



**Inside:**  
**Questions remain about SROs... See /3**  
**More habitat for butterflies... See /10**  
**Fall sports action... See /1B**  
**A tomato with a story to tell...See /4B**

# The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

VOL. 34, ISSUE 39

October 6, 2023

\$1.50

## NORTHERN LAKES ARTS ASSOCIATION

### Ely's arts scene poised for growth

Merger under NLAA's talented new leadership portends entertainment ahead

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

ELY- When Ian Lah took the helm as executive artistic director of the Northern Lakes Arts Association in May of last year, he said he saw opportunity for growth. The 2012 graduate of Ely Memorial High School is a professionally trained actor,

singer, and dancer, and he was eager to prove that "investing in the arts only creates a more vibrant community."

Bringing growth and change to a longtime community organization is always a challenge, but Lah, along with a committed board of directors, has worked to expand the impact of the

35-year old arts organization in the area, recruiting professional actors to work alongside talented locals for the ambitious first-ever "Broadway in the Boundary Waters" 2023 summer season, and expanding opportunities for area youth in musical theater,

See...MERGER pg.10

Right: A recent production of "Songs for a New World" was among many offerings available this past summer thanks to the efforts of the Northern Lakes Arts Association.



## BOIS FORTE

### New health care vending machines go live Friday

New offerings available at Fortune Bay and Nett Lake C Store could save lives

by BRIAN K. ANDERSON  
Contributing Writer

TOWER—An innovation in public health is coming this Friday, Oct. 6, to the Bois Forte Reservation. That's when the Bois Forte will become the first tribe in Minnesota, and possibly the nation, to install, stock, and open public health vending machines for use by the public at Fortune Bay and the Nett Lake C Store.

"It will be a historic day for us that shows we want to do our part to provide a very important service to those struggling with addiction," said Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers. "However, the vending machines will carry many other useful products to help out our band members."

The public health vending machines which are being provided and funded by a HRSA grant awarded to the University of Minnesota-Duluth College of Pharmacy, Dr. Laura Polombi, and Johns Hopkins University, will carry lifesaving products such as the overdose reversal medication Naloxone, otherwise known as Narcan, that can help with a fentanyl overdose.

See...VENDING pg. 9

## SERVING THE COMMUNITY

### In Cook, the Lions ROAR!

Group celebrates 50 years of service to the area

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- Over the past five decades, there are few things in Cook that haven't been touched by the caring hearts and hands of the Cook Lions Club, and members and invited guests gathered on Tuesday at the Cook VFW to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary.

Club President Steve Kajala served as master of ceremonies for the event, which included a social hour and buffet banquet, special presentations, club awards and new member initiation.

While a couple of the original 25

See...LIONS pg. 10

Above: Lions dignitaries attending the event included, from left, past District Committee Chair Bert Nelson, District Governor Jessica Minske, club President Steve Kajala, first Vice District Governor Bob Woodke, and past District Governor Kathryn Smith.

Right: Dom Elioff, the original sponsor for the club in 1973, gets tips about the buffet from Elizabeth Storm. photo by D. Colburn



## WOLVES VS. FAWNS

### Billboard's claim ignites social media controversy

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— It's been a tough few years for northeastern Minnesota deer hunters and that has put the state's most prominent predator in the cross hairs of a prominent billboard that went up recently along Hwy. 53 in Cotton.

The billboard, which is

expected to remain up for a few more days at least, makes a controversial claim— that the state's estimated 2,800 gray wolves consume 54,000 white-tailed deer fawns a year. It's an astonishing number that has, predictably, generated plenty of heat on social media from people with widely

See...BILLBOARD pg. 9

Right: This Hwy. 53 billboard in Cotton has generated plenty of comment over a claim that does not appear to be well substantiated.



**New Fall fashions for women and men stocked now. Summer closeouts on SALE. PLUS, Outlet Store open! Fantastic new books arriving daily at our Bookstore. Piragis Upstairs Bookstore, Where Great Books Find You! You'll find it all at Piragis Northwoods Company 105 N Central Ave. piragis.com 218 - 365 - 6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com**

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950  
editor@timberjay.com



## Community notices

### Hedy Tripp to host Anti-Racism poetry workshop Oct. 7 and 8

CHISHOLM/VIRGINIA- When you think of anti-racism, what comes to mind? Join us from 3-5 p.m. at The Lyric Center for the Arts in Virginia on Oct. 7 or at VEMA in Chisholm on Oct. 8 for a FREE and unique workshop where we will discuss through mindful practices and journaling.

Help us to create positive change on the Range and learn more about how you can use your voice to uplift and educate others mindfully. Learning about anti-racist actions is a movement to restore healing and restoration. Anti-racism is a practice of love and acceptance. It is important to insert these gentle practices daily, so that we may provide a safe space for our community.

The event is hosted and facilitated by artist and activist, Hedy Tripp, a Southeast Asian/Singaporean/Eurasian immigrant from Singapore who will be joining us from St. Cloud, where she currently resides.

Hedwidge (Hedy) Tripp is a fiscal year 2023 recipient of a Creative Support for Individuals grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. Registration is required for attendance. Check Hedy out at [www.hedytripp.com](http://www.hedytripp.com). For more information and to register for either workshop visit [lyriccenteronline.org](http://lyriccenteronline.org). All questions and concerns should be sent to [operations@lyriccenteronline.org](mailto:operations@lyriccenteronline.org) for the quickest response.

### Celebrating that lunch box staple - 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](http://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>).

### Goodies, treasures, youth activities, coffee and more at Fall Festival Oct. 14

VIRGINIA - Our Saviors Lutheran Church is having a Fall Festival Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. There will be a bake and sweet shop, household treasures, pie and coffee, quilts for sale, silent auction items, and youth activities. There is something for everyone. Please come and join us for a fun time. Our Saviors Lutheran Church is located at 1111 8th St S.

### Correction

It has come to our attention that some of the winners of the Ely Marathon were not in our story due to an editing mistake. For complete Ely Marathon results, go to [Elymarathon.com/](http://Elymarathon.com/) and click on registration and results.

**GOOD STUFF SALE**

MAKE FRIDAY THE 13TH A LUCKY DAY

**Friday, Oct. 13 • 3-6 PM**  
**Saturday, Oct. 14 • 9 AM-1 PM**

Breitung Comm. Center • 33 1st Ave., Soudan

- Vintage Holiday Decor
- Home Goods
- A Pumpkin Boutique!

**Tomsich Family & Friends**



## MUSIC IS... Mesabi Symphony Orchestra 2023-24 full concert season, "Music Is ... " kicks off Oct. 21

VIRGINIA - The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra (MSO) 2023-24 concert season theme is entitled "Music Is..." and explores how music can mean many things to all of us. Music can conjure memories, it can evoke a wide range of emotions, it can musically describe places and destinations, it can form a sort of musical painting, and the list goes on. Patrons can look for the MSO to depict those emotions through music.

The orchestra emerges Oct. 21 with the first concert in the series, "Music is ... Colorful," at the new Rock Ridge High School Performing Arts Center and on Oct. 22 at Washington Elementary auditorium in Ely.

In December, audiences can look forward to a Christmas spectacle featuring the MSO Pops Orchestra with Santa and refreshments, and a special New Years Eve concert honoring the two titans of music, the legendary Tony Bennett and Frank Sinatra. In 2024, the MSO will per-

form in Hibbing in February, then Virginia, closing out the season in April.

The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra is also excited to announce the selection of Stephanie Vilella, of Mt. Iron, who has been hired as the Marketing and Fundraising Manager of the organization. In her role, Vilella will oversee business administration, fundraising, event coordination, and public relations functions. Stephanie is pleased to carry on the work of the MSO General Manager, Lisa Buckman, who is retiring at the end of this year.

"I am thrilled to have been selected to serve the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra in this position and



**Stephanie Vilella is MSO's new Marketing and Fundraising Manager**

look forward to the many adventures that lie ahead," she said. "My focus this season will be on public awareness of the incredible talent that the MSO brings to the people of the Range and to encourage community members to support us."

After its incredibly successful participation in the Farewell To Goodman concert in May with an audience of nearly 1,000, the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra continues to fortify its cultural impact on the Iron Range. Visit [mesabisymphonyorchestra.org](http://mesabisymphonyorchestra.org) for additional details and online ticket sales.

## GIVING BACK

# Operation Round Up gives more than \$51,000 to community programs

COHASSET - Through the contributions of Lake Country Power's participating members, the Operation Round Up Electric Trust Board recently approved \$51,953 in assistance to local community programs during its quarterly meeting. The cooperative's Trust Board reviewed and considered 34 grant applications and distributed funds to 31 projects and programs this past quarter.

All funds generated through Operation Round Up are set aside in a trust fund. A voluntary Trust Board of nine co-op members administers the trust. Of the funds collected through the program, 100 percent is distributed to charitable organizations through an application and selection process. The Trust Board uses special guidelines and policies when choosing recipients.

Foster Love Closet of Grand Rapids received



**An Operation Round Up big check for big money helps many local projects and programs.**

\$2,000 and will use the funds for diapers, formula, baby food and back-to-school items. The non-profit, volunteer-based store is owned and operat-

ed by Karen Tinquist who started the service in 2019 after seeing a need for foster children in the greater Grand Rapids area.

"Every week we serve about 200 families and foster children," said Karen Tinquist, owner and operator of Foster Love Closet. "Families can shop for items at no cost - anything from clothing, socks, toys, books, baby food, formula, diapers, baby furniture and whatever else we receive as donations or are able to purchase."

Foster Love Closet is open one day a week on Thursday. They could use more volunteers to expand. Foster Love Closet is located across the hall from North in Bloom. During the holidays and

back-to-school season, the store is open more often. "I've had so many people say how great this is for our community," added Tinquist.

### Other recent recipients in the area include:

- Northeast Range School Iron Mosquitos Robotics Team, Babbitt
- Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Tower
- Tower-Soudan Civic Club for Operation Santa
- Trinity Lutheran Church Quilters, Cook
- Mesabi Symphony Orchestra, Virginia
- Care Partners, Eveleth
- Salvation Army, Virginia
- Well Being Development/Northern Lights Clubhouse, Ely

Operation Round Up is a charitable program unique to electric co-ops, which is designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile activities and community projects by "rounding up" members' electric bills to the nearest dollar. The average donation of each participating Lake Country Power member is less than 6 dollars annually.


