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The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 34, ISSUE 38 September 29, 2023 \$1⁵⁰

COMPETITION

MARATHON MANIA

Light rain doesn't dampen enthusiasm during the eighth-annual Ely Marathon

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely Marathon completed its eighth year on a day that started grey and overcast and finished with light rain. But the weather didn't keep spectators from turning out to cheer on the racers and, in some cases, their dogs.

allowed runners to compete with their dogs and several took advantage of the opportunity, adding to the applause as racers and their running partners crossed the finish line in Whiteside Park.

Fall Lake resident Hudson Kingston won the full marathon for the second time, clocking in at 2:55:51 (see separate

See...**MARATHON** pg. 10

Right: Half marathon competitor Allie Aufderheide comes into the finish with her dog. Aufderheide finished in 77th place, but her companion was the first dog across the finish line on Saturday.

Photo by C. Clark



Left: Jennalee Porter watches over Lauren Miigizikwe Bajan as she practices stirring wild rice in a parching pot.

Below: Students Loyal Jensen, John Lightfeather-Day, Jarvis Goodsky Jr., and Jaxon Villebrun pick debris out of the rice before it's thrashed and winnowed.

Bottom: "Dancing" on the parched rice to break up the husks prior to winnowing the rice.

Photos by D. Colburn

WILD RICE CAMP

TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS

Wild rice camp links students to Ojibwe culture

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- The woods east of Nett Lake School were alive last week with the hoops and hollers of school children gleefully engaged while learning about an Ojibwe tradition, the processing of wild rice.

It's the third year that Nett Lake School Ojibwe language and culture teacher Ryan Bajan has conducted wild rice camp for area school children, and last Friday the second and third graders of Nett Lake School were joined by sixth graders from North Woods School for the activities.

"We hold it all in a camp setting because traditionally these teachings happen in a camp setting where everyone is around," Bajan said. "The expectations are that they get exposed to it, that they participate a little bit and get comfortable with that until they're old enough to go ricing themselves. A lot of this teaching during the seasonal harvest is about food, sustenance, and how to provide for yourself and your family, and how to eat foods that are not just traditional but also better for our bodies."

Last year, with ricing canceled on Nett Lake due to the

See...**CAMP** pg.10



COUNTY PLANNING

County grants CUP for "man cave" proposal

High-end storage units slated near The Y Store

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

VERMILION LAKE TWP— High-end man caves may be coming soon to Vermilion Lake Township. The St. Louis County Planning Commission, on a 7-1 vote, has given the green light to a proposed facility that would create up to 72 rental units that will be available for both the storage and repair of vehicles and equipment.

Construction on the development is expected to get underway next spring, with an initial facility of a dozen units, each providing about 1,000 square feet of storage and workshop space. The units will be heated and come with a full bathroom, and some with a separate upstairs loft or mezzanine. Project developer Gregg Hennum, a Lake of the Woods resort

See...**MAN CAVES** pg. 9

New EMS center slated for Morcom

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

MORCOM TWP- After decades of serving the first response medical needs of a nine-township rural response area covering portions of St. Louis, Itasca, and Koochiching counties, the Northeast Itasca County Rescue Squad and Bearville First Responders are close to having a place to call home.

This dedicated group of volunteers, with current membership of eight EMTs and EMRs, got its start back in the mid-1980s, according to Dustin Nelson, equipment and training officer for the squad. Northeast Itasca County Rescue Squad organized as a nonprofit

See...**CENTER** pg. 9



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Community notices

Bring ideas to community input meeting Oct. 7

EMBARRASS – The Embarrass Region Fair Association will hold a community input meeting Saturday, Oct. 7 from 3- 5:30 p.m. at the Timber Hall Event Center located at 4855 Hwy 21.

The association is seeking community and public input on how to utilize bonding bill monies to improve the Timber Hall Event Center. Anyone interested should come prepared to share ideas and connect with others who have similar ideas.

Vendors needed for Christmas Bazaar in Tower

TOWER- St. Martin’s Catholic Church in Tower is happy to announce that they will once again be hosting a Christmas Bazaar. The event is Saturday, Nov. 4 in the church social hall. Early planning of the event is already underway and local crafters are encouraged to participate. The cost for a table is \$20. If interested, please contact Maryann at the rectory at 218-753-4310 by Oct. 18. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m. - noon.

Annie Humphrey to perform in Ely on Friday, Oct. 6 at First Presbyterian Church

LEECH LAKE- Acclaimed Anishinaabe singer, songwriter, and environmental activist from Leech Lake, Annie Humphrey will perform a concert in Ely on Friday, Oct. 6 at the First Presbyterian Church at 6:30 p.m.

The concert is in conjunction with the Midwest tour for her upcoming release of her new record *The Light In My Bones*. Joined by longtime allies and collaborators David Huckfelt (singer-songwriter and folk-activist) and Jeremy Ylvisaker (guitarist, producer, multi-media artist), *The Light In My Bones* Tour will bring music, stories, community, and an all-inclusive spirit of celebration and protection for Mother Earth to schools, churches, music venues, Tribal colleges and reservation halls across Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Growing up on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation in Northern Minnesota, Annie lived in a home filled with voices made of thunder with an unstoppable connection to spirit and her ancestors. More info on “*The Light In My Bones*” is available at: <https://www.anniehumphreymusic.com/>.

The Embarrass Region Fair Association pancake breakfasts return Saturday, Oct. 7

EMBARRASS - Support the Embarrass Region Fair by coming to Timber Hall for all-you-can-eat pancakes, choice of ham or sausage links, fruit cup, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee the first Saturday of each month Oct. through May. The all-you can eat pancake breakfasts run from 8 - 11 a.m. The Timber Hall Event Center is located at 4855 Hwy 21. Breakfast prices are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6-10 years, and kids under 5 years eat FREE.

Donate blood to give life and get cookies

EMBARRASS – Memorial Blood Centers is holding a blood drive, Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Timber Hall Event Center located at 4855 Hwy 21. Appointments start at 8:30 a.m. Be sure to bring your ID, and eat before donating. Please do not try to donate if you’ve experienced cold or flu symptoms in the 72 hours leading up to Oct. 7. Donors can save time by completing a health history questionnaire online on the day of donating at mbc.org/iDonate. All donors are offered a drink or snack after donating. For questions contact Tana Johnson by phone at 218-269-1331 or by email at timberhallblooddrive@gmail.com.

Val Myntti to address Finnish Americans and friends Tuesday, Oct. 10

HIBBING - Val Myntti of Eagles Nest, Ely will be the presenter Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 2 p.m. for the meeting of Finnish Americans and Friends. The upcoming meeting is at Grace Lutheran Church 4010 9th Avenue W and is being held a week later than the usual schedule. Her talk will impart how Finnish immigrants brought with them a Finnish Socialism that contributed to the development of labor unions and cooperatives throughout the upper Midwest.

Everyone is invited to hear this account of Finnish contributions to society. Coffee time is part of the meeting.

Stages of the Range Players to hold auditions for ‘War of the Worlds’ Oct. 2 and 3

VIRGINIA - Stages of the Range Players will hold auditions for the radio play ‘*War of the Worlds*’ on Oct. 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room at Iron Trail Motors Event Center. For this show actors will read from the script. No memorization is required. The show will be performed as dinner theater on Oct. 27 and 28 in the Chalet at Giants Ridge. For more information call Pete at 218-780-1264. All are welcome.

AREA EXCELLENCE

Minnesota Hospital Association awards excellence in health care

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital among those awarded

ST. PAUL- At its recent Annual Meeting, the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) proudly awarded dedicated hospital and health system teams and individual healthcare trailblazers from across Minnesota. These recognitions serve as a testament to their unwavering commitment to nurturing the health of Minnesotans amidst an era of unprecedented health care evolution and strain.

“In one of health care’s most challenging eras, our Minnesota hospitals and teams have stood unwaveringly by the patients and the communities we are privileged to serve. They’ve not only ensured exceptional care but have also been a beacon of hope and trust. This is our moment to honor their dedication to every patient, every day. Their on-

going collaboration and commitment to excellence ensure that every Minnesotan continues to receive the best care possible,” remarked Rahul Koranne, MHA president and CEO.

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital was recognized as winner for the Best Minnesota Hospital Workplaces, an honor shared with M Health Fairview Ridges Hospital in Burnsville. EBCH was nominated for the award by one of their employees, Brooke MacMillan.

EBCH CEO, Patti Banks, proudly displays Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital's award for "Best Minnesota Hospital Workplaces."



ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS

The April Sellers Dance Collective performs at Tofte Lake Center Sept. 30

ELY – The April Sellers Dance Collective who is in residence at Tofte Lake Center Sept. 28 – Oct. 1 invites the public to a free performance of *Echo We are imperfect mortal beings*, Saturday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m.

With funding from the Minnesota State Arts Board, James K. Spriggs Foundation, Fidelity Charitable and MRAC, The April Sellers Dance Collective while in residence at Tofte Lake Center will create *Echo We are imperfect mortal beings*.

This evening-length ensemble work will incorporate movement, music, text, and a tactile set design. *Echo We are imperfect*



mortal beings will be a performance ritual of loss, designed to chart a path for an entire world grieving.

In addition to the live performance, videographer Hamil Griffin Cassidy will post video blogs of the company’s daily explorations. You will be invited to post feedback and suggestions.

The video blog is available at <https://www.instagram.com/asdcecho>.

Collaborating artists include: Alison Hiltner, April Sellers, Joshua Lorris Dale, Kashimana Ahua, Alys Ayumi Ogura, Greg Schutte, Michelle Hagedwood, Betsy Donovan, and Hamil Griffin-Cassidy.

The Tofte Lake Center is located at 2209 Fernberg Rd. For more information call 218-365-7769 or email info@toftelake.com.

EQUITY

“Dolly Parton Unhappy Hour” set for Oct. 5

ELY- Hispanic women have to work until Oct. 5, 2023 to earn pay equal to white men in 2022. The Ely Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will, in cooperation with four local businesses, recognize that day as a way to bring attention to the continuing issues of pay inequity.

“Dolly Parton’s Unhappy Hour,” will feature a pub crawl on Oct. 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. The four participating locations are the Ely State Theater, the Boathouse Brewpub, Northern Grounds and Kwazy Wabbit. Guests will receive a passport to be stamped at each location. Each location will also feature one Dolly Parton song and a discounted signature drink for the occasion.

“Dolly Parton’s Unhappy Hour” is a trip through time as we discover the history of women in the workforce, Dolly’s music, and Ely,” said Carly Wogen, event chair. After visiting all four sites and having your passport stamped at each, attendees will be eligible for a drawing taking place at 7:45 p.m. at the Kwazy Wabbit (don’t need to be present

to win).

The Ely Branch of the American Association of University Women has been actively working to promote pay equity since the early 2000’s with a primary focus on educating both high school and Vermilion Community College students on the issue.

In 2017, AAUW added presentations to the public and an “Unhappy Hour,” to help educate local residents and business owners on wage gap issues. Currently on average, a woman makes 77 cents on the dollar as a man for comparable work. Of particular concern are the racial disparities. Black women earn 67 cents on the dollar compared to men and Native American women receive barely over half of a white man’s wage at 57 cents for full time and 51 cents when part time and seasonal work is included in the calculation.

Wogen said that mothers of all races suffer from increased pay inequity because the act of taking off just one year

for child rearing reduces annual earnings by 39 percent according to the Institute for Women’s Policy Research. Additionally, she said, “mothers are 40 percent more likely than fathers to report that child care issues harmed their careers.”

Additionally, the average American woman has a net worth less than half of the net worth of a man. The long-term consequences of the pay gap mean there is less money to put into retirement, less paid into social security, and there are ultimately more senior women living in poverty. The average full-time female worker is paid approximately \$434,000 less than a man over a forty-year full time career.

The Equal Pay Act was signed into law by John F. Kennedy on June 10, 1963. The law mandates that men and women receive equal pay for “substantially equal” work at the same establishment. A year later Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that added

protections against discrimination based on an individual’s national origin, religion, race or sex.

Minnesota has an equal pay law that substantially mirrors the federal law. However, according to the Office of the Minnesota Attorney General, women with a master’s degree working full time earn \$1,018 less than a comparable man with only a bachelor’s degree.

Minnesota residents seeking recourse in situations of pay inequality can contact the MN Dept of Labor and Industry at 443 Lafayette Rd N, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Join with neighbors and community members for a fun evening of fellowship and raising awareness about the work that still needs to be done in order to bring gender pay equity for all into the workplace. Feel free to wear your favorite “Dolly-wear” and enjoy a beverage or two.

ELY CITY COUNCIL

Campground hearing is not “Minnesota Nice”

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The unpleasant specter of NIMBY (“not in my backyard”) visited an Ely Board of Adjustment public hearing on a proposed campground on Pioneer Rd. on Wednesday, Sept. 20. In a scenario frequently repeated in numerous public meetings on zoning and land use around the country, 19 residents of Ely’s most affluent neighborhood protested the application for a conditional use permit (CUP) for a campground facing Miners Lake.

The campground property at 1759 N. Pioneer Rd. is zoned as shoreline mixed use (SMU), which requires a campground to obtain a CUP to operate.

The Board of Adjustment, which is formed by the members of the Planning and Zoning Commission, meets whenever a property owner applies for a zoning variance or CUP. The Board voted to table a decision on the CUP pending further study.

Those who objected to the CUP were at times vocal, sometimes interrupting the chair of the meeting, Mike Banovetz, and speaking out of order. Banovetz maintained his composure, even when insulted or interrupted, letting speakers have their say and often letting them go a bit over their allotted three minutes at the podium.

The campground

The campground already exists, though its previous own-

ers closed it as a business several years ago. According to Scott Kochendorfer, Ely’s Planning and Zoning (P&Z) director, the property was zoned commercial up until 1994, when the zoning classification was changed to shoreline mixed use (SMU). The property has been operated as a campground since at least the early 1990s.

The new owners of the property, Dean and Leanne Peterson, wish to re-open and operate a campground and RV park at the site.

Prior to being converted to a campground, the property was the site of the former Sibley Mine. The dry house for the mine is still a functional building on the property, which Peterson intends to restore and to turn into the reception, check-in, and store for the campground.

In his report to the board, Kochendorfer found that the CUP application was consistent with Ely’s zoning ordinances.

Dean Peterson presented their tentative plans for the site, including five tent sites with over 40-foot spacings, four remote tent sites on the south shore of Miners Lake, five seasonal cabins, five pull-through RV sites, and 23 back-in RV sites—though the CUP application would allow up to 35 RV sites.

Though Minnesota requires a minimum of 2,000 square feet for every RV site, Peterson’s plan provides 2,800 square feet. Given the size of the campground property, the site has room for over 150 RVs using



The original RV hook-ups at the campground at 1759 N. Pioneer Rd. in Ely. The new property owner applied for a conditional use permit from the City of Ely to re-open and expand the facility. photo by C. Clark

2,800 square feet. The proposed campground would also include two bathhouses, a laundry facility, a small retail store for camper amenities, and a playground.

Peterson distributed a proposed map of the site although the eventual number and placement of camping, cabin, and RV sites would be dependent on the terms of the CUP.

Peterson said he and his wife were thrilled to find the property and noted how positive the community has been toward the project, especially since Ely has not had a functioning campground for over five years.

Peterson described his reaction to finding the campground

opportunity in Ely, “Everything was like, ‘Wow, we hit the jackpot’. Everything (we needed) was right there and it was all good. It was all good for the city. It’s all good for everybody we talked with. We were kind of shocked to hear that there were people that were really against this.”

Peterson did appear shocked by how many people showed up to oppose his CUP application. He told the crowd that if he had known, he would have knocked on doors to talk with people individually about the business.

In favor

The public hearing portion

of the meeting started with those in favor of the campground. Kochendorfer read a letter from the Chamber of Commerce which favored the project noting that the lack of a campground in town is a critical lack of tourist amenities for both RV and tent campers.

Both of the Peterson’s neighbors whose properties are physically adjacent to the campground spoke in favor of the CUP application. One sent a letter stating their support. The other, Heidi Favet, spoke at the meeting.

“I live immediately adjacent to the property in ques- See **RV PARK...** pg. 5

INDEPENDENT FILMS

Native film night coming to Fortune Bay, Saturday, Oct. 14

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

TOWER- Those with an interest in independent filmmaking will want to check out the Indigenous Film Night on Saturday, Oct. 14 at Fortune Bay Resort Casino beginning at 4 p.m.

The event will begin with a series of five short films. “Ex-

traction” features poetry and animation by Moira Villard. “Closed System” is a science fiction short by the Bawaadan Collective. Three documentary films will be featured, including “Language Keepers” by Ajuawak Kapashesit, “Good Mythology-Jonathan Thunder” by Sergio Rapu, and “KaYa-MenTa” by Jules Koostachin. A question-and-answer period will follow with the film makers.

Showings will break for dinner at 5:30 p.m., and dinner can be purchased at Fortune Bay.

The feature presentation, “A Winter Love,” a modern day inter-tribal love story written, directed, and produced by accomplished Navajo playwright Rhiana Yazzie, who also plays the female lead in the film, begins at 6:30 p.m. Yazzie received the achievement in di-


recting award for “A Winter Love” from the LA Skins Festival in 2021, and the film has been screened at both domestic and international film festivals, including the Wairoa Māori Film Festival, Richmond, Virginia’s Pocahontas Reframed Festival, the Quetzalcoatl Indigenous Film Festival in Oaxaca, Mexico, and the DreamSpeakers Indigenous Film Festival in Canada. The film, set in Min-

nesota, features original music written by Mille Lacs Ojibwe musician Leah Lemm, a familiar vocalist to listeners of area Native rock band War Bonnet.

Yazzie will be present to answer questions after the screening.

The festival is free and open to the public. A donation of \$3-5 is suggested.

