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the **TIMBERJAY**



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\$1⁵⁰

GREENWOOD FIRE AFTERMATH

Study to gauge carbon losses

Researchers using LIDAR to determine the impacts of the Greenwood fire

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

REGIONAL- "Nobody has done this before," Randy Kolka told the *Timberjay*. Kolka is a soil scientist with the U.S. Forest Service and he was talking about a unique study to calculate how much carbon is lost when peatlands burn.

"I estimate that tons and tons of carbon are lost when peat burns," Kolka said. "Before now, we've had no good way to determine this ... This time next year, I'll know how much."

The study, a cooperative project between Boise State University, the Superior National Forest, and the USFS Northern Research Station in Grand

Rapids, will measure just how much carbon was lost from a large peatland located within the boundaries of the 2021 Greenwood fire, 20 miles south-east of Babbitt.

The research is only possible, however, because of an unusual Minnesota initiative that started

See...**STUDY** pg. 10

Right: Boise State University researcher and drone pilot Thomas Van Der Weide with his drone-mounted LIDAR equipment.

submitted photo



STAGES OF THE RANGE PLAYERS

LIGHTING UP A DARK HISTORY

"These Shining Lives" a story from a time when worker safety was sacrificed to profits

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center hosted three performances of "These Shining Lives" last weekend, transforming the small stage in the front of the former St. Mary's Episcopal Church to a working theatrical space. A cast of four women and three men played a total of nine characters, who relayed the story of four

Top: The "radium girls" finally visit a doctor not employed by their company, and hear they all have cancer.

Right: Catherine with her husband Tom.

women who painted clock and watch dials with glow-in-the-dark radium, which turned out to cause cancer and death in many of those who worked with the radioactive material.

"This play is based on See...**LIVES** pg. 10



The Gillson residence located at 45 E. Boundary St. in Ely. photo by C. Clark

PUBLIC SAFETY

Domestic rift leads to fire, high-speed chase

Ely man tased by officers

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- An alleged domestic altercation in Ely led to a fire and a police pursuit involving a significant law enforcement response around 11 a.m. on Wednesday, as the *Timberjay* prepared to go to press. Given the chaos surrounding the incident, details were sketchy in the immediate aftermath.

According to scanner traffic reviewed by the *Timberjay*, a domestic incident escalated quickly on Wednesday as one resident of the single-family residence, located at 45 E. Boundary Street, set the home ablaze. County records show the house is owned by Jason Keith Gillson.

See...**INCIDENT** pg. 9

MINING

Judge dismisses Twin Metals lawsuit seeking lease reinstatement

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— A federal district judge in Washington, D.C. has dismissed a lawsuit filed by Twin Metals and Franconia Minerals that had sought to reverse the cancellation of mineral leases critical to the companies' plans to build a copper-nickel mine near Ely. The decision is

Barring reversal on appeal, ruling could be all but terminal for proposed copper-nickel mine

a major victory for several Ely area businesses, the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, and other organizations, which had intervened in the case on behalf of the federal government. Barring reversal on appeal, it could well signal the end of the road for the Twin Metals proposal.

In a 21-page ruling, Judge

Christopher R. Cooper found that two of the four claims asserted by Twin Metals and Franconia were outside the court's jurisdiction, while the companies had failed to state a proper claim on the remaining two issues.

Twin Metals and Franconia had argued that a series of decisions made by the U.S. Interior

Department and the Bureau of Land Management in 2021 and 2022, that had canceled mineral leases, rejected mineral lease applications and a mining plan of operation the companies had submitted were "arbitrary and capricious." That's the legal standard for reversal established in the 1940s-era Administrative

Procedures Act and in subsequent case law. While the federal government generally enjoys what is known as "sovereign immunity" from lawsuits, the APA includes a partial waiver of that immunity in cases where federal agencies take actions affecting the statu-

See... **LAWSUIT** pg. 9



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Community notices

Finnish immigration to be topic at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center on Tuesday

TOWER - Val Myntti will be the presenter Sept. 19 as part of the education series of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center in Tower. The event will be held in St. Mary's Hall, starting with a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to share. The presentation begins at 6:15 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Val's presentation is "A Personal Finnish Immigration Story". She will discuss how the Finns came to America with an already well-formulated cooperative ethos that emphasized the common good and mutual aid over narrow self interest and how that philosophy thrived on the Iron Range.

Val was born in Duluth and lived in various Iron Range mining towns until the sixth grade, when her family left Minnesota. She has BS and MS degrees from the University of Utah, as well as a law degree from Rutgers University. Her career included the practice of law and leading an independent college prep school in New York (nursery through grade 12).

Val and her husband, Frank Sherman, retired to the Myntti cabin at Eagles Nest Lake 3 in 2018 and travel part of the year.

This event is part of the ongoing education series the LVCC has sponsored over the last 11 years. To learn more about the LVCC visit vermilioncultural-center.org.

Lyric Center youth theatre education to hold auditions for "Wizard of Oz"

VIRGINIA - Lyric's youth theatre is back after their community hit, "Moana Jr." Area students who are entering grades 3-12 are invited to join the winter production of "Wizard of Oz". The youth version is a condensed version of the classic MGM film featuring Judy Garland, that includes songs such as "Over the Rainbow", "Follow the Yellow Brick Road" and "If I Only Had a Brain" along with many more.

Introduction sessions will span two days, Sept. 18 and 19 (Monday and Tuesday) from 4-6 p.m. at the Lyric's Annex, located at 516 Chestnut Street. Attending both sessions is crucial for the casting process as this will not be a typical audition setting. Participants will run through theatrical skills and games, such as script reading, basic stage presence, body movements, projections, song and more.

Casting will be based on experience and past participation. A non-refundable registration fee of \$75 will be due at the second session as an act of commitment. Everyone will have a role, nobody is turned away. Limited scholarships are available. Rehearsals will run Monday through Thursday evenings with hours TBD and scheduling subject to change. Some flexibility is welcome as we are aware that many kids have other commitments. Please state any conflicts prior to commitment.

Performances will be at the Eveleth Auditorium Friday and Saturday, Nov. 10-11 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 12 at 2 p.m.

The production will be directed by Lyric's Executive Director, Paul Gregersen with Amy Peterson on Musical Direction and additional support from Lindsey Bergan, Katie Feldt and Nick Nelson.

Volunteers will be needed for sets, props, costumes and more. Youth who would like to work on the team behind the scenes are also encouraged to sign up. The cast and crew will be busy putting together a fantastic show for the community while learning a few tricks of the trade.

For more information or to register your child visit lyriccenteronline.org or call 218-741-5577. All questions and concerns should be sent by email to operations@lyriccenteronline.org for the quickest response.

Ely Music and Drama to hold 100th anniversary celebration Sept. 16

ELY - The Ely Music and Drama club invites everyone to Ely's Historic State Theater on Saturday, Sept. 16 for an afternoon of celebration and a free movie. Anniversary festivities begin at noon with an open house featuring refreshments, entertainment and a historic display. From 12:45 - 1 p.m. Ely Music & Drama will give a brief welcome and history presentation. At 1 p.m. attendees will be treated to a free showing of the musical classic, "Bye, Bye Birdie".

The celebration marks 100 years that the Ely Music and Drama club has proudly supported the arts through education, scholarships and volunteer opportunities.

FAMILY FUN

Big Truck Night in Soudan on Tuesday, Sept. 26

SOUDAN- Tower-Soudan School Spirit Day and Breitung Township Big Truck Night will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 26. There will be bingo and the book fair from 3:15 - 4:30 p.m. at the Tower-Soudan School. All students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Big Truck Night will be held at the Breitung Recreation Area (skating rink area) from 4 - 6 p.m. Stop by for free hot dogs plus a large assortment of "big trucks" for children to explore and play on.

A bus will be bringing families from the Tower School to the Breitung Park at 4:30 p.m. and will return to Tower at 5:45 p.m.

Last year's Big Truck Night put smiles on Emma and Theo's faces. This year's event surely will not disappoint. File photo



PUBLIC TRANSIT

Arrowhead Transit dispatch supervisor addresses call volume challenges and introduces new solutions

GILBERT- Arrowhead Transit, Minnesota's Largest Rural Public Transportation Provider, is actively working to address the challenges faced by callers during peak times, particularly on Monday mornings.

During Monday mornings, Arrowhead Transit experiences a surge in calls from patrons seeking to schedule rides for the entire week. This increased demand sometimes leads to extended wait times, with calls that typically take five minutes now stretching to 10-15 minutes. In cases where high call volumes persist, wait times may reach up to 30 minutes. To mitigate these delays, Arrowhead Transit suggests considering same-day reservations as an alternative to scheduling trips a week in advance. Same-day reservations involve calling in to set up a ride for the current day. Dispatch Supervisor Todd Montgomery recommends placing such



Arrowhead Transit dispatch supervisor Todd Montgomery suggests considering same-day reservations instead of calling Monday to schedule for the week.

calls at least an hour in advance, or possibly two hours for areas with high demand.

"It's important to note that reservations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis," Montgomery advises. "Providing ample time ensures we can accommodate your preferred time slot, and if those seats are filled, we'll do our best to get you as close as possible."

When placing a call to

dispatch, patrons are encouraged to provide their complete address, including the city, to facilitate an efficient booking process. This information is crucial for accurately assigning the appropriate bus. Additionally, specifying the destination is vital, especially for routes covering multiple cities or regions.

While the dispatch team is diligently working to improve wait times, Montgomery acknowl-

edges that callers may experience varying wait times based on call volume. "Wait times can range from five minutes for the first caller to up to 30 minutes during peak periods," Montgomery notes.

"We understand the frustration, and we're actively working on solutions."

To expedite the reservation process, Arrowhead Transit is actively seeking additional dispatchers to expand their team. This recruitment effort aims to open an overflow desk, which will help alleviate wait times and enhance overall service efficiency.

For those interested in joining the Arrowhead Transit team as a dispatcher, please visit arrowheadtransit.com/careers.

For additional information or route scheduling, please contact 1-800-862-0175.

FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS

LSS seeks Foster Grandparent volunteers

REGIONAL - Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) is seeking volunteers for its Foster Grandparent program, in partnership with AmeriCorps Seniors, a national service agency, to offer guidance and encouragement to children and youth in the community.

Foster Grandparent volunteers are older adults who offer one-to-one mentoring and tutoring in the classroom and other settings to children and youth. Their presence and reassurance can help children and youth improve self-esteem, social and emotional development and literacy and math skills.

"So many children just need a little attention and understanding to make a positive difference in their day. When I volunteer, I know that I have made a difference in their lives," shared Roberta Klekotka, a Foster Grandparent.

In a survey this year,

LSS learned that over 90 percent of volunteers either agree or strongly agree that their volunteer experience at LSS has changed their life in a positive way. Almost 85 percent say that they feel more socially connected because of their service as a volunteer. More than 76 percent say that they feel healthier because of their service as an LSS volunteer.

"The program is a win/win for me and the children. I feel like I am making a difference in their lives in so many ways. They have also made a difference in my life with their smiles, hugs, honesty and joy in

learning new things. Being a Foster Grandparent volunteer has given me so much joy and a new purpose in this phase of my life," Klekotka said.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is currently seeking volunteers, age 55 and older, who can commit to volunteering at least 10 hours per week. The service offers volunteers a tax-free hourly stipend, transportation/mileage reimbursement, orientation and ongoing training, and no prior experience is necessary.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota conducts background checks to ensure safety. The statewide organization serves

all Minnesotans and welcomes volunteers from various cultures, backgrounds and traditions to inquire. If you are interested in becoming a Foster Grandparent, call 888-205-3770 or visit lssmn.org/fgvolunteer.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota also welcomes other nonprofits to become partner sites to support youth in a variety of settings including public and private schools, Head Start locations, shelters, and daycare centers. To become a partner, visit lssmn.org/fgpartner or call 888-205-3770.

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GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Patch of invasive Japanese Knotweed found on Everett Bay Rd.

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- There is a new “neighbor” living near the Everett Point public boat landing, and it is an unwelcome guest. A large patch of Japanese Knotweed, an invasive species, was discovered by Supervisor Barb Lofquist, who was working as boat inspector, looking for aquatic invasive species at the boat landing, earlier this summer. She used a plant identification app on her phone to identify it, and quickly realized it was invasive. The patch is located on private property as well as in the power line easement.

The patch is about 30 feet long, and 10 feet high, she reported, and it looks like bamboo. It is only the third identified patch of Japanese Knotweed that has been found north of Duluth.

“This plant kills everything around it,” she said. “It can grow through walls, foundations, and



Japanese knotweed is a shrub-like, semi-woody perennial with bamboo-like stems, and broad, oval-shaped leaves.

sidewalks.”

This type of knotweed spreads easily and can grow from pieces of stem as short as half an inch as well as rhizomes that are left on the ground, and by seed. The plant can grow a foot and a half in a single week. An Asian member of the buckwheat family, it originated from lava fields in Japan and can

grow straight through rocks.

Lofquist contacted state and county officials, who confirmed the identification, and told her that professionals would be hired to remove the plant, setting a timeline for 2024. After speaking with County Commissioner Paul McDonald, Lofquist said the removal would be done this year, and the county has

hired Prairie Restorations out of Duluth for the job.

“Cutting this plant is not advised while it is actively growing,” Lofquist said. “My biggest concern would be someone cutting or mowing it, then transporting the cuttings elsewhere.”

Professional removal involves using chemical treatments prior to frost.

Recreation board

Two members of the Greenwood Community Recreation Board spoke during public comment, asking for cooperation from the board with their work to maintain the recreation areas at the town hall. Jarri Ankrum talked about the regular maintenance that their volunteers do, including spring cleanup and fall/winter prep work, weekly garbage removal, cleaning the pavilion, watering trees, and more.

The group is at a standstill with the town board over access to the storage shed, where recreational materials like bocce ball sets are stored.

“Please work with the people of Greenwood to make a safe place to play,” she said.

Jet Galonski noted that people renting the pavilion are not informed there are bocce and other games available in the locked shed.

“You guys need to take care of all that stuff,” he said, “unless you let us do it.”

Lofquist asked the board to purchase a lockbox, so the keys could be more readily accessed by approved users, as well as installing an outdoor security camera on the shed to monitor for vandalism, but her motion died for lack of a second.

Supervisor Sue Drobac told Ankrum they would get her a key to the shed.

Supervisor Rick Stoehr said there had been three incidents of vandalism on town hall ground this past year, including breaking the basketball hoop, damage done to some contractors’ equipment that was parked in

See **GREENWOOD**, pg. 5

Fans should be wary of game day streaming scammers

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Avid North Woods Grizzlies football fans who didn’t make the two-hour trip to Kelliher on Friday for the game are just the sort of fans online scammers are trolling for.

As the COVID-19 pandemic exerted its grip on the country and drove restrictions on attendance at high school sporting events, hundreds of schools turned to the internet to bring games to their fans stranded at home. Some schools turned to streaming their events on YouTube, while others like the schools in the St. Louis County school district turned to subscription-based services like the National Federation of High Schools Network.

Fans have become accustomed to looking for streaming broadcasts online, and scammers are all too eager to give them bogus options. A search of YouTube for livestreams of Friday’s North Woods game turned up more than 30 links proclaiming that they were streaming the game, when in fact no video



Scammers are posting fake links on area school Facebook pages and then asking for credit card information.

stream was available at all.

YouTube thumbnail images for the links feature professional looking graphics and often use the logos of reputable sports organizations like the National Federation of High Schools or MaxPreps to appear legitimate, and the YouTube channels are often given official-sounding names.

To further ensnare a team’s fans, many scammers will post their links to a school’s social media page. One such link was posted to the North Woods Grizzlies Facebook page by “Patricia” for something called Gameday.click-score.com. A similar but different link was also posted to the Kelliher Pub-

lic School page.

After clicking such a link, a viewer is told the live stream is only available to registered users and redirects to a “secure” sign-up page for unlimited access for \$1. Providing an email and password gets you through to the sign-up page where they collect your credit card information, and have a fine-print notice that after a five-day trial period the subscription will be billed at \$29.99 monthly.

And, of course, once you’ve completed the sign-up process, you don’t get to watch the game because there’s no live stream set up, but the scammers now have your email address, password (people commonly use the

same password across multiple sites) and your credit card information. And they’re set to automatically bilk you out of \$29.99 if you don’t cancel in a timely manner, a process that usually has to be completed by directly contacting a customer service line instead of canceling on the website.

To protect yourself against such scams, the first step would be to contact the school you’re following to see if they know of a live stream or radio broadcast of a game.

Those who subscribe to the NFHS Network service used by North Woods will get email notifications and have access to an online schedule for any game, home or away, that is being broadcast on the system. Only away games at another NFHS Network school are streamed on the service.

You can search YouTube to see if a school your team is competing against has an official channel they use for streaming games or uses a reputable service to provide a YouTube stream. Such is the case with the International Falls school district, which offered a free live

stream of the Broncos-Grizzlies volleyball match two weeks ago through the YourLiveEvent channel.

On school social media sites, only click on posts for streaming that have been posted by the school that owns the page or feed. Posts of unfamiliar links in comment sections by individuals with streaming links are almost surely scams and you should avoid clicking on them.

As with any online activity, be wary of one that charges a minimal introductory fee requiring you to provide personal and credit card information. Such scams are commonplace, and low prices and emotional purchases, both attractive to sports fans, are common reasons people ignore scam warning signs, according to a Better Business Bureau study of online shopping fraud.

So, cheer on and follow your local high school sports teams, but when trying to follow from afar, be smart and safe about the streaming options presented to you.

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Playing the long game

Minnesotans should beware the spread of PragerU's myths to the nation's classrooms

The conservative movement's battle for power has descended on the nation's classrooms and Minnesota isn't immune, despite the DFL's current dominance in state government. Conservatives and their various political projects are typically flush with billionaire dollars and they're always willing to play the long game.

Take the emergence of Prager University, or PragerU, as it is most commonly known. It's not a university despite its name. The right-wing advocacy organization, led by Dennis Prager, openly acknowledges it's an "indoctrination" machine, best known for pumping out slickly produced five-minute videos that provide an unabashedly rightwing spin on virtually every political subject of the day.

Think slavery was bad? Well, it had its good points, too, according to PragerU. Think the burning of fossil fuels is polluting the air and contributing to our rapidly warming climate? "Why You Should Love Fossil Fuels," is PragerU's astonishingly dishonest response to that question. Think the Democratic Party backs civil rights? PragerU will set you straight with a lesson that conveniently leaves out the last 60 years of American history.

The videos are misleading at best, yet are well-produced, with plain spoken narrators and effective graphics that can make a hard right revisionist history lesson go down like that proverbial spoonful of sugar. They are pure partisan propaganda, designed to encapsulate complex issues into simple, short videos developed precisely to turn young minds toward rightwing political views.

One might think that such material would have no place in the classrooms of a state like Florida, where the current governor, Ron DeSantis, has spent the past few years ranting about the supposed indoctrination of young people in schools regarding race relations and gender issues.

It turns out, DeSantis has no problem with indoctrination. He just wants to make sure it's the kind he likes. It, therefore, came as little surprise recently when the state of Florida announced it was partnering with PragerU to make its propaganda shorts available to every class-

room in the state. Ron DeSantis is nothing if not a hypocrite.

