and time on March 21.

# GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP ELECTION & ANNUAL MEETING

## THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP 2023 LOCAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD AT THE GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP HALL ON TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 POLLS open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

Saturday, March 11, 2023 the Greenwood Town Office will be open from 10 am to noon to accept Absentee Ballot applications and Absentee Ballots.

Monday, March 13, 2023 the Greenwood Town Office will be open from 1 pm until 5 pm to accept Absentee Ballot applications and Absentee Ballots.

In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until March 21, 2023.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Greenwood Township Annual Meeting will be directly after the voting is complete starting at 8:15 to 8:30.

Dr. JoAnn Bassing - Interim Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 24 & March 3, 2023

# NOTICE OF VACANCY ST. LOUIS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners will be making one (1) appointment to the St. Louis County Planning Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2025. The St. Louis County Planning Commission conducts monthly public hearings for comprehensive plans, conditional use permit applications, subdivision platting proposals and other matters as prescribed by county ordinance. The Commission makes recommendations to the County Board on official controls, environmental reviews and zoning text amendments. Typically the meetings are during the daytime on the second Thurgday of the month, how

## CITY OF TOWER LEGAL NOTICE Publishing of Ordinance 82M

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 82 1st Reading January 9, 2023 2nd Reading February 13, 2023 Given length of Ordinance, please view at:

https://cityoftower.com/city-ordinances

Published in the Timberjay, March 3, 2023

# Town of Embarrass Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Embarrass Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Township Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. In case of inclement weather, the meeting may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March (March 21,2023).

The Annual Meeting will commence at 7:00 pm to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. This meeting will be held at: Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Rd., Embarrass, MN 55732

Jennifer Boese, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, March 3, 2023

## VERMILION LAKE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Vermilion Lake Township, County of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

The election poll hours will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will

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Great Coverage One Low Rate 753-2950 Keely Drange, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, March 3, 2023

## Town Election Ballot Town of Greenwood, Minnesota March 14, 2023

Instructions to Voters: To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choices like this:

## **Town Offices**

Town Supervisor Seat A Vote for One

○ John Bassing

write-in, if any

Town Supervisor Seat B Vote for One

○ Paul Skubic

O write-in, if any

Special Election for Town Clerk To fill vacancy in term expiring March 12, 2024 Vote for One

JoAnn Bassing

write-n, if any

Town Treasurer Vote for One

○ Jeff Maus

write-in, if any

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 24 & March 3, 2023

on the second Thursday of the month; however, depending on case loads, there may be more than one meeting per month.

Persons interested in being considered for this appointment should submit an application no later than March 31, 2023 to: Phil Chapman, Clerk of County Board, 100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214, Courthouse, Duluth, MN, 55802, fax: 218-725-5060, or e-mail chapmanp@stlouiscountymn.gov.

For an online application, go to <u>www.stlouiscountymn.gov/clerk</u> and click "Application for Citizen Advisory Committee". Applications are also available in the County Auditor's Office in the Duluth Courthouse and the Government Services Center in Virginia, and in the Ely Government Services Center, or by emailing <u>chapmanp@stlouiscountymn.gov</u> or calling 218-726-2385.

NANCY NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER BY: Phil Chapman, Clerk of the County Board

Published in the Timberjay, March 3 & 10, 2023

# Bearville Township Annual Town Meeting Tuesday, March 14, 2023

The Annual Town Meeting for Bearville Township will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Bearville Town Hall, to set the levies, and to conduct any and all other business proper to be conducted when the Annual Meeting is convened. Residents of Bearville Township that are eligible to vote in Bearville Township may vote at the Annual Meeting. All meetings are open to the public.

In case of inclement weather, the Annual Town Meeting will be held one week later on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at the time and place stated.

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

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 24 & March 3, 2023

# timberjay.com

elect by ballot:

One Supervisor for a term of 3 years One Treasurer for a term of 2 years

The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at the following location: VERMILION LAKE TOWN HALL, 6703 WAHLSTEN ROAD

NOTE: Board of Canvass will meet following the Annual Meeting.