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Student Resource Officers

Determine their future based on merit, not political scapegoating

Did some of the state's top law enforcement officials jump the gun in opting to pull student resource officers, or SROs, from schools in the wake of a new state law that limits prone restraints of students to cases where bodily harm is imminent?

That's certainly the appearance in the wake of an opinion issued by Attorney General Keith Ellison late last week that concludes the law does not make any significant change in how student resource officers can use force to control students when it's truly necessary. Ellison points out the language in the statute that makes clear it does not preclude the use of reasonable force when faced with the threat of bodily harm by a student or anyone else in a school.

And that's not just one man's opinion. Minnesota Stat. 8.07 makes attorney general opinions regarding public school matters decisive unless overturned by a court of competent jurisdiction.

The decision by many sheriffs, including St. Louis County Sheriff Gordon Ramsay, to pull SROs comes with at least a whiff of politics, and Republicans were happy to jump on the bandwagon in calling for a special legislative session and to make the case that DFLers had overreached in their efforts to rein in aggressive police tactics.

In fact, the new law should have little or no impact on SROs. For one thing, the restrictions in the new law have already been in place for decades for special education students, which account for one-in-six students in Minnesota. That means every SRO working in a school today has had to comply with these rules from the beginning of their tenure for the very students who are often at the highest risk for acting out.

Under the new law, SROs are still permitted to throw a student to the ground and physically restrain them by straddling or other techniques for compliance in cases where the student is an actual threat to others. We suggest it's perfectly reasonable to limit this kind of force to such instances. Does anyone believe a take-down and possible physical injury to a student is justified for things like swearing, mouthing off to a teacher, or some other non-violent act?

School teachers, principals, and deans deal with such outbursts all the time without resorting to the kind of physical restraints routinely deployed

by police. While there's a perception that youth violence in schools is on the rise, that's actually belied by the statistics, which point to a decline since youth violence peaked in the 1990s. While school shootings remain a top concern when it comes to student safety, there's not much evidence that an SRO is going to reliably stop a determined gunman.

A number of recent studies have, however, raised concerns about how SROs can change the culture of a school in ways that don't always benefit some students. According to Education Week, one recent study found that schools with SROs experienced a higher proportion of suspensions, expulsions, police referrals, and arrests of students compared to schools without an SRO, even when accounting for demographic differences. Similar studies have suggested that those harsher disciplinary actions fall most heavily on students of color, particularly African-American students, often without adequate justification.

The benefits of an SRO can be highly dependent on the level of training that officers receive, including training in how to work effectively with young people. They certainly can serve as mentors and provide other types of guidance to students, but the research suggests that most fall back on the techniques they learn as law enforcement officers. As the old saying goes, "When your only tool is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail." And there's evidence that the presence of an SRO can lead to a heavier hand than is sometimes necessary when it comes to student discipline.

Many students face a plethora of challenges at home as well as at school. An SRO who is trained to recognize such situations can be an asset to a school. But so can a social worker or a principal who is engaged with his or her students. There isn't much data to suggest that SROs have provided the kind of benefit to students that many had hoped they could achieve.

If school boards or sheriffs don't see benefit in these programs and opt to end them, it's not clear it will make much difference to students. But using the recent change in the law as an excuse to end SRO programs appears to lack justification. Calmer heads should prevail and the future of SRO programs should be decided on their merits, not politics.



NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK

Letters from Readers

A transcendent athlete, a triumphant life

The recent death of hockey legend Henry Boucha took me back, first to the late '60s when this transcendent athlete emerged from the small border town of Warroad, and then to some ten years ago, when I got to meet him in Mt. Iron, as he was on a speaking tour, promoting a book about Native American Olympians.

I'd first heard of him during the 1968 Minnesota state high school hockey tournament, when legendary Int'l. Falls coach Larry Ross in an interview was asked to give a rundown on the 'state' of hockey in the Northland. At the end of his rundown, he said, "I can't finish this without mentioning a Native American kid up in Warroad, a junior named Henry Boucha, who I think is the best player in the state, and I don't think it's even close." That was the first time I'd heard his name.

The following September, I was in Warroad on a fishing trip with my dad. We were staying at a motel not a stone's throw from the high school football stadium. The stadium lights were on, signaling the start of an early-season game, so my dad said, "Let's walk over and check out the game."

We got there just in time for the opening kickoff, which some Warroad kid ran back about 80 yards for a touchdown. A few minutes later, the same kid ran a punt back about 60 yards for a touchdown. So, we began watching for his number. He was a running back, and it seemed as though he was good for 10-15 yards every time he touched the ball. He was so strong and fast, so physically mature, he was almost like a man among boys. I finally turned to the guy sitting next to us and asked him who the kid was. He gave me a long look and said, "That's Henry Boucha - he plays a bit of hockey, too."

That winter, I saw him

play hockey for the first time in Coleraine, when Warroad was invited to play in Greenway's 'holiday tournament,' right after Christmas. I recall that Greenway beat Warroad in the finals, but what I most remember was the electricity in the air every time Boucha touched the puck. They had him playing defense so he almost never left the ice. He was such a superior skater, almost like a figure skater, just effortlessly dancing around the opposition on those spectacular end-to-end rushes. And when they did occasionally check him, he was so strong they usually just bounced off. (I also recall thinking that it was the only time I ever saw Greenway legend Mike Antonovich outskated.) Boucha took an otherwise ordinary Warroad team all the way to the state finals by himself.

Athletes today in all sports, including hockey, are bigger, stronger and faster than ever before. That being said, Henry Boucha is still the best high school hockey player I ever saw. He was also an all-state baseball player, so whenever lists are made of the best all-around athletes to ever come out of the state, Boucha's name has to be high on it. As a pro, he was on the cusp of superstardom with the North Stars, before being brutalized on the ice by a Boston Bruins thug - he was never the same player after that.

But when I heard him speak so eloquently and candidly in Mt. Iron some 10 years ago, about the struggles he'd overcome, during and especially after his hockey career, eventually becoming a powerful voice for his people, it was apparent that he was so much more than just a great athlete. All things considered, his life was a triumph.

Lynn Scott
Soudan

PragerU spreads wholesome values

Thank you for your Sept. 15 editorial focusing on PragerU. I hope readers will add to the over four billion worldwide views of the five-minute YouTube videos and see if they oppose the traditional values that are presented.

As for me, every patriotic holiday as my grandson was growing up, I did as Dennis Prager suggested and have him read from any coin what our wonderful country stands for: Liberty, In God We Trust, and E Pluribus Unum (out of many, one).

The videos have educated me on history, religion, economics, politics, and culture. Many of the instructors are professors from some of the most prestigious universities such as Harvard and Stanford. Others are familiar and equally well-respected men and women.

A recent addition to PragerU is Prager Kids for K-12. Its purpose is to provide wholesome content and instruction so that our nation's children can become worthwhile citizens. Many parents are gratefully using the videos in their home-schooling program.

Marilyn Cummings
Lake Vermilion
North Tustin, CA

We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

COLUMNIST

We are supposed to do what?

"We have little time, so we must move very slowly." Many years ago, when I was serving on the Friends for a Non-violent World (FNWV)

board, the director, a lovely Quaker man named John Martinson, offered this wisdom to us as we faced the usual nonprofit juggling challenges of fundraising, recruiting members and volunteers, and maintaining programs. In my early 40s, I was juggling a lot on my own: creating a home-based business



BETTY FIRTH

while working temp jobs to

keep the bills paid; maintaining a large duplex with all the home ownership and tenant demands; volunteering hours every week;

and finding time for friends and fun. Move more slowly? It sounded like a beautiful idea, but no doubt I also thought, "Sure, easy for you to say. I'd love to slow down, but you have an assistant at work and a wife at home. I have to juggle lots of things all on my own. I usually feel like I have to speed up, not slow down."

While it may seem counterintuitive, that phrase contains a depth and breadth of wisdom that philosophers have long understood and is even found in the Talmud, a central text of Rabbinic Judaism: "Life is short, so we must move very slowly." Recently I was in a virtual discussion with some friends, two of whom were going through cancer treatments, who I'll call Sam and Sarah. I am a cancer survivor, and others in the group have faced their own difficult challenges. We talked about how our experiences forced us to slow down, giving us opportunities to see our lives from a different perspective.

Sam reflected that all his life he has been a helper: as a doctor, with his family and community, and after retirement, serving as a volunteer in Africa training medical personnel. He was always willing to step up and lend a hand, but now it's his turn to move more slowly and accept help from others. He said, "I've never taken the time before to watch closely as the season changes." He said, "I've been watching the tree change color outside my window, and it's fascinating. The green leaf gradually loses its greenness while the reds and yellows creep in and then dominate. I've always enjoyed nature and trees,

but I've never known a tree this personally before. I can't do all those things that I valued so much before, but I'm living at a different pace now and still learning new things." Sarah is facing her tests and potentially worsening news with her usual vigor and sense of humor. She has named her lymph nodes and gives them pep talks to stay strong and healthy.

I shared the "move very slowly" phrase, and our conversation went deeper. Sam's wife is a retired nurse turned poet, and I asked, "Isn't that

PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID booster roll out as virus persists

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- As COVID indicators continue to tick upward, the new boosters from Moderna and Pfizer recently authorized by the Centers for Disease Control for anyone over the age of six months have started rolling out in the North Country.

Appointments for free COVID booster shots are now available through Walgreens and CVS pharmacies in Virginia, although Walgreens won't be scheduling appointments for children under 12 until Sept. 29. The cost of the vaccines is covered either through private health insurance or through the federal government's Bridge Access Program for adults. A representative from Scenic Rivers Health Services in Cook told the *Timberjay* on Tuesday that they would have more information about COVID booster availability toward the end of the week or early next week. A representative of Essentia Health-Ely also said they would have more information next week.

It is anticipated that the current increase in COVID indicators and anecdotal reports of COVID cases may drive increased interest in the booster shots, although past history suggests overall uptake will be low. Minnesota has

Free COVID test kits still available

a better track record than most states with booster updates, ranking fifth in the country overall and fourth among those 65 and older. Still, only about one in four Minnesotans are up to date with last fall's booster, including seven out of ten people over the age of 65. Booster uptake is lowest among children under age 18.

According to the CDC, two Minnesota counties, Otter Tail and Grant, had their community COVID level rating elevated to moderate from low this past week, indicating hospitalization rates of over 10 per 100,000. North Dakota, which was low statewide last week saw seven counties move into the moderate range. The current surge remains most prevalent in the southeast U.S., with Florida leading the way in COVID hospitalizations.

COVID indicators for St. Louis County were mixed, with hospitalizations dropping to five. Yet, the COVID viral load in wastewater measures in northeast Minnesota, including St. Louis County, increased by 563 percent in August. Last week's increase of 13 percent may be an indicator that the COVID load has plateaued.

Statewide, hospitalizations continued their steady but slow

creep upward from midsummer lows. Minnesota averaged 23 new admissions for COVID every day last week. That's up from six per day in late June.

Three-quarters of the cases genetically sequenced by the state have been caused by one of the XBB variants of the Omicron virus, including XBB.1.5, the primary target for formulation of the new booster shots. A newer variant of the virus, EG.5, accounted for 23 percent of cases. That mirrors the prevalence of EG.5 nationwide, as the CDC continues to track more than 30 variants of the COVID virus.

A research summary reported by MPR News last week suggests that the new booster is much more effective against COVID than last year's booster and should provide immunity for emerging strains of the virus as well as XBB.1.5. Immunity from infection has been shown to be short-lived, generally a few months, but boosters have been shown to protect against contracting severe illness that can lead to hospitalization and death.

Free COVID test kits are still available and can be ordered online at <https://www.covid.gov/tests> or <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html>.

Ely man injured in knife attack

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Tate Jordan Cly, age 20, is facing two felony counts here in the wake of an alleged knife attack early Saturday morning, Sept. 23, against Richard Joshua Petrizilka.



Tate Cly

An officer from the Ely Police Department responded to a call from the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital early Saturday morning, Sept. 23, after Petrizilka showed up with several knife wounds. According to the complaint, Petrizilka had knife wounds on the back of his head on his left shoulder, "knife marks" around his neck, and a bloody face.

Petrizilka identified Tate Jordan Cly, age 20, as his attacker. He stated he was at home with Cly when they got into an argument. Cly "came after him and they wrestled for a few minutes." Then Cly went upstairs in the home and returned with a knife which he used to attack Petrizilka. Cly then fled the scene. Ely police officers

could not locate Cly immediately but found him "a few hours later" at Petrizilka's home, where they arrested him.

In separate recorded statements, Petrizilka reiterated his previous version of events, stating also that Cly had two knives in his possession. He said that Cly threatened to kill him.

Cly stated that he had been drinking and got into an argument with Petrizilka. He admitted he wrestled Petrizilka and then "grabbed the knife with intent to threaten" the man. He said that Petrizilka grabbed him, which was when he realized his victim was cut. Cly stated he tried to apologize and then fled the scene.

Cly has been charged with two counts, including second degree assault with a dangerous weapon, which carries a maximum sentence of seven years and a maximum possible fine of \$14,000. He faces a second charge of "threats of violence-reckless disregard (of) risk," which carries a maximum sentence of five years and a maximum possible fine of \$10,000. Cly is being held in the Saint Louis County Jail with a bail of \$50,000.

RV PARK...Continued from page 3

tion," said Favet. "I've been there since 1996. When I purchased that it was a campground when I moved in, and so I've had a chance to experience that. There were very, very few issues over the years ... I wanted to share my support tonight. I think this is really needed in our community."

In opposition

The comments of Dan Morovitz were typical of the opposing testimony regarding the proposed campground. Morovitz lives a quarter of a mile from the entrance of the campground, in a home fronting Shagawa Lake.

Morovitz objected for "safety reasons," beginning with traffic. "I've lived on Pioneer Rd. now for eight years," he began,

"and the traffic that's on that road is tenfold more than when I first moved here." He also objected to the potential presence of a business that would bring strangers to the neighborhood. "I have grandchildren that use that trail. I do not want them driving through a campground where there are people I don't know anything about."

Morovitz also stated that the campground would not be good for "the wilderness in the middle of town—that's what the Trezona Trail is ... I have a feeling there's just going to be nothing but trouble, litter. There are going to be more people on Miners Lake, Shagawa Lake. There already is, because I frequent both of them."

Robert Mattila, who

also lives on Shagawa Lake about a quarter of a mile from the proposed campground, objected to the revival of the business. He also objected to Peterson's proposed expansion of RV and camping sites. "Everybody here thought (the campground) was abandoned ... Suddenly you're asking the city to approve going from 16 to 49 sites."

Mattila also expressed wariness over Peterson bringing a new business into the neighborhood. "We don't know you," he stated. "You say you're a good person and (not a) bad person ... my bad people are very clever and sly and hide under what is considered business and exploiting what they can do." He went on to express that Peterson shouldn't

have expected the people in the neighborhood to trust him and his plans to increase the number of RV and camping sites.

Mattila shared his background as an old Elyite whose great-grandfather came here to mine. He expressed dislike that Peterson could be getting Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) grant money to develop his business. "When I heard reference to IRRRB money, I bristled because that money is on the backs of my family and other people's families."

More than one neighborhood resident expressed concern over the impact of the revived campground on their property values. Concern over increased traffic was also a repeated objection.

Several also were concerned about noise. Marcia Lewis, who lives across the street from the campground, remarked, "It's a quiet and safe community. And this will destroy our neighborhood. When the former owner was operating ... the noise from the RV's running and their air conditioning units was deafening." She also mentioned noise from traffic, and noisy RV campers disturbing the neighborhood after midnight.

After the hearing

The *Timberjay* inquired about traffic studies for Pioneer Rd. from the city of Ely. City clerk-treasurer Harold Langowski stated that Pioneer Rd. is one of the most traveled streets in the

city, mostly because of the Grand Ely Lodge, but that there was no quantitative city or county data on the amount.

During a tour of the campground site in the wake of last week's meeting, Peterson said he was shocked at what he heard from some of the nearby residents. "I felt like a criminal walking out of (the meeting). I certainly did not expect that." He also was open to negotiating, "If the city wants fewer (RV and tent) sites or other changes, I'm open to that."

Peterson also stated that he was open to his neighbors and those opposed to the business to come tour the site and see exactly what he has planned.

TIME...Continued from page 4

part of your process? To slow down and notice the nuance?" She described how she mentally moves into a different mode, which some call being in the zone, immersed in the search for just the right one in an ocean of words. She reserves time to devote to poetry, going to poetry groups and readings, as well as writing, and feels it gives her life breathing room and balance.

We have all experienced that "stretchiness" of time. Sometimes it seems to drag on forever when we want it to move quickly, waiting for a bus, watching the pot boil. Other times it zips by at startling speed, "How could that bill be due again? It feels like I just paid it!" People in their older years often speak about how the months and years fly by more quickly, and I have conjectured that part of that is personal relativity: that each piece of time, whether minute, hour, day or month, is an increasingly smaller percentage of our total life lived up

to now, so perhaps it feels like a smaller unit of time, moving by more swiftly. But for many years, I've been hearing much younger people complain about the same thing: "Where does the time go? I feel like I'm crazy busy but never getting everything done that I want to. Our family never sits down for dinner together. Sometimes I barely see my partner until the weekend. I can barely breathe."

Many people recognize the pace of life in our modern culture is not desirable nor healthy, but most of us aren't very successful at making changes. Don't we have to meet all these commitments and grab onto every opportunity? Isn't the point to cram in as much living as possible, check off the bucket list items, try to outrun the inevitable final curtain, thumbing our nose at death?