Interested members can opt into the Operation Round Up program by calling the cooperative at 800-421-9959.

Applications are available online at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop). The next application deadline is November 15.

Ely PTO Thanks You for Your Support!



**CITRUS FUNDRAISER**



**November Delivery**

**Deadline: October 15**

**Order yours TODAY!**

[www.ElyWolvesPTO.com](http://www.ElyWolvesPTO.com)

## PROGRAM FAIR

in Nett Lake @ Bois Forte Tribal Government Center

# Friday, October 27

## 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



Discover hands-on & online programs offered at area Minnesota North College campus locations. All are welcome to attend! Lunch is provided.



## ELY FLOWER & SEED



**Pumpkin Patch IS HERE!**

**SALE**

**TREES, SHRUBS, PERENNIALS!**

**30% OFF**

**CHECK OUT OUR HUGE SELECTION OF PET SUPPLIES!**

**Plant your Garlic & BULBS before the ground freezes.**





OPEN: M-Sat 9-5, Closed Sundays  
145 W. Camp St, Ely • 365-6555



## SCHOOL SAFETY

## County Sheriff remains concerned over SRO law change

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—St. Louis County Sheriff Gordon Ramsay indicated he remains concerned about a change in state law that limits the types of physical force that school officials, including student resource officers, or SROs, can use on students in non-violent circumstances.

Ramsay, who suspended the county's SRO program in response to the change, acknowledged that SROs in the county have only rarely resorted to the use of force in area schools. "But as one SRO told me, he doesn't want to do anything that is risky," he added. That concern is shared by dozens of law enforcement entities across the state who have expressed opposition to the change in Minn. Stat. 121A.582, which limits the use of physical force against students to situations involving the imminent threat of bodily harm to a student or others. In the past, the law also allowed for the use of physical force to "restrain" a student without defining the reasons for such restraint. The change in law does not apply to other law enforcement officials who aren't contracted to work specifically in schools.

The revision in the law has sparked political controversy, with many Republicans and some prominent law enforcement officials calling for action

Increased backing for the new restrictions dissipates call for special session

in a special session to reverse the change, which applies to all school staff, including teachers, bus drivers and SROs. Ramsay said he regrets that the controversy has become a political football and notes that he canceled St. Louis County's SRO program early on, well before it became overtly partisan.

While opponents to the change in law spoke out early, supporters of the new law have begun speaking out as well, and that has altered the political dynamic which had initially appeared to favor a special session. The Minnesota Youth Council, a legislative advisory group comprised of high school students from across the state, recently expressed their full support of the new law, warning that any changes to the language adopted by the Legislature last spring could prove detrimental to student well-being.

"Reworking Minnesota statute 121A.58 could lead to SROs having less restrictions and causing more harm to students in their communities," the group said in a press release. "This section of law protects, supports, and addresses the safety needs of students in Minnesota by restricting the kinds of holds SROs can use against them."

In addition, 44 DFL law-

makers, including Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman, have come out against any changes to the law. They argue that the bill, as part of a larger education finance bill, received bipartisan support in the spring and that ample opportunities were provided in hearings for the language to be challenged. The House People of Color and Indigenous Caucus has also issued a statement supporting the bill.

A recent opinion by Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison concluded that the change "does not limit the types of reasonable force that may be used by school staff and agents, [including SROs] to prevent bodily harm or death."

"The test for reasonable force remains unchanged, and is highly fact-specific," concluded Ellison.

Under Minn. Stat. 8.07, attorney general opinions are decisive as they apply to school districts in the state, unless overturned by a court.

Yet Ellison's opinion hasn't changed Ramsay's mind, who says he's following the advice of legal counsel from associations like the League of Minnesota Cities and the Association of Minnesota Counties, who have suggested that the change could put school staff, including

SROs, at a greater risk for civil litigation if they use force in non-violent situations.

Representatives of the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust, however, have indicated that they do not intend to suspend insurance coverage for municipal police departments that maintain an SRO program in their local schools over the issue, as some had suggested.

Meanwhile, the Minnesota Youth Council is challenging the view held by many law enforcement agencies and school boards alike that SRO programs help to improve students' perceptions of law enforcement.

"In schools, the presence of SROs is not necessarily viewed as a universal good," says Minnesota Youth Council member and Minneapolis Washburn High School student Charlie Schmit. "Some students view SROs in a negative way and many students report SROs contribute to increased feelings of stress and fear. This law helps to assure safe school environments by clearly identifying SRO's roles in school and hopefully it will lead to further training and discussion to ensure all learning environments for students are safe."

In a letter to the bill's author, the Youth Council contended that SROs aren't being

trained in schools, "which is alarming considering the main purpose of SROs is to be able to assist with situations that occur in school."

The council also highlighted racial disparities in the deployment of SROs, citing research showing that SROs are more likely to be placed in schools where 80 percent of the student body is Black or Latino, and that students in those groups are subject to a higher rate of disciplinary actions than are white students.

#### A potential fix?

With the possibility of a special session now looking dim, school districts have been turning to changes in their contracts with local law enforcement to clarify that SROs do not qualify as "agents of the school." The change in the law, as it stands, only applies to school staff or agents of schools. If classified as regular police, SROs would be bound by law enforcement's own longstanding set of legal standards for the use of force and would not be subject to the change in the law applying to school staff.

David Colburn contributed reporting for this story.

## ELY CITY COUNCIL

## Ely City Council purr-fects its pet ordinances

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- Cat owners in Ely are off the hook. The Ely City Council voted to drop the licensing requirements for pets other than dogs. Mayor Heidi Omerza noted that the rewrite of the city's pet ordinances was prompted "because of dangerous dogs."

Council member Al Forsman made the motion to drop the license requirement for pets other than dogs. "There are already fines for allowing cats to run free, but hundreds of families don't let their cats run free

and it's not fair to them to bear the burden of those who are not responsible," he said.

The council also voted to amend the language of the pet ordinances, to clarify that all household pets are prohibited from running free in city limits.

The revision of Ely's pet ordinances has taken several contentious weeks, including some heated discussions among the council members. The revisions also brought several Ely citizens to council meetings to voice their concerns about fairness, costs, lack of clarity in the revision, and unenforceability

of the licensing requirements, especially for cats.

When the voting on proposed law changes finished, Mayor Heidi Omerza looked at the council members in astonishment, remarking, "That was almost painless. Is everyone okay?"

The revised pet ordinances will be on the agenda for their final approval at the next city council meeting.

#### Open forum

Three residents asked to speak at the open forum portion of the meeting. Joe Pioreschi

reported that the worn step-down on the City Hall's front steps caused someone to trip two weeks ago and that the city may want to do something to address the issue.

Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski thanked Pioreschi and agreed that the sandstone steps had seen some deterioration over time. "Actually Doug [Whitney, the city's building inspector] and I looked at that stuff (for a project updating features at City Hall), not knowing why they even did that back to 1929. That will be something we're taking a look at with that

project."

Doug Johnston shared his opinion about proposed RV park in the Spaulding neighborhood, stating, "another neighborhood is about to be destroyed." The RV park issue was the subject of an article in the Sept. 29 edition of the *Timberjay*.

Frederica Musgrave thanked the city council for its openness and responsiveness to the public over the city's new pet ordinances, noting, "You opened it up to public comment several times." In contrast, she had words

See ELY...pg. 5

## REAL ESTATE

**BIG REALTY** WE NEED LISTINGS!  
Contact us for a free property valuation  
218-666-5352  
info@bicarealty.com bicarealty.com

**COOK** 2+ BR, 1-3/4 BA sawn-log home on 80 acres west of Cook. Open living area w/ vaulted ceiling, loft, walk-out lower-level with 2 non-egress BRs. Open and wooded areas with fruit trees. Adjoins public lands. Must see to appreciate! \$425,000 MLS# 145581

**PRICE REDUCED!** Newer construction, 2 BR, 1 BA Murphy Lake home 2-acre lake lot and 220 ft lakeshore. Open LR/kitchen w/vaulted ceilings, t&g interior and loft. Landscaped yard, insulated garage, screen house, outdoor sauna. \$409,000 MLS# 145536



**VERMILION LAND OFFICE**  
Real Estate • Appraisals

Looking To Buy Or Sell? Give Us A Call!

vermilionland.com  
info@vermilionland.com  
1-866-753-8985  
Cook • Tower • Virginia




**RE/MAX Lake Country**  
218-757-3233  
www.TheLakeCountry.com

**Buyck-\$360,000** 200 acres near the Vermilion River and many area lakes. Adjoins public lands. MLS#143352

**Britt-\$40,000** 4+ acre building site. Wooded with a pond and privacy. MLS#143948

**Crane Lake-\$459,000** Historic 1936 full log, 2 BR cabin on 53+ acres. Updates include a new never used Crane Lake septic system, new free standing shower house and 64 ft dock. Boat-access. MLS#145757

**Orr-\$69,900** Ash River lots 2,4 and 10 in Bear Ridge on Ash River CIC. Each lot comes with shared community septic, shared water from central pump house and electric. These utilities are already run to each site. Ownership also gives you access to private docks on 155 ft of shared shoreline, a personal slip, gazebo near lake with grill and 1/10 share of all common areas.

#1 NOBODY IN THE WORLD SELLS MORE REAL ESTATE THAN RE/MAX

\*As measured by residential transaction sides.




NEXT TIME COME HOME!

**JANISCH REALTY** 218-780-6644

Let's Make Sold Happen For You Too!



# OPINION

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;”

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

## Editorial

### The federal deficit

#### Make corporations and the wealthy pay more, like they did in the 1950s

The United States has a deficit problem, and we don't need extremist threats of a government shutdown to address the problem. We need members of Congress to actually understand what's behind our ballooning federal debt and take action that includes the one thing that neither party in Washington seems willing to suggest: significant tax increases directed at high income earners and corporations.