Crystal Alaspa, Vermilion Lake Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 24 & March 3, 2023

# LEIDING TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Leiding Township, County of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at the Leiding Town Hall.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

The election poll hours will be open from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot:

One Supervisor for a term of 3 years One Treasurer for a term of 2 years

The Board of Canvass will follow the election.

The Annual Meeting will commence following the Board of Canvass to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

**Regular Town Board Meeting** The regular meeting of the Leiding Town Board will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Jutdoors Our lives in the Northwoods

# AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

# **County board approves AIS funding for 2023**

# Vermilion and Burntside lake associations among the seven organizations to win funds for continued efforts

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL- Seven organizations were among those receiving funding from St. Louis County to help reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species. The county board voted unanimously to approve distribution of a total of \$712,235 in state funds for seven projects located throughout the county.

The approved projects and funding include:

▶\$478,500 to the North St.

Louis Soil and Water Conservation District to manage watercraft inspections, decontaminations and public education on the following lakes: Bear Island, Birch, Burntside, Crane, Ely, Gilbert-Pit, Johnson, Kabetogama, One Pine, Pelican, Shagawa, Sturgeon and Vermilion.

▶ \$141,000 to Wildlife Forever for marketing efforts for their Clean Drain Dry Initiative campaign aimed at public awareness and education, and behavioral change.

> \$45,000 to Community Action Duluth for continued

# NIGHT LIGHTS

eradication, control, mapping, and monitoring of non-native phragmites in the St. Louis River Estuary.

▶\$30,000 to Canosia Township for watercraft inspections and public education on Pike Lake and Caribou Lake.

▶\$24,515 to Grand Lake Township for watercraft inspections on Caribou Lake.

>\$23,500 to the Vermilion Lake Association for continued watercraft inspections and cleaning; public awareness and education; habitat evaluation and threat assessment; early detection, response efforts and population management; and partnership development.

▶\$19,796 to the Burntside Lake Association for enhanced training of boat inspectors, promote the use of decontamination stations, improve public awareness and education about AIS, build early detection capabilities, and partnership development.

Each year, through the AIS Prevention Aid Program, the state Legislature allocates funding to counties to be used to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of AIS. Through an application and proposal process, St. Louis County has sought out organizations to address AIS issues with multi-disciplinary, integrated solutions based on science, related to natural resources sustainability, and social and economic concerns. Since 2014, when the AIS Prevention Aid Program started, St. Louis County has distributed more than \$5 million to fund projects that address one or more of the seven categories and associated actions outlined in the St. Louis County AIS Prevention Plan.



Sunday night's brilliant display of the aurora borealis was captured from the south shore of Lost Lake, near Tower. photo by Pam Wettering

# **Outdoors briefly**

# Woman injured in snowmobile crash

REGIONAL- An Iowa woman sustained an apparent broken arm and other injuries last Friday evening after she lost control of her snowmobile on the Taconite Trail, near Star Lake. The remote lake is located about a mile west of Bear Head Lake State Park.

The 61-year-old woman was ejected from her sled as she lost control of the vehicle while attempting to negotiate a turn. Emergency responders subsequently transported the woman to Ely Bloomenson Hospital with apparently non-life-threatening injuries.

Speed and icy trail conditions are believed to have been contributing factors to the accident. The incident remains under investigation by the St Louis County Sheriff's Office.

# WILDLIFE IN THE COURTS Consent decree to restrict trapping in lynx zone by MARSHALL HELMBERGER "In the past decade, state and Right: A lynx makes its way

Managing Editor

federal agencies have document- through heavy cover.

REGIONAL- A federal judge has agreed to a proposed consent decree between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) that will adopt new regulations designed to limit the incidental taking of Canada lynx.

The Center for Biological Diversity had sued the DNR in 2020 arguing that it had failed to prevent the accidental trapping and killing of lynx by trappers in northeastern Minnesota. A federal court had previously ordered the DNR to seek an incidental takings permit from the federal Fish and Wildlife Service, but the federal agency never acted on the DNR's permit request nor has the federal agency drafted new regulations to prevent the killing of lynx, which are occasionally captured in traps set for other species, like bobcat, which are legally trapped in Minnesota.

ed numerous captures and deaths of lynx in traps set for other wildlife in Minnesota," stated Collette Adkins, with the CBD. "Trapping of Canada lynx, unless covered by a specific permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, constitutes an illegal 'take' under the Endangered Species Act, even if it's accidental." The CBD had provided documentation to the court of about a dozen lynx deaths in recent years from accidental trapping.