Throughout my life, I have often been over-committed, anxious about fulfilling my obligations well, frustrated by not having time to do many

of the things I'm interested in. As a generalist, that list is long. I have learned how to say no, to pass up opportunities I'd love to say yes to. It can still be painfully difficult. Recently, I had a BFO event - a Blinding Flash of the Obvious: when I allow more time to do what I need to and take breaks and even naps...(wait for it...)...I feel less anxious and more relaxed! I have pots of flowers on my small deck, and I sit with my morning coffee, watching the new leaves appear and unfurl and the tiny flower buds peek out, then expand into gorgeous blossoms. How incredible is that? Sometimes when I'm focused on a project, I'll take five minutes to go sit with the plants. I feel at peace in my potted garden, and I'm sure my blood pressure decreases.

For most of us, the pandemic demanded that we slow down and step out of our usual lives, which was a difficult ad-

justment for many and a welcome relief from excessive busyness for others. Here in the Northland, we welcome the quieter surroundings when the tourists leave and the blanket of winter softens the noise of our lives.

When we slow down, we can experience lower levels of stress and anxiety, and therefore more calm. We can gain clarity about what we want to do, what we need to do, and what we can let go of. We can feel more in control. Giving ourselves a slow-down break, if only briefly, allows our minds to clear out the brain fog for better decision-making. As we stretch and breathe, the tension leaves our bodies. We may find new insights about our choices as we let projects rest and rise, like a good loaf of bread. We may even find that we're more productive.

the
TIMBERJAY

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The Timberjay (PN 16025) is published weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.**

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

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

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

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

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Week of Oct. 2

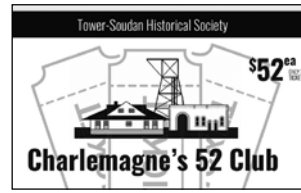
Monday
Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.

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 Oct. 17.

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 9 winner
The winner of week nine Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Molly Larson of St. Paul.

History Tidbit:
A natural outcropping of greenstone called "Big Rock" is located about mid-way along the east line of the Stuntz Bay Boathouse Historic District. The rock provides an excellent vantage point and fishing location and serves as a way-finding landmark for lake travelers. A worn dirt footpath extends through the woods from the access road to the rock outcropping.

TSAA Auction set for Nov. 9

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Athletic Association and Friends of Vermilion Country School will again be hosting their Fall Auction Fundraiser at the Wilderness at Fortune Bay on Thursday, Nov. 9. Details on tickets will be available soon. There will be food, karaoke with Lu-Ann Zaudtke, games, silent auction, and live auction. This will be the first time we've been able to hold the fundraiser since 2019.

Right now, organizers are looking for donations for the silent auction, live auction, and game prizes. We are also in need of empty baskets to arrange items in. Themed baskets, hand-crafted items, gift certificates, homemade canned goods, and homemade baked goods and candies are popular items for this silent auction. Cash donations will be used to purchase gift certificates for the larger prizes.

Items can be dropped off at The Timberjay in Tower or call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950 with questions or to arrange pickups.



Big fun with all those trucks

Tower-Soudan Elementary and Breitung Township sponsored their annual Big Truck Night on Sept. 26. Emergency vehicles from area departments and the DNR were on hand for children to explore, along with a visit from the always popular Smokey Bear. **Clockwise from top left: Seija Snyder gives Smokey a hug. Levi Clemenson and Dylan Crego toss a football while on top of a fire truck. Lailana Stellmach, Serenity Stellmach, and Sadie Snyder run by the line of trucks. Lily Russell and Sri Stellmach take a selfie while sitting inside the bucket of a front end loader.** photos by J. Summit

EDUCATION

Donations made in honor of Carol Alstrom

TOWER- A project started to create a memorial for coach Carol Alstrom exceeded its fundraising goals and the extra funds have been donated to Tower-Soudan Elementary and Vermilion Country School. The group raised enough money to fund the granite plaque and love lock memorial now in place at Tower-Soudan Elementary, as well as making a donation in honor of Coach Alstrom totaling \$1,383 to each school.

"This is something she often did herself throughout her tenure for all of her students," said Sarah Christmas, who led the fundraising for the memorial. Alstrom was known to purchase sporting equipment for her students throughout her entire career as a teacher at Tower-Soudan. TS Elementary Principal John Jirik said the funds would be used to assist stu-

dents, through both special projects and to fund individual student needs. VCS Director Sam O'Brien said the funds would be used to purchase athletic equipment for students.

A total of \$6,948 was raised. The love lock was purchased for \$3,328 and the granite memorial plaque for \$864. Time and labor for the installation of the memorial was donated by Lamppa Manufacturing and Rolando's Concrete Services.



Left: John Jirik accepts the donation for Tower-Soudan Elementary. Below: Sam O'Brien accepts the donation for Vermilion Country School. Julie Suihkonen and her grandkids Finn and Sawyer helped hand out the checks. photos by J. Summit

COMMUNITY NEWS

Save the Date: The Sectionals to Perform at the LVCC on Oct. 17

TOWER- The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center will host The Sectionals at St. Mary's Hall in Tower on Tuesday, Oct. 17 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The Sectionals is a select group of local singers and musicians devoted to producing fun and enjoyable music in the jazz, blues, and contemporary styles. A freewill offering will be accepted, and refreshments will be served following the concert. Save the date.

Outdoor activity group started

TOWER- Two new residents to the Tower-Soudan area have start-

ed the Vermilion Area Activity Club. The group is for anyone in the Vermilion area interested in getting out and making new friends while enjoying activities. The primary focus of the group is to get together and enjoy the great outdoors through activities such as hiking and snowshoeing. We invite our members to create and share their own community activities (indoor or outdoor) as well. People can join the group via their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vermilion-areaactivityclub>.

The group is planning weekly outdoor activities Sunday afternoons in October. The group's first activity will be hiking at Bear Head State Park on Sunday, Oct. 1. People should meet at the state park trail head building, 99301 Bear Head State Park Rd., at 2 p.m. The group will hike the Norberg Lake loop, which is approx. 3.1 miles, a moderate difficulty trail. Bring water, sturdy shoes or hiking boots, and dress

for the weather. Any questions, contact Lisa Ledman at lisa.ledman@gmail.com or message the group on Facebook. RSVPs via the Facebook group are greatly appreciated.

Tower-Soudan Singers to begin rehearsals

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Area Singers begin rehearsals on Monday, Oct. 2 at 5:30 p.m. in the Tower Elementary School

music room. The singers will be preparing for their annual Christmas concert scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. in the Tower School gymnasium. This will be the first full concert since 2019, so the singers are excited about "getting back to normal." If you like to sing, come join the group. They are a welcoming bunch and fun to be around. There is no cost to be a member. Music is provided.

Tacos with Cops returns on Oct. 7

SOUDAN- The second annual "Tacos with Cops" is set for Saturday, Oct. 7 from 12 noon - 4 p.m. at the Breitung Community Center, 33 1st Ave., Soudan. Stop by for authentic tacos, resources, and community dialogue. Last year's event sold out, so don't be late! Donations will be accepted for the meal and funds raised will benefit the Breitung Police Department and the wider community.



Meet our students



Jaymes, junior

One in a series of interviews with Vermilion Country School students by VCS sophomore Elspeth O'Brien

How long have you been going to school here? 2.5 years. Since 8th grade.

What do you like about VCS? They give you the help you need when you need it. It's a lot freer than a normal school. I like how you can go outside.

You like the outdoors parts of school? Yeah, there's a lot more outdoor activities and time outside than my old school. I like getting outside and the fresh air.

What's your favorite event that we've had at VCS? The Arrive Alive event with Karla Lundstrom and Officer Dan Reing.

WINDOWS INTO YESTERDAY

The Finnish Riviera on Burntside

by DAVID KESS
Ely-Winton Historical Society

No, not a beach on the Mediterranean. Not someplace in Finland. This is the nickname once given to two and a half miles of shoreline on Burntside Lake near Ely, Minn. not because it was “exclusive,” but only because the local Finns bought up the lakeshore lots. Immigrants, nearly all of them.

In the late 1880s, logging, especially of white pine, began in earnest as timber became depleted further east in places such as Michigan. After nearly fifty years, the Minnesota forests also became largely depleted. The logging companies moved west. Railroads had been granted large tracts of land in northern Minnesota on the premise that tracks would be laid and the land would also be developed. These railroads in turn leased or sold land to loggers in the Northeast part of the state. Once that land had been logged, it often went up for sale or even forfeited for taxes. The counties tried to sell off the now barren properties.

Burntside Lake is a spring fed glacial lake, twelve miles long. After logging, much of the lake was devoid of trees, full of logging slash, and rocky outcroppings. Land was offered for sale but there was little interest at first.

Louis White, president of the First National Bank, and Arvid Sundholm, who was a real estate and insurance agent in Ely, had a vision that others did not. They purchased a stretch of two and a half miles on the southeast shore for a “dime on the dollar.” The land was surveyed, platted, divided into hundred-foot lots, and offered for sale at \$100 for 100 feet of shoreline. This would be about \$2,200 today—even now a bargain for a lakeshore lot. Mr. Sundholm kept a large tract for himself near the beginning of what would become the Van Vac Road. Mr. White kept



Above: Double sauna at Kaleva Bay.



Left: She-Wa-Nok Plat, Burntside Lake. submitted photos

a large piece for himself on the other end, although he never developed it. His widow sold it in the early 1960s.

Other pieces of land besides the tax forfeited ones were similarly cut over. Finns bought most of those as well. Since this was the beginning of the Great Depression, sales were slow. A hundred dollars for the 100-foot lots was very hard to come by for Finnish immigrant miners. The dream of a simple cabin and a sauna on the shore kept some of them coming back to their chosen spot. Some even managed to buy more than one lot.

The Van Vac Road as such did not really exist yet—most of it was a narrow, rocky logging trail. Access was by boat.

One of the first purchases in the Sundholm/White plat was by the Knights and Ladies of Kaleva of Ely. This was a fraternal and cultural lodge. They envisioned that such

a place would serve their members well with a lodge building, a sauna, with a swimming beach. A large log lodge, a log double sauna (for men and for women), and a caretaker’s or guest cabin were soon built.

My grandfather, Gust Maki, had a men’s clothing store in Ely. Now the middle of the Great Depression the retail business was not brisk. Nonetheless he somehow scraped together \$300 for three lots, one of which had no shoreline access because of its rocky nature. He built a three-room frame cabin. A sauna and boathouse were constructed with logs mostly salvaged from the lake bottom, leftovers from the logging days. Furnishings were usually outcasts from home: older furniture, mismatched dishes, old cookware.

My grandmother, always called “Äiti” by her family, often took the smaller children into the sauna. We learned the chil-

dren’s song “Ukko Nooa” from her (with some variation): “Ukki Noah Ukki Noah, oli hyvä mies. Kun han meni saunan, panen housut naulan, Ukki Noah, Ukki Noah, ole hyvä mies.”

The words occasionally slip into my head again when I am in the sauna.

A gravel road came about the same time. Gust hired some carpenters—Finnish, of course—to help in building a three-room cabin with a screened porch. During the construction, one of the workers had an apparent heart attack. There were no phones, neither land line nor mobile back then, but someone drove the ten miles back to town to get a doctor. To no avail, as the man died on what would become the living room floor. My grandmother lived to be 100 and she went to her grave not knowing what had happened at the cabin.

My favorite story tells of how Otto Ranta and his wife got their hundred-foot lot. Over the years I had put together many displays of local history for the historical society. One day about twenty years ago, I removed the artifacts from a display about Ely movie

theaters. As I was leaving the building, Mike Mandy, Otto’s grandson, approached me and asked if he could get a photocopy of the Ely Theater building, one that had a movie ticket superimposed in one corner of the picture. The ticket had a number and said, “Silver Dollar Days.”

“Let me tell you why,” he said. “My grandparents so wanted a certain lot and had looked at it many times, but they had no way to raise \$100. My grandfather worked only three days a month in the mine. But one Saturday night, when Otto was working, Mrs. Ranta went to the movie with some her friends. There was a special drawing that night for \$100 and Mrs. Ranta’s ticket had the winning number. When Otto came home from work she held back for a while with her news for a day. “I got it, I got the lot.” In fact, she had already gone to the courthouse and gotten the deed. He was stunned. “All because you went to the show,” he exclaimed.

Mike said to me, “So now I want to frame that picture for my grandchildren so they will know how we got this place at the lake.”

Most of the cabins are still in the same family, although many of them have been enlarged, replaced, and upgraded. Finnish surnames still predominate after a hundred year. On Eagles Nest Lake #1 for instance, the Vermilion Co-op Point Park was established. Jointly owned at first, but when the co-op dissolved, members were able to buy lots. Smaller enclaves of other ethnic groups can no doubt be found on other lakes. By 2023, others have come looking for places on the lakeshore. Many seem rather well heeled. This stretch of land could well become a different Riviera in the future.

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:

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

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

► Oct. 17: PolyMet update with MCEA

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



pulling color out a garden of root veggies
intense shades and hues

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/

AA - Monday at noon at Ledgerrock 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

Become an Ely tree steward

ELY- Elyites have the opportunity to become Ely Tree Stewards at a class this upcoming Friday, Oct. 6. The training will give attendees the knowledge to help care for trees in the community. The focus of the class will center on pruning young trees. The class will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room NS24, at the Vermilion Campus of Minnesota College North. The cost is \$25. Discounts are available for enrolled students. Space is limited for the class. Registration is required prior to the event. Register at z.umn.edu/MNTreeSteward. Email Claudia McBride at scenic61@aol.com with questions.

Ely Public Library

ELY- The Library Board will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 5:30 p.m.

The Get Crafty program will make haunted gingerbread houses on Thursday, Oct. 5, from 3-4 p.m. Participants must pre-register so the library can order enough supplies.

The Friends of the Library Bookclub will meet on Monday, Oct. 9, from 3-4 p.m. The title for dis-

cussion will be “Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus.

The Friends of the Library monthly board meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 10, from 1-2 p.m.

The Library Scientists program will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 11, from 3-4 p.m. Participants will learn how eclipses happen, view eclipses safely, and will build a device to watch the partial solar eclipse on Oct. 14. This activity is for grades 2-4. 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.

NLAA September Art Show runs through Sunday

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA) September show will run through Sunday, Oct. 1, in the lobby of Ely’s Historic State Theater. The show is “ISLANDLAND” by Ely photographer Parker Loew will be shown in the theater lobby. The NLAA and State Theater will host a reception for Loew on Friday, Sept. 29, at 5 p.m.

Youth Art Show Applications being taken now

ELY- The NLAA is now accepting applications for its November youth art show. The organization has total of \$500 in scholarships to award to young artists in the show. This year’s theme is “self portraits.” The show is for any young artists in grades 1-12 from any area school or homeschoolers. Submit up to two pieces of original artwork for jurying and display. Include name, age, grade, and parents’ phone number with the application. Submit artwork via mail to Northern Lakes Arts Association, 1900 E. Camp St., Ely, MN 55731, or drop it off at 967 E. Sheridan St.

NLAA 2024 Art Show Applications being taken now

ELY- The NLAA is now accepting applications for its 2024 series of monthly art shows at Ely’s Historic State Theater. The ten selected artists will receive a generous \$500 stipend. The emphasis for 2024 will be on empowering BI-POC and LGBTQIA artists and amplifying the authentic voices of north-

east Minnesota. Use the application form under the “visual arts” tab on the northernlakesarts.org website.

Dance Lessons

ELY- The Reflections Dance Company will offer instruction in swing dancing, jazz dance, ballet and tap, starting Oct. 1. For details and registration, go to <https://www.northernlakesarts.org/reflections-dance-company>

Burnout Competition

ELY- The Jake Forsman Memorial Car Show and Burnout Competition will be on Oct. 7, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Chapman Street in front of City Hall.

Frozen website and Facebook Group

ELY- The Ely Memorial High School’s production of “Disney’s Frozen—The Broadway Musical” now has a website for the rehearsal schedule and announcements at frozeninely.org, and a public Facebook Group, “Frozen in Ely.”

List your event

Do you have an upcoming Babbitt, Ely, or Winton event? Email event details, location, time, place and event cost to C. Clark at catie.timberjay@gmail.com by close-of-business on the Tuesday the week before the event takes place.

Corrections

The article in the Sept. 22 *Timberjay* misspelled the name of the vocal director of the Frozen musical being produced by the Ely Memorial High School. His name is Elias Mokole, not Eliot.

In the Sept. 22 edition of the *Timberjay*, the last sentence of the Ely Community Resource water project article was edited to read, “The Water Project keeps me delightfully busy during the summer and gives me a sense of fulfillment that I can to my part to help conserve the (Boundary Waters). It should have read, “The Water Project keeps me delightfully busy during the summer and gives me a sense of fulfillment that I can to my part to help conserve the precious lakes and rivers of Northern Minnesota.”

LOCAL LIFESAVER

Cook man recognized for saving infant child's life

“God was in control” as Froehlingsdorf revived one-week old daughter who stopped breathing

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Joe Froehlingsdorf, of Cook, got the only reward he so desperately wanted when he saved the life of his infant daughter Amelia last September, but the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office and Board of Commissioners thought he deserved a little bit more.

At Tuesday's Board of Commissioners meeting, Sheriff Gordon Ramsay presented Froehlingsdorf with a 911 Lifesaver Award for his heroic deed.

As Froehlingsdorf recalled the incident for a county press release about the award, he looked at his daughter Amelia and thought that life had left her one-week-old body – she had stopped breathing. When asked what happened as the call to 911 was placed Froehlingsdorf, a man of deep Christian faith, simply answered that, “God was in control.”

As a coach, Froehlingsdorf had been trained in CPR, but never really expected to have to perform CPR in a real-life emergency, particularly with his own family. But Froehlingsdorf was able

to rely on that training as he sought to save his newborn daughter, providing CPR for several minutes, which seems like a lifetime for anyone who has had to perform CPR on a loved-one, until thankfully, Amelia took a gasping breath on her own.

As Sheriff's Deputy Adam Marwick arrived on scene, Froehlingsdorf had already started running down his long driveway in hopes of getting Amelia to the responding Cook Area Ambulance as soon as possible. In addition to the Cook Ambulance, a Virginia paramedic unit, as well as an air medical helicopter were contacted by St. Louis County 911 telecommunicators to respond, eventually assisting the Cook Ambulance upon their arrival at the Cook Hospital.