Let's do the math. For the past five years, under both President Trump and President Biden, the annual U.S. deficit has been running at an average of \$2 trillion per year. That means the U.S. generates two trillion dollars less revenue from taxes than it spends.

According to Republicans, spending cuts represent the only way to get the deficit under control and they want the spending cuts focused on aid to the poor, the disabled, and the elderly.

So, for the sake of argument, let's eliminate all of it. Zero out the low-income tax credit for the working poor, the food stamp program, federal housing subsidies, cash payments to needy families, school meals, home energy assistance, or aid to support abused and neglected children. Zero it all out and let every poor kid starve under a bridge somewhere. Deficit solved, right?

Hardly. All of those assistance programs amount to about eight percent of federal spending, or approximately \$590 billion a year. If we eliminated all of it, the U.S. would still be running annual deficits above \$1.4 trillion a year.

So, where else do we cut? Interest on the debt is currently consuming nearly ten percent of the budget, or more than all the "welfare" programs combined. Stopping those payments isn't an option. Nor is cutting Social Security or Medicare, which even the Republicans declared off-limits in response to President Biden's claim that they're seeking cuts in those programs.

That leaves all of the rest of the federal government. Let's say we fire every federal worker, shut down all our airports, eliminate food safety inspections, the border patrol, customs, and the Coast Guard, close the courts, eliminate transportation, education, and environmental funding, law enforcement, and close all the national parks and national forests. All of those functions, many of which are constitutionally required by the way, cost a bit under \$890 billion combined, so we could cut the deficit to approximately half a trillion dollars.

Want to actually balance the budget? Then, on top of this, close every veterans' hospital, and cut the Pentagon

budget in half. The government, of course, is not going to do anything like this, because it would result in every member of Congress being thrown out of office. It would also destroy the U.S. economy.

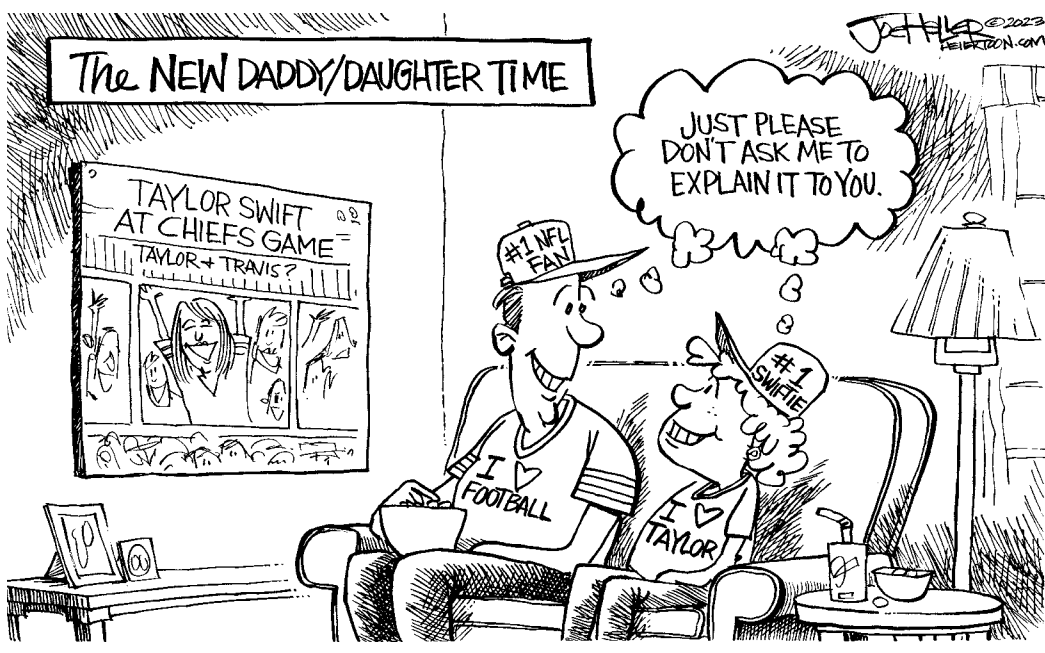
So, how did we end up in this mess where the federal government has spent an estimated \$6.3 trillion in 2023 while likely taking in only \$4.3 trillion in taxes?

Our spending has certainly increased, and there are many factors driving that increase, which we will explore next week in the second part of this editorial. For now, it's worth noting that in 1960, the last full year of the Eisenhower administration, the federal government's collected tax revenue amounted to 17.3 percent of the national Gross Domestic Product. In 2019, the last year before COVID destabilized the federal budget, the government took in about 16.3 percent of the nation's GDP in tax revenue. In other words, overall taxation in the U.S. was actually lower in real terms in 2019 than in 1960.

We do, in fact, know how to balance the budget. As recently as 2000, under President Bill Clinton, the U.S. ran a budget SURPLUS of \$236 billion. The federal government, at the time, collected tax revenues equal to 20 percent of the GDP thanks to a tax increase implemented by Democrats. Despite claims at the time that the Clinton tax increase would sink the economy and result in less tax revenue, we experienced an economic boom and a huge increase in federal tax revenues resulting in the largest surpluses in U.S. history.

Since then, we've had the Bush tax cuts, which overwhelmingly benefitted wealthy individuals, and the Trump tax cuts, which overwhelmingly benefitted corporations, and deficits have predictably ballooned. In 1960, U.S. corporations paid in 23 percent of all federal tax revenues, an amount equivalent to about four percent of the GDP. By 2019, corporations were paying less than ten percent of federal taxes, amounting to just one percent of GDP. Restore corporate taxation to 1960 levels and we generate an extra \$750 billion a year in taxes, wiping out nearly 40 percent of the deficit in one policy move.

The bottom line is inescapable: We can't cut our way to a balanced budget. Significant tax increases, focused on corporations and the wealthy, have to be a major part of the solution. We'll know Washington is serious about deficit reduction when tax increases become a serious part of the discussion. Until then, it's just the usual posturing for the cameras.



## Letters from Readers

### Thanks for the adventure of growing up in Ely

Thank you to the Ely Adventure School for bringing mystery, wild spontaneous fun, and magic to area preschoolers!

The new preschool program that started in September focuses on practicing social skills, building physical skills, and fostering critical thinking to three to five-year-olds and has a mostly outdoor curriculum. It operates Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., and affordable tuition with scholarship options are available!

I am a parent to a five-year-old and a three-year-old who both attend Adventure School this year. With such limited preschool and childcare options in the Ely area, I feel so fortunate to be able to send my kids off every day to a program that affirms and inspires them. A place where my children get to make their own fun and have choices over what they participate in and how they want to engage. A wonderful combination of structure and freedom. I have seen my kids begin to grow friendships, and thrive emotionally, physically, and creatively. Thank you, SunShine Gardner, Educator, Director, and Founder of Ely Adventure School (who I have nicknamed the Mr. Rogers of the woods) for your contributions to my family and Ely community at large. elyadventureschool.org.

Rosa Oesterreich  
Ely

### We the people have a critical role to play

I can't imagine there being any US citizen who's even half-conscious yet not aware of the prevailing political divisiveness of the nation—Democrats against Republicans, liberals against conservatives. You can't pick up a newspaper or watch or hear a news broadcast without being bombarded with evidence of this discord.

Congress is almost at a standstill. Politicians don't dare cross party lines to do what they think is right for fear of losing their positions on committees and/or being ostracized. Some, exemplified by Matt Gaetz, think it's a crime to work with the other side...that compromise is a dirty word. What?!? Is that the mindset that facilitates effective governance? The attitude "you're either with us or against us" is pervasive. Some people blame Trump for this mess. I don't.

We are the ones who elect our lawmakers—lawmakers who, theoretically, must garner a majority of votes to take office (though to an uncomfortable degree, gerrymandering makes that ideal somewhat imperfect). The right to vote comes with a responsibility: a responsibility to be knowledgeable about the candidates and issues; a responsibility to be a critical thinker, to question; a responsibility to know something about civics. Do they even teach civics in high school anymore?

How do you decide who to vote for? Are you a straight-ticket voter? Why? Is every lawmaker of one party angelic while every one in the other party demonic, as a certain Individual would have us believe? Is your party's platform beyond reproach while the other party's platform is complete hogwash? (Do you even know what your own party's platform asserts?) Are you contributing to our nation's divisiveness?

In order for our democracy to survive, we need an informed electorate. We need people who question their own opinions. We need people who are not swayed by swagger, but by values and reason; people who may have certain black and white convictions, but are fully aware that most issues fall somewhere in the gray between. We need people who avoid jumping to conclusions, who know there may be more to the picture than meets the eye, and who know there are at least two sides to every story. We need people who consider the views of others, people who cross party lines when appropriate and people who can spot a charlatan.

So, who is to blame for the mess we're in? We are! We are the dynamite. Trump, Gaetz and others like them are only the fuses. Both dynamite and fuse are impotent without the other. We can't control these partisan fanatics, but we can control ourselves. Let's start doing so before it's too late. Don't be a blind follower. Consider other viewpoints. And think!

Rich Floyd  
Ely



### 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

# Gondolas, grapes, and grumbles...

Two weekends ago, after my son threatened for three years to get me on Lutsen's Summit Express Gondola for a ride up to the top of Moose Mountain, his wish came true. He, his fiancée Ashley, myself, and my friend "The Horse Whisperer", drove down Highway 1 to the North Shore to enjoy the fall colors even though we



SCARLET STONE

couldn't see much because of the heavy fog and drizzle that day. I had packed us sub sandwiches as a last-minute idea, but forgot to buy the meat; however, the cheeses, veggies, and Dorothy Lynch (a family-favorite condiment), did raise them to a very acceptable level. We munched on the sandwiches, chips,

and sweet, juicy grapes in the car because the thought of plopping onto a wet picnic bench had no draw. After finally finding a parking spot at Lutsen, we waited in line for about an hour to board, then rode up in a steamy, water-streaked gondola that made for standard viewing. This experience was a bit sketchy for me with my fear of heights, but I figured since I hadn't heard any past reports of the cable snapping, it'd probably hold for my journey. I

vocalized a bit with sounds of trepidation during the ride and avoided looking down at times, but it was an accomplishment for me none the less. The things we do for our kids!