The judge, Eric Tostrud, agreed, and his order will require trappers in the state's Lynx Management Zone to include loop stops on strangulation snares, which would limit the amount of pressure these snares could apply to the necks of lynx, potentially reducing mortality. The Lynx Management Zone includes virtually all of northeastern Minnesota located east of Hwy. 53.

In addition, the agreement calls for restricting the use of

file photo

leghold traps with a jaw spread larger than 6.5 inches. The court order also requires Minnesota officials to take steps to educate trappers about the new reforms.

Three trapping organizations, the Minnesota Trappers Association, the National Trappers Association, and Fur Takers of America, had intervened in opposition to the consent decree and their views were heard by the court at a hearing held Nov. 3,2022. The trappers had argued against the decree on mostly technical grounds, and suggested that the new rules adopted in the decree would likely be ineffective in reducing lynx deaths.

The CBD disagrees. "This is a big win for Minnesota's Canada lynx and all of us who care about them," said Adkins, CBD's Minneapolis-based carnivore conservation director. "These commonsense reforms



of Minnesota's trapping program will prevent needless, agonizing deaths of these rare cats, as well as other unintended victims, like dogs.'

Canada lynx (Lynx canadensis) are distinguished from bobcats by their tufted ears, hind legs that appear longer than front legs, and a pronounced goatee under the chin. Their large paws work like snowshoes and enable them to walk on top of deep, soft snows. These cold-loving cats

feed predominantly on snowshoe hares but may also eat birds and small mammals and scavenge carcasses.

The lynx was listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act in 2000. Its federally designated critical habitat includes northeastern Minnesota.

# **Fishing reports**

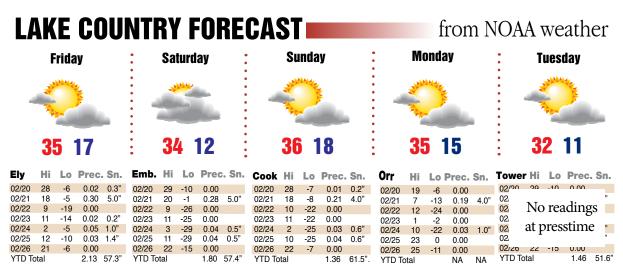
# Ely area

Anglers willing to venture out a little further than most experienced good stream trout fishing this last week. Brookies and splake were very active and were generally found shallow near downed trees, points, or where water was entering the lakes. Small tungsten jigs tipped with wax worms or fresh dead minnows have been very effective for trout anglers.