“Because of Joe's efforts, and the skilled assistance of the EMTs, paramedics, flight nurse, hospital staff and sheriff deputies, Amelia has made a full recovery and is a happy one-year-old child,” said Sheriff Ramsay. “I would like to also mention the work by St. Louis County 911 Telecommunications Landon Cadigan and Char Thomp-



Joe Froehlingsdorf helps his children Agnes and Joey hold his 911 Lifesaver Award as his wife Ida holds their daughter Amelia. Presenting the award was Sheriff Gordon Ramsay, left, with commissioners Mike Jugovich, Paul McDonald, and Annie Harala looking on. courtesy photo SLC

son as well as a thank you to Deputy Adam Marwick for his actions during this incident.”

Amazingly, this was Froehlingsdorf's second time being honored for

helping save a life. At the age of ten, he was recognized for helping save a woman who had crashed on the ice on Lake Vermilion. He recalls the Lt. Governor came to his

school in Virginia to recognize him and his friend Steve, who was also honored for the same incident.

Yet it's entirely likely that Froehlingsdorf would have had both of those

awards be given instead to the God who was in control and made his life-saving efforts possible, for such is the way of the truly faithful.

BECOMING INCLUSIVE

Diversity and inclusion workshop coming Oct. 3 to Cook

Free public event will promote acceptance through new approach

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Diversity and inclusion have become familiar words in current vernacular, but what do they look like when applied in the workplace, or in an individual's life? How can we get beyond grouping and labeling of other humans according to the color of their skin, the religion they practice, or the country in which they were born? Can we really build a just and inclusive world, especially in this time of such division? And how can we make our organizations and lives more inclusive

of those who are “other” and different from “us?”

If you're open to exploring answers to those questions, then Cook Hospital may have just the opportunity you're looking for with a two-hour workshop called “Gray Area Thinking” coming up on Tuesday, Oct. 3 from 6-8 p.m. at the Cook Community Center, 510 Gopher Drive.

Nationally-recognized speaker, transgender writer, and “human inclusionist” Ellen “Ellie” Krug will lead participants through an exploration of a new approach to inclusivity where all humans regardless of differences



Ellie Krug are valued.

The list of organizations who've invited Krug to speak is extensive and diverse in itself, including Target Corporation,

Wells Fargo Bank, General Mills, Hormel Foods, Harvard Law School, the University of Minnesota, and several hundred other organizations from state, county and city agencies, libraries, law firms and court systems to businesses and churches.

Authenticity, compassion, gratitude, and inspiration are integral not only to who Krug is, but also to how she approaches diversity and inclusion as she engages with her audience about organizational culture and culture change. “Gray Area Thinking” will provide an easy-to-understand toolset on how to be more wel-

coming of anyone who is “other” in our society.

In 2009, when she was a civil trial attorney in Cedar Rapids with 100-plus trials, Ellen (Ellie) Krug transitioned from male to female; she later became one of the few attorneys nationally to try jury cases in separate genders. Krug is the author of “Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change,” and is the recipient of a number of awards, including the 2023 Stonewall Award from the American Bar Association. She is also a columnist for *Minnesota Women's Press* and a weekly radio host on

AM950 radio, where her 250+ episodes of “Ellie 2.0 Radio” highlight idealism and idealists working to make the world better for all humans. Her monthly e-newsletter, The Ripple, reaches 9000+ readers and can be found at www.elliekrug.com. She has presented “Gray Area Thinking” across the country.

The workshop, sponsored by Cook Hospital, is free and open to the public.

For questions, call 218-666-6251 or email Nichole Chiabotti at nchiabotti@cookhospital.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

4-H kids shine at state fair

REGIONAL- Area 4-H members represented St. Louis County well at the Minnesota State fair, garnering a host of top awards for their projects and presentations.

4-H members qualified to participate in the fair based on their showing in preliminary events such as the St. Louis County Fair in Chisholm. Over 140 demonstrations and over 1,900 general

exhibits were on display this year, reflecting members' personal areas of interest.

Blue ribbon winners included:

►Josselyn Bjork, Embarrass, Fine Arts – Grades 9+

►Anya Pearson, Angora, Fine Arts – Grades 9+

►Alice Sopoci, Angora, Creative Writing – Grades 6-8

►Lila Pearson, Angora, Creative Writing – Grades 6-8

►Cheyenne Schelde, Angora, Woodworking – Grades 6-8

►Katherine Brophy, Babbitt, Elements of Photography – Grades 6-8

Aubrey Olson-Stoltenberg, of Orr, won a red ribbon in Exploring Animals – Grades 6-8.

Volunteers to be feted by Cook mayor on Oct. 5

COOK- Cook Mayor Harold Johnston is extending his thanks “to all those who graciously volunteer their time to serve our community” by hosting a thank-you get together with food and refreshments at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5 at the Cook Community Center. The public is invited to join with Johnston in celebrating the community's volunteers.

NWFA members are featured in October memorial show

COOK- October is the month Northwoods Friends of the Arts celebrates one of its founders with the Susan Martin Memorial Member Show, beginning Friday, Oct. 6 with a reception from 5-7 p.m. at the gallery at 210 S River St. All members of NWFA are invited to show and sell their crafts and works of art from Oct. 6 to Oct. 26. Exhibiting is free to NWFA members but a per-

centage of their sales go to NWFA. Art work must be delivered to the gallery, priced and inventoried by Oct. 3. The gallery will be open to receive artwork on Monday, Oct. 2 and Tuesday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This annual member show is named in memory of an inventive artist, former owner of Moosebirds on Lake Vermilion and a founder of Northwoods Friends of the Arts. Martin created the “Painting Made Easy” series of classes taught at the gallery. Martin inspired others to seek their dreams with more confidence. The member show is available for viewing during gallery open hours on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Questions may be addressed to Alberta at 218-666-2153 or via email at nwfamn.org@gmail.com. Information, including upcoming classes and events, may be found on the NWFA website at www.nwfamn.org.

VNP visitor centers closing for season

V O Y A G E U R S NAT'L PARK- October visitors to Voyageurs National Park will have limited access to the park's visitor centers as park personnel have started closing the centers for the season.

The Ash River Visitor Center closed on Monday, and the Kabetogama center will be closed for the season beginning Sunday, Oct. 1. Both sites will remain closed through mid-May 2024.

Also beginning on Oct. 1, Rainy Lake Visitor Center's open days will be reduced to Saturdays and Sundays only from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through Sunday Oct. 22. The center will be closed from Oct. 23 to Jan. 5.



On Wednesday, Sept. 20, Cook Friends of the Parks volunteers Gary Palmer, Val Annen, and Brian Palmer (seated left to right) take a well-deserved break after installing the last two benches and two trash receptacles at Veterans Riverfront Park. All that's left for finishing touches to the park is the installation of two additional grills and some seasonal landscaping. submitted photo

**Read It
HERE**

COMMUNITY CARING

Legislation proposes tax relief for rural volunteer drivers

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C.—When a change in federal tax law in 2017 meant that the mileage reimbursements over \$600 per year received by volunteer drivers were taxed like regular employment income, the Arrowhead Transit's volunteer driver program lost nearly two hundred of its three hundred volunteer drivers. The drivers work for a nonprofit program that transports rural seniors to and from non-emergency medical appointments at no charge. Volunteers are not paid for their time but do receive the federal mileage reimbursement for miles driven.

Such mileage payments, which are common for business or government travel while using a private vehicle, are typically not taxed, since it is considered a reimbursement for costs associated with driving (gas, maintenance, depreciation).

Last week Arrowhead Transit Director Brandon Nurmi, and Associate Director of Finance Colette Hanson were in Washington, D.C. lobbying for tax relief for volunteer drivers in the country. They had the opportunity to speak with several legislators on this topic and advocate for reform in the 1099 tax requirements of volunteer drivers.

A proposed bill, introduced last April, is currently advancing

More on the volunteer driver program

Arrowhead Transit is a transportation company that contracts with medical assistance providers. The contracts allow Arrowhead Transit to provide coordination and schedule non-emergency transportation for clients.

What do volunteer drivers do? Volunteer drivers provide individuals in need of transportation with a means of getting to and from medical appointments.

Who qualifies to be a volunteer driver? Anyone who is:

- Age 21 or older.
- Has a valid driver's license.
- Has proof of insurance.
- Has a clean driving record.
- Has not had a revoked or suspended license or DWI within the past 3 years.
- Has had no felony convictions.

What type of insurance coverage must a volunteer driver have? A volunteer driver is required to provide enough insurance to allow them to drive legally in the state of Minnesota.

What type of vehicle can be used? The vehicle must be safe, dependable, and clean. Volunteer drivers use all different types of vehicles from small subcompacts to large SUVs.

How can you become a volunteer driver? Contact Transportation Advocate Randy Hokkanen at (218)735-6873 or randy.hokkanen@aeoa.org.

through the legislative process, and has received bipartisan support from a diverse coalition of representatives, stakeholders, and citizens.

The primary impetus behind this legislative endeavor came from two U.S. House members from Minnesota—Eighth District Republican Pete Stauber and Second District Democrat Angie Craig.

During a recent trip to Washington, D.C., Nurmi emphasized the profound significance of

this proposed legislation. “This bill represents a clarion call to alleviate the financial strain on our dedicated volunteer drivers. They are the lifeblood of our rural transportation system, ensuring that individuals can access vital medical appointments. We implore our legislators to rally behind this cause and make their selfless contributions more sustainable.”

Hanson agreed, and spoke further about the profound human connections forged through vol-

unteer driving. “These drivers are not mere providers of a service—they are cultivators of trust, companionship, and enablers of independent living within our community.”

Currently, Arrowhead Transit counts approximately 103 committed volunteer drivers, tasked with providing essential transportation services across ten northeastern Minnesota counties. This shortfall exacerbates the challenge of delivering comprehensive transportation options for residents, particularly in regions where public transit infrastructure remains limited.

Advocates assert that, beyond alleviating the tax burden on volunteer drivers, the bill carries wider ramifications for the community at large. By making it easier for individuals to step forward and assist their neighbors, it has the potential to keep residents in their homes, reducing the necessity for costly assisted living facilities or the necessity of moving to an urban area with better transportation options.

Elected representatives who have pledged their bipartisan support for the bill firmly believe that it marks a pivotal stride toward fortifying rural communities.

In a statement of support, Rep. Craig spoke about the far-reaching benefits of the proposed bill. “This legislation transcends mere tax relief—it is an investment in the very health and

well-being of our cherished rural communities. Volunteer drivers are the unheralded champions, and they deserve every iota of support we can muster.”

Dominick Olivanti, public relations coordinator for Arrowhead Transit, said the program had also worked on a pilot program to get college students at Minnesota North-Mesabi to spend time as volunteer drivers but the 1099 requirement meant it was costing these students more than they received in mileage reimbursement, since it bumped up their total income. The vast majority of these volunteer drivers are retired seniors, and many of those were financially impacted by the change that required 1099 reporting. “We need to fix this,” he said.

For more information on the Arrowhead Transit programs, or to learn how to become a volunteer driver, contact Dominick Olivanti at 218-735-6815 or email dominick.olivanti@aeoa.org. More information on Arrowhead Transit and their services are available at www.arrowheadtransit.com.

Northwoods Partners, based in Ely, also provides volunteer driver services in the Tower, Soudan, Ely, and Babbitt areas. They can be reached at (218) 365-8019 or by email at info@northwoodspartners.org.

MAN CAVES...Continued from page 1

owner and realtor from Warroad, estimated the cost of constructing each storage building at about \$1.2-\$1.4 million and he may eventually build up to six 292 x 40 ft. buildings with a total of 72 units. Hennem said he plans to build the storage buildings in phases depending on interest in the units.

He said the concept of what he calls “high-end man caves” is already well established in parts of Minnesota where they’ve attracted plenty of interest, mostly from men who don’t have the space for a workshop or large garage at home. He said Lake Vermilion residents with small narrow lake lots,

who can’t build a workshop space without running into zoning roadblocks, would now have the ability to rent a space close to the lake. The planned site is also close to existing snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle trails and could be used for storage and repair of those vehicles. The units would rent for significantly more money than traditional storage units, but would come with many more amenities.

Those amenities did raise concerns that the units could become occasional use apartments for some renters. That was a concern raised in correspondence that Vermilion Lake Township submitted

in advance of the Sept. 14 meeting of the planning commission.

“It seems reasonable that having a full bathroom in each unit would enhance the likelihood of renters staying overnight or for a longer duration,” wrote township officials in a letter to commission. But Hennem said overnight stays will be prohibited as part of the lease and St. Louis County included a prohibition on both residential and commercial use of the units as one of the conditions of the Hennem’s conditional use permit. “At no point will people be allowed to stay overnight,” said Hennem.

Vermilion Lake

Township officials, in their correspondence on the proposal, wondered how effectively Hennem could enforce the prohibition on overnight use given that he lives over three hours away. “How will incidents be addressed?” township officials questioned. “Will there be a local property manager or security officer onsite in a reasonable amount of time to address calls?”

The *Timberjay* did inquire with St. Louis County about how such a prohibition could be enforced, but did not hear back as of press time.

Several issues unresolved

The development is

proposed for a roughly 32-acre site that Hennem recently purchased from the Jarecki family for \$80,000. It’s located along Hwy. 169 just south of the Y Store and current access to the site is via a short road to the Lake Country Power substation, located on a small parcel across the highway from Como Oil and Propane. It’s unclear whether Lake Country Power will allow access through its property given the sensitivity and security needs of a power substation. If not, Hennem indicated he plans to develop an alternative access road closer to the Y Store on a former logging road.

Much of the 32-acre

parcel contains wetlands, so that significantly limits the area that Hennem can develop. Higher ground on the south and east ends of the parcel will be the focus for the construction of the storage units as well as the proposed septic system, which has yet to be permitted. Details on the septic needs of the facility aren’t entirely clear.

Hennem also still needs to determine access and acquire easements, determine the amount of dirt work required and finalize the construction drawings.

CENTER...Continued from page 1

under Minnesota law and gained its status as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2018. But the Northeast Itasca County Rescue Squad and Bearville First Responders aren’t actually separate groups, they’re one and the same, Nelson said.

“Whenever we get paged from St. Louis County, that’s Bearville First Responders,” he said.

Up until now, squad members have always responded from their homes, tossing their bags of equipment into their personal vehicles to head out on calls.

“We kind of set some long-term goals and one was to have a building,”

Nelson said. “And then within a year or two, all of a sudden that long-term goal turned into a short-term goal when property became available, and we started working with the township and the county and that brings us to where we’re at today.”

The property is about a two-and-a-half-acre piece of land at the intersection of Hwy. 22 and Itasca Rd.

St. Louis County conveyed the property to Morcom Township for the purpose of public safety, and in turn the township leased the property to the rescue group for \$25 for five years with an automatic renewal option. A required

conditional use permit for the new 2,400-square foot emergency response building is in process, and Nelson said volunteers have already started working on the site.

“We’re hoping to build this building here in the next month or so to get it shelled in.”

The project got a major financial boost with a \$65,000 grant from the Blandin Foundation, and the rescue squad has raised additional money through various fundraisers throughout the year, such as a take-out soup meal happening this Saturday. But the project could still use some additional financial

and physical help, Nelson said.

“We’re still looking for some additional funds, donations to get it to 100 percent completion,” Nelson said. “We’re probably going to rely a lot on volunteers helping out as far as doing the construction, versus turning it over to a general contractor. We definitely need community support. We need folks to come alongside us whether it be financially or just physical labor to help out where they can.”

The floorplan includes two main components. The first is a meeting/training room that can also be used for some equipment storage. The second is a large garage that will accommodate another of the squad’s long-term goals: obtaining a used ambulance to deploy for

calls. Nelson explained that an ambulance would allow responders to have additional equipment with them than they can’t currently take in their cars that would often be useful in a first response situation.

“Right now when I respond on a call I’ve got three bags that I grab, and that doesn’t really include everything that we could have,” Nelson said.

Having a used ambulance would allow the squad to carry things like backboards, suction equipment, a LUCAS (chest compression) device, and more with them. The ambulance would not be used for patient transport, Nelson said, only to support the activities of first responders while they are waiting for an ambulance to arrive.

“It’s definitely something we’d like to achieve

here in the near future,” Nelson said.

The rescue squad averages about 25 calls a year, and the calls lean more toward severe situations in which timely response from trained first responders can make a difference, Nelson said. The squad works with five ambulance services that could potentially respond in their service area, including Cook, Orr, Bigfork, Nashwauk, and Chisholm.

“It’s probably 25-30 minutes before we see an ambulance out here,” Nelson said.

For more information or to offer assistance, contact Dustin Nelson by calling 218-969-9217 or emailing bearvillefirstresponders@gmail.com.

**Area Solid Waste Facility site hours**

Ash River Trail Canister Site
11391 Ash River Trail
Winter Hours
Sat: 12:30pm–4:30pm

Kabetogama Lake Canister Site
10150 Gamma Rd
Winter Hours
Wed: noon–4pm
Sat: 8am–noon

County 77 Canister Site
2038 County Rd. 77
Winter Hours
Thurs, Sun: noon–5pm

Orr Canister Site
4038 Hwy 53
Winter Hours
Tue, Thu: 9am–noon
Sat: 8am–noon

Portage Canister Site
6992 Crane Lake Rd.
Winter Hours
Tue, Sat: 1pm–4:30pm

Cook Transfer Station
2134 S. Beatty Rd.
Hours
Mon: 10am–6pm
Tues thru Sat: 9am–3:30pm

Regional Landfill
5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia
Hours
Mon–Fri: 8am–4:30pm Sat: 8am–3:30pm

Household Hazardous Waste Facilities
5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia
Tue, Sat: 8am–1pm
3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing
Sat: 8am–1pm

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department
218-749-9703
Office hours 8-4:30
Monday through Friday
www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to Tony Zavodnick for all his hard work in getting the Township siren working again. It is very much appreciated.