But he is not alone. The state of Oklahoma recently announced it would be using PragerU's fractured fairy tales (apologies to Rocky and Bullwinkle) in its schools as well.

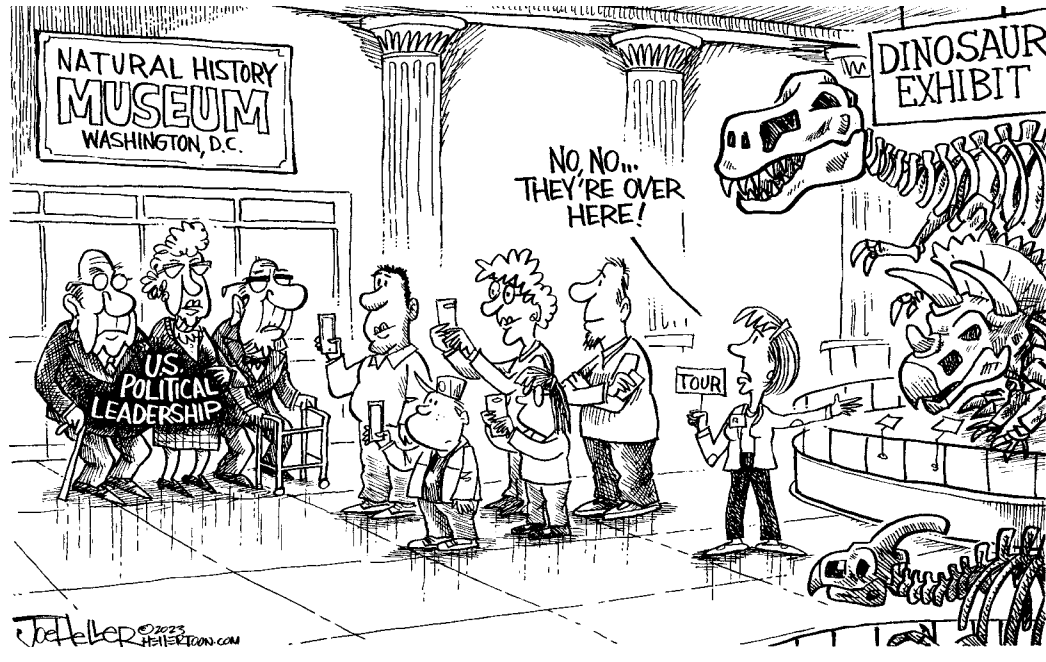
While the spread of PragerU material into schools has, to date, been limited to a few deep red states, we can expect to see this propaganda spread more widely in the near future. The conservative movement draws energy and a national agenda from the nightly parade of grievance presented on Fox News and other conservative media, which means what begins in places like Florida or Oklahoma will soon be knocking down the doors of reality in other states.

Minnesotans, in other words, can hardly be complacent. While DFL dominance of state government here will undoubtedly keep PragerU's garbage out of Minnesota classrooms for now, that's only a guarantee until the next election. Put Republicans in charge here again and our school kids could well be force fed rightwing propaganda on a daily basis.

As we noted earlier, the American right is more than happy to invest in the long game, and it's a multi-faceted effort. Conservatives recognize that their agenda of tax cuts for the wealthy, restrictions on individual liberty (except when it comes to guns), dismantling health care access, and dismissing climate change as a hoax, is unlikely to play well with voters.

Yet, rather than adopt more popular policies, conservatives have turned to voter restrictions, intense gerrymandering, and other methods to make it harder for certain groups to vote or to dilute their votes to limit their political power.

Distributing misleading rightwing videos throughout the nation's schools is just another means of making the conservative agenda more palatable to the public and they're clearly interested in the opportunity to mold young minds to their way of thinking. Minnesotans would do well to avoid the thought that it can't happen here. It's only an election away.



Letters from Readers

DNR loses \$26 million in grants from U.S. Fish and Wildlife

What would you say if a family member lost the opportunity to gain thousands of dollars due to not filling out a rebate form and sending it to the manufacturer? Would you be upset at your family member?

And what if, instead of losing thousands of dollars, the loss was millions of dollars instead, more like \$26.4 million to be exact?

Well, the loss of over \$26 million was due to malfeasance from our state's Department of Natural Resources for not properly protecting and documenting the protection of natural habitats for wildlife. The DNR is required to protect wildlife on state Wildlife Management Areas per federal agreements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Rather than protecting forested lands for wildlife habitat, the DNR overrides the advice of its own WMA managers and kowtows to the whims of the lumber and paper industry getting out "the cut" instead of protecting both game and non-game species. In doing so, the skills and expertise of these knowledgeable WMA managers has been ignored.

This has been an issue for the state's WMAs since this problem notably surfaced in 2019 when the DNR ramped up its timber quotas on WMAs and shortened its standard rotations on many timber stands. These WMA lands have largely been purchased by the DNR using fees from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. Beyond this, much of the monies to manage these lands come from the USFWS.

DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen was appointed Commissioner of Minnesota DNR by Gov. Tim Walz in early 2019. Strommen's legacy is horrible and shows she was a very poor choice by the Governor. It is high time to call for the Governor to right the ship and do what is legislatively mandated by protecting our wildlife habitat in WMAs. Legislative hearings are needed to determine how DNR's management practices could become so totally ineffective in protecting WMA forests, as well as reviewing procedures in other DNR-managed public forest lands.

Bob Graves
Fall Lake Township

A test of fitness for political office

Trump's Big Lie about the 2022 election being stolen, a falsehood most Americans reject, continues to be exposed for the dreck it is. His own Attorney General, Bill Barr, actually called it "bull****." Florida governor DeSantis, a Trump imitator hoping to be the GOP nominee for president, said a few weeks ago that the 2020 election was fair and Trump lost. Trump's former attorney Rudy Giuliani confessed to lying about alleged violations by Georgia election officials. Enrique Tarrio, former head of the Proud Boys admitted in court that Biden fairly won and Trump lost, and that he, Tarrio, now considers the Jan. 6 insurrection "a national disgrace." In 2021 there were dozens of audits, recounts, and court challenges to the election results, and none provided any evidence that Trump was cheated out of re-election - in fact quite the opposite: his defeat in a fair contest was reaffirmed again and again on a bipartisan basis. And we've all heard the

damning recording of Trump pressuring the Georgia Secretary of State to "find 11,780 votes" - blatant corruption that the GOP official bravely resisted.

Noah Rothman, writing in the ultra-conservative *National Review* recently said, "If Trump was blind to his loss, his blindness was willful," and that he had "no rational basis" for the rigged election claim. It's unclear if Trump actually believes his own lies about the election.

What is clear, sadly, is that millions of Trump's supporters do believe the Big Lie. We are all free to believe or disbelieve what we will, just as we are free to openly speak what we will. But that doesn't free us from the consequences of our beliefs or our words. Deliberately casting doubt on a free and fair election strikes at the heart of our democratic republic, and is a first big step on the road to tyranny. It's particularly reprehensible when elected officials - literal products of democracy- support the Big Lie.

Rep. Roger Skraba should be held accountable for this. Over the past three months, as one of his constituents, I sent two emails, and one hard-copy letter to his Ely address asking him point-blank if he believed Trump's claims about the 2020 election. There is reason to believe that Skraba continues to harbor that delusion. I did not receive a reply. (Presumably he believes his own election last year and the subsequent mandatory recount was free and fair.)

Any public official who is so gullible or willfully ignorant to buy the Big Lie is unfit for office and unworthy of public trust. So, once more Mr. Skraba: do you believe it?

Peter M. Leschak
Side Lake

COLUMNIST

Late summer adventures and road trips

It's 6 p.m. on a Monday evening and I've been sitting on the couch following a dinner of barbecued country ribs with green beans and red potatoes that I fixed in my Ninja Foodi. I always get a little nervous when I use the pressure cooker setting, ever since my mother told me about a fellow schoolteacher whose pressure cooker exploded leaving her with no injuries, but she had to clean the entire kitchen following the ordeal.



SCARLET STONE

What a scary thought and a waste of cooking efforts followed by a messy cleaning project. I prefer ordinary cleaning projects involving no grease or bathrooms but instead just calm, unchallenging household dust.

It's just a quiet constant in life along with cat hair, a random dirty sock, and cookie crumbs and to think any other way about these minor things in life is a waste of otherwise joyous moments.

Speaking of such moments, I had one this past week in the upstairs bathroom when the water was once again turned on with no sputtering, spraying, or soaking occurring anywhere. Hats off to my handy friend, "The Horse Whisperer" who made it happen. I, too, contributed my efforts to the project and with just a bit of trim work left I can cross that one off the list.

A couple weeks ago, I took a little get-away drive to the south shore of Lake Superior with my son Keaton and his fi-

ance Ashley. We'd all had our noses to the grindstone all summer working our various jobs, so a day trip was welcomed. I thought it was going to be hot, so I wore a sweatband, visor, sleeveless tie-dye top, denim shorts and some hippie jewelry with athletic shoes in case I had to walk further than a block. The kids picked me up at my Soudan house along with my large striped L.L. Bean tote filled with a pillow, light jacket, blankie, and water bottle. These are the staples for this senior's best backseat day-trip along with snacks that were picked up here and there along the merry way.

Keaton came inside my house to use the bathroom, took one look at me and said, "You aren't wearing that are you? You look over-done and your flabby, hairy little knees are showing!" I burst out laughing! "Back off

kiddo, leg hair quit on me a decade ago and flabby knees are gravity's fault!"

We left Soudan with Keaton driving, made a drive-through breakfast stop in Virginia, and headed south. At my request, being the keeper of an aging bladder, he pulled into the Anchor Lake rest stop. As I exited the car I said comically, "Now don't make fun of my knees," then casually flipped him off knowing he'd be chuckling at me as I stiffly walked away from the car. It was all in good fun.

The two of them navigated through Duluth perfectly, "Great job guys, I exclaimed!" Moms do that, even when our knees take the brunt of a few jokes. We eased right through lots of construction where they are sure to add plenty of off-ramps, under-passes and at least one of those annoying roundabouts I'd

bet. Time will tell.

Speaking of annoying roundabouts, a couple weeks ago I rode with my friend Jack in his Jeep to an 86th birthday party in Grand Rapids for a mutual friend of ours. On our way back through Hibbing, Jack encountered the new round-about at the junction of Highways 37 and 169.

First of all, nobody in any vehicle should ever swirl around those things like fast water going down a drain, but they do. It was just one narrow lane and Jack got confused and eased to the right a bit then I quickly corrected him to stay left.

Suddenly, the loud horn sounding from behind was nearly enough to topple the small plate of birthday cake I was about to enjoy right off my lap. A truck aggressively pulled up

See **TRIPS...** pg. 5

COMMENTARY

Look a little closer at fast fashion brands

Until recently, online retailers Wish and Alibaba were two of the most popular spaces to find ultra-cheap household goods, clothing, makeup, and last-minute Christmas and birthday gifts. These companies offer thousands of products at discount prices, albeit with slower shipping and sometimes sending the customers an item that looks different from what they ordered.



JEN SHUSTER-DAHLIN

Primarily due to the social media app TikTok, Shein and Temu now rival Wish and Alibaba and have surpassed Amazon for the most downloaded iOS shopping apps as of June 2023 (Oberlo.com). This is because of Shein's popularity with social media influencers and the company's frequent collaborations with them, in which they post sponsored "haul" videos, showing off what clothing items they bought and encouraging their followers to shop with Shein. Temu is increasing in popularity due to its shockingly low prices on consumer goods. On Temu's front page, a shopper is greeted with various offers, such as phone chargers for under \$1, packs of socks for \$3 or less, and knockoff Apple watches for \$11-\$14. When visiting the site, a pop-up opens with a wheel the consumer can click on to "spin" to win discounts on their shopping trip.

Shein is considered to be a fast fashion company. Fast fashion is defined as inexpen-

sive clothing rapidly produced by mass-market retailers in response to the latest trends. These clothes are made cheaply and quickly, often in sweatshops, with poor quality material. They are meant to be worn for a short period and discarded easily, either by being donated or thrown away when the wearer is finished.

It may seem harmless to shop with these online retailers, especially when only buying a few items here and there. However, that is part of the problem. Temu and Shein have been found likely to be violating the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) of 2021, and they can do so partly due to the high volume of small orders they ship to the United States.

The United States Congress published findings on Temu and Shein in June 2023—the report details how Temu skirts enforcements put in place by the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act (TFTEA) by taking advantage of the de minimis threshold, which allows products to be shipped duty free if the value of the products is less than \$800. Due to the enormous amount of small packages shipped from Temu to the United States containing products well under \$800, the company has not had to provide any data on its products to the United States Customs and Border Protection.

Around 12 million Uyghur people in China, primarily Muslim, reside in the Xinjiang region. Officially, this area is known as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR).

Over the past few decades, a mass migration of Han Chinese (China's ethnic majority) has been moving into the XUAR, a move seen as an attempt to wipe out the ethnic minority in the area. The BBC has reported that the Chinese government has allegedly orchestrated attacks on the Uyghur culture in the area, banning their religious practices and destroying tombs. The Chinese government has been also accused of committing genocide against the Uyghurs. Reports have found evidence of mass sterilization of Uyghur women and separation of families. The Australian Strategic Policy Institute has also found evidence of "re-education camps" in the Xinjiang region, and the UK Parliament declared in 2021 that China was committing mass genocide against the Uyghur Muslims. Individuals who have escaped these camps have reported torture, rape, and mental abuse. Legal interventions such as the UFLPA were implemented to prevent China from using the Uyghur people for slave labor.

Temu and Shein, according to the AP, have business models that allow them to evade these laws by shipping millions of tiny, low-value packages to the U.S. In 2022 alone, 685 million packages came into the U.S. that were under the \$800 limit. The congressional report states that Temu and Shein alone are responsible for 30 percent of all packages that come into the U.S. under the de minimis provision.

Shein uses these same business practices to ship to the U.S., but the congressional report focuses on Temu. By not following the standards set in place by

TFTEA, Temu is almost certainly using forced labor by Uyghur Muslims and political prisoners within China's borders. Tens of millions of packages are shipped to the U.S. by Temu without proper vetting to ensure compliance with UFLPA. According to AP News, Temu has admitted that it "does not prohibit the sale of goods" from the Xinjiang region and has no audit system in place to ensure compliance with U.S. labor laws.

While Shein and Temu have similar business models, they are not the same companies. Temu is owned by parent company Pinduoduo, founded in 2015. Temu has no brick-and-mortar location and ships everything directly to the consumer. Shein was founded by Chris Xu in 2008 and has two headquarters: Singapore and Guangzhou, China. The company works with thousands of manufacturers and suppliers, with little to no oversight regarding the labor involved with those manufacturers. A Chinese news outlet investigated these labor sources in 2021 and found that many of the suppliers used by Shein often subcontract orders to smaller buildings with hazardous working conditions to cut costs.

In addition to the human rights violations, Shein and Temu are significant contributors to climate change through the manufacture and shipping of all these small items throughout the world. The items sold by Temu are also often destined for the landfill as soon as they arrive. Many of these products are cheap and niche, used once or twice and thrown away or put away in a drawer to be found later, like miniature decks of

cards, tiny folding chairs meant to be used as a phone holder, or a set of glow-in-the-dark dice. Our landfills cannot handle the excessive waste of fast fashion and cheap, disposable products made by Temu and Shein.

These companies depend on throw-away consumerism. Shein designs hundreds of thousands of new styles annually, encouraging consumers to get rid of their current wardrobe and buy new clothes. The fast fashion industry creates an estimated 92 million tons of waste annually. According to Space.com, unwanted or unsold clothes are often dumped in places like the Atacama Desert in Chile, where a pile of clothing can be seen from space.

While often more expensive, many clothing companies make durable and ethically sourced items that can last for years. Their lifespan and quality offset the extra cost of the apparel, and many of these companies have excellent return policies or will fix your clothes and send them back to you. Just a short list of ethically sourced clothing companies based in the U.S. are Arielle (shop-arielle.com), Ash & Rose (ashandrose.com), Conscious Step (consciousstep.com), Mate (matethelabel.com), Novica (novica.com), Outerknown (outerknown.com), and Reformation (thereformation.com). A longer list that includes brands based in countries outside the United States can be found at www.ethicallydressed.com/brand-list.

GREENWOOD...Continued from page 3

the lot, as well as items stolen from the recreation storage shed.

"Vandalism can be solved with a security camera," noted Lofquist. "It's a proven fact."

Chairman John Bassing said he would like to see the board pass a policy on use of security cameras before taking any action on installing them.

"The cameras were used for not good purposes previously," he said.

After the meeting, Ankrum said she was concerned that four new sets of bocce equipment, along with other yard games, donated to the township after the first sets were stolen, were also missing, but that she did not have access to the shed to inventory any missing items.

Clerk JoAnn Bassing said she and Stoehr both have keys to the shed, and are available to provide

access. She said they will also post a notice on the website, with information on how to get access to the supplies.

Fire Department

The board approved a new member for the fire department. Kenna Villebrun is already a trained EMT and is planning on completing the required firefighter training classes. Chief Jeff Maus reported the department spent around \$1,000 on repairs to fireboat two. The department has also stopped renting oxygen bottles at a cost of \$90 per month since they already owned their own bottles. The department cleaned and marked the dry hydrant by the tennis court.

Maus asked the board to terminate one employee from the department who had not attended any trainings or meeting the entire

year, and who had not responded to multiple requests to contact the chief. The vote was 4-1, with Skubic voting against. Department guidelines call for the dismissal of any member who is absent, without being excused, for six months in a row.

Other business

In other business, the board:

- Heard from Treasurer Jeff Maus, who asked to board to consider moving more of the township's reserve accounts into higher paying short-term CDs, which are currently paying over five-percent interest over short term periods. The township previously moved \$250,000 in reserves into a CD, but Maus said they should consider moving other funds not needed in a short-term period, identifying over \$200,000 in potential reserves that are

not needed in the short term.

- Passed a formal resolution earmarking unused township ARPA dollars (COVID relief funding), totaling about \$99,000, for its broadband fund. The township hopes to use this funding to expand broadband into areas of the township not currently part of the funded Bois Forte broadband project. Bassing said the Greenwood portion of the project is still in the planning stages, but that most of the work on the Vermilion Reservation has been completed.

- Set the hourly rate for cleaning services at the town hall at \$32.50 per hour. The township will be hiring a person to do cleaning every other week.

- Will contact Benchmark Engineering to look at the blackout job done at the town hall about three years ago. The blackout is

already showing signs of wear, with weeds popping through cracks.

- Accepted the low bid for propane from Superior Fuel, at \$1,299, with \$0.899 for the first fill. The township owns their propane tank. A total of five bids were received.

- Accepted the single bid for snow removal at the town hall from Vermilion Property Services. The bid covers snow removal once two inches of snow is on the ground,

at \$300 per visit, which includes shoveling and snowblowing. The fee is a bit higher for snow totaling five inches, at \$350 per visit. This bid is about \$20 higher than the previous year.

- The board approved uploading audio recordings of meetings to the township website. The website can host between six and 12 months-worth of meeting at no additional charge, Clerk JoAnn Bassing said.