The heavy fog probably eased my nerves because the awareness of height and distance were limited. I counseled myself as I have done with my fear of flying overseas. "Scarlet darling, if ya won't board the plane, ya won't see the castle.... your excitement will end seeing

the Duluth Kohl's sign on the horizon." It works every time, and I go forth and conquer. Heroics aside, we got cold and wet waiting in line to board going both directions. Sleet was blowing off the roof of the boarding platform up on top and despite rain jackets, our backs and pants got very wet. I was glad I wasn't the young twenty-year old girl in a t-shirt and shorts, even if she did have an

See GRUMBLES...pg. 5



Week of Oct. 9

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

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 9

**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.

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 10

**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](http://vermilioncountry.org).

FAMILY FUN



More truck night fun...

A few more photos from TS Elementary and Breitung Township's Big Truck Night on Sept. 26.

Top left: Maddi Clemenson checks out the line of trucks. Left: Amelia Koski enjoys the picnic dinner. Above right: Millie Trancheff gets a big bite of her hot dog. photos by J. Summit

LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

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 pm. The Sectionals is a group of eight singers of various ages and backgrounds from around the Iron Range. While performing together in larger ensembles the group was created around the interest of concentrated smaller vocal performance utilizing tight harmonies, jazz-inspired music, and the flexibility of performing in a wide array of venues across the state. They feature a piano accompaniment, percussion, and electric bass. Ryan Bajan, member of The Sectionals and treasurer of the LVCC Board

said, "their mission is to fill the audience with the joy of quality and fun vocal music by performers who love to sing."

A freewill offering will be accepted and refreshments will be served following the concert. Invite your friends for what will be a fun evening. This will be the second time this group has performed at LVCC, and their last concert was a crowd favorite.

This will be the tenth time since June that St. Mary's Hall has been used for a musical performance, art show, educational program, or a play. While the building is not finished the LVCC Board is gratified that it can be used for such events. To learn



more about the LVCC or to contribute towards the building fund go to [vermilionculturalcenter.org](http://vermilionculturalcenter.org).



**TSHS week 10 winner**  
The winner of the Week 10 Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Kevin Norby of Tower.

**History Tidbit:**  
The story of the Lee Mine, an abandoned iron ore open pit, located on the hill north of Tower, is a mystery. Miners returning to work one morning found all visible surface property had disappeared during the night, and nothing was left but the hill itself.

TSAA Auction set for Nov. 9; tickets available now

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.

Tickets will be \$30 per person (paid in advance), which covers the cost of the food. Call Jodi at 218-753-2950 to get your ticket, or stop by the Timberjay office in Tower.

There will be food, karaoke with LuAnn 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.

Wagoner Trails Club to meet Oct. 10

TOWER- The Howard Wagoner Trails Club will hold their fall meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lamppa Civic Center. The group will be making plans for getting ready for the upcoming winter cross-country ski season. Anyone interested in helping maintain trails in the Tower-Soudan area is welcome to attend.

Hike planned on Ancient Cedar Trail on Sunday, Oct. 8

TOWER- Two new residents to the Tower-Soudan area have started 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/vermilionareaactivityclub>.

The group is planning weekly outdoor activities Sunday afternoons in October. The group is planning on hiking the Ancient Cedars Trail in Tower on Sunday, Oct. 8 at 2 p.m. Check the facebook page for details on where to meet. And hikers are asked to wear orange because grouse hunters could be out in the area.

Little Church committee to meet Oct. 14

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church Committee will meet on Saturday Oct. 14, at 10 a.m. Meetings are open to the public and the group is always looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in the community. The Little Church has a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. All are welcome. The Little Church is located on Cty. Rd. 26/Wahlsten

COMMUNITY NEWS

Rd. Any questions, contact/leave message with Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

Tower-Soudan Civic Club to meet Oct. 18

SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan Civic Club will hold its next meeting on Wednesday Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. at the Breitung Township Community Center. The meeting will begin with a presentation by Beth Debeltz on her products and services in the Harbor View Spa and Boutique in Tower. This will be followed by coffee and a short meeting. Everyone is invited to attend. Questions call Brenda Winkelaar at 218-290-4912.

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.

Tower-Soudan Singers begin rehearsals

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Area Singers are rehearsing on Mondays 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.



Ryan, senior

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

**Ryan, senior**  
**Introduce yourself:** I'm Ryan Fenske. I've been a student here since tenth grade.  
**What brought you here:** I was ready for a change from my old school.  
**What about VCS has been better?** More flexible classes. I really like the culinary class.

Meet our staff



Muriel Deegan

at least 30 years. I've worked as a case manager for Bois Forte and with the homelessness program at Bois Forte.

I'm Muriel Deegan. I earned my bachelor's degree in social work. I've been in education for

**How long have you been working here?** This is my first year (at VCS). One of the board members asked me if I would be interested in working at the Vermilion Country School, I said I would be, so they got me in contact with Sam O'Brien (the head of school). Previously, I worked at Tower Soudan Elementary.

**What would you tell people about the school?** We (staff members) want to see all our students succeed and be successful in the community.

Read It  
HERE

ELY FIRE DEPARTMENT

# Public safety open house

ELY- Over 300 people attended Ely's annual public safety open house on Wednesday, Sept. 27, when the Ely Fire Department opened all the garage doors on the fire station side of City Hall. Multiple public safety agencies and organizations were on hand, to meet and greet the public, and to raise awareness about fire safety and public health, including the Ely Police Department, Ely Area Ambulance Service, St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Border Patrol, the U.S. Forest Service, the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, and Smokey the Bear. The Ely FD served up burgers, brats, popcorn, cotton candy, and cupcakes. Tables set up inside the fire house provided games and activities for kids of all ages, including teaching CPR. The FD also demonstrated kitchen fire safety and showed off their new platform truck.



Above: Ely Fire Chief Dave Marshall demonstrates why you should never use water to try to extinguish a grease fire on your stove. Upper right: A fish-eye shot of Ely FD's new 90-foot platform truck. Lower right: The Ely FD served up burgers, brats, and other good things to eat, with the line often extending out the fire station doors down to the sidewalk. photos by C. Clark

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. 10: A Trans Training: The Basics with Aleana (Ana) Kruger
- Oct. 17: PolyMet update with MCEA
- Oct. 24: TBA
- Oct. 31: Human Trafficking 101 with Tatiana Bergum

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



deer wander the yard feasting on what they so choose

wildlife company

## The art of film photography

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- When he's not working as a journalist, you might find Parker Loew in his kayak taking photographs on film with a camera over 40 years old. Loew is 24, making his Mamiya RZ67 camera almost twice as old as he is.

The Northern Lakes Arts Association hosted Loew's first show of his unique ethereal photographs of islands in local lakes, which ran from Sept. 18 through Sept. 30, with a reception for the photographer on Sept. 29 at Ely's Historic State Theater.

The *Timberjay* asked Loew what drew him to the art of film photography. "I love the look," Loew said. "It's more of a process. Every shot looks different. If you shoot a digital shot versus a film shot, they are going to look vastly different. And no two film shots are

going to look the same. That's why it's so fascinating."

Loew is from Plymouth, Minn. and attended the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. He worked as a photojournalist for the Wyoming Dept. of Game and Fish before moving to Ely to take a job as a local reporter.



Parker Loew

## LOONy Frozen fundraiser

ELY- Have you been wondering about how the "Frozen" musical at Ely High School has been progressing? Then come next Thursday, Oct. 12 at 6 p.m. to the Washington Auditorium to a fundraiser, concert, and question-and-answer session for the public. There is no door charge to attend, and as an extra bonus, the concert portion will be provided by Duluth's opera company, the Lyric Opera of the North (LOON).

LOON will be in town to perform the Opera for the Young's adaptation of "Hansel and Gretel" at Washington Elementary School on Friday, and offered to perform gratis to help Ely's production of "Disney's Frozen—The Broadway Musical" raise funds.

Elementary students have been practicing to perform with LOON on Friday, since LOON's educational outreach includes inviting students to sing with them during

their performances. These students will also be invited to sing one of the "Hansel and Gretel" songs with LOON's company of professional opera singers on Thursday evening at the fundraiser. "Hansel and Gretel" is that opera which includes the famous lullabye that begins, "When at night I go to sleep, fourteen angels watch do keep."

Though rehearsals are already in their second week, the cast of "Frozen" has not been officially announced. At the fundraiser, the public will be introduced to the cast for the first time. The staff of the musical will also be on hand to answer any questions the public might have about the production during a question-and-answer session.

How can the Ely community help? Stop by on Thursday and find out, and be entertained by great music at the same time.

## From Anne Oelke, Superintendent of ISD 696

Dear Members of the Ely Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for the incredible support our community has shown to our schools and the children we serve.

Whether you are a parent, a teacher, a business owner, a student, or simply a concerned citizen, your contributions have not gone unnoticed.

The past few years have been a testament to the strength of our community. Despite the many challenges we have faced, your commitment to our schools have been nothing short of inspiring. Here are just a few examples of the remarkable support we

have received:

► **Volunteerism:** Countless hours have been devoted by parents and community members who have volunteered at our school and in our classrooms. Your dedication to our students' success is invaluable. Ely Community Resource is an outstanding organization that supports our students and programs daily in and out of school. Check out their website at [elycommunityresource.org](http://elycommunityresource.org).

► **Donations:** The outpouring of financial support, whether through fundraisers, donations, or grants, has allowed us to enhance our programs, provide resources, and ensure that every child has the tools they need to

succeed. Donations can be accepted in the district office at 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN, 55731. The Ely Educational Foundation is an exceptional foundation that accepts donations and supports the enhancements of programs at the Ely Public Schools. Check out the Ely Educational Foundation on our school website at [ely.k12.mn.us/education-foundation](http://ely.k12.mn.us/education-foundation).

► **Partnerships:** Local businesses, organizations, and booster clubs have forged partnerships with our schools, offering learning opportunities, sponsoring events, generous donations, and providing expertise to enrich our students' learning experiences.