As we come into

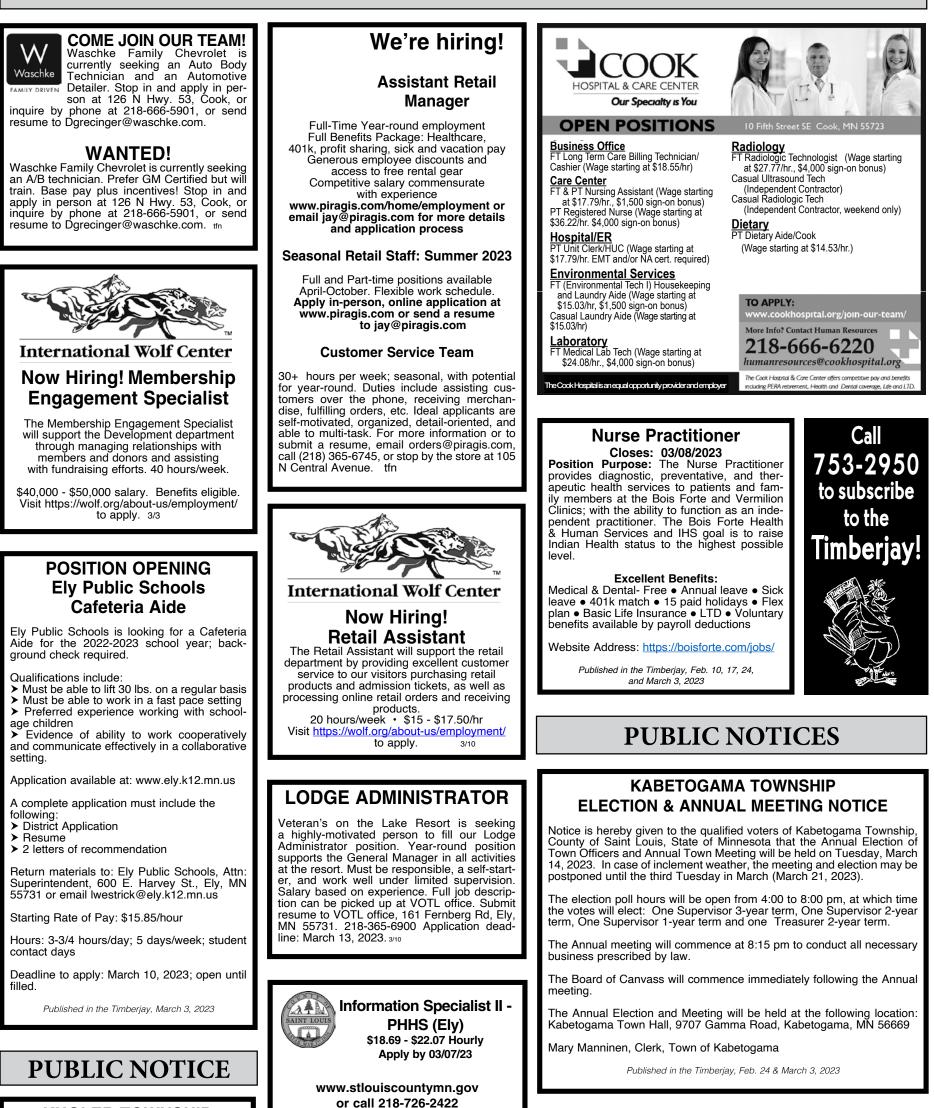
another full moon cycle, eelpout activity is increasing and so is interest from anglers. Anglers have been focusing on sunken islands and close to river mouths to find eelpout after dark. Heavy, bright glowing jigs, pounded on sand bottoms, have been very effective. Anglers have been locating eelpout in 15-35 feet of water after dark.

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





# **EMPLOYMENT**



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND REGULAR MEETING

**KUGLER TOWNSHIP** 

The Annual Town Meeting for Kugler Township will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, beginning at 6:00 pm at the Kugler Town Hall, to set the levies, and to conduct any and all other business proper to be conducted when the Annual Meeting is convened.

In case of inclement weather, the Annual Town Meeting will be held one week later on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at the time and place stated.

The regular town board meeting will follow the Annual Meeting.

Christopher Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, March 3 & 10, 2023

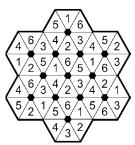
# Notice to the Voters of the Town of Crane Lake

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the Town of Crane Lake, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the Crane Lake Chapel Fellowship Hall to set the levies, and conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. In case of inclement weather, the Meeting may be postponed until Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

Jo Ann Pohlman, Clerk, Town of Crane Lake

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 24 & March 3, 2023

solution





Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 3/3

# **PUBLIC NOTICES**

# FIELD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Field Township, County of St. Louis, and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

The election poll hours will be from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot: One Supervisor for a term of 3 years One Treasurer for a term of 2 years

The Board of Canvass will meet following the Election.

The Annual Meeting will commence following the Board of Canvass to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Election and Meetings will be held at the Field Town Hall, 1627 Hwy. 25.

The Reorganization Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at the clerk's home (9998 East Lind Rd., Angora). In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on March 28.

> Any questions, contact the clerk at clerk@fieldtownship.com.