TRIPS...Continued from page 4

alongside me and I looked over to see a man's large, square face hollering "You Mother F'er!"

I was happy-go-lucky, simply twiddled my fingers in a hello gesture and gave a quick perky smile. He looked like a cartoon character with the large round blue sucker he was holding in his left hand. I mean really, "Calm yourself pal," I thought, it's not worth dropping your sucker or ejecting my birthday cake from eager hands and down onto gritty floor mats.

I can't believe roundabouts don't contribute to more accidents than they do but MnDOT claims they show an 86-percent decrease in fatal crashes...but what about cake casualties? I'm sure many slabs of birthday cake have hit the floor as a result of them. Dreadful.

As we continued to follow the angry truck-dude through Hibbing I encouraged Jack to hang

back in case the guy leaped out with an assault rifle or something at the upcoming stoplight. These days one never knows. Hot summer temperatures and challenging driving situations have been a part of my summer.

Let's not forget the messed up crossing south of Cook by the Angora post office where Highway 1 joins Highway 53. Every time I encounter that I shake my head because you can't cross the road. The powers that be insist you take a right and drive north a bit, ease into a left lane, turn around and then come south in order to go west at the intersection.

It used to be the case of just using your eyes, making a judgement call based on learning to drive when we were all sixteen and making your strategic move to simply drive straight across.

Ah, there is so much babysitting occurring with

rules and regulations these days it makes me wonder how I have lived to be in my mid-sixties. For the most part, I leave concerns over stuff like this for others.

On our day trip, all the way down and back, I was in the back seat where aging mothers go (not the trunk), and was sometimes feeling like the upholstery, or just some needed maternal fixture in the background. They laughed, chatting back and forth with my occasional comments often unheard or not responded to.

I thought, "Do they even remember I am here? Just wait until we stop for lunch, then they'll be excited when my wallet flies open."


I'm glad they are capable, independent adults and am happy to take a nap, eat snacks, and sight-see. We drove to Ashland, Wis., and over to Ironwood, Mich.

I enjoyed visiting

some favorite places like The Black Cat Coffee House in Ashland that I used to visit on sales trips north from Hayward where I worked for WOJB Public Radio on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation back in 2002. Plus, we stopped in at Rigoni's Bakery in Ironwood, where the clock seems to jump back to the 1960s with industrious baker-ladies in hair nets, work dresses and aprons creating savory original Cornish Pasties.

There were stops at some other cute shops and opportunities to spend time looking at Lake Superior. Anytime I can go across the bridge to points beyond Duluth is a good time and in this case, the perfect start to fall. I know there are plenty of household and work projects on the horizon.

Until October...enjoy these beautiful fall days.



**the
TIMBERJAY**

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

Week of Sept. 18

Monday

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

Tuesday

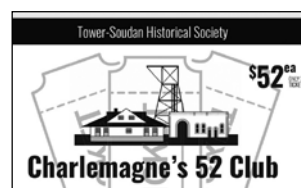
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Sept. 19.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Training 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.

**TSHS week 7 winner**

The winner of week seven Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Jodi Summit of Tower.

This week's winner Jodi Summit, along with last week's winner Bergetta Indihar, have both generously donated their \$100 cash prizes to the TSHS fire hall restoration fund.

History Tidbit: A \$25

U.S. savings bond was awarded to Mrs. Paul Palo of rural Tower, winner of the contest staged by the Vermilion Housing Corporation to name its new elderly housing complex in Tower. The announcement was made at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 1, 1976. Lakeview Manor was chosen as the winning submission for the two twelve-unit apartment building complex.

Vermilion Lake Township potluck on Sept. 17

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Vermilion Lake Township is hosting their annual potluck get-together on Sunday, Sept. 17 from 4 - 7 p.m. at the town hall. The township will be grilling Polish, brats, and hot dogs, and those attending always make sure there are plenty of side dishes, casseroles, and desserts. Tableware, coffee and drinks will be provided. All township residents and friends are invited to attend.

Any questions, please contact town clerk Crystal Alaspa at 218-750-4752.

Kugler Township hosting picnic, Sunday, Sept. 17

KUGLER TWP- The Kugler Town Board is hosting a picnic for township residents and friends on Sunday, Sept. 17 from 3 - 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall on Hwy. 135. Brats and all the fixings will be served. Come see the township's new pickleball court, which is open to the public.

Read It
HERE

KINDERGARTEN SMILES



Welcome to Tower-Soudan Elementary!

Kindergarten students had their first day of class on Sept. 7. Kristine (Sorgenfrei) Smith has a full classroom this year, and was excited to start a new school year. Below left: Wyatt and Edwin build a marble run. Below center: Zella laughs while playing in the toy kitchen area. Below right: Adrian helps the teacher put away a large bin of brand new markers. photos by J. Summit



INFRASTRUCTURE

State Reps hear about need for new water filtration system

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

SOUDAN- Senate Capital Investment Committee Chair Sen. Sandy Pappas (DFL-St. Paul) and members of the Capital Investment Committee visited Soudan on Sept. 6, as part of a tour of more than 20 communities in northeast Minnesota to learn about nearly 40 proposed projects that are requesting state funds, meet with local officials and tour project sites.

In Soudan, Tower-Breitung Wastewater Plant Supervisor Matt Tuchel, along with Tower Clerk/Treasurer Michael Schultz, gave an overview of the water treatment facility project, which is requesting \$3 million in state bonding dollars.

The original water treatment plant, built about 25 years ago for \$1.3 million, was built to filter out iron and manganese from the public water supply, which consists of two wells, drilled in 1979 and 1982. But recent testing has shown that about 30-percent of the well water being drawn is surface water from the adjacent East Two River. Tuchel explained that a study done by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in 2016 showed the potential of viral and bacterial contamination in the wells, which have been addressed by increased chlorination. But the increased chlorination has its own side effects, creating excess levels of trihalomethane

and haloacetic acid, which carry long-term health risks if not addressed. MDH has recommended that a new treatment system be installed, Tuchel said.

"We don't have a backup chlorination system if ours fails," said Tuchel.

Drilling new wells would be a risk, Tuchel explained. The current wells each produce 250 gallons per minute, enough to support the water needs for the approximately 1,000 residents in Tower and Soudan, along with the large summer tourist population. The new well drilled at the campground at the Lake Vermilion State Park only produces nine gallons per minute, nowhere near enough to support a municipal system, he said.

Plans for the new system include a double treatment system, so there is a backup in case one fails, a ground storage tank, and a new building to house the treatment facility. The engineering and design are already completed, which was funded through a loan from Minnesota Rural Water Association. The design will be focused on treating surface water, not ground water. The total cost of the project has ballooned since it was first proposed from \$4.5 to \$8 million. The project has received a \$3.375 million grant from the Army Corp, and is asking for \$3 million from the state. The remainder would be funded locally, with either grant or loan funds from the Public Facilities Authority, a state agency



State Sen. Sandy Pappas (second from left) visited with local officials including Tim Tomsich, Matt Tuchel, and Michael Schultz. photo by J. Summit

that helps fund such projects.

"Customer rates will increase with this new plant," said Schultz. "But we have to do it." Currently customers in Tower pay \$253.50 per quarter for water and sewer, and in Soudan they pay \$195 per quarter. Excess water usage is billed to each business or residence that exceeds the minimum/normal usage.

Both Tuchel and Schultz

said they were happy with the visit, and glad they had enough time to present a good overview of the problems facing the water supply, and the need for state bonding assistance. The Minnesota State Legislature will take up the request in the 2024 session, which begins in February.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Learn about area hiking trails on Sept. 20

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Civic Club will hold its first meeting of the season on Wednesday Sept. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Herb Lamppa Civic Center in Tower.

The meeting will begin with a presentation by Mary Shedd titled, "Trails to Adventure." This will be followed by coffee and a short meeting. Everyone is invited to attend. Questions call Linda Haugen at 612-916-1918.

Farmers market open in September

The Tower Farmers Market will be open through September, every Friday from 4-6 p.m. at the Depot. Raffle tickets for the Sharing the Harvest basket are still available for just one dollar. The drawing will be held on Sept. 22.

Volunteers needed for boardwalk building day on Sept. 16

TOWER- The Wagoner Trails Club will be constructing a short sec-

tion of boardwalk that will connect the Mesabi Trail to the "orange trail" for the Ancient Cedars trail. The board walk will cover a short swampy section. The work day will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16. Volunteers can meet at 9 a.m. at the train depot trailhead.

Lunch bunch to meet on Tuesday, Sept. 19

ELY- The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 12:30 p.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge in Ely. Please RSVP to Kathy at 218-753-2530.

Anyone that would like to join us are welcome.

Rally Sunday set for Sept. 17 at St. Paul's Lutheran

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Lutheran Church will start Sunday School on Sept. 17 with Rally Sunday.

Worship service at 8:30

Sunday School starts at 8:45 a.m. for ages 3 - 14. All area children are welcome to attend.

Brunch follows the service.

Bookmobile Schedule

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobiles will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesday, Sept. 20, Oct. 11, Nov. 1.

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

ROOT, ROOT, ROOT FOR ROOT BEER!

Root Beer Lady in Ely

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Capping off a summer of celebrations for the 30-year anniversary of the Dorothy Molter Museum, Bottle Cap Volunteer Productions staged a four-day run last weekend of the “Root Beer Lady” musical at Ely’s Historic State Theater. The musical is based on the book “Root Beer Lady,” about Dorothy Molter’s life by local author Bob Cary. Molter was the last non-indigenous resident of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Bottle Cap Volunteer Productions is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit which formed in 2016 for the sole purpose of performing “Root Beer Lady.” The cast and crew were all local volunteers.

The Production

The musical had six performances over four days, starting Thursday evening, Sept. 7, and ending on Sunday, Sept. 10, with a matinee. As a film venue, the stage at the State Theater lacks many of the features of theaters specializing in plays and musicals. The three musicians, Beth Haakensen, Jef Cierniak, and Barb Cary Hall, played from the wings since the

State Theater doesn’t have a pit. The stage lacks deep side wings and a fly, but the production used projections of Molter-related photography to add to the otherwise simple set.

The narrator part in the musical was played by Andy Hill, one of Molter’s friends, but also the late Bob Cary’s best friend. The younger Dorothy was played by Morgan Sauls and the older Dorothy was played by Emily Weise.

It is difficult to determine what the funniest moment was in a production full of many laugh-inducing moments. The top two contenders were the walleye anglers in search of beer and the sauna guys. The anglers were the subjects of two songs compared to the sauna guys’ one musical number.

Despite their shorter scene, the sauna goers left the audience in hysterics approaching apoplexy. Dressed in white undershirts, white boxers, and sauna towels, the sauna goers did their best to imitate the Rockettes chorus line. They brought down the house when they turned their posteriors to the audience, bent over, and flipped up their towels, revealing the word “SAUNA” spelled out in large letters on their rear ends.



Above: The sauna guys in the “Root Beer Lady” musical dance in a chorus line. From left-to-right: Matt Janeksala, Vince O’Connor, Morgan Sauls, David Wigdahl, and Laurie Kess. Right: Museum director Jess Edberg with one of the new limited edition bottles of Dorothy’s root beer. photos by C. Clark



Limited edition

The 30th Anniversary Limited Edition Bottles of Dorothy’s Root Beer arrived in time to make their debut at Ely’s Historic State Theater

on opening night. Museum director Jess Edberg had six packs with the new labels for sale out in the lobby of the theater, along with other root beer lady swag.

The limited edition will only be available until next summer.

Ely Marathon Weekend Activities

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Ely Marathon weekend is racing towards us, bringing conventional runners plus those few stalwart relay teams in the world’s only canoe portage marathon.

Race routes, road closures, registration information, spectator information, and detailed schedules for the marathon weekend of Sept. 22-23 are on page 11.

Root Beer Run

Dorothy’s Root Beer Run is a marathon event for kids which starts after the marathon and half-marathon have begun on Saturday, Sept. 23. Participants must run 25 miles prior to race day. Racers will finish the last 1.2 miles of their run on the Ely Marathon race route. Finishers receive a race medal, bottle of Dorothy’s root beer, with additional prizes for top racers. Cost is \$15 per child. Pre-registration is required at elymarathon.com/kids-race.



The 2021 half-marathon portage relay second-place winners at the finish line. file photo

[com/kids-race](http://elymarathon.com/kids-race).

5k Race Fundraiser

The children’s race will begin at 8:45 a.m. Race packets for the runners can be picked up Friday, Sept. 22 between noon-10 p.m. at Whiteside Park, or at the starting line on Saturday morning. The race route starts on Sheridan between 13th and 14th Avenues, turns left onto 2nd Ave., and then turns left onto Chapman. The race finishes at Whiteside Park. It is possible to watch the start of the race and then walk to the park to see the finish.

The Northern Lights 5k Glow Run will be on Friday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m. at Whiteside Park. The run is a fundraiser for the Northern Lights Clubhouse, a mental health nonprofit based in Ely. This is a family-friendly event, with runners, walkers, wheelchair drivers, stroller pushers, and wagon pullers welcome. Bikes, dogs, and scooters are excluded from the race.

Preregister for the 5k run using the link at elymarathon.com/5k. Packet

Pickup and race-day registration will begin at noon on Sept. 22. New registrations are welcome from noon to 5:45 p.m.

Whiteside activities

A bounce house and obstacle course for kids will open at noon on Friday in Whiteside Park until 10 p.m. Food trucks will be available in the park at the same time. Food truck and bounce house hours on Saturday will be from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Rock-and-roll dance band Rhino Rocks will play at the park on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Located just off the finish line in Whiteside Park, the Dorothy Molter museum will be selling ice-cold Dorothy’s root beer, along with several tap beers and adult seltzers, as a fundraiser. The root beer and beer tent will open on Sept. 22 from 4-10 p.m. for the Friday evening race. It will also be open on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Ely Winter Festival donates to Frozen

ELY- In support of a high school musical guaranteed to melt hearts, the Ely Winter Festival donated \$600 over the summer for the Ely Memorial High School production of “Disney’s Frozen—The Broadway Musical.”

One dollar from every iconic Ely Winter Festival pin sold was dedicated to supporting the arts at the high school, and this year the festival matched the pin money. The combination of the community support and Ely Winter Festival pin proceeds meant that the festival could donate \$600 towards the production of the musical. In its statement on the donation, the festival organizers wrote, “The Ely Winter Festival is thrilled to sponsor the arts in Ely, and looks forward to the production.”

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

►Sept. 19: E-Waste Recycling with Maria Jensen

►Sept. 26: Trump and the Rule of Law: A Prosecutor’s Update on the Pending Cases with Frank Sherman

►Oct. 3: All About Lynx with Dave Grosshuesch Wildlife Biologist

►Oct. 10: A Trans Training: The Basics with Aleana (Ana) Kruger

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



leaves switching colors soon falling to a cold ground
the furnace running

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

Monday 10 am-6 pm
Tuesday 10 am-6 pm
Wednesday 10 am-6 pm
Thursday 10 am-6 pm
Friday 10 am-6 pm
Phone: 218-827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous

OPEN AA - 7:30

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

AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m. Fridays, First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Harvey St., Ely

ELY WOMEN’S OPEN AA - Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will be closed Wednesday, Sept. 20 through Friday, Sept. 22.

The spice for September is rosemary.

The Get Crafty program at the library will meet on Monday, Sept. 18, from 1-1:30 p.m. This month’s project, for adults, is a do-it-yourself tulle wreath. All materials will be provided. Participants must pre-register so the library can order enough supplies.

The September Kahoot trivia game is on the first five books of the “Baby-Sitters Little Sister” series by Ann Martin. The Kahoot will start on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 3 p.m., and will finish on Tuesday, Sept. 26, at 8 a.m. Participants must register in advance so the library can email the link to the game.

The library will celebrate Johnny Appleseed Day on Tuesday, Sept. 26, from 3-4 p.m. This program is for all ages. Participants will learn to dry an apple, plant an apple seed, do an apple craft, and more. Participants must pre-register so the library can order enough supplies.

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

All library events are at the Ely Public Library at 224 E. Chapman St., unless otherwise noted.

Community Dance

ELY- The Ely Folk School will hold a community dance at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave. E. on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 7-10 p.m. The event will feature contra, line, circle and barn dances. No experience necessary. All dances will be taught. Cost \$10, kids free with parent.

Ladies’ Chainsaw Workshop

FALL LAKE- The Minnesota Women’s Woodland Network will hold a two-day chainsaw workshop for women on Sept. 16-17, at the University of Minnesota Hubachek Wilderness Research Center at 425 Shady Ln., on the north shore of Fall Lake. The workshop will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Cost is \$130. Food is not provided. Limited rustic lodging is available upon request at an

additional cost of \$40 per person. For lodging questions please contact Gloria Erickson at 218-365-0878 or at gloria@dovetailinc.org. Use the link on the research center website to sign-up, at <https://hwrc.cfans.umn.edu/>

Frozen Auditions

ELY- Ely Memorial High School’s performance of “Disney’s Frozen, The Broadway Musical” is only four months away. Auditions for the musical will be on Sunday, Sept. 17, from 5-7 p.m. for students in grades 6 through 12. Call back will take place on Sept. 18-19.

The auditions will be held in the Washington Auditorium on the Ely School District campus at 600 E. Harvey St. Use the center doors (marked with the number one) to enter the school and then turn right after the school offices.

NLAA September Art Show

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association September show will run from Monday, Sept. 18, until Sunday, Oct. 1, in

the lobby of Ely’s Historic State Theater. The show “ISLANDLAND” by Ely photographer Parker Loew will be shown in the theater lobby from Sept. 18 to Oct. 1.

Wild Rice Camp

ELY- The Ely Folk School will hold a traditional Ojibwe wild rice camp on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants will learn how to dry, parch, jig, and winnow wild rice for use and storage. The camp will include a traditional feast that participants will help prepare. Costs are \$60 for the class and \$30 for materials; sliding scale options are available.

Open-Air Concert

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association will host a Courtney Yasmineh public open-air concert at the Hidden Valley Chalet on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 4-6 p.m. Bring your own chair, snacks and drinks. In case of unexpected weather, the chalet will be available for shelter. Suggested donation \$20.

NLAA Fall Play

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA) fall production is the 2009 Tony Award winner, the “God of Carnage.” Auditions will take place on Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. Those wanting to audition should send an email to contact@northernlakesarts.org, and the NLAA will provide audition materials.

Fire Station Open House on Sept. 27

ELY- The City of Ely Fire Department is opening the station house doors to the public to see what’s inside and chat with city public safety officers about what they do. The Ely Public Safety Open House will be on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 4-7 p.m.

ATV Ride Fundraiser

BABBITT- The Friends of Babbitt Recreation Fall ATV ride will be on Sept. 30, leaving the Babbitt ATV Clubhouse at 10 a.m. Cost is \$30. The event will include lunch, raffles and a Jackpot Loop ride. Call or text Shelley at 218-742-4322 to pre-register before Sept. 25. The event will raise funds for the Babbitt Splashpad.

COMMUNITY ARTS

Winged mural in park to get needed restorations

Donations from Fortune Bay Resort Casino and other businesses allow project to move forward

by BRIAN K. ANDERSON
Contributing Writer

COOK— The “Let’s Soar” Winged Mural, designed in part by students from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Nett Lake and Vermilion, will be given a new lease on life thanks to fundraising efforts by Northwoods Friends of the Arts and local businesses.