► **Advocacy:** Many of

you have advocated tirelessly for our schools at local, state, and even national levels. Your voices have played a pivotal role in securing the resources and policies necessary to ensure our students' success. The taxpayer's support for our 2020 referendum assisted the district in connecting the two school buildings with a secure entrance and allowed the school to update many of our learning spaces for students.

On Oct. 16, we are hosting an open house for all community members. The open house will be from 4:30-6 p.m. Come check out the new facilities! The Ely administration team will be welcoming community members

and a light meal will be served. Please enter the building using the main entrance, door No.1.

I am committed to ensuring that your investment in our schools yields positive results. We are dedicated to providing our students with the best possible education and preparing them for a bright future. Together, we can empower our children to reach their full potential and create a community that thrives on education, understanding, and unity.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support. Your contributions are the foundation upon which our educational system stands, and I am deeply grateful for all that you do.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

**Ely Public Library**

ELY- The spice for October is clove. Free spice kit with recipes available for free until supplies run out.

The October "Take & Make" craft kit is candy corn art, available for free until supplies run out.

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

The October Kahoot trivia game will be on the books of Jane Austen. This activity is for teens and adults. The Kahoot will run from Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 3 p.m., to Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 8 a.m. Pre-register in advance with an

email address so the library can send the link for the game.

The library will celebrate National Kangaroo Awareness Day on Tuesday, October 24, from 3-4 p.m. This program is for all ages. Along with learning about kangaroos, the event will include making a pouch. Pre-register in advance so the library can order enough supplies.

On Wednesday, Oct. 25, from 2-3:30 p.m., award-winning photographer Craig Blacklock will show his traditional landscapes from Lake Superior as well as images from his new photographic series,

"Light Waves," which takes a more abstract look at the mirror of Lake Superior's surface.

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.

**New Resident Social**

ELY- Boundary Waters Connect will hold a new resident social. This friendly meet-and-greet event will be on Thursday, Oct. 12, from 5-7 p.m. at the Ely Folk School, 209 E. Sheridan St. RSVP at [boundarywatersconnect.com](mailto:boundarywatersconnect.com).

**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.

**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](mailto:catie.timberjay@gmail.com) by close-of-business on the Tuesday the week before the event takes place.

Libraries

**Ely library**

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

**Babbitt library**

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

Support groups

**AA - Alcoholics Anonymous**

**OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m.** Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COOK CITY COUNCIL

# Will pickleball and ice skating mix? Cook may try

## Council approves six percent hike to property tax levy for 2024, still must cut budget

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- At last Thursday's regular Cook City Council meeting, councilors and members of the Friends of the Parks (FOTP) batted around the idea of turning the ice skating rink at the community center into a dual purpose arena where people could play the nation's hottest next sport, pickleball.

Pickleball is a modified form of tennis played on a court the size of a double badminton court that uses a plastic ball and large paddles instead of a felt-covered ball and rackets. The sport has exploded in popularity, with communities across the country trying to figure out how to accommodate the demand. In metropolitan areas, pickleball courts have been built in vacant high-rise office spaces and empty mall outlets, while closer to home Greenwood Township's tennis court has virtually been taken over by pickleballers.

"We've been approached by a lot of people who would like to see a pickleball court," said FOTP member Jeanne Taylor. The ice rink is a possible option, but the current surface isn't conducive for pickleball.

"The surface's blacktop is cracked and you wouldn't be able to play pickleball on it, and also because it's black tar," she said.

Taylor said a contractor who worked on portions of Veterans Riv-

erfront Park for FOTP took a courtesy look at the rink for an eyeball rough estimate of what it might take to remove the blacktop and put in concrete instead. He guessed that the concrete alone would cost approximately \$80,000, and adding in construction and additional costs could run such a project up to around \$120,000, Taylor said.

Taylor asked the council to give its permission for FOTP to pursue the project. Such permission is needed because it is city property, and also is necessary to get formal quotes and pursue possible grants.

Taylor noted FOTP's past successes as she made her pitch, saying the organization would be responsible for raising the money.

"In order for us to even start applying for grants we would have to have the permission of the city to pursue it," she said. "That's what we're asking right now. I think Friends of the Parks has proved themselves that if we say we're going to do a project we carry through and we get it done. If at some point you find some extra little pocket of money and you want to contribute, that's great. But we're not asking for that. We're just asking for you to say yes. If the city says no, then we don't write grants."

At that point the council appeared to experience a catch-22, wanting a better handle on the scope and costs of the project from an engineering study when FOTP hasn't had

permission to pursue the project. Maintenance supervisor Tim Lilya said it would be possible to get the city's engineer to get involved right away if the council gave permission to pursue the project. But paying for the study would be up to FOTP. FOTP member Tammy Palmer suggested the possibility of a 50/50 split, but with the city already looking at how to trim a projected budget deficit for next year, FOTP will have to shoulder the cost themselves.

Questions were raised about the suitability of concrete for an ice rink surface, as well as additional repairs and/or modifications to the rink to accommodate a concrete pad. Answers to those questions could influence the project's total cost, Taylor noted. Council member Kim Brunner asked how FOTP would know how much grant money to apply for.

"Without the engineering we don't know if cement can go in there," she said.

After discussion had continued back and forth a while longer, city administrator Theresa Martinson posed a relevant question to the council to move the conversation forward.

"Is the city ready for a pickleball court or a new rink at this point in time?" she asked.

Council member Jody Bixby responded.

"It doesn't hurt to have the information brought to us - they're doing the legwork and they bring it to the council,"

she said. "Why wouldn't we say yes to that? If it doesn't work, it doesn't work, but we don't know until they do the legwork."

Bixby made a motion to allow FOTP to move forward, and council member Elizabeth Storm asked that it be amended to specify that information brought to the council include an engineering study. The motion was approved.

Taylor also brought up another FOTP concern that's been a nagging issue for the city, that of having regular staffing at the community center to accommodate general use and events. The challenge has been attracting applicants for the part-time position, and Martinson said the city intends to advertise the position again.

"It's very hard to find people to work," Martinson said. "If you know of somebody send them our way. We've tried advertising, we've tried social media, I don't know what else to say. We've even gone to the school and talked with the school counselor."

The council agreed to set up a work group to address the broader question of what role the community center should play, serving as a youth center, an events center, or both.

A final concern of FOTP dealt with the parking lot at Veterans Riverfront Park. When Canadian National has plowed the adjacent gravel lot in wintertime, where they pile the snow has obstructed drainage and damaged some plantings.

"We could put some

shrubs or things in, but if they're just going to pile all that snow on top of it, it would be wasting our money," Taylor said.

The council confirmed that Lilya is planning to meet with CN officials to discuss the issue.

### Meeting time

On the heels of some controversy over the time of city council meetings sparked by a letter to the editor in the Timberjay and the subsequent creation of multiple Facebook accounts that appeared and disappeared in a matter of days and a Change.org petition, Bixby asked that the council reconsider its 10 a.m. meeting time.

"I feel we should bring it back to the council and acknowledge it again," Bixby said. "Whether people believe in signing a petition or a petition is valid, the last time someone sent me information there was almost 100 people that had signed that petition to move our meetings to 6 p.m. I don't really care what time the meetings are, but I was elected by the people in the city to represent them, and if they want access, whether they come or not to the meetings, we should still make it available to them."

Several council members expressed concerns that they hadn't seen the petition and that it wasn't clear that the originator of the petition or all the reported signees, which were not visible on the petition, were actually city residents.

Mayor Harold Johnston proposed that the

question be tabled until the council can obtain answers to their questions about the petition.

Brunner questioned the need for a change.

"We've had more people coming for the 10 o'clock meeting than we ever had for the six o'clock meeting," she said.

"I'm talking about making it accessible for everybody in the community," Bixby said. "Ten o'clock is not making it accessible to everybody who works. These are tax-paying people, that's why they're working."

Martinson agreed to work with the county auditor to obtain a list of the city's taxpayers with addresses to facilitate a possible survey. The issue was then tabled.

### Levy increase

As is required by the end of September, the council voted to set the maximum proposed property tax levy increase for next year at six percent. While the rate would generate approximately an additional \$30,000 for general fund operating expenses, current projections are for a deficit of about \$8,200 for the city's 2024.

City staff and the council will be working across a series of special budget meetings to find areas to reduce costs and possibly bring down the tax levy prior to the Truth in Taxation meeting scheduled for Dec. 21 at 6 p.m.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### NWFA Martin Memorial show opens

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 were 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 percentage of their sales go to NWFA.

Participating artists delivered their work to the gallery early this week, and volunteers have been busy setting up the show



Susan Martin

for the public opening and viewing.

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](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com). Information, including upcoming classes and events, may be found on the NWFA website at [www.nwfamn.org](http://www.nwfamn.org).

### Book club to meet on Oct. 10

COOK- The Cook area book club will meet next on Oct.10 at 1 p.m. at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook. The book to be discussed will be "Finding Me."

"Finding Me " by Academy-Award-winning actress Viola Davis is a memoir of young girl from a crumbling apartment in Rhode Island running to escape from her past. It describes the path she took in finding her purpose and voice in the world..The book for discussion in November will be "A Half-Acre of Hell: A Combat Nurse in WWII" by Avis Schorer.



Angler Bill Ashcraft hauled in this tourney-winning bass in the Pelican Lake Resort Owners Association September tournament.

## Pelican Lake resort guests score big bass

ORR - A month-long bass fishing contest sponsored by the Pelican Lake Resort Owners Association came to a successful conclusion last Saturday with 68 of the 72 anglers recording verified catches.

The tournament was open to guests of Association member properties who booked a stay of three or more nights. Participants has the chance to win up to \$1,000 cash for the biggest bass caught and released, with cash prizes for the two biggest bass and three \$100 gift cards to local businesses for randomly selected participants who caught a bass over 16 inches. All

fish had to be caught on Pelican Lake.

The tournament was conducted by using the Fish Donkey app, in which anglers record their catches with two pictures, one taken on an official measuring bump board, and a video documenting the release.

Bill Ashcraft hauled in the prizewinning bass on Sept. 19 at about 6 p.m. It measured 19.75 inches as reported on Fish Donkey.

Evan Varno landed the runner-up bass, and Carston Erickson placed third.

The resort association hosted a similar tournament for walleye last May.