The Breitung Township Board

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ELY MARATHON

Ely man disappointed in second marathon win



Ely area resident Hudson Kingston outstretches his arms in triumph as he crosses the finish line to take first in last Saturday's Ely Marathon. Photo by C. Clark

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ELY— Hudson Kingston was hoping for second place in this past weekend's Ely Marathon— he had to settle for first.

Kingston, a wiry redhead who lives outside Ely in Fall Lake Township, finished in a time of 2:55.51, nearly five minutes ahead of second-place finisher Henry Carlson and more than three minutes faster than his previous best, set when he won the Ely Marathon in 2017 with a time of 2:59.01.

He finished in third place last year, and fourth in 2019. "So, you know, first is good but I was really going for second because then I

would have had the matched set," he joked in an interview shortly after last Saturday's race.

Kingston, who works as an environmental attorney, was only the second person to win the Ely marathon twice, after Andrew McNamara who won in 2019 and 2021. He did so on a day that included showers, strong winds, and temperatures in the 60s.

Kingston, now 40, said he began his running career as a kid, when he started tagging along with his mother, Sarah, who was also a runner. He ran cross country and two-mile races in high school and, later, ran for Carleton College, in Northfield, until he graduated in 2005.

"For a hot second I tried to

be a decathlete but throwing a discus and javelin is a lot harder than it looks. I was pretty good at the triple jump but that was about it."

He ran his first marathon a little over a decade ago. He's competed in the Boston Marathon as well as twice in the Twin Cities Marathon among others.

"This race is similar to Boston in that it's a very well-run marathon," he said, referring to the Ely race. "It's different from Boston because there aren't 50,000 people running in it."

For now, Kingston isn't going to rest on his laurels. He'll be back, shooting for second place next year...

MARATHON...Continued from page 1

story page 10), while David Hyopponen topped the field in the half marathon with a time of 1:20:00.

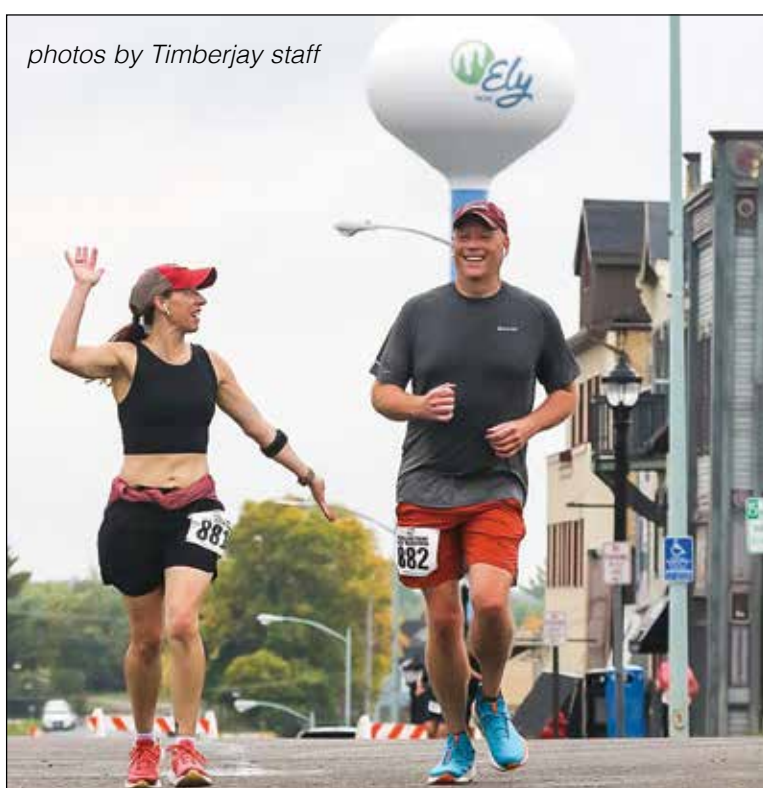
The \$5,000 prize for topping the previous record in the solo full marathon portage race will stand for another year as Jacob Bendel led the field of nine competitors with a time of 4:36:42, a little over 13 minutes shy of the record set by Anthony Peter, who completed the 26.2-mile canoe portage in a time of 4:23:20.

Thirty-five-year-old Vanessa Grams notched the best time for the solo half marathon portage canoe race this year, with a time of 3:17:54, topping the best men's time of 3:22:54, run by Mike Smith.

The fastest full marathon relay team portage canoe race this year was run the women's Storm King team, with a time of 4:28:24. This is also the best time and the best women's time since the race started in 2019. The best 2023 men's team time was 4:41:29, run by the Ely Outfitting Co. Team.

The fastest half marathon relay team portage canoe race this year was run by the Where Da Water At team, with a time of 2:20:44. This is also the best time since the race started in 2019.

The best boys' time for the Dorothy Molter Root Beer Run of 1.2 miles was run by Geno Ongaro with 8:26. The best girls' time was run by Viola Cogger, with a time of 9:14. This year also saw the youngest finisher ever, Aero Ringate, age 4, who finished in 22:03. There were 53 participants this year, with 44 finishing. The highest number of runners was 89 in 2018. The fastest boys' finish was 8:05, run by Caid Chittum, age 10, 2017. The fastest girls' finish was 8:06, run by Zoe Devine, age 10, in 2016.



photos by Timberjay staff

Above: Runners smile as they head into the final few blocks of the Highland Bank half marathon, with the Ely water tower looming in the background.

Above right: Humans weren't the only spectators for the marathon. This resident raven watched the race intently from his perch in a silver maple on Chapman Street.

Right: A runner makes his way past the Pioneer Mine headframe.

Left: Four-year-old Aero Ringate was the youngest finisher in the 1.2 mile Root Beer Run.



CAMP...Continued from page 1

poor condition of the wild rice, Bajan said they had to get by using some rice from the prior year's harvest for camp, but this year the crop is plentiful, and campers had more than 300 pounds of rice to process.

Wild rice camp isn't just a school event, it's a community affair.

"I think we've had about 40 different families come throughout the week here, just stopping in and sharing stories, and then at our feasts we typically have

about 100 people," Bajan said. "We have really good families."

Bajan also draws support from other community resources, such as Jennalee Porter with the Bois Forte nutrition program.

"She does classes with our school once a month," Bajan said. "We partner with the Bois Forte conservation and forestry department for programming, and the 1854 Treaty program, and a new nonprofit teen

program out of Tower."

The wild rice camp is particularly important for its connection to Ojibwe history and culture.

"All Anishinaabeg, the only reason they live in the Great Lakes area is because of wild rice and the migration that took place beginning about a thousand years ago from the Northeast," Bajan explained. "And here in particular at Asabiikonezaaga'iganiing (Nett Lake) 400 years or so ago coming into this lake and seeing

it look like a field when it was actually just in full bloom with manoomin, it was pretty unique, not just a major food source but also a major part of the economy. Even today for a lot of families it's how they make a living."

The learning process for camp also follows a traditional pattern, Bajan said. "We try to have realistic expectations of our students," he said. "They learn through observation first, and then they're asked

to participate. In almost all cases our students are leading a lot of our program behind the scenes, prepping things, bringing stuff together."

The clearing in the woods where wild rice was being processed had clearly defined areas for each step. Tarps laid out on the ground provided a place for students to sift through the rice to remove impurities before parching. And rather than use a large flat pan that can hold up to 70 pounds of

rice for parching, a more kid-friendly large metal kitchen pot set over an enclosed fire pit with a boat oar for stirring was a perfect setup for parching smaller, more easily managed loads of rice. And once the rice was parched, students could take the rice over to a separating station with a plastic-lined hole in the ground for the rice and a wooden frame to support a student's weight as they used their clean plastic-covered feet to separate the bran outer layer from the kernels.

Wild rice camp isn't only for Nett Lake School students, either. On Friday, 31 sixth-graders from North Woods School were there along with Indigenous Support Advocate Stacy Palmer to learn about wild rice and the steps in processing it.

"I just wanted to show off the Anishinaabe culture to the entire sixth grade class as it is part of their Minnesota history curriculum," Palmer said.

Bajan said that the school shared the camp with around 100 students from other schools. But he had high praise for his own students who worked hard at camp the entire week.

"They're highly engaged, I'd say more engaged than probably any student group I've ever worked with, and this is school number seven for me in 20 years of teaching," he said.

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COUNTY SCHOOLS

School district tax levy goes up 4.69 percent

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- ISD 2142 school board members meeting at South Ridge School on Tuesday approved an increase in the 2024 pay levy without the aid of customary line-item review by district finance director Kim Johnson, who was not in attendance at the meeting.

In past years, Johnson provided board members with additional information explaining various increases and decreases in net tax capacities for various district functions and obligations, but she was unable to attend Tuesday's meeting.

However, Superintendent Reggie Engebritson got Johnson on the phone to answer a question posed by board member Chris Koivisto about a 12.2 percent increase over last year in one specific line item, the total referendum market value levy category, a dollar increase from \$1,726,004.57 in 2023 to \$1,936,702.70 in 2024, a difference of \$210,698.13. "I'm seeing that this is a 12.2 percent jump versus the previous year, and that's a jump," Koivisto said.

Johnson said that the increase in that item is due to an increase in the market value of properties in the district of \$249 million. With that kind of an increase, the district's revenue comes more from its tax levy and less from aid, Johnson said. "That's exactly what happened," Johnson said. "What's causing that is the property values in our

district. We have absolutely no control over that at all. There's nothing we can do about that."

"So basically, our levy is increasing because the value of the property is increasing, and not necessarily because we're asking to increase it," Koivisto said. "That's absolutely correct," Johnson replied. "We were at 83 percent levied last year, and we're at 96 percent levied this year because that market value has gone up so much."

Board member Lynn Hilde remarked that when he attended the Minnesota Rural Education Association conference last year that attendees were told to expect something like this to happen over the next three to four years.

However, when the referendum market value levy is factored in with projected increases and decreases in 11 general levy categories, two community service categories, and the levy for debt service, the final outcome is a 4.69 percent increase in the district's overall pay levy for 2024. Without additional discussion, the board unanimously approved that increase.

Proposed hire rejected

In an unusual departure from the board's typical practice of approving new hires without discussion, Koivisto asked that the proposed hire of recently retired Northeast Range counselor Joan Kjorsvig-Beans be considered separately from the other proposed teaching staff hires.

Kjorsvig-Beans retired from her counselor position last June, but it was proposed to re-hire

her for a four-tenths time counselor position at NER. Koivisto opposed the recommendation.

"I believe that retirement in that position set us up to have some positive shifts to better support our students' needs in our changing environment," Koivisto said. "Joan was a valued employee for many, many years, and she retired. I saw this as a great opportunity for us to shift toward some other needs that we have in the counseling area, so hiring her back I don't think is doing us any good to help support our students with what we need going forward. We need to look at that position differently."

Koivisto also argued that the reduced time for the position won't accomplish what's necessary for student support.

"That point four FTE in counseling is pretty small in a day where counseling needs are only increasing in schools," he said. "Having that reduced down is also a mistake in supporting our students."

When Christensen asked for a motion to approve hiring Kjorsvig-Beans, no board member responded, effectively quashing the recommendation.

In other business, the board:
▶ Heard from South Ridge lead bus driver Jim Nemecek about an issue with compensation and procedures related to lost duty days. Nemecek also talked to the board about drivers having to transport students beyond those on their assigned routes to cover for a lack of drivers. Board chair Pat Christensen noted that districts across the country

are having problems hiring bus drivers. Engebritson invited Nemecek and a union representative to meet with her to discuss his concerns, and board member Bob Larson asked that a report be given to the board on what was discussed.

▶ Approved a revised conflict of interest policy for school board members.

▶ Held first readings for revised policies regarding annual review of policies and family and medical leave.

▶ Approved a memorandum of understanding with Arrowhead (AEOA) Head Start.

▶ Approved the new district strategic plan. Engebritson discussed ways to incorporate regular reporting of strategic plan activities into board meeting agendas for members to be assured that district staff are implementing and following the plan.

▶ Hired Lizbeth Getman as a part-time music teacher and part-time paraprofessional at Northeast Range.

▶ Hired Jeremy Deedrick as a full-time special education teacher at North Woods.

▶ Hired Jasmine Jam as a half-time special education teacher and part-time elementary art teacher at North Woods.

▶ Hired Amos Kolodji as a full-time math teacher at NER.

▶ Hired Jacob Rosin as a full-time special education teacher at NER.

▶ Hired Sarah Flores as a part-time library assistant at Tower-Soudan.

▶ Hired Ryan Nephew as

a part-time paraprofessional at NER.

▶ Hired Savannah Johnson as a part-time paraprofessional at NER.

▶ Hired Heather Kapyate as a part-time preschool teaching assistant and part-time ECFE teacher aide at NW.

▶ Hired Carlie Hadrava and Molly Krueger as a part-time paraprofessionals at NW.

▶ Hired Michelle Summerland as a part-time van driver at NW.

▶ Hired Karli Sporich as a full-time Check and Connect mentor and an additional assignment as Little Grizzlies supervisor at NW.

▶ Hired Adam Hagen as assistant cross country coach at NER.

▶ Hired Racel Johnson as head cheerleading coach at NW.

▶ Hired Andreastar Trout as a part-time Little Grizzlies aide at NW.

▶ Hired Jon Scherf as a part-time fitness center supervisor at NW.

▶ Accepted retirements/resignations from NER assistant cross country coach Amiah Akerson, T-S teacher aide John Zaitz, NER paraprofessional Shayler Lislegard, and NW assistant girls basketball coach Alli Sandberg.

▶ Approved voluntary reduction in hours for NER paraprofessional Melissa Schroeter.

▶ Terminated NER custodian Erik Nilsson.

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY

County board OKs 2.93 percent levy boost for 2024

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL - The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners gave approval to a proposed 2.93 percent property tax hike at its meeting on Tuesday, an increase that will be offset somewhat by growth in the county's property tax base.

The proposed 2024 levy is projected to bring in \$168,153,374, an amount spread across the county's tax base. St. Louis County's property tax base grew by an estimated 11 percent in the past year, including \$237 million in new, mostly residential, construction. This growth will help

reduce the impact of the increased levy on individual property owners. Homes that had little or no increase in valuation will likely see no increase, and could possibly have a reduction in property taxes.

Estimates provided by the county show that a home valued at \$400,000 will see a decrease of approximately \$200 in the county portion of its property taxes compared to a home valued at \$400,000 this year. A home valued at \$150,000 would see a \$76.61 decrease. Meanwhile, commercial properties experienced less valuation growth overall this year, and will likely see minimal impact on their

county property taxes.

Minnesota counties are required by law to set their maximum property tax levy by the end of September. As work continues to finalize the 2024 county budget over the next few months, the levy amount may be reduced, but it cannot increase. Commissioners are expected to vote on the final 2024 budget on Dec. 19.

"This levy reflects our continuous goal of minimizing property tax impacts while preserving or improving the services we provide for our citizens," said County Administrator Kevin Gray.

The additional \$4.7

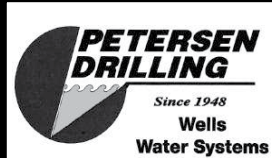
million generated by the levy increase will go to support numerous county initiatives. \$1.3 million will go to economic development, and \$1.15 million will go to land and minerals support. \$950,000 will be allocated for county facilities and equipment, while \$786,000 will be used to defray costs associated with salaries, benefits, and inflation.

Two meetings have been set to collect public input on the levy and budget. They will be on Monday, Nov. 20, at the St. Louis County Courthouse in Virginia, and the following Monday, Nov. 27, at the St. Louis County

Courthouse in Duluth. Both meetings will start at 7 p.m. The Nov. 27 meeting will also be livestreamed on the county's Facebook page. People do not need a Facebook account to view the meeting.

Citizens also may provide input at any county board meeting, or by contacting commis-

sioners directly. Contact information can be found at stlouiscountymn.gov/countyboard.



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Briefly

Iron Range Pasty Festival set for Oct. 7

MT. IRON- The fifth annual Iron Range Pasty Festival is set for Saturday, Oct. 7 from 4 - 7 p.m. at the Mt. Iron Community Center, located at 8586 Enterprise Dr. S.

This is an annual fundraiser for the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability. The meal features fresh-baked hot pasties made with all locally-grown ingredients. Cost is \$15 for a pasty, slaw, and beverage. Take-out frozen pasties are \$12 each.

Advance tickets are required. Call 218-969-6872 from 5-9 p.m., or place your order online at tinyurl.com/orderpasty.

There will be rutabaga bowling, a presentation on the Tower-Soudan Mine, and music by Cowboy

Angel Blue.

This fundraiser started as a celebration of the Iron Range's mining culinary traditions. The secret recipe is using the freshest, locally

grown and raised ingredients from local farms. There will also be free electronics recycling for laptops, desktops, monitors, and TVs smaller than 19".

There will also be information about plastic recycling and the e-waste recycling study (<https://www.irpsmn.org/ewaste-recycling>).