“I am just excited to see it coming back,” said Jess Lambert of the Boys and Girls Club as she recently looked over the weather-worn mural. “It’s one of my first memories with the Boys and Girls Club, and seeing it takes me back when I started.”

The mural was constructed in 2018 and traveled indoors for the next three years to be displayed in area communities. It was officially installed in 2021 just off River St. in Cook next to the library and the park that includes several other murals depicting scenes from the town. The intent was that it would be a foundation that stood the test of time, whereby kids who had a hand in creating the mural could come back to visit a part of their history.

However, the harsh

Minnesota winters, pounding rain, and damaging sun weakened the mural, and soon, the glossy acrylic paint and epoxy seal gave way to the elements. This was disheartening to the likes of Northwoods Friends of the Arts President Shawna Kishel and former school-teacher Lyn Reed, who played an instrumental part in the creation of the mural.

“It was really a beautiful, high gloss material that we didn’t think would weather like it did,” said Reed, an Australian native who taught school for 35 years, including stints at Orr and North Woods. “But now we are going to bring it back to how it once was and are very thrilled we’re able to do this.”

While Reed has been tasked to restore the mural, Kishel has been busy raising money to make it all possible. The city of Cook has donated \$1,000 to the cause, as has Fortune Bay through its Ticket in Ticket Out promotion.

“We’re very appreciative of the funds donated by the city and Fortune Bay,” said Kishel. “We will do other fundraising

efforts to make sure the materials we use this time will last for a long, long time.”

Once the restored mural is done, Kishel said Northwoods Friends of the Arts members Lauren Nelson, Ron Maki, and Gary Whitenack will help install the new panels.

“They also helped with the original installation, so it is nice to have them involved with the restoration,” said Kishel. “We are also thinking of putting a roof over the mural to help protect it from the elements.”

The plan to refurbish the mural will include Reed bringing the artwork back to its original glory. She plans to have her portion of the project done by the middle of October.

“My plan is to re-trace all of the feathers and paint it as exactly as it was,” said Reed.

“I figure I’ll work eight hours a day on it and might enlist the help of some of my former students to get it done.”

Two of those students were Lambert and Danielle Porter.

“I taught a lot of the Nett Lake kids,” said Reed. “In fact, I had three generations of kids. Jess



The “Let’s Soar” Winged Mural in the park in downtown Cook, which has suffered from exposure to the elements, will be refurbished and reinstalled in its original location. From left, Jess Lambert, Shawna Kishel, and Lyn Reed are pictured holding up a \$1,000 check from Fortune Bay Resort Casino that will help with the effort. submitted photo

was one of them, and she was an excellent student. Danielle was another one of my students.”

Reed fondly recalled when Porter brought her young daughter to help with the mural.

“And then the next day, I met her at the bus, and Danielle asked, ‘Can I come, Mrs. Reed?’ and I said yes,” recalled Reed of Porter. “She was really good, so I might see what she is up to.”

When the idea for the mural originally surfaced, Reed said kids from Cook, Orr, Tower, and the Nett Lake and Vermilion reservations participated in the creation. Each kid was tasked with painting a feather that would be placed in the shape of a wing, signifying how happy they were as if they could soar.

“Some kids did more than one feather, but the toughest thing was to

have the kids give up their feathers for the actual mural,” said Reed with a smile. “So, on the last day, they could paint another feather and take it home. The original mural was a great collaboration of many people, both kids and adults. It was a way to bring everybody together—we had so much fun with it.”

ORR CITY COUNCIL

Council's hands tied by budget on pay raise issue

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Budget limitations drove discussion at Monday’s Orr City Council meeting when the topic turned to proposed pay raises for liquor store manager Laura Manai and employee Marie Cloyd.

The liquor store committee of Mayor Robert Antikainen and council member Hannah Manick had recommended that Cloyd receive an increase of \$1 an hour to \$15.31, and that Manai receive an increase of \$2.42 for an hourly pay rate of \$21 an hour. Both raises were to be retroactive to Sept. 1.

Manai’s rate of compensation will go up again on Dec. 1, this time by

\$3 to \$24 an hour if by that date she successfully completes her Safe Serve certification and three classes from the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association. The combined hourly pay raise for Manai as of Dec. 1 over her current \$18.58 per hour rate would be \$5.42 an hour.

Council member Bruce Black opened the discussion with suggestion that the council had been pressured into raising wages, although he did not specify the source of the pressure.

“I don’t like the way it happened,” Black said. “I don’t like that you can threaten the city to have your pay raised. It’s never been done before and I don’t like that.”

Council member Melissa Wright and Black both pressed for information about the liquor store budget and if it could handle the proposed increases. City clerk Angela Lindgren said that as far as could be determined with the current numbers, the budget was “not favorable” for an increase.

“We’re already in a hole so far deep we can’t see the top of it,” Black said.

Wright expressed support in principle for Manai’s raise but questioned the practicality.

“She should be making more than what she was making as a clerk here, but I have concerns about our budget,” she said.

Lindgren asked if an alternative could be to give a bonus now and a pay increase later, noting how Manai had covered many city administrative duties during the transition to a new city clerk while simultaneously managing the liquor store and learning the ropes there. But it was rather clear that there wasn’t enough support to move forward with any decision until the council has a better handle on the budget.

“You can table it until you can run the numbers and see what we’ve got,” Black said. “At this point there’s no way the budget can even come close to supporting it.” With Manick absent, the council unanimously

agreed to table the matter.

Another Orr Muni item that generated a good deal of discussion was a proposal to move the ice machine from its current location next to the deep fryer down to the basement. Maintenance supervisor Paul Koch noted the logistics problems that would be encountered with such a move, including the need to remove a window to facilitate the move, and the need to install some sort of drain/pump system for the ice maker. There are no floor drains in the basement, Koch said, and a pump would be needed to connect to the overhead drain line, which would incur additional cost. Council members decided to table

the issue for additional study.

In other business, the council:

►Heard about problems with the pipe for the primary clarifier for the wastewater treatment plant. Koch said the line needs to be replaced or repaired to keep it from failing.

►Heard about the proposed replacement of the water tower stand pipe. Koch noted that to effect repairs water would be shut down to the Bayview Apartments. “If we shut the valve off in the street, Bayview Apartments is out of water,” he said.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Scratch your artistic itch at NWFA Gallery

COOK- Experienced and novice artists alike are welcome to partake in the art experiences coming up at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

“Painting Flowers With Tempera Paint” by Ely artist Cecilia Rolando will be held on Friday, Sept. 29 from 1-4 p.m.

In “Sew A Heart,” learn Kathy Lovgren’s piecing/quilting technique for making this design easier and less cumbersome to construct. Fabric kits and twisted heart template supplied. The two-day class will be Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 20-21.

Coming up in December is “Acrylic: Paint A Small Canvas,” a class with Brenna Kohlase scheduled for Saturday Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Registration for all classes is required by calling 218-666-2153.

Open Art Mondays with host artist Jody Feist welcomes all artists to drop in at the gallery’s classroom, the Wolfe Den, from 6 to 8 p.m. each

Monday, no registration required.

Special exhibits for September include “Drawn From Nature: Pen and Ink Drawings” by Jim DeVries and “Reflections on a Waterlily” by the Open Art Group. Exhibits are available for viewing during regular gallery hours on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The gallery is located at 210 S River St.

Responders to host take-out soup benefit on Sept. 30

BEAR RIVER- A take-out soup meal fundraiser to benefit Northeast Itasca Rescue and Bearville First Responders will be Saturday, Sept. 30 at the Bear River School.

Soup options will be creamy chicken wild rice or hearty vegetable beef for \$10.

Organizers request that you call or text your order to 218-969-9217 by Wednesday, Sept. 27.

The drive-through pickup at Bear River School will open at 4:30

p.m. on Sept. 30 and close at 6 p.m.

Cook Hospital to hold health fair on Sept. 16

COOK- Cook Hospital will stage a health fair at the hospital on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 9 a.m.-noon.

In addition to educational activities, the fair will feature food, vendors, a kids’ area, and more. Come meet the fair’s featured guest, Mrs. Petite USA Rachel Betterley.

Prizes offered at the event include the grand prize, a Traeger grill, and \$500 and \$250 gift cards from Zup’s and a \$500 gift card from F&D Meats.

Cook library offers literacy kits

COOK- The Cook Public Library is excited to launch a new collection of early learning kits available for check out with a library card. The kits focus on reading, math, engineering, science and nature. Each kit comes with a carrying bag and contains books, games

and hands-on learning activities for preschool and elementary aged kids.

Kits will be ready to check out the last week of September. Checkout period is 4 weeks.

This project was made possible by a Dollar Gen-

eral Literacy Grant and support from the Friends of the Cook Public Library.

Also available in September are Take and Create Art Kits for Finnish Paper Stars by the Duluth Folk School. Kits include

supplies to create two to three unique stars, including card stock paper strips, glue stick, scissors, string, and an instructional printout for different star styles. For more information call 218-666-2210.

TIMBER DAYS



Cook’s Annual Timber Days committee members presented a check in the amount of \$2,000 to the Cook Firemen’s Relief Association on Thursday, Aug. 31. The funds are proceeds from raffle ticket sales during Timber Days 2023. Pictured are, from left, committee members Marty Yourczek, Carrolle Wood, Diane Brunner, Mo Fontana, Shirley Baumgartner, and Cook firefighters Bruce Keister and Tim Mankowski. submitted photo

CITY OF TOWER

Council approves rate increase at Hoodoo Point

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council here, on Monday, approved a ten-percent increase in the seasonal rate for RV campers at the Hoodoo Point Campground, but not before hearing from several of those affected by the change.

With the rate increase and other campground issues on the agenda, nearly 20 seasonal campground residents turned out at the meeting to voice their opinions. Longtime camper Greta Tuominen spoke for many of the residents, requesting that the city allow residents to maintain sheds and other improvements, such as decks, on their campsites and that electrical service be upgraded to 50 amp. Currently, the service is limited to 30 amp on most sites.

Residents seemed resigned to a rate increase. “We recognize costs will need to increase as the city’s costs increase,” said Tuominen, reading from a prepared statement. “But we hope any increases are in line with recent cost-of-living increases.”

The city has increasingly relied on the campground profits for help fund some city services, particularly the ambulance service, so it was no surprise that the council opted for a rate increase. Council members noted that it had been a few years since they had raised rates, although the city had begun to require residents to pay for their own electrical service last year.

Clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz presented the council with rates from other RV parks in the area, which appeared to show Hoodoo Point was on the low end. Schultz said a ten-percent increase would put Hoodoo Point in line with other area campgrounds. “So, that’s why that number was picked, because it puts us sort of right in the ball-

Approves preliminary five percent increase in levy for next year

park here,” he said. Council member Kevin Norby noted that McKinley Park Campground was currently charging \$3,200 per season, or \$200 more than Hoodoo Point. “I think we should be at least matching them,” said Norby. “In my mind, Hoodoo Point’s a better campground... you guys have a lot more space than McKinley has.”

Setterberg noted that a ten percent increase would put Hoodoo Point slightly higher than McKinley, but council members were comfortable with that and approved the increase on a 3-0 vote, with council members Joe Morin and Josh Zika absent from the meeting.

The council also opted to place a moratorium on any new improvements to camper lots until they can discuss the lease provisions, which clearly limit the number of sheds or storage bins to one per site and require prior written approval for such improvements. Campers urged the council to allow any existing improvements, such as decks or multiple sheds, to be “grandfathered in” even if they opt to begin enforcing the lease provisions in the future. One camper noted that the sheds help keep the sites looking orderly by keeping lawnmowers and other tools and equipment tucked away and secure.

But campground manager Randy Pratt expressed frustration with some campers and the lack of communication. “The biggest problem I have is that things are being done without seeking permission or even talking to us,” he said, noting that a camper had recently begun building a deck and was halfway done before he found out about it. “We have a

shed in a site that I don’t think is really in their site that was put up.” Pratt said he and his wife Julie were responsible for managing the campground, but that becomes more difficult when people don’t follow the rules or don’t communicate. “There’s a certain core of people who just refuse to do it,” he said. “And this isn’t the first time we’ve had a problem. It’s an ongoing thing and it’s very upsetting that it goes in one ear and out the other. It’s one of those things that’s ‘let’s do it and ask for forgiveness later.’”

“We get it,” said Mayor Dave Setterberg. “And that’s why the moratorium, everything has to stop right now until we can actually look and see when things were documented.”

In other action, the council approved a five percent preliminary levy increase for 2024, with the caveat that they hope to reduce that to zero percent by the time the final levy is approved in December. Under state law, local units of government must set their preliminary levies by Sept. 30 but have until Dec. 28 to approve their final levies. Once a preliminary levy is set, it can not be raised, but it can be reduced.

Council members and city staff will be reviewing spending for next year over the next couple months. The city is also expecting nearly \$80,000 in new revenues next year, which should significantly help the city’s bottom line.

Setterberg discussed the city’s financial situation just ahead of the levy discussion as part of a state of the city report he presented to the council. Overall, Setterberg set a positive tone for the city, noting that the city’s financial picture has improved considerably over the past three years. The city’s general fund

account balance has increased from \$301,601 at the end of 2020 to \$507,541 as of Aug. 31 of this year. Virtually all of that increase is due to a fund balance of \$189,532 in the Hoodoo Point account as of the end of August. That compares to just \$10,834 in that same account as of the end of 2020.

Setterberg noted that the city will make its final \$50,000 payment to the League of Minnesota Cities in 2024, which should significantly improve the city’s finances going forward. The city took out an emergency loan from the League in 2019 to address a severe cash flow crisis stemming from city overspending, mostly on projects.

Setterberg noted that community interest and involvement in the city and its operations continues to be high, with numerous volunteers involved with a number of community organizations. “We have great support in a lot of different groups,” he said. “On TEDA, we had at least four people that asked to get on the board when there was an opening.”

Setterberg noted a number of city achievements over the past year, including completing the new kayak landing and trailhead, the repaving and extension of a portion of Main Street that extends to the new kayak landing. He also mentioned ongoing trails work, and improvements to the historic fire hall.

Setterberg also discussed ongoing work to bring new housing to the community, planned upgrades to the train depot and mini-park area and an upcoming decision on the purchase of the county public works facility on Marina Drive.

Setterberg made note of

several revenue increases on tap for 2024, including a \$10,000 increase in local government aid, an \$18,000 allotment in public safety aid and a one-time payment of \$21,000 in small cities assistance. He also noted that the city can anticipate at least \$20,000 in proceeds from the former Gunderson Trust, which is now managed by the Duluth-Superior Community Foundation, as well as increased payments for lake lot leases due to a recent appraisal. Setterberg said the new revenues, combined, amount to about 20 percent of the city’s total levy.

Overall, Setterberg said, the state of the city is good, it is stronger than last year and is still trending in the right direction.

In other business, the council: ▶ Heard from Schultz that the LCCMR’s legislative committee will be visiting the city later this month to review the harbor and on the kayak landing and trailhead.

▶ Approved a change order on the depot roof project that reduced the cost of the project by \$2,450.

▶ Approved a motion to have SEH put the planned drinking water treatment facility out for bid. The city has \$3.375 million in Army Corps funding secured and is currently pursuing multiple other avenues for additional funding support. The current engineer’s estimate is around \$6 million.

▶ Approved the hiring of Jon Ross as a new member of the Tower Fire Department, pending a background check.

▶ Approved a motion to post for a new seasonal worker to replace Chaz Hanna, who recently left the area.

LAWSUIT...Continued from page 1

tory rights granted to the public that are deemed to be unsupported by law, science, or are unreasonable.

The government and intervenors in the case had argued that the APA did not apply to two of the issues raised by Twin Metals and Franconia because the APA waives the government’s sovereign immunity only in instances where the rights of plaintiffs are derived from federal statute. In the case of the two mining companies, however, the judge noted that the rights the companies were asserting, which included a right to a third lease renewal based on the terms of a lease originally issued to the International Nickel Co. in 1966, were based on contract language, rather than statute.

“Twin Metals asserts that its right to successive lease renewals and its procedural rights stem from two seemingly non-contractual sources: ‘mining

laws and regulations’ and ‘the Government’s obligation not to act arbitrarily and capriciously,’” wrote Judge Cooper. “But neither law gives rise to these asserted rights. The rights flow instead from the underlying lease agreements.”

Federal law and previous case law has already established that the standards and procedures of the APA do not automatically apply to contract disputes involving the government.

The decision does not prohibit Twin Metals or Franconia from seeking damages for breach of contract in the U.S. Court of Claims under the Tucker Act, but the prospects for that seem doubtful as well. Federal lawyers have consistently argued that the companies’ right to renewal of the leases was contingent on the commencement of mining operations within the initial 20-year term of the lease, which expired in the 1980s without any mining activity. Because of

that failure and other regulations pertaining to federal hardrock mineral leasing, Interior Department lawyers have maintained since the Reagan administration that renewal of the 1966 leases was discretionary.

New lease applications and mine plan

The judge also dismissed the claim by Twin Metals that the Interior Department’s rejection of its applications for additional preference right leases as well as its submitted mine plan were arbitrary and capricious.

“Under the applicable regulations, Interior is required to reject ‘discretionary’ applications for use of land subject to segregation...” wrote the judge, noting that at the time the agency rejected the applications, the U.S. Forest Service had already submitted its request for a mineral withdrawal within the area that Twin Metals

sought to lease. “Because BLM had no discretion in the decision to reject the [preference right lease applications], the decision could not be arbitrary and capricious.”

Twin Metals argued that the government was legally obligated to approve its lease applications because it had found valuable mineral deposits. Under federal law, that can give prospectors the right to a lease, but the judge noted that the law that pertains to national forests in Minnesota, U.S.C. 16: 508b, “has no provision granting the holders of prospecting permits a lease right upon the discovery of valuable deposits.” Rather, the judge noted that U.S.C. 16: 508b gives the Forest Service the right to approve or deny a mining application on the Superior National Forest.

Likewise, other federal law “provides that BLM will reject [preference right lease applications] if ‘the

surface managing agency does not consent to the lease,’” noted the judge in his ruling.

The judge found similarly in rejecting the companies’ complaint that the BLM’s rejection of its mine plan of operations was arbitrary and capricious. “Twin Metals advances three theories, but none state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face,” wrote the judge.

Twin Metals had earlier appealed the rejection of the mine plan to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, but that body ruled in April 2022 that Twin Metals’ appeal was moot since the mine plan depended on leases that had already been canceled.

Reaction limited

Eighth District Rep. Pete Stauber expressed his disappointment with the ruling. “This decision is just more proof that we need substantive permitting reform in this country,” he said. “We

simply cannot afford to have good mining projects caught up in endless litigation and extended delays. As we do nothing, adversarial nations like China are rapidly producing the critical minerals necessary for every aspect of our daily lives.”

Representatives of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters saw a different message in the ruling. “Twin Metals tried to force renewal of terminated federal mining leases next to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness,” said Ingrid Lyons, executive director of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. “The United States government followed the rule of law and moved to dismiss this unlawful lawsuit. We are one step closer to permanent protection for the Boundary Waters watershed.”