**Read us online at [www.timberjay.com](http://www.timberjay.com)**

**SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS**

**Area Solid Waste Facility site hours**

<b>Ash River Trail Canister Site</b> 11391 Ash River Trail Winter Hours Sat: 12:30pm-4:30pm	<b>Kabetogama Lake Canister Site</b> 10150 Gamma Rd Winter Hours Wed: noon-4pm Sat: 8am-noon	<b>County 77 Canister Site</b> 2038 County Rd. 77 Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm
<b>Orr Canister Site</b> 4038 Hwy 53 Winter Hours Tue, Thu: 9am-noon Sat: 8am-noon	<b>Portage Canister Site</b> 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Winter Hours Tue, Sat: 1pm-4:30pm	<b>Cook Transfer Station</b> 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
-----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

*Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th*

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

**A Tradition of Trust**

- Traditional Funerals
- Graveside Services
- Cremation
- Pre-Need Planning
- Monuments by Warren Mlaker

**Mlaker FUNERAL HOME**  
[www.mlakerfuneralhome.com](http://www.mlakerfuneralhome.com)  
218.666.5298  
Cell-218.240.5395  
Cook, MN  
24 Hours A Day



FUNDRAISERS

# Dollars for Doggies online auction starts Sunday

## Event supports the WolfTrack Classic sled dog race

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- Three things are needed to hold a sled dog race: snow, sled dog teams, and money. Yes, money. The entry fees for Ely's WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race don't cover the full cost of the event so the Chamber of Commerce runs a fundraising auction every year to help make up the difference. The race runs during the last full weekend of February, but the auction starts this Sunday, Oct. 8.

"Our 'Dollars for Doggies' online auction starts on Sunday and wraps up on Monday, Oct. 16," stated Ely Chamber of Commerce executive director Eva Sebesta. "We have a number of items ranging from beautiful art and crafts donated from festival

vendors to certificates for canoe trips, sled dog adventures, and kicksled rentals.

"The auction provides the perfect opportunity to support the race," Sebesta said, "and purchase some fantastic gifts for friends, family, and you. We hope folks will check out the auction at [32auctions.com/WTC2024](http://32auctions.com/WTC2024)." Complete race details are available at [WolfTrackClassic.com](http://WolfTrackClassic.com).

### A history of racing

Ely is well known for sled dog adventures and racing. The Ely All-American Sled Dog race ran from 1970 to the early 1990s and was the largest sled dog race in the lower 48 states. But when those races were discontinued, Ely went almost 20 years with no sled dog events. Beginning in 2008, a small group of determined

mushers started the WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race. This coming winter's race weekend is Feb. 24-25, with race day set for Feb. 25.

Last year, the race drew mushers from across the U.S. and Canada and offered the largest musher purse in the WolfTrack Classic race history: \$15,000. Every musher that crossed the finish line went home with a check. The race has two categories: six-dogs running 30 miles and eight-dogs covering 50 miles. The route follows the Taconite Trail from Ely to Bear Head State Park. The start-finish is located at the softball complex on the east end of Ely with multiple viewing points available for spectators along the race route.



Purchases during the Dollars for Doggies online auction go to help cover expenses of operating the WolfTrack Classic sled dog races, set for next Feb. 24-25 in Ely.

## BILLBOARD...Continued from page 1

conflicting claims.

Greg Baty, president of the Sturgeon River chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, said he's been surprised at the response. His chapter, which encompasses much of northern St. Louis County, is the entity that rented the billboard for a month's run and he said plans are in the works for two additional billboards in the future.

Baty said he's been instructed not to comment to the rush of inquiries from statewide media and he referred most of the *Timberjay's* questions to Jared Mazurek, the MDHA's state executive director. While the billboard aligns with the MDHA's policy goal favoring wolf management in the state, Mazurek said it appears to have strayed from the organization's intent to hew closely to scientific data as it engages with the public.

"They have not been able to provide us with a peer-reviewed source for where they got their

number," said Mazurek, noting that the billboard's message is not backed by the MDHA as a statewide organization.

In fact, the issue is on the agenda for an MDHA executive board meeting set for this weekend and Mazurek indicated the organization may put some additional ground rules on chapters requiring better vetting of future communication efforts.

While the current billboard is scheduled to run out within days, Mazurek noted that the chapter has two more billboards scheduled in the near future and he said he's hoping that the message can be tweaked in order to use a more defensible claim. He said the billboard would also benefit from a stronger call to action. "It doesn't tell readers what to do with the information," he said. Mazurek said it isn't clear that there's enough time to make the changes they'd like to see, which means the original billboard with its unsubstantiated claim could soon be appearing

on other major highways in the region.

While the billboard may have created a headache, of sorts, for the MDHA, it has brought plenty of attention and discussion around wolf management and the degree to which wolves may be playing a role in the lackluster deer population recovery that's been experienced in recent years in northeastern Minnesota. Mazurek said the organization has seen several major media inquiries in the past several days, including Twin Cities news channels, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, as well as the *Duluth News-Tribune* and WDIO. And that has allowed the organization to spread its message about the importance of wolf management.

"Every species has its carrying capacity," said Mazurek, noting that the estimated wolf population of approximately 2,800 in the state is well over the DNR's recovery goal of 1,700 animals.

The billboard has also sparked debate over the

role that wolves actually play in the survival of white-tailed fawns. The advertisement's message prompted a flood of inquiries from members of the public who saw or heard about the billboard's claim to researchers with the Voyageurs Wolf Project, who have used social media extensively to report on, and raise money, for their ongoing wolf research in and around Voyageurs National Park.

The VWP researchers don't dispute that wolves eat fawns. In fact, they cite their own data to show that breeding adult wolves can kill up to 30 fawns and even more in a year. But they note that that's the exception and cite data showing that the majority of wolves are not in breeding status and that those wolves appear to kill very few fawns based on their own research. At least one Michigan study put the average number of fawns killed by a single wolf at under six per year, which would put the total number of fawns taken by wolves

in Minnesota in a typical year at under 20,000, or a fraction of the number cited in the billboard.

In a Sept. 24 op-ed published in the *Star Tribune*, Joseph Bump, director of graduate studies in conservation sciences at the University of Minnesota and Tom Gable, a post-doctoral researcher who leads the Voyageurs Wolf Project, note that in places like northern Minnesota, other even more numerous predators, from black bears to coyotes, take fawns and potentially many more than wolves. They're hit by hay mowers making their first cut of the season. An estimated 40,000 are hit by vehicles, and another 25,000 are killed each year by hunters come fall.

"Fawns die from many causes and the causes of mortality can compensate for one another. Increased mortality due to one cause often means less mortality from a different cause," the fellow researchers wrote. "There is appealing, persistent and faulty thinking that because predators kill

fawns, fewer predators will increase fawn survival. Research examining fawn survival amid wolves in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin shows that between 45-49 percent of fawns survive summer months. The average survival rate of fawns in North American forests when examined across 30 populations in 16 states was 41 percent, with the lowest survival rates occurring in areas without wolves. Even in some areas free of predators, only 44 percent of fawns may survive past three months."

In the end, Gable acknowledges that science really can't determine whether Minnesota should have a wolf season, as many deer hunters and livestock growers advocate. "Ultimately," he wrote in a Facebook post last week, "whether we should or should not hunt wolves is not a scientific question but rather a question about values."

## VENDING...Continued from page 1

There will also be HIV self-test kits, Fentanyl test strips, Xylazine test strips, Rapid COVID tests, face masks, feminine hygiene products, pregnancy tests strips, first aid items, plus flashlights, snacks, and other items.

"We are hoping to make a positive change in an individual's life and potentially save their lives," said Pam Hughes, who is the Project Research Manager for the University of Minnesota, College of Pharmacy.

"Our hope is to incorporate community-driven public health strategies, which offers an opportunity to reach individuals who aren't accessing healthcare services and offer them Naloxone to reverse an overdose and help connect them to other services."

Hughes said bringing the vending machines to the Bois Forte Reservation was a collaborative effort amongst the Johns Hopkins University Center for Indigenous Health, UMD-College of Pharmacy, Bois Forte Tribal Council and the Bois Forte Community Research Council.

"I believe that we are the first tribal nation in the United States to have a public health vending



Left: Bois Forte's Pam Hughes, left, and Toni Wakemup, right, stand by the Public Health Vending Machine at the Nett Lake C Store. The machine at the C Store and Fortune Bay will be filled up and ready to go for the official deployment on Friday, Oct. 6. submitted

machine," said Hughes, a Bois Forte band member. "Dr. Sean Allen (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Health), had been involved in a similar project and mentioned the machines at one of

our SCIBAR (Support for Creative Integrated Basic and Applied Research) meetings."

Despite some fears by the public, Dr. Allen said there is no evidence that offering easy access

enhances access to resources that promote public health."

Hughes added that this project has been in the works for two years and said she is very grateful that the group can see their vision come to life.

"As Joel A. Barker said, 'Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world,'" said Hughes of Barker, who is a well-known futurist, author and filmmaker.

Hughes will be responsible for overseeing the vending machine at Fortune Bay, while Toni Wakemup will oversee the vending machine at the C Store in Nett Lake. Both Hughes and Wakemup will receive

a message on their phones when a certain product is running low.

Hughes said that Wakemup will step in for her and vice versa in case one of them is not readily available to replenish products in the vending machines.

"The notifications will give us time to restock before an item is out," said Hughes. "There is no charge for the items and there is no limit." Even so, Hughes said she wants to remind individuals to only take what they need and to not deplete the products in the vending machines. "There are others that will need the supplies," said Hughes. "We just ask that people be mindful of that fact."

**PETERSEN DRILLING**  
Since 1948  
Wells  
Water Systems

- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700  
Spring Park Rd.  
Mt. Iron, MN 55768

**WE WANT YOUR STORIES**

We invite our readers to send in their spooky or unexplained encounter stories to be featured in our October 27-Halloween issue of the *Timberjay*!  
(We can keep your story anonymous if requested.)

Send by email to:  
[editor@timberjay.com](mailto:editor@timberjay.com)  
or drop them off at 414 Main St, Tower.