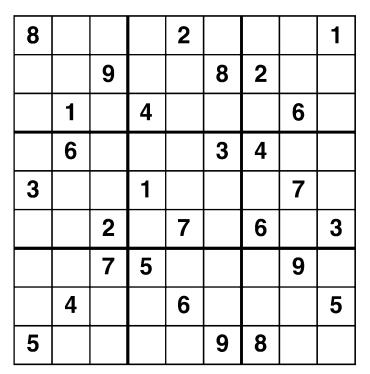
Pat Chapman, Town Clerk, Field Township

Published in the Timberjay,March 3, 2023

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

# 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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MARINE

**Centrally Located On** 

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Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage

Lease or Purchase Options

24-Hour Fuel • Live Bait

**Convenience Store** 

4551 Bradley Road, Tower • 753-5457

www.shamrocklanding.com

Do you own an RV? Did you know that you can earn up to \$20,000 by renting your RV through RVshare?

Marina • Mechanic on Duty

**7B** March 3, 2023 TIMBERIAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

**BUILDING** 

**SERVICES** 

EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC

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Northern

Minnesota

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One-Of-A-Kind Moldings

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8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

WANTED

SELIGA CANOES WANTED:

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Industrial Lumber

• Trim

# **AUTOMOTIVE**

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

# 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 anyone affected by someone else's drinking. Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass hosts an Al-Anon group on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. 218-984-2037.

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

AA MEETING IN COOK- Sunday Night Big Book Group meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, 231

# Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

# MARINE



# 🛞 YAMAHA

# **Don't Miss a Single Issue** SUBSCRIBE TODAY (218)753-2950timberjay.com

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Closed Weekends



# Super Crossword

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# We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn GRAIN FANNING MILL WANTED. Also, empty Altoid tins. 218-780-8870. 3/3p

LAWN CARE BUSINESS FOR SALE- On Lake Vermilion. Call with questions, 218-750-4510. 3/10

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Sales · Service

Rentals

**General Store** 

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# inE **Opportunity!** Do you care about your community and want to help kids succeed in school? Volunteers in Education (VinE) is looking for tutors to help

K-8 students with reading, math, and other content areas. VinE currently serves North Woods School (Cook), NE Range School (Babbitt), Tower/Soudan School (Tower), Mt. Iron/Buhl School (Mt. Iron), and Cherry School (Iron).

Please call or email VinE if you are interested: 218-404-5742 · teresad@vine-mn.org 3/24



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.

**ELDER CARE** NEEDED

SALE

www.handbergs.com **BUSINESS FOR** 

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

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

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

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

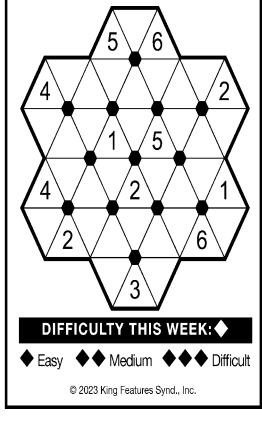
IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give vourself a break. There is a way out with the help of other recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous. We have been there. For meeting or other information call 218-728-3199. (Narcotics Anonymous is a non-profit organization.)

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

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

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





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Timberjay!

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# EMPLOYMENT

# ATTENTION, COMPASSIONATE REGISTERED NURSES EBCH HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR CASUAL NURSES!

Come join our TEAM at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH), where our positive, safe, and rewarding environment supports you to be your best!

Our Casual Nursing position offers a competitive wage of \$60 per hour. EBCH also offers professional growth and tuition reimbursement opportunities, along with the potential to move to a part or full-time position if desired.

We have Casual positions available in either our Medical-Surgical or Emergency Department settings. Requirements include current Minnesota RN licensure, current BLS certification, and excellent communication and customer service skills. Following orientation, EBCH supports your professional growth by providing educational opportunities for ACLS, PALS, and CALS.

Our staff receives the appreciation they deserve in many ways, but our new Bucketlist employee rewards platform is impressive! Work in an atmosphere where your well-being matters! EBCH offers employee assistance and wellness programs along with FLEXIBLE scheduling to support a proper work-life balance. Apply online today at <u>www.ebch.org</u>



328 W. Conan St. | Ely, MN 55731 | 218-365-8704 www.ebch.org

Ely-Bloomenson "...committed to caring for and enhancing the health and well-<sup>Community Hospital</sup> being of the community we serve".



EOE