INCIDENT...Continued from page 1

The Ely Fire Department dispatched multiple units to extinguish the structure fire, which appears to have been confined mostly to the interior. The extent of the damage was not known as of press time. Most of the firefighters had left the fire scene by 1 p.m.

An occupant of the home, identified on scanner traffic only as “Gillson,” fled the residence in a white panel truck. He left a shotgun in the yard but was presumed by law enforcement to be armed with a handgun. Gillson drove down Cty. Rd. 21 toward Babbitt, sparking a high-speed pursuit by multiple law enforcement agencies including the East Range Police, the Babbitt PD, the Ely PD, and the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office.

The driver turned right on County Road 904 north of Babbitt with law enforcement in hot pursuit. Then the driver abandoned the vehicle, with at least one tire blown out, approximately 1,000 yards from the intersection of the Virginia-Ely Road and Cty. Rd. 583 in Waasa Township. From there, he fled on foot across a field with police officers still in pursuit. The *Timberjay* received multiple verbal reports that the fugitive was tased as he was subdued. The Babbitt Ambulance responded to the pursuit scene to transport the driver after he was taken into custody.

Police Chief Chad Houde was on scene documenting the incident. He had no comment as of the *Timberjay*’s press

time, noting that the incident was still under active investigation.

Gillson was involved in another unusual incident last month, which resulted in felony charges, including discharging a firearm in city limits. A woman occupant of the home called 911 around 3 p.m., on Aug. 20, stating that Gillson was holding her hostage, causing the Ely PD to respond to the scene. Gillson allegedly also shot out the front tires of a vehicle parked in front of the home as the woman tried to drive away. He also discharged a shotgun at the garage door.

The *Timberjay* will have more on this incident as details become available.



Jason Gillson allegedly fled his home on E. Boundary St. in Ely in this white panel truck. He abandoned the truck approximately 1,000 yards from the intersection of Cty. Rd. 21 and Cty. Rd. 583 in Waasa Township.

photo by C. Clark

CITY OF TOWER

TEDA green lights harbor concept plan that includes hotel

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER— The Tower Economic Development Authority has given a unanimous green light to a concept plan that would bring a hotel, an adjacent commercial space, and a handful of second-floor apartments to the city's harbor. The plan would also include the construction of as many as 23 condominiums and 19 small, short-term rental cottages on approximately 23 acres north of the harbor located between the East Two River and Marina Drive.

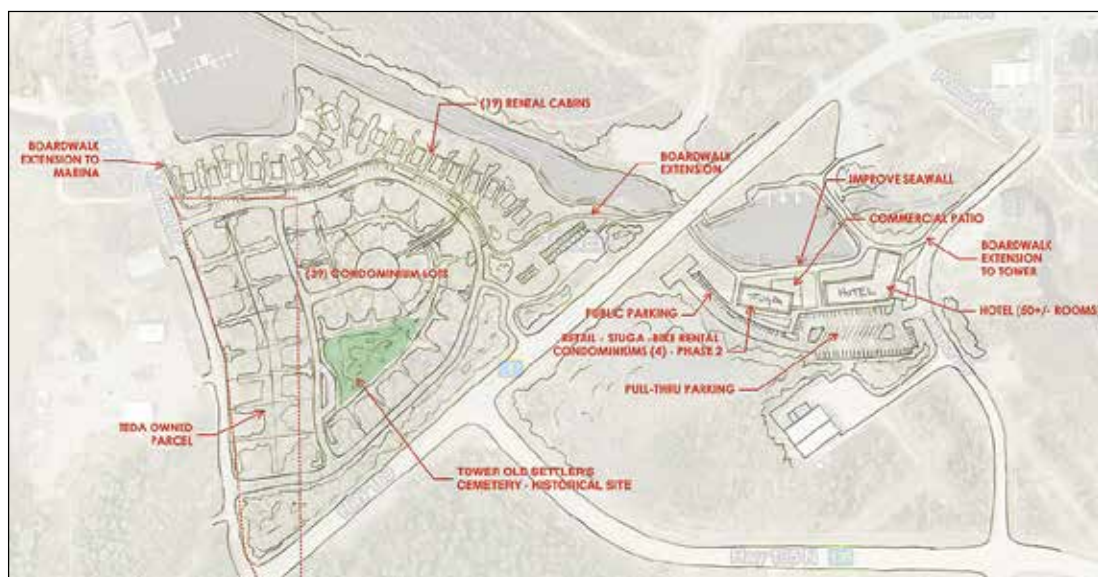
The combined development, which would be undertaken by Tower Vision 2025, remains in the early planning stages and TEDA's approval at its Sept. 7 meeting is no guarantee that the final development will move forward but it allows Tower Vision and its new architect, Ryan Arola, of Duluth, to develop more detailed plans and projections.

Arola led the presentation to the TEDA board and he highlighted an L-shaped, 50-room hotel that would have high visibility from Hwy. 169 as people

enter town. He said the adjacent commercial space could provide opportunity for businesses catering to hotel guests, such as bike or kayak rentals, dining, spas, or similar services. The second story of the structure would have room for 3-4 apartments with views overlooking the harbor.

Once the concept is fully developed, the major backers of the proposed project, including Your Boat Club co-owner Luke Kujawa and Jamie Tatge, head of Leisure Hotels and Resorts, would develop the financial projections as part of a pro forma that would go to potential funders, most likely venture capitalists. At this point, the TEDA board is anticipating that construction will begin in 2024, although it isn't clear at this point which portions of the overall project will advance first.

The development of the river cottages and condominiums is contingent on an agreement between TEDA, Tower Vision 2025, and Kujawa, to purchase 5.02 acres of TEDA-owned property located along the east side of Marina Drive. Kujawa has already purchased the 18 acres adjacent



A concept plan given a preliminary okay by the TEDA board calls for a hotel and additional mixed commercial/residential space at the harbor, with most residential development slated to take place on the north side of Hwy. 169 on the former Mesojedec property.

to the TEDA property, formerly owned by the Mesojedec family. Under the concept approved by TEDA, the 18 acres would house the river cottages and several additional condominium units.

The current concept plan would utilize TEDA's Marina Drive property to access the entire combined site as well as provide space for the construction of

approximately 16 condominiums. The sale of both the Marina Drive property as well as the land around the harbor would be subject to development agreements with construction timelines and claw back provisions should the project not move forward.

In other TEDA action, the board toured the newly renovated Vermilion Country School, which

was a major TEDA project this year. While the work is nearly completed, executive director Marshall Helmberger said he's putting together a punch list of the handful of small items that remain undone. It appears the project will come in under TEDA's \$400,000 budget.

Planning and Zoning denies variance request for tiny home

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- A request from Daniel Eveleth to build a home smaller than allowed by the city's current zoning ordinance was denied for failing to meet the standards set in statute for the granting of a variance. Under state law, variances from the established zoning rules can only

be granted if the request meets a three-factor test, including reasonableness, the physical uniqueness of the property (such as topography, not the preferences of the landowner or the economic costs), and that the change will not affect the essential character of the surrounding neighborhood or the city's comprehensive plan.

The lot in question, on

the 700 block of N. Second St. is zoned Residential-3, where current zoning regulations require any residential structure to be a minimum of 20 ft. by 20 ft. in size.

Eveleth said his plans called for two walls that are over 20' in length, but two that are shorter than 20', though a side deck would bring that width to 20'. The house would sit on a poured

concrete footing with wood skirting. Eveleth said his lot is low and subject to flooding, and the cost to fill the lot to create a larger space for a house was "extremely high."

Eveleth noted that his plan would meet all required setbacks, and that the size of the home was not that different from others in the area. The lot also includes a garage.

"I plan to make this property a nice residence," he wrote in his application, "and to become a long-term taxpayer and user of services in Tower. I am not just a vacationer here."

But economic factors, good or bad, are not factored into the legal reasons to grant a variance.

According to information put out by the Minnesota Department of

Labor and Industry, tiny homes range from 100 to 400 sq. ft., excluding any lofts.

City clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz said the issue of tiny homes is something the Planning and Zoning Commission will consider as part of a review of the city's ordinance and that adjustments to permit homes of this size in the future could be made.

LIVES...Continued from page 1

a true story," said director Mary Lou Conaway, "with documented facts. To me, that's probably the scariest part."

Sarah Packa, of Hibbing, played the lead character Catherine Donahue. "I love the strong characters in this show and that the playwright highlights women's stories," she said.

"I was amazed by the strength of these women," Conaway said. "They were making good money for the

time, working innocently for an industry where profit topped safety. Then fighting for their lives and rejected by friends and neighbors."

"These Shining Lives" was written by Duluth native, Melanie Marnich. The play, set in the 1920s and 1930s, is the fictionalized story of four women who worked for the Radium Dial Company—an actual watch factory based in Ottawa, Ill. The play showcases the danger women faced

in this workplace and highlights the wider lack of concern companies had for protecting the health of their employees. The four women highlighted in the play become fast friends and support each other through the doubts, illness, and the trials. The company may have stolen their health, but they couldn't take their spirits.

The production opened at the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, with three shows Sept. 10-12.

But anyone who missed those performances can see the play at the Gilbert City Auditorium, 17 N. Broadway, on Sept. 22 and 23 at 7 p.m., and Sept. 24 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

Find out more at <https://www.onthestage.tickets/stages-of-the-range-players>.

The play is directed by Mary Lou Conaway, with assistant director Nina Kampf, and producer Mary McReynolds. Sets were

produced by Pete Pellinen and lighting and sound was by Mason Nroll. The cast includes Sarah Packa, Tavia Melhus, Marlyns Goerdt, Jamie Patterson, Sam Papin, Tom Moe, and Pete Pellinen.

Upcoming productions for Stages of the Range Players including a "War of the Worlds" dinner theater at Giants Ridge in October, and a New Year's Eve mystery dinner at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in December. The group

is a co-op style member organization, with the cast and crew having "skin in the game" when it comes to the productions.

The performances are made possible, in part, through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council thanks to appropriations from the state Legislature's General Fund.

STUDY...Continued from page 1

in 2008 to collect elevation data across the entire state using a technology called LIDAR — "light detection and ranging." It's an older technology, invented in the 1960s that can map the ground surface with great detail and accuracy, as well as simultaneously map objects above the ground, like buildings, roads, and trees.

Because the equipment to collect LIDAR data must be flown by slow aircraft close to the ground, LIDAR surveys are expensive, labor-in-

tensive, and require much more data processing than simpler techniques. Despite the time and expense, Minnesota embarked on collecting LIDAR for the whole state.

Minnesota's LIDAR data, managed by the Department of Natural Resources, made the current research possible because it captured the ground surface of the peatlands burned in the 2021 Greenwood fire prior to the burn.

BSU and USFS personnel recently collected a new LIDAR dataset of

the Greenwood fire scar. Professor Nancy Glenn's research group in the BSA Geosciences Department sent out two researchers, Josh Enterkine and Thomas Van Der Weide, to fly BSU's drone mounted LIDAR equipment. BSU has a long history of working with the USFS and other federal and state agencies which manage forests and fight wildfires.

The BSU researchers were aided on the ground by USFS staff who helped maintain safe skies for the low-flying drone, some-

times climbing trees to establish good lines of sight. The data collection phase of the project started on Aug. 28 and finished on Sept. 2.

Kolka, who is with the USFS Northern Research Station, is enthusiastic over what the data will show. "We've collected vegetation data, soil cores and made a detailed fire severity map of the fire scar."

That post-fire LIDAR data will be compared with the pre-fire dataset to determine the loss of peatland elevation from

the wildfire. In 2022, USFS soils staff collected peatland soil cores across a range of peatland ecosystems and burn severities within the Greenwood Fire burn perimeter. Further laboratory analyses from those samples, along with measured losses in peatland elevation will allow Forest Service research scientists to estimate overall loss of carbon and other greenhouse gases from the peatlands after the wildfire.

Peatlands are the largest, natural, terrestrial carbon sink and are believed to store more

carbon than all other vegetation types in the world combined. The USFS can be more proactive with forest management in and around these climate-sensitive peatlands by understanding how fires affect them. More than a third of the forest area in northern Minnesota is comprised of peatlands.

The area of the study is in Superior National Forest, mostly in Lake County: south of Hwy. 1 and east of Cty. Rd. 2, west of the Stony River, and north of Greenwood Lake.

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DISAPPEARANCE

Search continuing for missing Gheen man

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

GHEEN— The search for Glenn Stevenson, a Willow Valley Township man with Parkinson’s disease who went missing Sept. 2 near Gheen, has been fruitless as of Tuesday, but authorities haven’t given up on finding him.

Official ground searches of the Gheen area had been suspended as of Monday, according to St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office lead investigator Andrew Feiro.

“The investigation is still currently active,” Feiro told the *Timberjay* on Monday. “There are current plans to continue further ground searches with a smaller group within the week with specialized search and rescue canines.”

Feiro estimated that sheriff’s office personnel and St. Louis County Rescue Squad members

Specialized canines to be deployed to assist in the search



Glenn Stevenson

have spent about 33 hours actively searching for Stevenson and investigating his disappearance.

“A majority of the searches have been conducted by foot, which includes St. Louis County Rescue Squad members trained in tracking,” Feiro said. “Several flights have been conducted with drones by the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office.”

Feiro noted that the rescue squad routinely assists the sheriff’s office with ground searches, as its volunteers are specially trained in search and rescue.

Searchers have been combing a large area near Gheen where Stevenson’s cell phone is believed to be by pinging it. Feiro explained how a cell phone ping in a rural area such as Gheen isn’t able to exactly pinpoint a phone’s location in the same way a GPS signal might.

“Cell phone locating can be more difficult in rural locations due to numerous factors,” he said. “The location of the phone can be more or less accurate with the make and model of the cell phone, which includes the age and working condition of the phone.” The more cell towers that have contact with a phone the more

precisely a rescuer can pinpoint its location. But in rural areas like Gheen, where there may only be one or two cell towers accessing a phone, pinged locations tend to be less precise. Hills and tree coverage can also reduce accuracy. “As a result, the accuracy of phone pings can range from a few feet to miles,” said Feiro.

Feiro said it was unknown at this time if Stevenson may have left the area.

Family, friends and neighbors of Stevenson have been actively involved in searching for him as well, Feiro said, although those efforts have not been coordinated with the sheriff’s office. Volunteers have combed miles on foot, horseback, and in vehicles looking for any clue as to Stevenson’s whereabouts.

“We are thankful for the

family, friends, and residents of Gheen who have assisted in the search for Glenn Stevenson,” Feiro said. “We understand this is a difficult time and our thoughts are with the family and friends of Glenn.”

Stevenson has been without his Parkinson’s medications since Sept. 2, and his sister Kathy said she believed it was possible that he was suffering from a paranoid delusion when he disappeared.

“He’s probably running away from people because he thinks we’re going to do something to him,” she said.

Feiro said the sheriff’s office isn’t ready to give up on the search for Stevenson yet.

“As long as the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office receives tips and leads to investigate, we will continue to search for Glenn,” he said. “We will exhaust all relevant tools and resources that are available.”

ELY SCHOOLS

Ely high school gym floor should be back in action soon

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY— The new gymnasium floor at Ely Memorial High School should be ready for use next month, reported Facilities Director Tim Leeson at the Sept. 11 meeting of the Ely School Board. The floor was severely damaged last March by water from a burst pipe.

“The floor will be painted by Thursday,” Leeson stated. He explained that after the paint is dry, the floor will receive multiple clear surface coats. “The last coat ... has to cure for two weeks” before it can be used, Leeson said.

In a short 29 minute meeting, Superintendent Anne Oelke reported that 2023-24 enrollment is down six students from the previous school year.

“Last year, we had an enrollment of 536 students with large graduating class and only 19 students signed up for Kindergarten,” Oelke said, “but we had 529 students enrolled at the start of school and we picked up another student during the first week.”

In other action, the board:

- Approved the certification of the proposed maximum payable 2024 levy. The proposed levy certification amount is not yet available from the Minnesota Department of Education, but the board certifies the maximum amount as a routine step in its budgeting process. The budget for the district will be finalized in December.
- Approved the date

for the Truth In Taxation budget meeting for Monday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. in the school board meeting room on the 2nd floor of the Ely Memorial High School Building.

- Approved the August financial report, with receipts in the amount of \$1,665,438 and disbursements in the amount of \$619,088.

- Approved the ice arena contract for the 2023-24 contract between ISD 696 and the Ely Blue Line Club. The club is a nonprofit formed to support amateur hockey in Ely. The contract is for \$14,000 and all vending machine and food concession revenue, excluding school fundraising activities. In return, Ely Blue Line will provide the routine maintenance and operation of the ice arena.

- Hired Nick Bates for the part-time Science/Social Studies high school teaching position for the 2023-24 school year, effective Sept. 5.

- Approved the request from Max Gantt, the K-12 Physical Education/Health teacher, for parental leave from Oct. 2 to Nov. 3, under the Family Medical Leave Act.

- Accepted the August resignations of Erika Peterson and Kali Moro from their paraprofessional positions.

- Approved the third reading and adopted revised policy 450-“At Will.”

- Approved the proposed contracting of the city of Ely’s first class boiler operator on an as-needed basis for the school facilities’ boilers. The proposed

agreement was approved by Ely at the Sept. 5 city council meeting.

- Approved an increase in the school district’s cyber insurance coverage to \$1 million through Vaaler Insurance with the

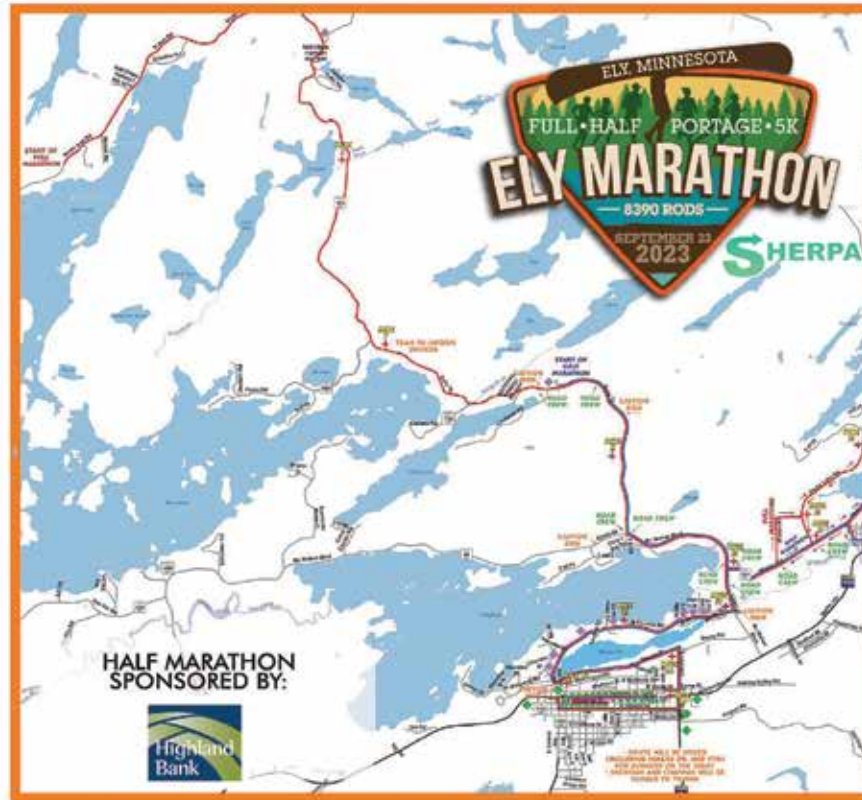
additional premium of \$671 for the remainder of the policy year from Sept. 15, 2023, through July 1, 2024. The coverage covers both ransomware attack demands and computer restoration costs for after

attacks.