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ISD 696

New Ely High School gym floor ready for action this week

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

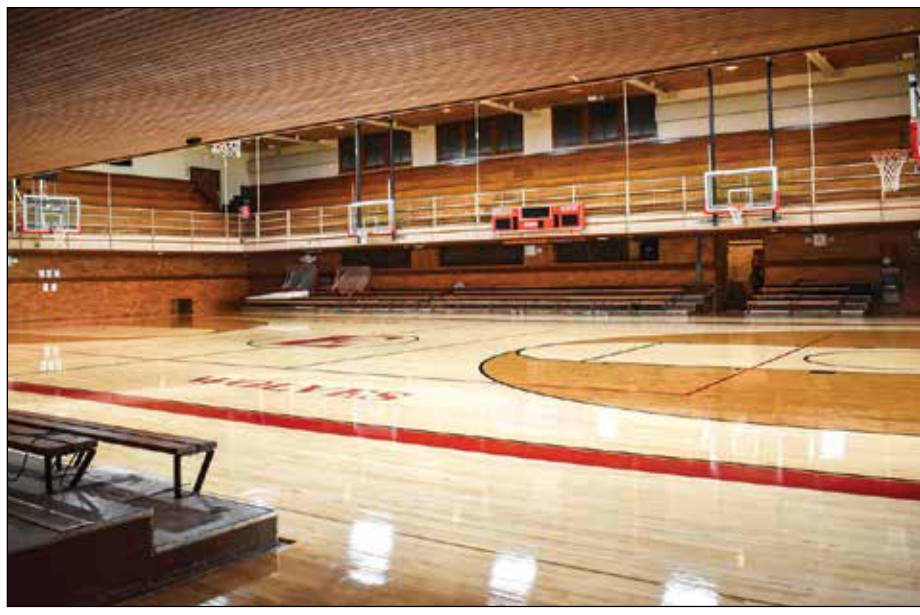
ELY- The gymnasium floor at the Ely Memorial High School is finished, painted and sealed, and will be returning to use perhaps as soon as Oct. 3.

Superintendent Anne Oelke spread the good news to the Ely School Board at its Sept. 25 work session. "It's supposed to be open for the volleyball game on Oct. 3," Oelke told the board. "[The contractors] are coming back sometime this week. Tim [Leeson] wants to spend a little bit of time with them to make sure that the volleyball poles and everything else is where it's supposed to be."

Athletic Director Tom Coombe added that the school had arranged to use the gymnasium at the Vermilion Campus of Minnesota College North as a back-up, just in case the gym needed more time.

The other matter of note discussed at the work session was the possible addition of a school resource officer (SRO) for ISD 696 during the 2024-25 school year. Because of the withdrawal of SROs from several Minnesota school districts, the *Timberjay* asked school board chair Ray Marsnik after the board's Aug. 22 work session whether ISD 696 might find itself in a similar situation. "We do not have that problem because we do not yet have an SRO."

Many Minnesota police departments have withdrawn SROs from schools because of a new law passed during the 2023 legislative session. The new statute forbids SROs from using certain restraining holds on students. Minnesota law enforcement professionals in many jurisdictions feel that the legislation prevents them from using re-



straints they were trained to use.

The Ely Police Department has applied for a federal grant to help fund an SRO for the district. According to Oelke, Police Chief Chad Houde hopes to hear whether the application was successful sometime in October.

"I'm sure you may

have heard that there has been a lot in the news about districts losing their SROs in Minnesota due to legislation passed during this last session," Oelke remarked.

"The legislation prevents SROs from using any kind of force or restraint in schools anymore. So, the police chief is hes-

itant with that, because that really limits their ability. But he's still hoping that we get the grant and that he'd like to post for that position so that we could have an SRO in place next year. Hopefully, the Legislature is going to revisit that piece of legislature and they're going to change it. From what I

understand they're not going to do a special session. They're going to wait for the session to open."

Oelke's assessment of the law in question appears to be incorrect. In a binding legal opinion issued last week by state Attorney General Keith Ellison, the new law prohibits prone restraints, or restraints that limit a student's ability to breathe or communicate distress, or places pressure on a student's neck or torso. And those limits on restraints do not apply in cases where there is a risk of imminent bodily harm. The Minnesota Legislature, in 2021, overwhelmingly approved a prohibition on the use of prone restraints on prison inmates due to the well-known risks of injury or death while individuals are held in such circumstances.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Tower area trails feature four seasons of fun

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan area is home to a remarkably wide variety of trails, and Wagoner Trail Club volunteer Mary Shedd gave a brief overview of all the them at the first Tower-Soudan Civic Club meeting of the club's '23-'24 season.

"I want to let the world know about our wonderful trails," said Shedd, a retired USFS biologist. Tower-Soudan sits at the intersection of many different types of trails, some which stretch for hundreds of miles, and some which just circle the community. Paved, natural surface (for hiking, OHV use, and horseback riding), groomed snow, and water trails await area adventurers, she said.

These trail systems are maintained by a huge number of volunteers belonging to multiple trail organizations, along with the city of Tower, Breitung Township, and the Department of Natural Resources.

Shedd's talk centered on how to get the word out about the area trails, as well as highlighted future plans for connecting trails, creating new maps and online resources, and getting more residents and tourists out enjoying the area.

"Hundreds of people have been using the new Ancient Cedars Trail," she said. The trail has about two miles of intersecting loops (all marked with color-coded blazes) and is also a perfect spot to snowshoe in the winter. The Pine Ridges trail, on the north side of the city, is more rugged but boasts spectacular overlooks onto Lake Vermilion. Future plans include adding a more level loop trail in that area, as well as connecting the trail to the paved trail at Hoodoo Point. The Wagoner Ski Trails have about 12 km of groomed classic cross-country trails, including a short loop trail that has newly-installed lights for night skiing. The trails are used in the off-season for hiking, hunting, and horseback riding. The Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park has hiking trails for all abilities, including trails that route



Mary Shedd

through stands of huge old growth pines, and others with ridgetop overlooks to Lake Vermilion.

The area's newest recreational route is a kayak trail, that directs kayakers, canoers, or paddleboarders from the East Two River, west to the West Two River, as well as east along the Lake Vermilion shoreline to Hoodoo Point, McKinley Park, and then to the newly-developed Lake Vermilion section of the state park. The kayak route has a designated access point/ parking lot on the East Two River, located just north of the Hwy. 169 bridge and accessible from a recent extension of Main Street. The launch includes a dock with an accessible kayak launch system set to be installed next year as well as a paved parking lot.

Paved trails include the Mesabi Trail (the Tower to Soudan section is currently being reconstructed). That trail stretches over 150 miles from the southwestern terminus in Grand Rapids to Ely. With this year's completion of the Tower to Ely section, Tower is seeing a large increase in bicycle traffic.

Meanwhile, three major snowmobile trails connect in Tower, the Arrowhead, Iron Ore, and Taconite. And the newly-developed Prospector Trail system links Tower, Babbitt, and Ely, as well as connecting to other established OHV trails.

Shedd said the city's comprehensive trail plan set goals for future trail development, and the plan has assisted the city in receiving grant monies for projects.

"The key goal is to actively promote trail use in our area," Shedd said.



Students exploring the Ancient Cedar Trail in Tower. file photo

The city currently has funding to create a trailhead area by the train depot and civic center, which will include an information kiosk as well as a bathroom facility that will be open 24/7.

The civic club members, which include several local business owners, talked about ways to get information out about how to access some of the newer trails and the need for more brochures/maps for visitors. Brenda Winkelhaar, co-owners of Sulu's, said they have seen a "tremendous" increase in bicycle traffic this summer. "We need maps," she said.

Other business owners said they are often asked about how to access certain trails, and would welcome more information to share with their customers, as well as handouts.

User fees

Mesabi Trail bicycle (or other wheeled) users need to purchase a "Wheel Pass", either three-day or annual (these can be purchased online). Walkers are not required to have a pass. Cross-country skiers on state grant aid trails (like Tower's Wagoner Ski Trail) are required to have a Great Minnesota Ski Pass, either one-day, annual, or three-year (these can also be purchased online or at area businesses that sell DNR licenses). Snowmobile and OHVs also require licensing. Fees collected from these passes are the major source of funding for trail maintenance.

Tower-Soudan Civic Club

The civic club, formerly called the Tower-Soudan Civic Women's Improvement Club, is a group of area residents, both women and men,

who work on projects to benefit and beautify the

community. The group meets four times a year and rotates its meetings between Tower and Soudan. The group is open to anyone in the community, and visitors are always welcome to attend to listen to the speakers. Meeting notices are published in the *Timberjay*.

Major projects and fundraisers include the Fourth of July pancake breakfast, Too Much Stuff Sale, Memorial Day program, Operation Santa, Lights of Love, and the maintenance of flowers at the civic center, bridge, and other locations in-

cluding in Soudan.

Club meetings are held in September, October, November, and April. The club hosts its annual banquet in May. Funds raised are also donated to the Tower Area Food Shelf and for needs at the local schools. This year the club will be selling food at the Christmas Craft Sale on Saturday, Dec. 2 at the civic center.

For more information about the club, call club president Linda Haugen at 612-916-1918.

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FOOTBALL

Offensive struggles continue for Ely

Wolves fall 20-12 to Bluestreaks

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

CHISHOLM — The Timberwolves forced four Chisholm turnovers here last Friday but couldn't take advantage in another defense-dominated contest that allowed the Bluestreaks to claim their first win of the season, 20-12.

Chisholm struck quickly on their opening drive to take a 7-0 lead, but the Wolves' defense adjusted, keeping the 'Streaks under wraps the next few drives. Ely put its first points on the board early in the second quarter on a 17-yard dash by senior Gavin Marshall for six.

Chisholm hit pay dirt later in the quarter to push their lead to 14-6, but the Wolves closed the gap just ahead of the break with a 13-yard pass play from senior quarterback Deegan Richards to Alex Merriman, good for Richards' first touchdown pass of the season.

Defense ruled much of the rest of the way as neither team could put points on the board in the third quarter. Chisholm had its chances at times, but two interceptions by Richards halted threats. Junior Garrett Rohr also notched a fumble recovery in Ely territory, but the Wolves weren't able to capitalize.

The Wolves appeared to be building a bit of momentum and had pushed Chisholm to third and long at their own ten-yard line. But the 'Streaks called a fullback break up the middle and it went 90 yards for a touchdown. While deflated, the Wolves didn't fold and they blocked the subsequent extra point attempt to keep the margin to eight points. "That was one of our biggest plays of the game," said Ely Head Coach Louie Gerzin.

See FOOTBALL...pg. 2B



VOLLEYBALL

Grizzlies now at 11-2

Victories over Cook County, L-BF, and more

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Grizzlies volleyball team ran its season record to 11-2 this week with a road win over Cook County, a home victory over Littlefork-Big Falls, and a 3-1 match record at the Rock Ridge tournament on Saturday.

The Grizzlies got a double-helping of Vikings to chew up and spit out this week, with the ones from Cook County the victims on Tuesday. The Grizzlies came out hot and pummeled Cook County in the opening set 25-8. The Vikings put up a bit more resistance in the next two sets, but couldn't keep up with the Grizzlies as North Woods claimed 25-16 and 25-14 set wins to sweep the match 3-0.

See NW GIRLS...pg. 2B

Above: The Grizzlies' Isabel Pascuzzi leaps high for a spike during weekend competition at Rock Ridge.

Below: The Grizzlies' River Cheney focuses intently as she goes up for a block.

photos by D. Colburn



FOOTBALL

Vikings conquer Grizzlies 68-6

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods football team could have used a few more trick plays and a few less miscues against Littlefork-Big Falls last Friday, as the Grizzlies got thumped at home 68-6 by the Vikings.

North Woods got a preview of how potent the Vikings' offense could be during a pre-season scrimmage at Mt. Iron-Buhl, and L-BF gave the Grizzlies a reminder of that on their first series. Taking the ball at their own 45 and keeping it on the ground the Vikings needed just five plays to score their first touchdown of the night, a nine-yard touchdown by Anthony Boorman that with the conversion put them up 8-0 at the 9:23 mark.

Right: Trajen Barto goes up high for a reception during last Friday's contest with Littlefork-Big Falls.

photo by D. Colburn

After the ensuing kickoff, North Woods opened up with a little razzle-dazzle, with quarterback Trajen Barto circling out of the backfield to receive a sideline pass from Talen Jarshaw, good for 13 yards and a first down near midfield. The Grizzlies recovered from an errant snap that pushed them back to their own 30 on a pair of big runs by Kaden Gornick that gave them a first down at the Vikings 41. Two plays later a pass from Barto to Jarshaw took the ball to the L-BF 14, which is where the Grizzlies imploded. A facemask penalty pushed the ball

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B



VOLLEYBALL

Wolves challenged in weekend tournament

Easily top Duluth Marshall at home on Tuesday

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

BURNSVILLE — The Timberwolves put their perfect season record to the ultimate test here this past weekend when they faced off against a bevy of the toughest volleyball squads in the state — and proved competitive if far from dominant.

The Wolves made the trip without one of their top hitters in the lineup, as senior Hannah Penke rolled her ankle during practice the night before. Her absence forced the Wolves from their usual 6-2 offense to a 5-1 at the last minute. While Head Coach Megan Wognum said the team did a great job of adjusting, Penke's presence could well have made the difference in many of the weekend's close matches.

As it was, the Wolves dropped all five matches in the weekend's action but had several close sets playing against several of the top-seeded Class A teams in the state, including first-ranked Minneota, which topped the Wolves 25-16, 25-21. Against fourth-ranked Kenyon-Wanamingo, they slipped 16-25, 27-25 and fell to 15th-ranked Spring Grove 25-14, 25-23.

They fell 25-9, 25-21 to Bethlehem Academy, ranked fifth in Class A by the *Star Tribune*, and took one of three

See VOLLEYBALL...pg. 2B

SWIMMING

NER-Ely swimmers post win and narrow loss

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

BABBITT — The Northeast Range-Ely swim team notched a 90-77 win here, on Sept. 14, against Duluth Denfeld on the strength of eight first-place finishes.

Anna Larson, Tuuli Koivisto, and Via DeBeltz led the way with at least three first place finishes apiece.

In individual events, DeBeltz took first in the 200 IM with a time of 2:52.89, just edging Koivisto, who finished second with a time of 2:53.12. DeBeltz also took first in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:23.52. Koivisto claimed first in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:20.30, while Larson took first in the 500 freestyle with a time of 6:33.52.

Alli Krekelberg blew the field away

See SWIMMING...pg. 2B

CROSS COUNTRY

Ely posts strong times at Grand Rapids meet

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

GRAND RAPIDS— Ely runners finished in third place among nine teams at the Sept. 19 Paul Bauer Invitational here.

Freshman Molly Brophy led the way for Ely with a 13th-place finish in a field of 78 runners with a time of 20:57.6. Ely freshman Mattie Lindsay was close behind in 16th place with a time of 21:34.1. Senior Claire Blauch

came in at 25th place with a time of 22:17.2. Senior Grace LaTourell and sophomore Elsa Ellerbroek came in 37th and 38th respectively with times of 24:05.2 and 24:07. For the boys, junior Caid

Chittum dominated for Ely, finishing in tenth place in a field of 101 racers with a time of 17:46.2. Freshman Brooks Brenny finished in the 43rd spot with a time of 19:36. Other Ely runners finished in the middle of the pack

as Ely boys took eighth-place as a team among 13 teams. Ely runners were set to compete Thursday in Hibbing.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

back to the 36, and then Barto was intercepted at the 25, with L-BF defender A.J. Knaeble taking the ball 75 yards for a pick-six. The two-point conversion gave the Vikings a 16-0 lead.

Energized by the turnover and score, the Vikings shut down the next North Woods possession on four downs and took over at the Grizzlies 49. An illegal chop block penalty left the Vikings staring at a third-and-21 from their own 40, but L-BF caught the Grizzlies defense off guard with some misdirection as Knaeble raced 60 yards for the Vikings' third TD of the quarter. After the successful

conversion North Woods was looking at a 24-0 deficit with 1:10 left in the opening stanza.

The Vikings kept right on rolling in the second period while the Grizzlies couldn't get anything going on offense. L-BF snuffed out a North Woods drive with another interception and the Vikings punched the ball into the endzone three more times for a 48-0 halftime lead.

North Woods received the kick to start the second half and promptly fumbled the ball away with L-BF recovering at the Grizzlies 46. Five plays later they were in the end zone again

for a 54-0 lead.

The Grizzlies offense finally showed some life when they got the ball back, moving from their own 42 to the L-BF 16 on big pass plays to Rogelio Noyes and John Warren. A roughing the passer penalty gave North Woods a first-and-goal at the L-BF eight, but Barto was picked off again on fourth down to end the scoring threat. L-BF responded with a 75-yard drive for a touchdown and a 62-0 lead at the end of the quarter.

With the clock running in the fourth quarter, the Grizzlies finally engineered their first touchdown since

the first half of their opening game against Lake of the Woods on Aug. 31. Starting at their own 45 after the kick, L-BF gave the Grizzlies an immediate gift with a pass interference penalty that moved the ball to the Vikings 40. On fourth-and-eight from the 38, the Grizzlies ran the same play they opened the game with again, and the Jarshaw-to-Barto completion gave them a first down at the L-BF 25. A pass down the middle to Noyes set the Grizzlies up at the L-BF 11, and then Barto connected with Mason Rutchasky in the corner of the end zone for the touchdown.

The two-point conversion failed, leaving the score 62-6.

The Vikings had one more big play in their arsenal, a 60-yard touchdown run by Levi Thydean with 2:20 remaining to account for the 68-6 final.

Gornick led the Grizzlies rushing attack with 72 yards on 14 carries. Jarshaw picked up 30 yards on five totes. Barto was seven-of-15 through the air for 84 yards and a touchdown and three interceptions. Jarshaw was two-for-two for 27 yards. The Grizzlies spread the ball around this game, with six different players catching passes,

Noyes leading the way with two receptions for 31 yards.

Defensively, Gornick garnered seven solo tackles and an assist, while Jarshaw and Carson Johnson each had four solo tackles.

The Grizzlies were scheduled to be on the road at Cass Lake-Bena for this Friday's contest with an opportunity to get back into the win column. The Panthers, like North Woods, are 1-3 on the season, both with wins over Lake of the Woods. The Panthers have given up 214 points in their three losses.