Stories will be edited as needed

MESABI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
2023-2024 SEASON

Music is...  
**COLORFUL**

TICKETS ONLINE AND AT THE DOOR  
[www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org](http://www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org)

21 | 7PM  
OCT | Rock Ridge High School Performing Arts Center  
Virginia, MN

22 | 2:30PM  
OCT | Washington Elementary Auditorium  
Ely, MN

[www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org](http://www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org)

Operating support is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

READ  
the Timberjay!

**LIONS...**Continued from page 1

charter members from the club's formation on Sept. 28, 1973 are still alive, they weren't able to attend, but the evening still featured a special tie-in to that day, the original sponsor of the local club, 92-year-old Virginia Lions Club member Dom Elioff.

"I can see why you have 64 members here, you start recruiting young here," Elioff said, acknowledging the evening's youngest attendee, three-month-old Sutton Stone, a comment that evoked hearty laughter from the crowd.

Elioff said he wasn't certain they'd be able to find the required 21 members to start the club in a town the size of Cook, but within two days 25 members were recruited for the first meeting at the old Crescent restaurant. "I'm so happy with what the Cook Lions have done," Elioff said. "We talk about it and talk about it. They made me look good."

Elioff got a huge reaction with one of his subsequent comments.

"I think that the greatest thing that has happened other than getting Cook in the Lions Club was when it was mandated that Lions International had to take in ladies," he said. "When that hit Virginia we had 50 members or so and we lost about half of our member-



A large crowd turned out for this week's 50th Anniversary celebration of the Cook Lions Club.

ship, and a lot of other clubs did likewise. But you ladies have done a yeoman's job."

Kajala read a list of nearly 40 different activities the Lions Club has done over the years to support the Cook community, and other members were quick to chime in with several he hadn't mentioned. A few of the highlights were:

- Cook Lions Flag Park
- Annual scholarships for students at Cook and North Woods high schools
- Annual pancake breakfasts and fish/smelt fries
- Training scholarships for fire and ambulance personnel
- Eyeglass collection and vision screening for children

➤ Donations to Cook Hospital for medical devices

➤ Operating the annual "Million Dollar Garage Sale" that raised over \$100,000 for donations and scholarships

➤ Annual Halloween and Easter celebrations

➤ Meals on wheels and grocery delivery to the homebound

➤ Financial support for school field trips, academics, arts, and sports teams

➤ Buddy backpacks

Cook Mayor Harold Johnston shared his thoughts about the Lions' contributions.

"I think it goes without saying, and it was just mentioned all the things the Lions do, even things I didn't know that you do,"

he said. "It's a wonderful thing because you have stayed true to your principles for 50 years. I have never heard anything bad about the Lions, and I hope that you will continue for the next 50 years. Thank you very much from the community, thank you very much from myself, and good luck in the future."

Member Ron Maki reviewed all of the places the club has called home over the years and shared a few humorous historical anecdotes.

Kajala then took the audience on a trip back through time with a slide show culled from over 640 images submitted by members that was created by Dede Doi. A special in memoriam section recog-

nized club members who have passed away, and that portion of the show drew scattered applause as different faces appeared on the screen.

Among the invited guests were four Lions district-level officers, including immediate past district governor Kathryn Smith, first vice district governor Bob Woodke, district governor Jessica Minske, and past district committee chair Bert Nelson.

Minske gave a presentation in which she commended the club while challenging members to reflect on their commitment and passion for service and bring new members into the fold.

"This is super exciting," she said. "You have

an amazing club for the size of your town, honestly, it's amazing."

Minske played a video of a special message from Lions International President Patti Hill recognizing the clubs anniversary, and later read a written commendation from Hill as well.

Nelson was the featured speaker of the evening, and he encouraged and entertained members with a talk about becoming "superLions." A wrinkle in his presentation that drew a great deal of laughter from the crowd was the moment he unexpectedly removed his suit jacket and tie and unbuttoned his shirt to reveal a purple t-shirt emblazoned with a Superman-style logo featuring a large 'L'. He completed the transformation to Lions superhero by donning a golden cape.

The event also included the induction of several new club members and the presentation of awards. Awards and recipients included:

- Lion of the Year – Dede Doi
- President's Award – Colette Huisenga
- Melvin Jones Fellowship – Jody Refsdal and Danny Brinker
- International Presidents Award – Ron Maki and Bob Ulseth.

**MERGER...**Continued from page 1

dance, and visual arts.

Two major changes, just announced this week, are poised to give NLAA even a larger impact on the community. The organization is merging with two other existing area non-profit arts groups, the Ely Area Concert Association and Greenstone Arts.

"Both of these organizations have been pillars of the local arts scene, contributing to Ely's cultural tapestry," said Lah. "All three organizations share the same mission of creating an Ely where all people have access to the wonder of the arts. We are very excited to see how this injection of new life and energy into these projects benefits our community." Lah said NLAA started talking with Greenstone Arts last year.

"Some of our nonprofit leaders in Ely are getting to the age where they don't want to maintain active boards anymore," he said. A merger with Greenstone builds on both groups' missions, and as a bonus, Greenstone was able to transfer their endowment, earmarked specifically for youth visual arts programming, to the umbrella of NLAA.

The Ely Area Concert Association, which Lah said had been led by a dedicated group of mostly retirees, struggled to reorganize after the pandemic put an end to their planned concert season in 2020.

"They really liked the energy they were seeing at NLAA," said Lah, who remembers how he looked

forward to the concerts as a child growing up in Ely. "Now we get to take it and grow it into the 2020s," he said. "We want to engage both sides, the old Ely and the new Ely. These are incredible concerts and acts that would never make it to our area." He said he also expects to bring in regional acts through connections the NLAA has through its various board members.

"This merger comes at a time when the arts are more essential than ever, offering joy, inspiration, and unity," he said. "The vision is to create a cultural renaissance, preserving remarkable performances while incorporating a broader spectrum of artistic experiences accessible to everyone in Ely and beyond."

Lah said they are hoping to restart the concert series in 2024.

This summer's "Broadway in the Boundary Waters" went very well, said Lah. The experiment of bringing in a group of professional actors to put on a series of three shows, as well as regular free performances in Whiteside Park, "broke even financially," which was the goal for the first-time event. It also grew connections between the actors and the community.

"It was incredible to see the support," Lah said.

"Next year we are going to do a fourth show, starting in early June," Lah said.

Lah attended the Unified Professional Theater Auditions in Memphis, Tenn., where

**Upcoming NLAA events**

➤ **Masked Singer Fundraiser** and used costume sale on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater.

Can you recognize someone by their singing voice alone? Local talents will grace the stage incognito while judges attempt to unveil their true identities through the power of song. Audience members get the chance to cast votes for your favorite performance during intermission. The \$20 ticket grants you four votes, and if you're truly captivated, additional votes can be purchased for just \$5 each. Distribute your votes among different performers or show extra support for a single act. NLAA is also hosting a costume sale featuring masks worn by the performers, available via a silent auction, as well as surplus costumes from NLAA's supply.

"Our costume supply has grown too big for our storage area," said Lah. "And this sale comes just in time for Halloween."

After intermission, the masked singers will be unmasked, and the performer who wins the hearts of the audience and judges will be awarded the coveted "Golden Mask." The best part? All proceeds from this delightful event go towards supporting youth art opportunities.

he found most of the actors for the 2023 season and rounded out the rest of the troupe through other national online auditions. He plans to attend the auditions in Memphis again in February, as well as holding local and regional auditions for the troupe.

"We are looking for incredible talent,

people who connect with our mission, and those who will enjoy experiencing a summer in the Northwoods."

➤ **"God of Carnage"** by Yasmina Reza and directed by Ian Francis Lah will be performed at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater on Nov. 17 and 18 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. "God of Carnage" is a Tony Award-winning Best Play. This play is a rollercoaster ride through the lives of two seemingly sophisticated couples in a chic Brooklyn neighborhood. What begins as a polite gathering to discuss a playground incident quickly escalates into a wild evening filled with drinks, heated debates, and unraveling decorum. Yasmina Reza's brilliant play exposes the fragility of our civilized facades, revealing the hidden venality and simmering resentment beneath. The cast includes Annette Raleigh, Alan Raleigh, Micheal Novak, Veronica Novak, Emily Weise, Bob Winkelman, Vince O'Connor, and Karin Schmidt. The play features adult language and is not recommended for children.

"This is a great study of parenting," Lah said, "and how in the right circumstances, people can devolve into dark beings."

➤ **Broadway in the Boundary Waters** 2024 season will be announced later this month. There will be four shows, ten concerts, and two camps next summer.

➤ **Call Of The Wild** - November Session - The Fall

of Man: A Feminist's Guide to Autumn.

➤ Monthly poetry readings held the first Thursday of the month at the Ely Folk School on Sheridan St. starting on Thursday, Nov. 2, from 5 – 6:30 p.m. The November session features embracing the beauty of autumn through a feminist lens!

➤ Art Shows at the Ely State Theater, see [www.northernlakesarts.org](http://www.northernlakesarts.org) or the NLAA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NorthernLakesArts> for the schedule.

The upcoming show features Northern Lakes Stories: An Art Show by Lin Rose from Oct. 16-29 during the open hours at the Ely State Theater. Lin Rose (Linnaea Borealis Rose) is a recent graduate of Chinese Area Studies at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Over the past decade, Lin has dedicated themselves to honing their artistic skills. Lin's artistry has graced galleries in Duluth, Cloquet, Richmond, Va., and Seattle, Wash., spanning a diverse range of styles, from plein air creations to enchanting children's illustrations and intricate inked freehand works. A natural storyteller, Lin's creations are rich with symbolism and metaphors, inviting viewers to embark on their own interpretive journey.



**Open House at the Ely Public Schools**

Community members, please join us on **Monday, October 16, from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.** for an Open House at the Ely Public Schools.

Come check out the new facilities! The Ely Administration Team will be welcoming community members and a light meal will be served. Please enter the building using the main entrance, door #1.