- Accepted a \$725 donation from the Ely Parent Teacher Organization for the Elementary Field Trip Fund and a \$508 donation from the Ely Veterans of Foreign Wars for school

lunch accounts and school supplies.

ELY MARATHON ROUTE INFORMATION



ELY MARATHON SEPT. 23, 2023 ROUTE & ROAD CLOSURE INFO

For more info, contact:
run@elymarathon.com

Join us at the Finish Line: The First Half Marathon runner will arrive at the finish line around 9:20am.

The First Full Marathon runner will arrive at the finish line around 10:15am.

The First Half Portage runner will arrive at the finish line around 10:15am.

The First Full Portage runner will arrive at the finish line around 12:45pm.

Come and cheer them in!

TRAFFIC IMPACTED-Saturday, Sept. 23

St. Louis County, MNDOT, the Cities of Ely and Winton, Townships of Fall and Morse and the Ely Marathon team have put together a plan that is safest for all participants and community members.

The following road closures will take place on September 23 (Echo Trail) North Arm Road to Grant McMahan 7:30AM-10:00AM (Grant McMahan) Echo Trail to HWY169 8:00AM-12:00PM (Old Winton Road) Grant McMahan to W 6th Ave 8:00AM-12:00PM (Cedar Lk RD/Cloquet Line) Old Winton Road to Beel Road 8:00AM-12:00PM (Pioneer Road) Grant McMahan to Miners Dr. 8:30AM-1:00PM

(Miners Drive) Pioneer to 17th Avenue 8:30AM-1:30PM (17th Avenue) Miners to Camp St. 9:00AM-2:00PM (Camp) 17th to 15th 9:00AM-2:00PM (Sheridan) 15th to 1st Ave 8:15AM-2:00PM (1st Ave) Sheridan to Harvey 8:15AM-2:00PM (Chapman) 1st Ave to 7th Ave 8:15AM-2:00PM (Harvey) 1st Ave to 17th Ave 8:15AM-2:00PM

All emergency vehicles will be allowed on the race course at any time. There will be pilot cars positioned in the case that other vehicles need to get through during emergency situations.

Volunteer: run@elymarathon.com

ELY DETOUR DURING MARATHAN

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

FRIDAY:

- Noon-10 pm Packet pickup at Whiteside Park
- Noon-8 pm Epic Bounce House Obstacle Course
- Noon-8 pm Food Trucks at Whiteside Park
- 6-8 pm Dick Beardsley Book Signing
- 4-10pm Dorothy Molter Beer and Drink Tent
- 7 pm Northern Lights 5K GLOW RUN

SATURDAY:

- 5:30 am Busses begin picking up at Whiteside Park/Ely High School
- 7:30 am Start of Ely Marathon
- 8:00 am Start of Boundary Waters Bank Half Marathon
- 8:45 am Start of Dorothy Molter Root Beer Run
- 9 am Kids Finishers and Marathon runners start coming in
- 8-3pm Race Expo and Food Trucks at Whiteside Park
- 8-3pm Bounce House Extravaganza at Whiteside Park
- 10-3pm Dorothy Molter Beer and Drink Tent
- 10-2pm Rhino Rocks Whiteside Park
- 2pm Awards Ceremony at Whiteside Park



ELY STREET CLOSURES:

The following streets will be closed from 8:30am to 2pm

- East Camp Street from 17th Ave. to 15th Ave.
- Sheridan Street from 2nd Ave. to 15th Ave.
- Chapman Street from 2nd Ave to 7th Ave

Hwy 169 (Sheridan Street) detour will run from Central Ave. to Harvey Street to 17th Ave. (shown in green).



NORTHERN LIGHTS 5K GLOW RUN Friday, Sept. 22 @ 7 pm



- The 5K race will be in effect for 6:40pm to 8 pm on Sept. 22
- The entire course will be blocked off to traffic during the race.
- Barricades will be placed so that alleys south of Camp Street will be accessible.
- The course will be cleared as the last racers move throughout the route.
- Registration will be at Whiteside Park for this event.

OBSERVATION POINTS:

- Intersection of Echo Trail to Grant McMahan Blvd: Miles 11-12 of Ely Marathon/Miles 2-3 of Half Marathon. Cars will have to take 169 West out of Ely and take a right onto Grant McMahan Blvd - no traffic will be allowed on race course.
- Winton Main Street: Mile 18 of Ely Marathon/Mile 5 of Half Marathon. Traffic will be allowed on 169 East of Ely.
- Miners Drive: Miles 23-24 of Ely Marathon/Miles 10-11 of Half Marathon. Parking available at VCC and side street.
- Whiteside Park/Finish Line: See the runners as they run up Sheridan Street for their last mile, then see them finish at the finish line. Parking available at Ely Memorial High School and side streets.

HYDRANT FLUSHING

City of Tower will be flushing hydrants

Monday, Sept. 25 starting at 10 a.m.

Residents should expect discolored water.

FESTIVAL SEASON

Artists honored at Harvest Moon Festival

ELY- The three-day Harvest Moon Festival wrapped up the end of the summer with mostly pleasant weather and a few patches of light rain on Saturday. Several local crafters and artists were among the almost 100 vendors selling their wares.

The Chamber of Commerce, which runs the event, gave out awards in three categories: art, craft goods, and local storefront window decoration for brick-and-mortar businesses in Ely.

The winners in the craft category were: first place—Good Wolf Bowl from Byron, second place—Pharr Thrown Pottery from Ely, and third place—Blue Earth Pottery from Ely.

The winners in the art category were: first place—Smokey Pottery from Andover, second place—Dafne Caruso of Ely, and third place—Superior Pho-

tographs from St. Cloud.

The first-place winners in both the art and craft categories receive \$175 off for one booth space for next year's festival. The second-place winners receive \$87.50 off and the third-place winners receive \$43.75 off.

The Harvest Moon Festival runs simultaneously with Harvest Business Days for brick-and-mortar businesses in Ely. The chamber ran a contest for local businesses to decorate their storefront windows. The winners of this competition were: first place—Blue Loon Gallery and Boutique, second place—Ely Lakes and Pines of Keller Williams Realty, and third place—Ely Flower and Seed. The first prize is \$225 off of a 2023-24 Ely Chamber of Commerce membership. The second prize is \$150 off and the third prize is \$100 off.



Left: Girls did some browsing at the Coconut Dreams skincare booth.

Below left: Many flavors of maple syrup were for sale.

Below: Local Ely artist and business owner Dafne Caruso was pleased to win one of this year's festival awards at the Harvest Moon Festival. photos by C. Clark



Grant to help Sisu Heritage continue housebarn restoration

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

WAASA- Sisu Heritage of Embarrass held its yearly Community Night Out last Sunday evening, and this year, the nonprofit had a lot to celebrate, including a \$150,000 state grant to continue the restoration of the historic Seitaniemi housebarn.

The free event, which drew over 200 people, featured live music by Big T and the Growlers, who performed a wide selection of classic R&B and rock favorites. The volunteers of Sisu Heritage sold slices of homemade pie during the event and sold out of their ever-popular chili. The event was held on the grounds of the Seitaniemi housebarn, which was open for touring.

The grant

With plenty of help from state Rep. Dave Lisle, Sisu Heritage secured a \$150,000 grant to continue the longstanding restoration on the Seitaniemi housebarn, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. "We'll use the money to continue our resto-



ration of the Seitaniemi housebarn," Sisu Heritage board member Ron Sutton (above) told the *Timberjay*.

The housebarn

"(Alex) Seitaniemi moved to the U.S. from Finland and first worked in Ely. He later bought these 80 acres here in Waasa Township and started building his housebarn in 1907," Sutton said. Seitaniemi worked on building his housebarn with his two sons through 1913.

Members of the Seitaniemi family occupied the property up until the late 1990s when Bill Seitaniemi, the last of Alex's three children, passed

away. According to Sutton, the Seitaniemi family kept dairy cows and produced hay, small grains, potatoes, and other vegetables. "Seitaniemi sold milk, cream, and produce to the cooperative store in Embarrass," Sutton said. Historical documents filed with the National Register

indicate that Seitaniemi also sold pulp wood to the cooperative store. He may also have worked for the railroad in Embarrass.

Seitaniemi taught his two sons the skills he learned in Finland for log construction in the Finnish style, using broad axes to cut keyed square-set logs. "You can see how well the log ends fit tightly," Sutton said, pointing out the fine construction of the logs at the housebarn corners."

The housebarn is a rare surviving example of Finnish log architecture that prevailed between 1880 and the 1930s. Housebarns combine both living spaces for people and barn space for livestock, which increases the retention of heat during cold weather. They were

common in the 19th and early 20th centuries in northern Europe, but they never became as popular in the U.S. Most were built in the upper Midwest by German or Scandinavian immigrants like Alex Seitaniemi.

The housebarn was one of only two surviving examples of this unusual building style in Minnesota when it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

It earned its place on the National Register as "an example of a rare building type ... embodying the settlement and traditional log architecture of rural St. Louis County's Finnish American farmers."

The housebarn is one of only three built in the nation by a Finn. Today, it is the only one left standing, underscoring its historical importance.

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Wednesday, Oct. 11, 3-7pmParent/Teacher Conferences

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FOOTBALL

Grizzlies fall hard to Mustangs

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

KELLIHER- The North Woods Grizzlies came out flat and fell behind early Friday against Kelliher-Northome, falling 28-0 on the road for their first loss of the season.

North Woods received the opening kick and started at their own 27 but was unable to move the ball and faced a fourth-and-10. Lined up to punt, the snap sailed over the head of punter Rogelio Noyes, who ran back toward the goal line to

recover it and attempted to lateral the ball to a teammate. The officials deemed the toss an illegal forward pass and gave K-H the ball at the one-yard-line.

When Head Coach Joel Anderson asked about the call, an official was heard telling him that the punter can't pass the ball in that situation. That interpretation was at odds with history, where punters have often keyed trick plays by passing the ball for first downs. Anderson's appeal fell on deaf ears, and the Mustangs quickly cashed in, scoring on a one-yard plunge to go up 6-0 with less than two minutes

Right: North Woods' Rogelio Noyes sets up to block a Mustangs defender.

photo by D. Colburn

elapsed in the game. The conversion attempt was no good.

The Grizzlies found themselves in a hole again on the ensuing kickoff, which bounced past the kick returners and was covered by John Warren at the eight-yard-line. Four plays later Noyes lined up to punt again from the six and got off

See FOOTBALL...pg. 2B



VOLLEYBALL

First loss for Grizzlies

Team continues to look sharp, going 2-1 in the week's action

FIELD TWP - The North Woods volleyball team won five consecutive matches to open the season, but they couldn't make it six on Tuesday at home against South Ridge, with the Panthers coming from behind for the 3-1 match win.

This clash was a battle royale from the start, with all the action and excitement a pure volleyball fan could ask for. The teams were evenly matched with seven ties through 14-14. A South Ridge surge put the Panthers up 19-15, but the Grizzlies came roaring back to tie the game at 19-19 when a Panthers hit sailed wide. South Ridge went up 21-19 on a kill and a North Woods miscue, but a River Cheney block and a clever quick hitter by Talise Goodsky brought the Grizzlies back even. The score was tied at 24 when Addy Hartway slammed a shot to put North Woods

Above: North Woods' Addy Hartway goes up high for a block during their clash with Deer River on Monday.

Right: Talise Goodsky focuses intently on a set assist.

photos by D. Colburn

up by one, and Isabel Pascuzzi closed out the win with a crosscourt smash, 26-24.

North Woods took control of the second set early with a 4-0 run that put them up 9-5, and the Grizzlies extended that to seven points at 18-11, appearing to have the set well in hand. Still trailing 22-16, the Panthers began chipping away at the deficit, and trailed by only two, 23-21, when Cheney scored a kill to give the Grizzlies the serve and three set points to

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VOLLEYBALL

Wolves on a roll

Ely notches eight straight sets to win Greenway tourney

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

GREENWAY - Last season, the Timberwolves notched a perfect 25-0 regular season record on the volleyball court. This year, it looks as though the team has its eyes on a repeat.

The Wolves looked indomitable as they blew past four other teams here on Saturday dominating the Greenway tournament, winning eight straight sets on the day. A polished Greenway squad gave the Wolves their toughest competition, even as Ely took both sets 25-23 and 25-20.

Junior Lilli Rechichi and senior Hannah Penke led the way offensively in the match, with ten and nine kills respectively and 11 digs apiece. Junior Clare Thomas added four kills and nine digs while freshman Audrey Kallberg posted five kills and four digs. Senior setter Sarah Visser tallied 16 assists and nine digs.

The Wolves had little trouble with Cherry, as they downed the Tigers 25-11, 25-8. Rechichi powered the way with 12 kills. Thomas added five kills and six ace serves, while Penke posted four kills and

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CROSS COUNTRY

Burckhardt tops at Titan

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COLERAINE- North Woods/South Ridge cross country runner Alex Burckhardt nabbed his first big win of the season on Thursday, Sept. 7 at the GNK Titan Invitational in Coleraine.

Racing in a field of 83 runners representing 11 different schools, junior Burckhardt eclipsed them all by touring the Eagle Ridge Golf Course 5K circuit in 17 minutes, 8.1 seconds, 14 seconds faster than runner-up Levi Danielson of Greenway. South Ridge teammate Sawyer FierkeLepp wasn't far behind in fifth with a time of 17:27.1.

Grizzly sophomore Lincoln Antikainen placed 46th for the Panthers with a time of 19:20.2, and North Woods seventh grader Kahlil Spears placed 47th in the varsity race in 19:23.1.

In the girls varsity 5K, North Woods senior Evelyn Brodeen clocked a time of 19:51.1 for sixth place to lead the Panthers. Eighth grader Zoey Burckhardt nailed down 14th with a time of 20:43.1, and junior Addison Burckhardt finished 16th with a time of 20:52.1. North Woods runner Rory Bundy also competed, running a 27:20.2 and finishing 76th.

FOOTBALL

Near misses plague Ely in 16-0 loss

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

SANDSTONE - Defense and a big rushing performance by senior Deegan Richards were the bright spots for Ely as the Timberwolves kept East Central solidly in check for much of their contest at Bruce Harding Field last Friday. But the Eagles broke

through twice, once at short range after a fumble recovery near Ely's red zone, and another on a fourth-quarter drive made possible by a 40-plus yard run on a third-and-long, to notch a 16-0 win.

"We had a lot of trouble moving the ball downfield," said Ely Head Coach Louie Gerzin. "Credit East Central—they had a good game plan

against our offense."

Ely had its opportunities. On the final play from scrimmage in the first half, Richards, playing at quarterback, broke through the defense at Ely's 32-yard line and raced East Central's lone safety to the end zone. It was a race that Richards would lose on East Central's two-yard line, as time ran out. "That's

a pretty big high followed by a big low," said Gerzin of the missed chance to put points on the board.

Ely had another opportunity in the fourth quarter when Richards picked off an East Central pass at the Eagles' 30-yard line. But the pick didn't change the game's

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CROSS COUNTRY

Wolves make solid showing at Titan Invitational

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

COLERAINE—Ely cross country runners made a solid impression at last Thursday's Titan Invitational at the Eagle Ridge golf course. The Ely girls

finished in fifth place among 11 mostly much larger schools, while the boy finished in eighth place.

Ely freshman Molly Brophy posted the highest finish among individual racers from Ely, scoring a time of 20:09.1, good for eighth place in a field of 85 runners. Ely senior Claire Blauch

finished in 37th place with a time of 22:26.2, while fellow senior Grace LaTourell finished 44th with a time of 23:24.2.

For the boys, junior Caid Chittum led the way for Ely, finishing in 26th place with a time of 18:19.2. Junior Silas Solum finished in 34th with time of

18:35.2.

"This was a good meet," said longtime Ely Head Coach Jayne Dusich. "Everyone improved in their times from the first meet. I think they are getting more comfortable with how they should race and how to push themselves so yes it does hurt sometimes."

Dusich noted that the Coleraine course will be the site for the Oct. 26 section meet. "So it was good to be able to race it before then," she said.

The Wolves runners head to a meet in Grand Rapids on Tuesday.

SWIMMING

NER/Ely swimmers post firsts in home meet with Rock Ridge

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

BABBITT—Northeast Range/Ely swimmers posted a couple first-place varsity finishes in their meet with Rock Ridge on Tuesday.

The NER/Ely 400 freestyle

relay team of Tuuli Koivisto, Sabrah Hart, Emelia Swenson, and Alli Krekelberg topped the field in their contest with a time of 5:22.73. Hart claimed an individual first in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:29.82.

"We're having a great season," said Head Coach Cheri

DeBeltz. We may not be winning the meets but with swimming that is a unique thing because each of the swimmers can and have been improving so much. We have such a young team they are really stepping up and swimming some great times!"

The team also notched some

second place performances in events with multiple competitors. In the 200 medley relay, the team of Koivisto, Anna Larson, Via DeBeltz, and Alyssa Ice notched a second place finish with a time of 2:19.23.

DeBeltz finished as an individual in the 200 freestyle, while

the team of DeBeltz, Ice, Larson and Swenson took second in the 200 freestyle relay with a time of 2:01.05.

Rock Ridge, a much larger school, topped the meet overall, with 50 total points to 31 for NER/Ely.

ELY BOYS...Continued from page 1B

momentum as the Wolves, once again, couldn't move the ball. Four plays later, they turned it over on downs at the 32.

The Wolves also benefitted from good field possession as East Central struggled with their punt special team, leaving the Wolves to start near midfield on several occasions.

The Eagles, by contrast, made Ely's lone turn-

over hurt in the first quarter when they recovered a Wolves fumble on the Ely 25-yard line. The Eagles pushed it up the middle to put six on the board, culminating in a quick pass from the three-yard line. They added two more on the conversion and took the 8-0 lead into the break.

The Wolves simply lost ground offensively through the second half

as the Eagles consistently brought down Ely runners in the backfield or swatted away their few feeble pass attempts.

East Central had only marginally better success moving the ball, with most drives ending four-and-out.

"Credit our defense, too," said Gerzin. "They definitely performed."

The Eagles scored their second touchdown on their

only sustained drive of the game, which began on their own 32-yard line. On a third and long, the Eagles broke a back through the line and took it to the Ely 27. With a first down, East Central took it home on their next play. The conversion upped their winning margin to 16.

Richards had a huge night for Ely, rushing for 150 yards, on top of an interception and five

tackles. Freshman Alex Merriman added 35 yards rushing and eight tackles, while junior Brady Eaton rushed for 25 yards and led Ely in tackles with 12. Seniors Gavin Marshall and Chase Anderson tallied eight tackles apiece while junior Garrett Rohr brought down seven Mustang rushers.