FOOTBALL...Continued from page 1B

The Wolves had another opportunity later in the quarter when senior Chase Anderson stripped the ball from a Chisholm rusher, giving Ely a first-and-ten at midfield. "But we just couldn't get anything going," said Gerzin.

"Chisholm's defense pushed us back on our heels."

Improving their offensive performance remains key for the Wolves as they prepare to host Braham on Friday. "Until we can consistently put points on

the board, that's going to continue to be our focus," said Gerzin.

The Wolves did show some progress against Chisholm. For the first time all season, the Wolves turned to the pass with some regularity. Richards had

some success, racking up 53 yards passing, including his touchdown strike to Merriman and a 40-yard completion to junior receiver Brady Eaton.

Marshall racked up 50 rushing, including his second quarter touchdown,

while Richards scrambled for 42 yards.

Anderson led the way on defense with ten tackles and his fumble recovery. Sophomore Jesse Oelke posted seven tackles, while Rohr added four tackles and his fumble recovery.

Senior Matt Bock tallied five tackles while senior Braydin Mosher posted three.

SWIMMING...Continued from page 1B

in the 100 butterfly, with a time of 1:21.77, topping the second-place finisher by nearly 15 seconds. Alyssa Ice held on to win the 50 freestyle with a time of 28:01, just edging teammate Larson by 0.12

seconds.

In relay action, the team of Ice, Koivisto, Krekelberg, and Swenson totally dominated the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 4:33.23, a full 17 seconds ahead of the second place

team.

In the 200 medley relay, Koivisto, DeBeltz, Larson, and Emilia Swenson claimed first with a time of 2:17.57, nearly nine seconds ahead of the second-place finishers.

Swimming in Chisholm last Thursday, the Bluestreaks narrowly edged NER-Ely, 46-42.

DeBeltz had another strong performance, with a first place in the 200 freestyle, with a time of

2:20.13, 11 seconds faster than the second-place finisher. She also took first in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:23.91. Koivisto took first in the 500 freestyle with a time of 6:31.76.

The team will compete

Saturday at Mesabi East. They'll be at Rock Ridge next Tuesday.

NW GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

The Vikings of L-BF met a similar fate on Monday. The Grizzlies streaked to a 9-0 lead in the first set with Tori Olson serving and Addy Hartway collecting a pair of kills and a block, and North Woods breezed to a 25-11 win. L-BF got on the board earlier in the second set, but that was the only plus for the Vikings in another easy win for the Grizzlies 25-12.

The third set was more of a contest, with L-BF leading by as many as three in the early going and fighting toe-to-toe with the Grizzlies up through a 15-15 tie. Another Hartway block gave the Grizzlies the lead for good at 16-15, and Isabel Pascuzzi slammed a kill shot that ignited a run that put North Woods up 21-15. Madison Dantes closed out the 25-17 win with an ace, chalking up

another 3-0 win for the Grizzlies.

North Woods had one of the better records in the nine-team field at the Rock Ridge tourney in Eveleth, and wasted little time showing why, dispatching Cherry and Nashwauk-Keewatin in morning pool play with identical 2-0 match wins.

That performance put North Woods into the afternoon's toughest pool, a welcome position for the Grizzlies as it gave them the opportunity to avenge their only loss of the season to South Ridge.

The Panthers were up first in the afternoon session, and North Woods was more than amped up for the challenge, bolting out to a somewhat surprising 19-9 lead over the taller South Ridge six. But the Panthers wouldn't let this one slip

away without a fight as they steadily cut into the North Woods lead. With North Woods serving at set point, 24-20, the Panthers reeled off three scoring plays before the Grizzlies' Lauren Burnett crushed their comeback hopes with a kill to give North Woods a 25-23 win.

The Grizzlies took an early 5-0 lead in the second set, but South Ridge came back to tie the score at 10-10. Then it was the Grizzlies turn to play catch up, which they did, tying the score again at 15-15 on a Pascuzzi kill. But the Panthers took advantage of a couple of North Woods miscues to forge a 22-18 lead, and went on to force a third set with a 25-21 win.

As with the first two sets, North Woods got off to a quick start, leading 7-2. The Panthers reeled off

three points after taking a time out, and Head Coach Kandi Olson decided a time out was in order for the Grizzlies. North Woods went back up by five, 10-5, and moments later held a 12-8 advantage. The Panthers pulled to within one at 13-12 when Olson used another time out. Coming out of the break, Burnett scored the final two Grizzlies points including the set and match winner, a sizzling cross-court kill for the 15-13 win.

Olson said she was concerned about a possible let-down after the big South Ridge win, and Cromwell-Wright was clearly up to the challenge in the final match of the day. The two teams had the entire gym to themselves as the other pools had finished play, and the first set was a dogfight, with eight ties up through

14-14. The Cardinals took the lead, but North Woods tied the set again at 19-19. C-W went up by two on a pair of kills and closed out the set with another to win 25-22.

The Cardinals carried that momentum into the second set, going up 5-0 and 11-6 before the Grizzlies made their move. With Dantes serving the Grizzlies turned the table and went up 13-11 before the Cardinals took back the serve. But the Grizzlies still had momentum on their side and pulled away for a 25-18 win.

The third set was another tight affair, with the teams tied at four, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, and 12. But a pair of Grizzlies miscues gave C-W match point at 14-12, and the Cardinals closed it out with a kill to win the match 2-1,

handing North Woods only their second defeat of the season.

Olson was pleased with her team's overall performance, most notably their ability to adapt to the different styles of play they encountered during the tourney. Adapting to opponents had been a focus in recent practices, Olson said, and she was happy to see the team put into practice some of the things they'd worked on.

North Woods was scheduled to play Northeast Range at home on Thursday, and then travel to Ely on Tuesday. North Woods could possibly face both teams again when all three participate in a tournament at Mesabi East on Saturday, Oct. 7.

VOLLEYBALL...Continued from page 1B

sets against 20th-ranked Kittson County Central.

"Overall, I am so proud of how we battled,"

said Wognum. "This past weekend taught us how to persevere and push through a tough situation and adjust

when needed. We gave some of the teams there a pretty good run. It makes me incredibly excited for the future for our team."

With Penke out of the lineup, much of the net work was left to Ely junior Lilli Rechichi, who posted 49 kills, along with 44 digs, in the five matches played Friday and Saturday. Freshman Audrey Kallberg, who has

been showing increasing promise all season, pitched in with 19 kills and 30 digs over the weekend, while senior setter Sarah Visser tallied 84 assists.

Ely tops Duluth Marshall

Playing back in Ely on Tuesday, the Wolves got back to their winning ways against Section 7 competition, easily outpacing the

Hilltoppers after a grueling opening set, winning 30-28, 25-9, and 25-12, again without Hannah Penke in the lineup.

Audrey Kallberg stepped up to fill her shoes on Tuesday, pounding out 11 kills and 17 digs to lead the team on the stats board. Clare Thomas had a strong outing as well, posting nine kills and seven digs.

Sarah Visser posted

30 assists, eight digs, and five ace serves while Lilli Rechichi added ten kills.

The Wolves have the weekend off before heading to Babbitt to take on Northeast Range. They'll host 11-2 North Woods on Tuesday in what looks to be the big matchup of the week in Section 7.

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TOWER-SOUDAN HISTORY

Just who was Charlemagne Tower?

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Featured speaker at historical society annual meeting highlighted the life of Tower's namesake

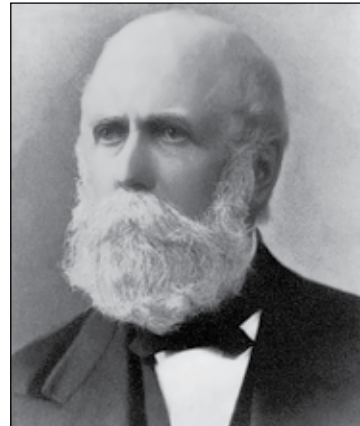
TOWER- Amateur historian Mary Palcich Keyes has plenty to say about Tower's namesake, Charlemagne Tower, whose name lives on even though he never visited the area. During a talk presented at the Tower-Soudan Historical Society's annual meeting on Sept. 14, she said that reading about TSHS's rummage sale, named Charlemagne's Attic, piqued her interest.

"It made me think I needed to learn more about Charlemagne," she said. "I began to do research in early 2021, during those difficult days of COVID. It removed me a little bit from the world we were living in."

Keyes is no stranger to local history. A high school teacher by profession, she also taught classes on Minnesota history and historical research at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. When she and her husband Joe returned to Hibbing in 2003, they opened a bookstore. She writes the "Years of Yore," column on Iron Range history for the *Mesabi Tribune*, and other history articles for the *Hometown Focus*. Keyes holds leadership roles in the Hibbing Historical Society and represents the society on the St. Louis County Historical Society Board of Governors.

Tower was born in 1809 in Paris, N.Y., the oldest of eight children. Keyes said she never found if he went by a nickname, or simply Charlemagne. Records show, she said, he was a direct descendent of the original Charlemagne, called Charles the Great, a king who eventually ruled the Roman Empire from 800 until his death in 814 AD.

Tower became a teacher at age 14, then at 17 attended Harvard, graduating in three years, Keyes said. After graduating, he began to study law and in 1836 was admitted to the bar. He married in 1847 and had seven



Charlemagne Tower Sr.



Mary Palcich Keyes



Mine workers pose atop rail cars at the Soudan Mine, circa 1895.

children. Six were girls, his son, also named Charlemagne, went by Charlie. And this is the member of the Tower family who did visit his father's namesake city.

Keyes talked about Tower Sr.'s colorful business history. He specialized in legal issues around land claims, and soon was speculating on land claims with various partners. In 1861, he funded his own unit for the Union Army, calling it the Tower Guards, paying for the uniforms and arms for the 270 men he recruited. Though he never served in battle, he was

given the rank of Captain. He continued recruiting men for the Union army, often using nefarious means to get enlistees, sending militias to round up union-supporting workers from coal mines in Pennsylvania. Tower Sr. had many connections with mine owners who were eager to get rid of troublesome employees.

After the civil war, he focused his interest on land acquisitions, Keyes said, securing high-grade coal deposits which eventually netted him over a million dollars in profits. It was

at this point his interests started merging with those searching for iron ore in the upper Midwest. At that point he was investing in railroads and became interested in the ore found on the Mesabi Range. He worked with George Stone, Jay Cooke, Albert Chester, and George Stuntz— names now memorialized in this area.

Stone urged Tower Sr. to purchase lands around Lake Vermilion. The land was available for qualified homesteaders, and Stone, using funds from Tower Sr., would help men make a claim, and then the claim would "fail," and the homesteader could sell their land back to Tower at a profit.

"The government didn't seem to care that the land hadn't been improved," said Keyes, "The land was remote, swampy, and rocky. No one except a handful knew that some of these parcels would be worth millions."

Tower Sr. also acquired land along the North Shore of Superior, to build a harbor, and secured land to build a railroad from the shore to Vermilion.

"They used a route that the Native Americans had used for thousands of years," she said.

Keyes talked about the contribution of Ojibwe guides to the exploration and initial mining efforts. Guides would carry weekly reports from the Lake Vermilion area to Duluth, running the almost 90 miles through trails on foot. From Duluth, the reports were sent by telegraph to Tower Sr. in Pennsylvania. The ore deposits, which the native Ojibwe had shown to Stuntz, tested out at 50 to 70-percent pure iron.

The Minnesota Iron Company was incorporated in 1882, with Charlemagne Jr. as the treasurer. He came to Minnesota to oversee the construction of the railroad, writing daily letters back to his father noting

the progress. Tower Sr. then recruited the Ely brothers, Samuel and George, who had successful iron mine holdings in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, to invest in the new mine. They brought 350 men, women, and children from the UP to start mining operations, and on July 31, 1884, the first shipment of ore was sent from the Soudan Mine to the new harbor on Lake Superior.

Charlie Jr. sent a telegram that day to his father, "all well contented with our day," it read.

"Charlemagne Tower's money and willingness to take a risk was responsible for the mining operation," Keyes said. Tower Sr. soon sold the mining interests for \$6.4 million, not getting a full return on his investments. He died in 1889.

Charlie Jr. stayed in Duluth until 1887, when he moved back to Philadelphia to teach. A few years later, he was named by President William McKinley as ambassador to Austria, and later served as ambassador in Russia and Germany before returning to the states. He died in 1923.

Mary Palcich Keyes said her research included newspaper articles, such as the *Duluth News Tribune*, from Feb. 4, 1979 and July 1, 1984. Another important resource is "Minnesota's Iron Country," by Marvin Lamma (out of print but available at area libraries), as well as "Iron Millionaire," by Hal Bridges. There are Wikipedia entries for both Charlemagne Sr. and Jr. that have good information, she said, and the Tower-Soudan Historical Society has some articles as well.

"Lake Vermilion- Memories of the Early Days" also is a good resource on the early days of Tower and Soudan, and is available for purchase at the *Timberjay* office in Tower.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Judy B. Stapleton

Judy B. Stapleton, 82, of Mt. Iron, formerly of Tower, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023, at Essentia Health - St. Mary's Medical Center Hospice Unit in Duluth. The family would like to thank St. Mary's Hospice team for their care and compassion shown to Judy. A Memorial Mass was held on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia with Rev. Fr. Peter Lambert as celebrant. Burial will be at a later date in Calvary Cemetery in Virginia. Memorials are preferred. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Judy was born on July 19, 1941, in Virginia, to Edward and Margaret Lambert Golden and graduated from Mt. Iron High School in 1959. In 1960 she married her high

school sweetheart, Larry Wayne Peterson. Judy was a stay-at-home mother until her three children were in school, then she worked at Plaza Hardware in Virginia and at Marttila Drugs in Tower until her cancer diagnosis in 2007. Judy married Allan Stapleton on June 29, 2003, in Tower.

She is survived by her husband, Allan of Mt. Iron; his children, Jeffrey (Lisa), Thomas (Vicki), Dale, and Roxanne (Dave) Ferrian; her daughter, Tammy (Brad) Hejda; her sons, Daniel (Cathy) Peterson and David R. Peterson; seven grandchildren, Jason Ness, Casey Ness, Bradley Peterson, Brent Peterson, Danielle (Brian) Wagenbach, Amanda (Don) LeBlanc and Dylan Peterson; twelve great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; brother, John Gold-

en; sister-in-law, Kathy Golden; and brothers-in-law, Robert Peterson and Edward (Kathy) Peterson.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Larry; brother, Michael E. Golden; brother and sister-in-law, Floyd and Mary Ann Peterson; sister-in-law, Janice Peterson; and Allan's son, Allan Stapleton, Jr.

Donald M. Halunen

Donald M. Halunen, 87, of Virginia and Lake Vermilion, died peacefully on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023, surrounded by his loving family at Edgewood Senior Living Community. A memorial service was held on Thursday, Sept. 28 at Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church in Virginia. Military honors were accorded by the Virginia Serviceman's Honor Guard. Inurnment was

in the Calvary Cemetery Columbarium. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, PO Box 659, Tower, MN 55790. Family services were provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by three children, Dawn (Michael) Johnson of Northbrook, Ill., Robert Halunen of Virginia and Clayton Halunen (David Duddingston) of Minneapolis and Lake Vermilion; grandchildren, Drew Halunen, Dane Halunen, Cameron Johnson and Ellis Johnson; sisters, Pat Willis and Gayle Moorhead; brothers, Rodney Halunen and Danial Nakari; nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

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Above: A colorful shoreline along the Pike River Flowage is reflected on still morning water.

Center: Red maple leaves surround the tall trunk of a quaking aspen.

Left: Brilliant scarlet maple leaves.

Below: Leaves of a wild sarsaparilla reflect the colors of the season.



Above left: Mottled maple leaves backlit by weak sunshine.

Above right: Dogwood leaves shine in burgundy near Six Mile Lake.

Far left: Orange maple leaves nearly obscure the trunk of a red pine.

Left: Yellow ash and aspen leaves gather between rocks in the West Two River.



HUNTING

Bear harvest could be lowest in decades

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor



REGIONAL — Abundant natural foods and continued warm temperatures appear to have given bears the edge during the 2023 bear season, with registrations off 25 percent from last year. With just over two weeks left in the season, it's looking like the total harvest will come in close to 1,500 animals. That would be less than half of the 3,203 bears registered during the 2020 season and it would mark the third straight year of declining bear registrations. At the current pace, the total harvest could wind up below the 2014 harvest of 1,627 bears, which would make the lowest harvest in more than 20 years.

"We knew the harvest would be down this year due to an abundance of natural foods, so I am not surprised by these numbers," said DNR Tower Area Wildlife Manager Jessica Holmes.

Locally, numbers are down as well from previous years. A total of 318 bears had been registered as of late last week in permit areas 24, 25, and 31, including just 28 bears in PA 24. By contrast, bear registrations in PA 25 are actually up slightly over last year, while registrations in PA 31 are down more than 25 percent.

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.

The strong natural food crop this year has helped reduce the percentage of female bears taken by hunters. Male bears are currently comprising 67 percent of the total registrations. Since females are critical to population recovery, the relatively low percentage of female bears in this year's harvest bodes well for reproduction next year.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
65 56					73 58					75 59					74 54					71 53				
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.
09/18	58	42	0.00		09/18	59	43	0.00		09/18	60	49	0.00		09/18	72	46	0.01		09/18	57	45	0.00	
09/19	66	41	0.00		09/19	69	49	0.00		09/19	70	50	0.00		09/19	73	50	0.00		09/19	69	47	0.00	
09/20	68	52	0.00		09/20	69	51	0.00		09/20	70	49	0.00		09/20	81	55	0.00		09/20	64	47	0.00	
09/21	80	54	0.00		09/21	80	52	0.00		09/21	80	55	0.00		09/21	81	52	0.00		09/21	80	51	0.00	
09/22	79	57	0.00		09/22	81	52	0.05		09/22	76	55	0.01		09/22	81	52	0.16		09/22	81	52	0.12	
09/23	77	57	0.21		09/23	77	56	0.08		09/23	76	56	0.02		09/23	83	61	0.00		09/23	78	57	0.00	
09/24	62	55	0.57		09/24	63	55	2.07		09/24	63	57	1.67		09/24	61	55	2.05		09/24	62	56	1.68	
YTD Total 19.14					YTD Total 21.29					YTD Total 15.63					YTD Total NA					YTD Total 19.31				

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

North Country Trail chapter organized in Ely

by **CATIE CLARK**
Ely Editor

ELY- The North Country National Scenic Trail is coming to Ely and you can help make it happen. Area hiking enthusiasts have formed a new local chapter of the North Country Trail Association and held their first official meeting earlier this week at the Grand Ely Lodge. The new Ely chapter was officially recognized by the North Country Trail Association on Sept. 13.