The loss dropped the Wolves' record to 0-2 as

they work toward Friday's home game with a large and physical team from South Ridge. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

The Wolves will be working in the meantime to get the offense back on track. "I don't think we need a new playbook," said Gerzin. "We've got a lot of young guys out there and they just need to do a better job of executing the plays we already have."

FOOTBALL...Continued from page 1B

a kick that was fielded at the North Woods 35 and returned to just inside the five. The Mustangs had their second one-play drive and score of the night on a touchdown pass that put the Mustangs up 12-0 with 8:14 remaining in the first quarter.

North Woods took over at their own 35 when the Mustangs' kickoff rolled out of bounds, and the Grizzlies offense put together their longest drive of the scoreless night. Kaden Gornick gave the Grizzlies a first down at the 46 with a strong third-and-seven run, and quarterback Trajen Barto reversed direction on a sweep and scampered for another first down at the Mustangs 40.

Barto got the call again on third-and five, and a K-N facemask penalty gave North Woods another first down at the Mustang's 21.

However, Barto was shaken up on the play and had to come out, leaving the Grizzlies offense to operate with Gornick and Nick Abramson in the backfield. Direct snaps to both running backs netted only three yards, and following a Grizzlies time out Gornick lofted a pass that was picked off by the Mustangs.

North Woods defensive back Mason Rutchasky returned the favor on the next K-N possession. Running stride for stride with a Mustang receiver on a deep post pattern,

Rutchasky leapt high and won the fight for the ball, giving North Woods new life at their own 36.

The Grizzlies got another big defensive stop on the next K-N series when Gornick recovered a Mustang fumble at the North Woods 34.

The Grizzlies defense did a good job overall of containing the Mustangs, who put up 62 points in their season opener, from the second quarter onward, giving up only two touchdowns the rest of the game. K-N put together a 60-yard scoring drive in the second quarter, and gave up a 34-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter.

"We had a kind of a rough start there," Anderson

said. "We spotted them 12 in the very first part of the first quarter, but I thought we responded defensively and we came back and we really played well, the rest of the game. Offensively we were able to move the ball at times, and then we kind of shot ourselves in the foot and went backwards. We did some good things, we saw some of our younger guys step up in places, so we go back to the drawing board, and we keep working every week to try to get better and better."

But despite the lack of scoring on Friday, Anderson said he feels good about where his team is early in the season, given their youth.

"Young teams have a

tendency after a big win and a great game to have a little lull and not be as mentally prepared for the next game," he said. "We saw that here tonight, especially at the start. We had a couple of guys come off a little bit dinged up and we had to go with what we had available at times, and I thought the guys we had to move around did a great job."

Gornick led the Grizzlies on offense with 69 yards on 19 carries. James Yernatich picked up some late game playing time in the backfield and finished as the Grizzlies' second leading rusher with 32 yards in six carries. The Grizzlies misfired through the air, failing to complete

a pass.

Defensively, Rutchasky collected six tackles and four assists to go along with his interception. Barto had six unassisted tackles, and Carson Johnson had four tackles and four assists.

The Grizzlies were scheduled to be on the road again Friday at Mt. Iron-Buhl. The Rangers have put up 133 points in their first two games, including a 67-0 win over common foe Lake of the Woods, who North Woods defeated 46-12 in week one. The Grizzlies' next home game will be Sept. 22 against Littlefork-Big Falls.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

eight digs. Visser added ten assists and four digs.

The Wolves let the Bluestreaks get as close as 25-21 in the first set, but kicked it into high gear in the second to drop Chisholm 25-10. Penke led the way in kills with ten and added eight digs, while

Rechichi posted seven kills and ten digs. Thomas tallied five kills and nine digs, while Kallberg contributed with four kills and nine digs. Visser posted 14 assists and eight digs and freshman Amelia Penke added eight assists and five digs.

Against I-Falls, the Wolves dominated throughout, winning 25-12, 25-13. Rechichi posted nine kills while Thomas added five and Penke four along with eight digs. Kallberg posted nine digs while senior Aubrey Gerlovich added six digs. Sophomore Sadie

Rechichi tallied six digs and three ace serves.

For the Wolves, Saturday's pummeling of Cherry came just two days after they easily outpaced the Tigers in straight sets, winning 25-15, 25-11, 25-11 on Cherry's home court.

Rechichi had a huge match, posting 16 kills, 11 digs, and four aces. Hannah Penke added ten kills and 11 digs, while Kallberg added eight kills and five digs. Thomas posted five kills and seven digs, while Visser tallied 26 assists.

The Wolves were set

to visit Aurora on Thursday to take on Mesabi East. They will be back in Ely on Monday to host Lakeview Christian Academy. They travel to I-Falls on Tuesday for a rematch with the Broncos.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

work with.

But the Panthers dug deep into their bag of nine lives and used three on a pair of kills and a block to even the score at 24-24. It was the Grizzlies' turn to stave off a match point at 25-24, with Lauren Burnett launching an arching backward return that found the deep left corner. The teams tied at 26, 27, and 28 before South Ridge scored the final two points for the big 30-28 comeback win.

The loss didn't appear to deflate the Grizzlies as much as it emboldened the Panthers in the final two sets. From an 11-11 tie in set three, South Ridge took control of the tempo of the match, never letting the Grizzlies control the serve for more than a point or two. The Panthers steadily pulled away to win 25-18.

Riding their momentum, the Panthers broke out to a 5-0 lead in the fourth set and never trailed, stretching

the lead to nine at 18-9. The Grizzlies gamely fought back to within four at 20-16, but that was as close as they would get as the Panthers close out the match win with a 25-16 victory.

Deer River

The Grizzlies put on a clinic in Tuesday's home match against Deer River showing how a better team should take care of business against a weaker opponent. A hotly contested rivalry in past seasons, this year's Warriors squad simply didn't have the talent they needed to compete with the red-hot Grizzlies.

North Woods was firing on all cylinders with its serving, passing, and hitting twisting Deer River into knots trying to defend against them. The Grizzlies breezed through the match, winning 25-15, 23-12, and 25-11.

Head Coach Kandi Olson commended her team on staying

focused in the match. "Deer River can always come out hot and we wanted to make sure that we were playing our best game coming out of the gate tonight and I think we did that," Olson said. "The best thing that happened tonight is that they kept their energy up all night and didn't let anything tear them down. We have been working on our focus, and the big thing we wanted to do today was to make sure that when we had one or two things go wrong that we regained our focus and got the ball back right away."

Olson gave a good deal of credit for the win to the Grizzlies' serving.

"Our kids are just tough servers," she said. "We talk a lot in practice about where to put the ball, and those kids are seasoned. They know where to put it, and most of the time I don't have to tell them anything. They just know where the

ball needs to go."

Olson said the match was also somewhat of a breakout affair for senior Addy Hartway.

"Addy had a killer game," Olson said. "I think this was probably one of the best games I've ever seen her play, and I'm so excited for her because she's just been getting better all season long."

Mesabi East

The Giants of Mesabi East invaded the home of the Grizzlies on Thursday with enough weaponry to pose a stout challenge to the host, but the Grizzlies dispatched their foes in straight sets.

The teams battled back and forth to a 12-12 tie in the first set, and then Burnett gave the Grizzlies the lead for good with a big kill. The Giants remained close at 20-18, but North Woods took charge and finished with a 25-20 win.

The second set was

hotly contested with the teams tied seven times through 18-18. North Woods opened a three-point edge on three consecutive Giants errors, but Mesabi East battled back to tie the score again with an ace, 24-24. Burnett scored on a little bump shot to an open hole in the defense, and a Giants kill shot sailed wide to hand the set to the Grizzlies 26-24.

Down 2-0, the Giants refused to go quietly in the third set. Mesabi East hitters found the mark and kept North Woods off

balance as the Giants forged a 13-8 advantage. But the Grizzlies regained their composure and methodically worked their way back, taking a 19-18 lead when a Giants kill shot sailed past the end line. After getting called for a double that tied the score, Cheney fired back with a kill to put North Woods in the lead again. A push shot by Hartway gave the Grizzlies a 23-20 lead, and it was Hartway again, this time with a block, who scored the final point in a 25-22 win.



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PUBLIC HEALTH

New COVID boosters available; area seeing uptick in cases

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration gave its approval to newly formulated COVID booster shots on Monday, clearing the way for distribution at a time when COVID rates around the country have been rising. But questions remain about who should and who will get the shots.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control weighed in on Tuesday with its recommendations for who should get the shots, and that would be nearly everyone. CDC Director Mandy Cohen announced that the CDC advisory panel recommends that all Americans over the age of six months receive the new booster shots, a position in line with what the FDA approved the day before.

"We have more tools than ever to prevent the worst outcomes from COVID-19," Cohen said.

Some health officials had argued that the recommendation should target those at higher risk of severe illness from the virus, including those over age 65 and those with complicating underlying conditions. CDC advisory board member Beth Bell reinforced that sentiment.

"There are robust benefits of vaccination on severe illness, on death, on long covid," she said. "The messaging needs to make clear that for older people and those with underlying health conditions, they really need to get a booster."

The booster could be available at some providers within 48 hours following the CDC's announcement.

The new boosters were formulated to combat the XBB.1.5 variant of the Omicron COVID strain that was prevalent in the spring and early summer, but now constitutes less than one percent of cases nationwide.

Research conducted by Moderna and Pfizer indicates that the boosters should be equally effective against currently circulating variants. Past shots have been shown to provide a short-term boost of immunity against contracting COVID for several months, and long-term protection against the likelihood of severe illness, hospitalization and death from a COVID infection.

However, the dismally low public acceptance of the last COVID booster introduced in Sept. 2022 raises significant doubts about how these new shots will be embraced. Only 20 percent of those who were eligible to receive the 2022 booster actually got one. And that was before the number of cases leading to hospitalization or death fell this summer to a pandemic low. With new COVID variants shown to carry no greater risk for serious illness than past ones and with an estimated 95 percent of the population carrying some level of immunity against COVID from prior shots or infections, the landscape is much different from when the pandemic was at its peak.

Current surge

While the overwhelming shift to home testing for COVID has rendered case counts inaccurate, the CDC's current standard of using hospitalizations as a measure of COVID activity clearly indicates that COVID is having a significant resurgence.

An uptick in both hospitalizations and deaths nationwide began in July and has continued to advance weekly since then. Data from the last week in August reflected the ongoing trend, with hospitalizations increasing 18 percent from the prior week and deaths increasing by 16 percent. However, the actual numbers were less than half of the same period in August 2022 for hospitalizations and deaths were 80 percent lower.

In St. Louis County, the CDC reported 23 new hospi-

tal admissions for COVID for the week ending Sept. 2. a 9.5 percent increase from the prior week. The University of Minnesota wastewater tracking of COVID viral load in northeast Minnesota has been showing a steady increase since late July, although the most recent measurement showed a slight decline. Anecdotally, reports of new COVID infections have been heard through the communities in the North Country — almost everyone, it seems, knows of someone who has had COVID recently.

But the CDC's national map of county-by-county COVID levels reflects a vastly different picture than during past COVID surges. All counties in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota are rated low for COVID levels, while seven counties in Iowa are rated at moderate or high. The CDC map shows the greatest virus activity in the South and Southeast, with the highest concentration of moderate transmission in Florida.

Noted infectious disease expert Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, offered his take on the current COVID landscape during his regular podcast last week.

"I think that one silver lining has been that the overall numbers remain at just a fraction of what they've been throughout the majority of the first three years of the pandemic," he said. "We are not going back to the pandemic experience of 2020 to 2022, I have no doubt about that when we just look at what happened last summer, in 2022, when nearly 38,000 Americans were hospitalized with COVID compared to 13,000 now. Likewise, weekly deaths last summer reached 3,400, more than five times higher than they are right now. Again, I'm not shrugging off what's happening. I think it's a very, very significant public health situation."

Osterholm noted that

schools in Oklahoma and California have been closed due to COVID infections, and school outbreaks have been reported in at least 14 different states.

He also took aim at the increasing chatter among far right COVID detractors that the current increase in cases will be used by liberal politicians to reimpose mask mandates and lockdowns. Osterholm said he doesn't see that happening.

"Right now, we seem to be stuck in a narrative about is there going to be a national mandate for masking again as case numbers increase," Osterholm said. "this has become a hot button issue on news media shows. I'm getting lots of emails and reporter questions about this issue and let me just make it clear we should not let that happen again. Do I believe we will ever mandate masking as we've talked about in this country? The answer is absolutely no. I just don't think that's ever going to be a reality. And I wish we could avoid that whole discussion because it really takes us nowhere except a big black hole."

Osterholm also emphasized that people will always have the choice to take protective measures against COVID.

"So, you can still wear respiratory protection, i.e. an N95 (mask) appropriately worn -- that's your choice, you can do that," he said. "You can get your booster when it comes out, which will be within just the next two weeks. You can figure out if you want to test family members when you get together for family events, just to be sure someone's not bringing the virus in or at least reducing the likelihood they'd bring the virus in. These are all things that are still in our control. These are with us. No government, no public body is going to tell you you can or can't do that. We're learning to live with COVID in all of its unfortunate scenarios that we can imagine. But right now, we have truly an increasing activity. But fortunately, it

still is much, much lower than it was over much of the past three years."

Getting a booster

The new COVID boosters were expected to be available through community health clinics, hospitals and pharmacies that order the new shots. Unlike earlier stages of the pandemic, when the federal government spent over \$30 billion to buy millions of doses, distribution and costs for the new booster will be largely borne by the private sector.

Vaccinators will be purchasing the boosters through the regular commercial market, with many having already pre-ordered boosters and shipments beginning after the CDC gave its approval. Doses could be available in some locations by the end of the week, but patients should contact their preferred vaccinator to find out about scheduling arrangements.

Moderna and Pfizer have said they will be charging \$130 per dose, far higher than the \$30 per dose they charged when the government was the buyer. Demonstrated low demand for the last booster released by the companies is believed to be a driving factor in the price increase.

However, most Americans will still be able to get a booster shot for free. Private insurers should cover the cost as a preventive treatment, unless someone chooses to get their shot from an out-of-network provider. Medicare will continue to pay for COVID shots, and those on Medicare Advantage plans who use in-network providers will also be covered. Uninsured Americans, approximately 35 million, will be able to have the cost of their shots covered at health clinics, local health departments, and pharmacies through the federal government's Bridge Access Program, which is set up to provide continued free access for the uninsured through 2024.

Obituaries and Death Notices



James D. Keranen

James Donald "Jim" Keranen, 94, of Grand Rapids, passed away surrounded by family in the early morning hours of Sunday, Sept. 3, 2023, at Majestic Pines Senior Living in Grand Rapids. The family would like to thank St. Croix Hospice for all of their support during this time. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Sept. 13 at Zion Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids with Pastor Ben B. Buchanan officiating. Full military honors were rendered. Arrangements were with Rowe Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Grand Rapids.

James was born on March 18, 1929, in Soudan, to John and Saima (Branwall) Keranen. He graduated from Soudan High School, where he was part of the Tower-Soudan Golden Eagles basketball team that went to the state championship. He turned down a basketball scholarship to Syracuse, because his dad said it was too far away from home and family.

Jim continued his education at the University of Minnesota-Duluth where he received his BA in education. He continued his education, receiving his masters in Ed. Administration at the University of North Dakota.

Jim's first teaching job was in Carrington, N.D., as a science teacher and basketball coach. During this teaching assignment, he met and married third-grade teacher Ruth Almeda Hauser, on June 18, 1957. Jim continued teaching high school science along with coaching basketball and football in Nashauk, Minn. Jim's first administration assignment was in Warroad, where he served as the high school principal. Jim continued assignments as principal in Big Fork and Grand Rapids. During his tenure at Grand Rapids High School, he implemented the first IB (International Baccalaureate) program in the state of Minnesota in 1983. One of his proudest accomplishments at Grand Rapids High School was the creation of a broad-based comprehensive program of vocational offerings which included machine shop, welding, auto mechanics, printing, business courses, home construction, and forestry to name a few. The program he started was the first of its kind in the state.

James served in the United States Marine Corps from 1951-1953 as a Corporal in the Korean War. He was an avid outdoorsman. He was a Finn with sisu. His interests included hunting, fishing, and sports, primarily the Minnesota Twins. Lake Vermilion was a special place for James. His parents built a cabin on Lake Vermilion. James, with help from Almeda, worked to acquire land adjacent to theirs and built his own cabin, starting immediately after his honeymoon. The remote cabin was accessible by boat and pro-

vided a peaceful getaway that he and his family enjoyed for decades. Upon retirement, James and Almeda spent almost 30 years as residents at their property in Fort Myers Beach, Fla.

James is survived by his wife of 66 years, Ruth Almeda Keranen of Grand Rapids; daughter, Lisa (Blake) Toms of Maple Grove; daughter, Amy Keranen of Cohasset; son, Jimmer (Brenda) Keranen of Pengilly; and two grandsons, Alex and Brent Keranen, in whom he instilled his love of the outdoors, as they too are avid hunters and fishermen.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Saima Keranen; brother, Edward Keranen; and sister, Dorothy Keranen Early.

Michael J. Skraba

Michael John "Mike" Skraba, 58, of Cook, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023. A graveside committal will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23 at St. Bridget's Cemetery, followed by a luncheon at the VFW in Cook. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Robert C. Oliva

Robert Charley "Basswood Bob" Oliva, 62, of Ely, originally of Kansas, tragically lost his life in an automobile accident near his home on Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023. Services will be held on Friday, Sept. 15 at Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary in Russell, Kansas. A celebration of life will be held in Ely at a later date.

He is survived by his adoptive mother, June

Knackstedt of Russell, Kansas; eight siblings, Bud Knackstedt, Nancy (Wayne) Woodyard, James (Debra) Oliva, Barbara Volle, David Goza, Deborah (Don) Johnson and Alvin Goza, all of Kan., and Dennis (Beth) Knackstedt of Missouri; and many other family members, friends and neighbors.



Virgie L. Mull

Virgie Lee Mull, 102, of Carmel, Ind., passed away on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023. Visitation will be held from 12 noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17 at Leppert Mortuaries Carmel Chapel followed by a funeral service at 2 p.m. Entombment in a mausoleum with her husband Woody Mull and her mother will occur on Monday, Sept. 18 at Graceland Cemetery in Valparaiso, Ind. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Marcy Smith Critical Care Nursing Scholarship at the Indiana University Foundation. Arrangements are with Leppert Mortuaries of Carmel.

Virgie was born to Charlie and Lily Burns on a farm west of Lubbock, Texas, on June 30, 1921. She also lived in Chesterton, Ind., Pelican Lake-Orr, Minn., Sun City,

Ariz., and Carmel, Ind.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Irene (Buchanan) Akin; grandchildren, Julie Lynne (John) Faas and Eric "Rick" Dewayne (Noelle) Akin; and great-grandchildren, Jonathan, Justin (Cammie) and Jamie Faas, Isabelle and Clark Akin.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, William Guy "Buster" Buchanan and Elwood James "Woody" Mull; grandparents, John Christopher Jerome and Emily Burns and William and Laura Stith; parents; sisters, Goldena Charlene (Ben) Pethe and Levena Clarissa (Jim) Chafey; and son-in-law, Dewayne Akin.

Loretta A. Johnson

Loretta Alma Johnson, 84, of Cook, passed away peacefully with her daughter by her side on Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023. There will be no services per her wishes. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.



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Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

HUNTING

“It should be a phenomenal season”

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Grouse season gets underway this Saturday

Right: With good numbers of drumming grouse this spring and a warm and dry June, the fall ruffed grouse outlook appears strong.



file photo

REGIONAL— The 2023 ruffed grouse season looks to be one of the best in northern Minnesota in years, thanks to what appears to be outstanding reproduction thanks to a warm, dry month of June.

Most young grouse hatch in late May or early June and they're most vulnerable to harsh weather conditions in their first few weeks.

Cold, wet weather, which used to be relatively common in May and June

in northern Minnesota, has become much less frequent and that appears to be working to the benefit of ruffed grouse numbers in the region.

“I think grouse hunting should be phenomenal this year,” said Jessica Holmes, DNR wildlife manager in the Tower area. “We're getting really good brood number reports.”

The 2023 season gets underway this Saturday, Sept. 16 and Holmes predicts that hunters will find plenty

of birds in the woods.

With abundant public land, hunters in the DNR's Tower work area will find plenty of places to hunt. The work area also maintains 83 miles of hunter walking trails, which were recently mowed in preparation for the season. Those are likely to provide excellent hunting opportunity for hunters looking to work some exercise

See GROUSE...pg. 5B

BEAR SEASON

Bear registrations down significantly

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Right: Ben Burns, age 16, and his father Steve pose with the nice bear shot by Ben earlier this month as clients of the Udovich Guide Service.

Courtesy Udovich Guide Service



REGIONAL— Bear registrations through the first 11 days of the season were down 30 percent this year, as hunters were hampered by plentiful natural bear foods and the record heat that settled in over the Labor Day weekend. Hot weather typically moves most bear activity to cooler nighttime hours, after legal hunting hours.

As a result, bear registrations were down, even over last year, which saw registrations drop by a third over 2021's numbers. Jessica Holmes, wildlife manager for the DNR's Tower area office, said the drop in registrations was expected given the conditions and the decline in the number of permits issued in much of northeastern Minnesota.

surprise to longtime bear guide Dennis Udovich, of Greaney. “The heat was really unreal,” he said. “It definitely wasn't normal.” His dozen clients did manage to take seven bears, which was down from a usual success rate of about 80 percent for his clients.

Udovich said heavier cover seemed to be more productive, perhaps because the bears were sticking to shadier locations in the heat. All that cover did make shots tougher for hunters and Udovich said a couple of his clients passed on good sized bears when a clear shot never

See BEARS...pg. 5B

Wildflower Watch

This week's featured flower
STIFF GOLDENROD



It's definitely the year for **Stiff Goldenrod** *Solidago rigida*, which is blooming in recently disturbed locations, like roadsides, right now.

These plants grow from 2-4 feet high and are topped with a loose cluster of bright yellow flowers. It's told from the more common Canada Goldenrod by its light green stem and leaves. While the basal leaves can be long, the upper leaves are short, roundish, and fuzzy, easily distinguishing them from the leaves of the Canada Goldenrod, which are long, narrow, and pointed as well as a darker green. It's an excellent source of food for pollinators in late summer and fall.

Outdoors briefly

Naturalist-led kayak paddle set for Oct. 8 at Lost Lake SNA

REGIONAL— If you'd like to explore the Lost Lake Scientific and Natural Area during the peak of tamarack color you'll want to register for a group kayak set for the evening of Oct. 8.

DNR SNA naturalist Arika McGraw will lead a “golden hour” kayak paddle around Lost Lake from 6-8 p.m. on that Sunday evening.

Bring your own kayak (or canoe) to the landing at Lost Lake and join in as the group paddles along the edge of the bog, while watching the sun set behind the beautiful fall foliage of the golden tamarack trees.

Advanced registration is required, and the event will be capped at 20 attendees. To register, please email arika.mcgraw@state.mn.us.

Life jackets are required and participants are urged to dress for the weather. Footwear appropriate for outdoor paddling in potentially cooler temperatures is recommended. There are no maintained trails or recreational facilities on this site so kayak is one of the few ways to really explore this SNA.



Left: Butternut squash are ripe when their skin is tan without the mottling apparent in unripe squash. The rind in a mature squash is also hard to dent with a fingernail.

Below: Look for a bright yellow spot under a ripe watermelon. When snapped with a finger, it should make a dull thud.

Courtesy Univ. of MN Extension

HARVEST TIME

When to pick your cucurbits

REGIONAL — As the North Country's growing season winds down, local gardeners may be wondering when the time is right to harvest some of the cucurbits, like squash or melons, that they've grown this year. According to the University of Minnesota Extension Service, guidelines for harvesting crops like watermelons, melons and squash are confusing and often contradictory. Farmers and gardeners often struggle to pick melons at the right time and find that they are either flavorless or mushy and overripe.

melons and squash for optimal ripeness.

Ripening basics

Fruit and vegetables are typically assigned to two categories that define their ripening behaviors.

Fruits and vegetables that continue to ripen off the vine

You can harvest these fruits and vegetables before they are fully ready and they'll continue to ripen on your kitchen counter. Common examples of fruits that ripen off the vine include apples, bananas, peaches and tomatoes.

Fruits and vegetables that do not ripen after harvest

Once removed from the plant, the sugar content of these fruits and vegetables will



not increase, and so picking at exactly the right time is important for flavor. These fruits and vegetables can still go bad if left out, but they tend to have a longer shelf life, and they

will not get sweeter. Examples include grapes, strawberries and watermelon.

Sometimes ripening is

See HARVEST...pg. 5B



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

READ
the Timberjay!

CHANGING SEASONS

DNR offering fall color information



REGIONAL— The Minnesota DNR’s Fall Color Finder (mndnr.gov/fallcolors) is a way for the public to easily track the annual progression of fall color change as it happens. DNR staff throughout the state share reports from their location each Wednesday, in time for people to make travel plans for the coming weekend. The popular webpage includes a color-coded map that shows the approximate percentage of leaves that have changed color across the state, and a slideshow of recent photos taken by staff and visitors. The public is also welcome to submit their photos from visits to state parks, forests, and trails, which might be included in online galleries, social media or newsletters. “Fall is the perfect season to spend time outdoors, when nature puts on a beautiful show for all to see,” said Ann Pierce,

Minnesota DNR Parks and Trails Division director. “We invite everyone to follow along with our Fall Color Finder and get out to Minnesota state parks, trails and forests and other public lands this season.” With fall colors already appearing in much of northern Minnesota, the DNR has launched its weekly fall color update newsletter with trip planning resources. From scenic drives to hiking, biking, paddling, birding, picnicking and more, the DNR offers recommended itineraries and tips to encourage Minnesotans to get out and enjoy the changing leaves. In addition, subscribers can learn more about the plants and wildlife they may encounter while chasing fall colors. To subscribe, visit the Fall Color Finder (mndnr.gov/fallcolors) to sign up for weekly email or text updates.

BEARS...Continued from page 4B

materialized. Udovich, who is president of the Minnesota Bear Guides Association, said he expects most guides have been having a lackluster season. “I hear a lot from the guides when they’re doing well,” he said. “I’m not hearing from anyone this year.”

The latest numbers available from the DNR showed 146 bears registered in Permit Area 25 through Sept. 11, with just 107 bears registered in PA 31 and 20 registered in PA 24.

The decline in registrations in northeastern Minnesota also reflects the reduction in the number of permits issued in those three permit areas. The three permit areas encompass virtually all of St. Louis County, the southern two-thirds of Lake County, and the eastern half of Koochiching County. As recently as 2021, the DNR issued 1,075 permits in those permit areas, but that number has since been reduced to a total of 875 as black bear recovery in the region has been slower than anticipated.

Holmes said she expects the pace of harvest to pick up somewhat now that more seasonable weather has returned.

This year’s harvest

is also skewing heavily toward males, with two-thirds of bears registered identified as male. That’s typical of an abundant food year, since female bears tend to be more wary around hunters’ baits, particularly when there are natural food alternatives available.

The bear season runs through Sunday, Oct. 15, although most bears are taken in the first ten days of the season.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday						Saturday						Sunday						Monday						Tuesday					
68 44						63 44						62 44						66 47						70 48					
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.					
09/04	92	57	0.00		09/04	94	54	0.00		09/04	92	55	0.00		09/04	88	55	0.00		09/04	91	62	0.00						
09/05	91	66	0.00		09/05	90	67	0.00		09/05	89	61	0.00		09/05	79	59	0.01		09/05	87	65	0.03						
09/06	91	52	0.40		09/06	88	56	0.96		09/06	86	55	0.35		09/06	57	52	0.34		09/06	87	55	0.23						
09/07	55	37	0.01		09/07	58	49	0.03		09/07	57	50	0.03		09/07	57	43	0.00		09/07	57	51	0.00						
09/08	55	38	0.00		09/08	59	49	0.00		09/08	57	49	0.00		09/08	73	41	0.00		09/08	57	49	0.00						
09/09	65	47	0.00		09/09	72	48	0.00		09/09	71	48	0.00		09/09	66	52	0.00		09/09	71	49	0.01						
09/10	57	43	0.13		09/10	61	40	0.10		09/10	62	38	0.33		09/10	70	45	0.00		09/10	63	47	0.17						
YTD Total			17.89		YTD Total			17.70		YTD Total			13.12		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				16.62					

GROUSE...Continued from page 4B

for themselves and their dogs into their hunting plans. You can find the locations of trails in the area on the DNR’s website at www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/hwt/index.html.

Opening weekend should be a great time to be out in the woods, with the fall colors starting to pop, particularly the reds and oranges of the maples. Conditions are drier than usual in the woods, which will

help improve accessibility. The current weather forecast calls for partly cloudy skies and seasonal temperatures.

The best grouse hunting is still a couple weeks off, after the leaf fall which makes the birds easier to spot and track on a flush.

Minnesota has the well-deserved reputation as the nation’s top state for grouse hunting, with

an annual harvest that ranges from 200,000 in a poor year, to 500,000 during a peak year.

Ruffed grouse numbers were known to fluctuate on a 10-11-year cycle for many years, but that cyclical pattern seems to have diminished in recent years, possibly due to the changing climate.

HARVEST...Continued from page 4B

not so black and white, and this is especially true in melons. Ripeness is determined by a variety of traits including sugar content, how easily the fruit detaches, ethylene production and firmness of the skin.

Watermelons

Watermelons all belong to the same species, *Citrullus lanatus*. They were likely domesticated in the area around Libya and Egypt. Watermelons do not ripen after harvest and should be left on the vine until they are fully ripe.

Signs of ripeness include:

- The spot where the fruit touches the ground becomes more prominent and changes color (typically yellow).
- The tendril closest to the fruit becomes brown and dries up.
- Ripe melons have a hollow, dull sound when tapped.
- The sheen of the rind tends to change slightly with maturity, but this depends on the variety.

Watermelons do not reach “full slip.” This is a term you might see in seed catalogs, which refers to the time when a melon can easily be slipped from the vine.

Watermelons are sensitive to ethylene, and so they should be stored separate from ethylene producing crops like tomatoes, bananas, apples or cantaloupe in order to extend the shelf life.

Cantaloupe

The primary varieties of cantaloupe-style melons in the U.S. often

have netted rinds, but not always, and they vary from lobed to smooth. They all have a relatively high sugar content. Cantaloupe-style melons have been consistently bred over time to continue to ripen off the vine.

They can be harvested at “full slip,” meaning they are ripe when they easily pull away from the vine. It’s easy for melons to become over-ripe in gardens. Cantaloupe can reliably be harvested a little bit early (before full slip) and left to ripen on the kitchen counter.

Winter squash and pumpkins

Winter squash and pumpkins fall into three main species groups: *Cucurbita maxima* (kabocha, hubbard, and some pumpkins), *Cucurbita moschata* (butternut and some other winter squash), and *Cucurbita pepo* (pumpkins, zucchini, acorn, delicata, pattypan and summer squash).

None of the pumpkins or squash typically grown in Minnesota continue to ripen after harvest, so they should be allowed to ripen to full maturity on the vine. As pumpkins and squash ripen, the rind will become increasingly firm, and they should not dent when you press a fingernail into the skin. The vines usually also begin to decline when squash are ready, and the part of the vine immediately attached to the fruit (which will become the stem) should become hard and woody.

Harvest winter squash and

pumpkins by cutting the stem with a pruning shears or sharp knife. If the stem detaches from the fruit, the shelf life will be decreased.

Winter squash and pumpkins should be cured before storing. Curing is a process where the fruit rind hardens, allowing longer storage life. Squash and pumpkins can be cured outdoors if you expect several warm days (~80-90°F) days without rain, conditions which are unusual here in the North Country in mid-to-late September which is the usual harvest time for winter squash and pumpkins. If you do plan to cure outside, simply sever the fruit from the rest of the plant and let it sit in the field or garden for 7 to 10 days, or until nicks and small cuts are scabbed over.

Indoor curing is recommended if weather will not be amenable to field curing. This can be done in any covered facility (like a barn or high tunnel), as long as outside air is circulated past the product. Open doors and use fans to promote airflow. As a rule of thumb, the squash is done curing once it cannot be punctured with a fingernail.

Winter squash and pumpkins should be stored at 50 percent relative humidity and around 50 to 55°F. They can last one to nine months in storage, depending on the variety.

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CLEAN

- Boats, trailers, and gear
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DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
- Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- Trash unused bait



DRY

- Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO BIDDERS Ely Area Community Foundation Facility

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the Ely Area Community Foundation Facility will be addressed and delivered to Ely Area Community Foundation, C/O Widseth at 704 East Howard Street, Hibbing, MN 55746.

BID DATE: October 5, 2023
BID TIME: 1:00 PM Local Time

All bids must be prepared on the form provided by the Architect, are to be in a sealed opaque envelope conspicuously marked on the outside identifying the project name and are to be submitted in accordance with the project procurement requirements.

Plans, Specifications and Proposal Forms as prepared by Widseth Smith Nolting & Associates, Inc., 704 East Howard Street, Hibbing, MN 55746, (218) 263-6868, are available from the Architect's office either in electronic form at no cost or in hard copy form for a non-refundable fee for the cost of reproduction. Plans and Specifications may be reviewed at the offices of the Architect, the Owner, and the Minnesota Builders Exchange.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or bidder's bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid, payable to the Owner; as provided in the specifications, said check and the amount thereof or the amount of the bidder's bond to be forfeited as liquidated damages if the bidder furnishing the same neglects or refuses to promptly carry out said bid or enter into contract with Ely Area Community Foundation.

No bids may be withdrawn within thirty (30) days from the scheduled closing time for receiving bids.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids or parts of bids and to waive informalities therein, and to award the contract to other than the lowest bidder if in their discretion the interests of the Owner will be best served thereby.

A prebid meeting will be held on September 26, 2023 at 10:00 AM local time at the jobsite.
760 Miners Drive East
Ely, MN 55731

Published in the Timberjay,
Sept. 15 & 22, 2023

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

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Hospital/ER

PT Registered Nurse (Wage starting at \$36.22 hr; \$4,000 sign-on bonus)
PT and Casual Unit Clerk/Nursing Asst. (Wage starting at \$17.79/ NA certification)

Business Office

FT Hospital Billing Technician (Wage starting at \$18.55 hr.)

Outpatient Services

PT Unit Clerk (Wage starting at \$17.79/NAR or EMT Certification)

Dietary

FT & PT Dietary Aide/Cook

Environmental Services

PT & Casual (Environmental Tech I) House-keeping & Laundry Aide
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Radiology

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More Info? Contact Human Resources

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humanresources@cookhospital.org

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Stetson, e.g.
- 4 Big gulp
- 8 Miles away
- 12 Boxing leg-end
- 13 Galileo's birthplace
- 14 Tubular pasta
- 15 Comedy club razzers
- 17 Streetcar
- 18 Attack
- 19 Poem of praise
- 21 Old Ford model
- 22 Frenzied
- 26 Stupefies
- 29 AAA job
- 30 Archipelago unit (Abbr.)
- 31 Sacred bird of Egypt
- 32 Sushi fish
- 33 Nile queen, familiarly
- 34 Capitol Hill VIP
- 35 Passing craze
- 36 Sacred song
- 37 Browbeat
- 39 Indent key
- 40 Gallery display
- 41 High-flying battle
- 45 Rotate
- 48 Large land measures
- 50 Out of control

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- 51 "Star Wars" royal
- 52 Sportscaster
- 53 New Mexico resort
- 54 Bigfoot's cousin
- 55 Surpass
- 56 Mexican
- 57 9 Tall tree
- 58 10 — loss
- 59 Brink
- 60 16 Curly-leaf cabbages
- 61 20 Morning moisture
- 62 23 Lean to one side
- 63 24 "Got it"
- 64 25 Coagulate
- 65 26 Plate
- 66 27 "... sting like —"
- 67 28 Galvanizing matter
- 68 29 Media mogul
- 69 30 Turner
- 70 32 Terrestrial
- 71 33 Hooded snake
- 72 35 Supporting
- 73 36 Rum cocktail
- 74 38 Armored vehicles
- 75 39 Unspoken
- 76 42 Legal document
- 77 43 Aviation prefix
- 78 44 Answer an invite
- 79 45 Make lace
- 80 46 Hollywood's Thurman
- 81 47 Aussie hopper
- 82 49 Shoe width

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: F equals W

FZM FBA DZT NUBLH QTOOLT

ABUBK LH B NBSDLJWUBSUM

QWUHTSBRUT ADBDT?

RTJBWAT LD FBA WHKSTAATK.

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

NFYS FT ZIH CBTFJ MU

KBZBCGKY NFGST KCMGDTZ

ZIH UKSHS NMMST.

— NFYYFKC NMLSTNMLZI

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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Use energy | — — — — E — — — | Increase in size | — — — — A — — — |
| 2. Medicinal lotion | — A — — — — | Decipher a mystery | — O — — — — |
| 3. Pulsate | — — — — B — — — | Toss | — — — — W — — — |
| 4. Financier | — — — — N — — — | Frontrunner | — — — — A — — — |
| 5. Lorelei's river | R — — — — — | Glow | S — — — — — |
| 6. Used your cell | — — — — L — — — | Comforted | — — — — M — — — |
| 7. Like some clouds | — H — — — — | Inscribe | — — — — R — — — |
| 8. Paper fastener | — — — — P — — — | Horse shed | — — — — B — — — |
| 9. Brags | — — — — S — — — | King's headwear | — — — — N — — — |
| 10. Dish | — — — — T — — — | "Melrose — — —" | — — — — C — — — |

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

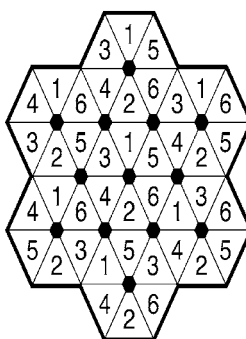
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DIFFICULTY: ★★
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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SNOWFLAKES

solution



Super Crossword

Answers

D	O	D	G	E	M	A	L	F	K	O	I	T	R	I	P	P			
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

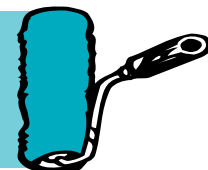
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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