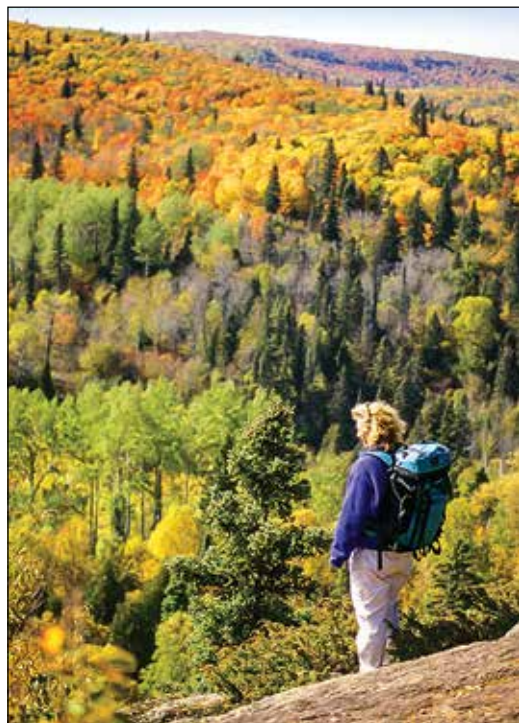
The North Country National Scenic Trail is one of the eleven federally designated trails in the national scenic trail system and runs 4,800-miles from Vermont to North Dakota.

The Minnesota portion of the trail has recently been rerouted to go through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Ely. In fact, Ely's Sheridan Street is now part of the trail, so don't be surprised if the trail's official blue blazes start showing up in and out of town, and maybe even down Sheridan Street itself.

New chapter

The local trail enthusiasts who have been working to set up the local chapter have been making the rounds of local gatherings to spread the word. Organizers recently spoke to a packed house at the Sept. 12 Tuesday Group meeting at the Grand Ely Lodge. Jeff Pike explained what the national scenic trail system is and how it's maintained, using both local volunteers and personnel from the National Park Service, which provides oversight and management of the trail system.

"And then they work with local agencies, state agencies, and ... (groups like) the North Country Trail Association, which is a non-profit." He said local chapters and their volunteers provide the boots on



Left: An overlook on the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota. The 4,800-mile trail will pass through Ely and Tower-Soudan.

the ground, to make the whole thing happen. Those who didn't make this week's meeting but are interested in being part of the effort should contact Ozzie Reif at 218-235-3233.

Trail, the Kekekabic Trail, and the Border Route Trail.

Reif also outlined the new chapter's ambitions: "We want Ely to become a trail town, officially." A trail town designation means that a community is on the path of the trail, has the trail signage in and out of town, is ready to provide hiker services, and has the active cooperation of the local community government.

"Becoming a trail town does take the (city) council and the Parks and Rec board wanting it to happen ... So that's one of the next steps coming up is doing that sort of formal relationship building with (Ely)," Reif added. Other Minnesota communities that already have the trail town designation include Fergus Falls, Marshall, and Grand Marais.

Trail maintenance
The main purpose of the local trail chapter will be to blaze, create, and maintain the portions of the North Country Trail in the greater-Ely area. Much of this trail will be new and the local chapter will be responsible for picking its route.

"We have a 15-mile stretch from Kawishiwi Falls to Bear Head Lake State Park," said Ozzie Reif, another speaker at the Sept. 12 Tuesday Group meeting. Reif outlined the efforts of neighboring local trail chapters, especially immediately east of Ely, where the Kekekabic Chapter is working on the trail near Fernberg Rd.

The trail in Minnesota encompasses several already-established trails such as the Superior Hiking

town does take the (city) council and the Parks and Rec board wanting it to happen ... So that's one of the next steps coming up is doing that sort of formal relationship building with (Ely)," Reif added. Other Minnesota communities that already have the trail town designation include Fergus Falls, Marshall, and Grand Marais.

For more
For more information on the Ely chapter, check out their Facebook page, at "NCTA Ely Northwoods Chapter." Membership in the Ely Northwoods chapter is \$40. The group is actively recruiting.

"We need more members," Reif explained. "We need more volunteers. You can volunteer without being a member if you don't want to pay the yearly \$40 annual membership fee, but you get some cool stickers if you do."

Wild turkey season opens Saturday

REGIONAL— It still seems strange to say it here in the North Country, but the turkey season opens Saturday.

The fall turkey hunting season offers hunters a challenge and another way to experience the outdoors and enjoy the fall colors.

Hunters are allowed to take one turkey of either sex during the fall season. Fall turkey hunters may use a crossbow, firearm or archery equipment afield. Fall turkey licenses are available for purchase online, by telephone by calling 888-665-4236 or in person anywhere Minnesota DNR licenses are sold.

More information about fall turkey hunting is available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/hunting/turkey). People wanting to learn more about fall turkey hunting can register for a webinar on Wednesday, Oct. 4. Ryan Tebo, a Minnesota DNR wildlife manager, will discuss fall turkey hunting. Registration for the webinar is available on the Minnesota DNR website at mndnr.gov/discover.



CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.



CLEAN

- Boats, PWCs, trailers, and gear
- Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, skis, wakeboards, ropes, and life jackets before leaving



DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, ballast tanks, and bladders. PWCs - run motor for 10 seconds to blow water out of jet drive
- 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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EMPLOYMENT



OPENINGS

Vermilion Country School (VCS) is seeking applicants for the following positions:

1 FT Paraprofessional (full-time, benefits eligible) High school diploma required.

1 Van Driver (part time - 15-19 hours per week) Current Driver's License Required, CDL not required)

For inquiries, contact
 info@vermilioncountry.org
 and/or 218-248-2485



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OPEN POSITIONS 10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Care Center
 FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.79/hr., \$1,500 sign-on bonus)
 PT Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse (RN wage starting at \$36.22/hr; \$4,000 sign-on bonus. LPN wage starting at \$22.02/hr; \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

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
 Casual Laundry Aide

Radiology
 FT Radiologic Technologist (\$4,000 sign-on bonus)
 FT Ultrasound Technician
 Casual Radiologic Tech
 (Independent Contractor, weekend only)

TO APPLY:
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humanresources@cookhospital.org

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POSITION OPENING

Ely Public Schools

Indigenous Support Interventionist

Ely Public Schools is looking for an Indigenous Support Interventionist for the 2023-2024 school year. A background check is required.

Flexible Schedule • 6.5 hours/day
 Starting Pay \$18.00/hour - Pending Federal Funding

Qualifications include:
 ➤ AA Degree or 2 years of college preferred
 ➤ Indigenous preference
 ➤ Preferred experience working with school age children
 ➤ Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting

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

A complete application must include the following:
 ➤ Non-Licensed District Application
 ➤ Resume
 ➤ 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us

Deadline to apply: Oct 9, 2023; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 29 & Oct. 6, 2023

Recruiter

Closes: 10/04/2023

Position Purpose: The Recruiter develops and maintains relationships with Bois Forte Tribal Government employees by promoting employee engagement and developing programs to ensure that the best possible talent is hired and develops and executes an effective recruitment plan to include posting and advertising open positions, assessing, pre-screening and interviewing candidates.

Excellent Benefits:
 Single Medical & Dental - Free • Annual Leave • Sick Leave • 401k match • 15 paid holidays • Flex Plan • Life Insurance • LTD
 • Voluntary Benefits available by payroll deduction

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

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 29, 2023

Legacy Project Manager

Closes: 10/03/2023

Position Purpose: The Legacy Project Manager coordinates and serves as liaison between content producers and other independent contractors engaged by KBFT radio, to oversee and document Legacy Amendment projects, including photographer(s), videographer(s) and/or engineer(s) for recording live broadcasts. The incumbent is responsible for executing the purpose of the 2013 Legacy amendment, which supports arts, art education and access to the arts, preserves Minnesota's history and cultural heritage.

Excellent Benefits:
 Single Medical & Dental - Free • Annual Leave • Sick Leave • 401k match • 15 paid holidays • Flex Plan • Life Insurance • LTD
 • Voluntary Benefits available by payroll deduction

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

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 22 & 29, 2023

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File
No. 69VI-PR-23-136

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

Ralph Alan Hujanen, aka Ralph Allen Hujanen, Ralph A. Hujanen, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on October 16, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. a hearing will be held in this Court at 300 5th Ave. South, Virginia, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Jesse A. Hujanen, whose address is 7536 Hwy 135 N, Embarrass, MN 55732, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

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

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: September 5, 2023

BY THE COURT

Michelle Anderson
 Judge of District Court
 Amy Turnquist
 Court Administrator
 Chelsea Opdahl, as Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner
 Angela E. Sipila
 Sipila Law Office LLC 412 1st Street S, Suite 1
 Virginia, MN, 55792
 Attorney License No: 024501X
 Telephone: (218) 741-5000
 Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 22 & 29, 2023

King Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16			17				
18				19			20					
				21			22		23			
24	25	26					27		28		29	30
31				32					33		34	
35			36		37					38		
			39		40		41					
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49						50				51		
52						53				54		
55						56				57		

ACROSS
 1 Filly's brother
 5 Group of seals
 8 Old U.S. gas brand
 12 Sandwich cookie
 13 Sailor's "yes"
 14 "Pygmalion" writer
 15 Nevada city
 16 Tropical fruit
 18 Nebraska river
 20 Demons
 21 Towel word
 23 Bol. neighbor
 24 Engages in make-believe
 28 Tibia's place
 31 PC key
 32 Hotel offering
 34 Bond rating
 35 Brusque
 37 Tormenting
 39 Spanish gold
 41 IRS agent
 42 Rustic homes
 45 TV type
 49 Table protector
 51 Inky stain
 52 Italian wine region
 53 Notable time
 54 Booty
 55 Slugger Sammy
 56 Letter sealer

DOWN
 1 Business abbr.
 2 Hurler
 3 Sultry Horne
 4 Like some grins
 5 Drink-to-go holder
 6 Popeye's Olive
 7 Hearing-impaired
 8 Aromatic

57 Like custard compounds Fleming
 9 Chinese city
 10 Uttered
 11 Has
 17 Actress Long
 19 Afternoon affairs
 22 Long-legged shorebird
 24 Chest muscle
 25 Baton Rouge sch.
 26 Circus gymnasts
 27 Short-lived levy of 1765
 29 Author

30 Pester
 33 Alike (Fr.)
 36 One of the Nixons
 38 Powerless
 40 Low digit
 42 Bookkeepers (Abbr.)
 43 To boot
 44 Diving duck
 46 Trudge
 47 Synthesizer pioneer
 48 ABA member
 50 Notre Dame's Parseghian

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CryptoQuote

XYDLBAAXR
 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.

M DSU'W WTMUP LQ SUC
 ZJWWJF FJVJGJUWWSMLU LQ
 ZJSXWC WTSU GLHJLUJ ITL MG
 XUSQFSME WL ZJ TJFGJYQ.

- JHHS GWLUJ

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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: O equals M

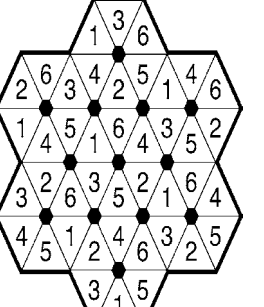
IFJM KDW BEDTJ KDWT ODMJK
 PTDO IDTU CMBRCRJ V PDDEJR
 YVBJ, C TJXUDM KDW'R FVYJ
 WTMJR CMXDOJ.

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Super Crossword

Answers

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



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS



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

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

PET CREMATION

VISIT VermilionPetCremation.com or call 218-780-8069 for pet cremation details and rates.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Ely AA OPEN GROUP MEETINGS- in person meetings, Wednesdays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 915 E Camp St., Ely.

MS SUPPORT GROUP- meets the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building, senior room. Open to all. For information contact Mary at 218-827-8327.

ORR AA meets Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Orr.

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

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP- Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Al-Anon Family Group is a community-based mutual support program for the friends and families of alcoholics. It is confidential and open to anyone affected by someone else's drinking. Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass hosts an Al-Anon group on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. 218-984-2037.

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

AA MEETING IN COOK- Sunday Night Big Book Group meets at Trinity Lutheran Church, 231 2nd St. NE, Cook, at 7:00 pm Sunday. For information call 218-666-2820 or 218-780-7670.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SNOWFLAKES
by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: **◆◆◆◆**

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆◆ Difficult

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King Crossword
Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

COLT	POD	ESSO																
OREO	AYE	SHAW																
RENO	PLANTA	IN																
PLATTE	FIENDS																	
	HERS	ARG																
PLAY	ACTS	SHIN																
ESC	SUITE	AAA																
CURT	PLAGU	ING																
	ORO	TMAN																
CABINS	PLASMA																	
PLACEMAT	BLOT																	
ASTI	ERA	LOOT																
SOSA	WAX	EGG																

CryptoQuip
answer

When you store your money from work inside a footed vase, I reckon you'd have urred income.

CryptoQuote
answer

I can't think of any better representation of beauty than someone who is unafraid to be herself.
- Emma Stone

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

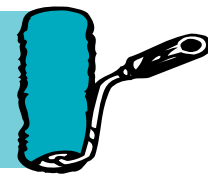
Super Crossword OH NO!

ACROSS
1 Vermicelli, e.g.
6 Commercial spots
9 16th-century pope
14 Olympic length unit
19 Had a dull, steady pain
20 Chart topper, often
22 Cockeyed
23 Hidden stockpiles of certain infield bags?
25 Low-pH liquids
26 Certain Southern sib
27 Tax doc. whiz
28 Lead-in to Pen
30 Ranch unit
31 Grassy tract
34 Instructions for securing a bottle with a screw cap?
39 Gods, in Italy
40 Some thin batteries
43 Owner of Zipcar
44 Promotional links
45 Dad providing the finances?
49 Cottage cheese piece
50 Reject, as a lover
51 Turner of "Betrayed"
52 Sashimi fish
53 Jestng type
56 Bane of not knowing which college major to choose?
62 Vigoda of old TV and film
65 Hirer of many 27-Acrosses, for short
66 Skyrocket
67 Toll highway
68 Chemistry class cost
70 Like the letter O in this puzzle's entire solution
73 Applies drippings to
75 Brain flash
76 Hajj city
77 "Palooka" actor Erwin
78 She's shearable
79 Design of a three-masted ship?
86 "The Addams Family" cousin
87 Swivel on an axis
88 Ribald
89 Org. against pet abuse
93 "Will you let me?"
94 Reiner or Sagan wearing a Santa suit?
98 Hawaiian porches
101 Diminish
102 Malevolent
103 Eat dinner
104 British apartment doubling as a malt shop?
107 Ticks by
110 Sister of Meg, Jo and Amy
111 Diminish
112 Comedic actress Issa
115 Fit for the job
116 Lauder of makeup
118 Famous German taleter
119 who lived in a farm building?
125 Rhythmic swings
126 Rhythmic way to march
127 Strike hard, biblical-style
128 Very inclined
129 Dutch cheeses
130 Stitch clothes
131 Consequently

DOWN
1 Butter square
2 Frau's "Alas!"
3 Small, agile Japanese dog breed
4 Irwin of "Crikey! It's the Irwins"
5 "Puff" snake
6 "I have it!"
7 Part of DVD
8 Stride
9 Actress Zadora
10 Business mag
11 "I hate it!"
12 Precipitates cold pellets
13 Italian motor scooter brand
14 Hamm of soccer
15 Boxed up
16 Slow-paced martial art
17 Footballer's sweep
18 "Start over" buttons
21 "Begone!"
24 Queen guitarist May
29 Not off-key
31 Alternatives to JPEGs
32 Sign on for another tour of duty
33 Hawk cousins
35 Toddler's cry
36 "— got a feeling ..."
37 Geraint's title
38 Theoretical physicist Paul
41 Way yonder
42 Did karaoke
46 Joanne of "Red River"
47 Bellybutton type
48 Driveway goo
49 Adorable
52 Eldest son of Mitt Romney
53 Be the author of
54 Cockeyed
55 Duck cousins
57 Rapping "Dr."
58 Very, in music scores
59 Hwy. crime
60 Banquet liquid holder
61 Rival of DHL and FedEx
62 Perp's story
63 Having no knack for
64 Roger of "At the Movies"
69 E-help page
70 No more than
71 Former U.S. RR regulator
72 Educ. facility
73 A/C meas.
74 Subtle glows
76 Kihei's island
77 Perplex
80 Pan Am rival
81 Paris palace
82 Bi- plus one
83 Make lighter
84 Video surveillance syst.
85 PC key abbr.
90 Submits, as a test paper
91 Mötley —
92 High peaks
93 Jungle knife
94 Half- (java option)
95 "Good" cholesterol, for short
96 Lulu Hogg player Peggy
97 Imam's God
98 Vilifies in print
99 Scores 100 on the test
100 Stinging plant
101 Certain radio frequency range
105 Yippee Hoffman
106 Not false
108 Discomfit
109 Large feather
110 Livy's "Lo!"
117 Seer's "gift"
119 Sanyo rival
120 '60s war site
121 ENTs, e.g.
122 Hack down
123 & so forth
124 Once called



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