**Physical Therapy Clinics in Floodwood, Tower & Duluth**

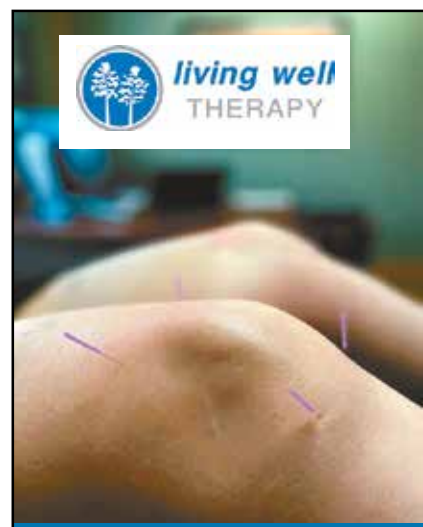
**MODERN PAIN RELIEF TREATMENT**

**Headaches • Jaw Pain  
Shoulder, Neck, & Back Pain  
Muscular Tension  
Planter Fasciitis**

Call to schedule an appointment, for a free consultation to see if physical therapy can help you or look us up on the web

PHONE: 218-481-7603  
WEBSITE: [living-well-therapy.com](http://living-well-therapy.com)

**DRY NEEDLING**



ST. LOUIS COUNTY

# County joins national monarch protection agreement

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

## Will create more butterfly habitat along roadways

REGIONAL- In a win-win Tuesday for monarch butterflies and St. Louis County, the board of commissioners approved an agreement that will provide more butterfly habitat along the county's roadways while protecting future county operations should the monarch be designated as endangered.

The awkwardly-named Nationwide Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Monarch Butterfly on Energy and Transportation Lands (CCAA) was developed in 2020 through a collaboration between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the University of Illinois-Chicago and a partnership of more than 30 energy and transportation companies and organizations. It's designed to promote the use of right-of-way for habitat for monarch butterflies, which have dwindled dramatically in population in recent years.

By joining the agreement, the St. Louis County Public Works department will commit to implementing several conservation practices for butterfly habitat (from which other pollinators will benefit as well) along at least five percent of roads they maintain, which works out to roughly 150 miles of the approximately 3,000-mile system. In exchange, the agreement gives the county the right to follow through with future plans that would otherwise have to be halted if the monarch is declared an endangered species.

"We absolutely have to do this because if the monarch gets listed (as endangered) it could affect our ability to not only do projects that involve disturbing vegetation areas, but also to do maintenance, mowing, tree removal, things like that," said Public Works environmental engineer Carol Andrews. "Those are things we have to do for our

core responsibilities to maintain safe roads for the traveling public."

And such a listing for monarchs may be coming soon, Andrews said.

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listing decision is expected by Sept. 30, 2024," Andrews said. "If they go right to endangered, which is the highest, most restrictive status, then you can't touch the monarch, you can't touch its habitat without getting a permit, unless you're covered under something like this CCAA. I'm glad they used this, because the idea is to incentivize people who are in a position to protect or improve the habitat to do something sooner rather than later."

By signing up for the CCAA, the county will be able to avoid problems such as they encountered in 2015 when the northern long-eared bat was listed as threatened.

"We had a project we were working on that got delayed, and it cost us a lot of money for cancellation of contracts," Andrews said. "It wasn't only about the bat but that was a contributing factor. All of a sudden, we were told the trees couldn't be cut on the project site. We didn't know that was coming so we couldn't plan ahead, and it was a scramble, to put it lightly, for a lot of projects, and especially for one it really delayed. And those delays are very costly."

### Proposed practices

The CCAA contains a list of habitat conservation practices that the county can choose from to implement. Planning for the application started in earnest in 2021, and Andrews said they've narrowed down to some target activities that fit well within the department's regular activities and assessed needs. They will have a year to develop a full



implementation plan, which will include specific areas to be targeted.

One option the county will use is to adjust the times when road right-of-ways are mowed. The back slopes of roadway ditches are typically mowed once a year, Andrews said.

"By waiting until after October when the monarchs have migrated away is one way to avoid disturbing them," she said. "To be honest, there's plenty of back slopes that we don't mow for several years. That might be where we say, 'Don't mow them this year, that's part of our five percent.'"

Because the in-slopes closest to the road are mowed to make wildlife such as deer more visible for safety reasons, that mowing will continue as usual, Andrews said.

Another strategy to create more meadow-like spaces for butterfly habitat is cutting trees that have grown up too close to roads.

"We used to do a lot of that, and then with tight budgets we got way behind on that," Andrews said. "It's just that area like 20 feet on either side, so we're not talking about huge forest, it's just trying to keep the area next to the road cleared. It would be like a meadow opening in the forest with flowers that bloom all different times of the year, and especially milkweed."

Trimming and cutting trees back from roads has other benefits

as well, Andrews said. Cutting trees allows more sunlight to fall on roads, which means in the winter less salt is necessary to prevent icy roads. And removing bigger trees provides an additional level of safety for drivers, as more drivers are injured or killed in accidents where a car leaves the road and strikes an object than in multi-car accidents, Andrews said. And of course, cutting isn't done without first assessing and minimizing the potential impact to birds and bats, she said.

A third strategy involves increasing successful vegetation restoration in areas where the habitat has been altered due to construction projects. Native flowers and grasses planted for cover often succumb after a year or two from the invasion of noxious weeds.

"One of the things I've been pushing for is doing better monitoring of those newly seeded area to try to increase our rate of success," Andrews said. "Getting the native seeds to establish helps with stormwater runoff prevents erosion, prevents downstream flooding, and in the meantime if you plant something that's flowering all year that provides nectar for monarchs and other butterflies."

Andrews said a common question she hears is why would you try to attract butterflies to the side of a road. "There are definitely butterflies that get hit by cars," she acknowledged. "But if you quadruple the number of monarchs by improving their habitat, sure, a little more will get hit, but you're still getting a significant gain. And if they have a good, continuous supply of floral resources on one side of the road, they tend to stay on that side."

Being a partner in the CCAA comes with a cost. The county will pay \$8,000 annually to the University of Illinois-Chicago, the project manager, for oversight and access to outreach and education resources for habitat preservation best practices.

"They serve as a resource to help us find the best, most cost-effective way to meet the requirements," she said.

It's also estimated that the county will invest about \$2,000 annually in labor costs to implement the program.

The county also has the option to change the designated program areas from year to year, which will mesh well with the types of activities they're proposing to do. Andrews said they'll be mapping proposed areas for the initial implementation plan.

"A lot of this is some things we're already doing, but we need to be intentional about it and educate our staff," Andrews said.

St. Louis County is only the third county in the state to sign on to the CCAA, along with Kandiyohi and Polk counties. A quick review of partners listed on a CCAA project map appears to indicate that Minnesota is the only state thus far where county governments have signed up. The Minnesota Department of Transportation is also a CCAA partner, and two Minnesota energy companies, East Central Energy and Northern Natural Gas, have also signed up.

Right now, about 815,000 acres of right-of-way properties are enrolled in the program, but the potential for increasing that number as the listing deadline approaches and more entities sign on is huge, Andrews said.

"This is a national agreement. If you add up the numbers, it really does add up, even at that five percent along roads," Andrews said. "And, also, this applies to utilities. It's millions of acres that could be enrolled. That's pretty cool."

Get financing as low as **1.99%** FOR 36 MONTHS or a rebate up to **\$1,500** ON SELECT 2023 CAN-AM SxS MODELS

www.lossings.com  
(218)827-2635  
30 North Drive  
Babbitt, MN 55706

## WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER?

MINNESOTA DISCOVERY CENTER

#MUSEUM

OPEN TUESDAY-SATURDAY

IRON RANGE RESEARCH CENTER  
TUESDAY-SATURDAY 10 AM - 5 PM

**FALL TROLLEY SCHEDULE**  
THURSDAY: 3:00 PM & 5:00 PM  
SATURDAY: 1:00 PM & 3:00 PM

October is a **SPOOKTACULAR** time to visit the Minnesota Discovery Center! Scan the QR Code below to view our upcoming events, hours, and more! The Museum is open Tuesday-Saturday.

**MINI-GOLF OPEN**

**PUMPKIN PATCH!**  
TICKETS ON SALE

### October Events & Programs

- 10/8 - Trolley Pumpkin Day 10 AM - 4 PM | Admissions
- 10/13 - Trolley In The Dark 10 AM - 4 PM | Admissions
- 10/14 - "I'm New Here" Orientation Tour | Free
- 10/15 - Trolley Pumpkin Day 10 AM - 4 PM | Admissions
- 10/20 - Flashlight Cluuseum Starting at 8 PM | Admissions
- 10/21 - Family Discovery Day: Archaeology 11 AM - 4 PM | Admissions
- 10/26 - Late Night In The Research Center 10 AM - 8 PM | Free
- 10/27 - Flashlight Cluuseum Starting at 8 PM | Admissions

**KAYAK & CANOE RENTALS**  
A NEW WAY TO EXPLORE MINING HISTORY  
WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY

**GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS**  
\$15 Per Workshop  
Pre-register 218-254-7959

**Your Roots**  
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP SERIES

MnDiscoveryCenter.com | 218-254-7959 | Chisholm, Mn

## Scenic Rivers

HEALTH SERVICES

**MEDICAL • DENTAL • BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

BIG FALLS • BIGFORK • COOK • EVELETH  
FLOODWOOD • NORTHOME • TOWER

1-877-541-2817

WWW.SCENICRIVERSHEALTH.ORG

COMMUNITY HEALTH

# Ely Community Health Center adds new dental room

ELY- The Ely Community Health Center unveiled a second dental treatment room at their open house earlier this month. The occasion was the first time the Ely public could see the center's new offices, located at 33 E. Chapman St., which the staff began occupying last year.

The facility, located in Dr. Anderson's old office, has a triage room, a medical treatment room, and now two dental rooms. The facility also features a comfortable waiting area and a reception and staff work area.

"It's because of the generosity of this community that we have been able to expand our dental program," ECHC Executive Director Helen Tome

told the Timberjay. The center provides free basic medical and dental services to those who are uninsured or underinsured.

The organization is run completely by volunteers, with the exception of the Executive Director and dental hygienist Peggy Stolley. Up until this summer, Stolley volunteered her time to clean teeth as well.

With just one dental care provider in Ely, the area has a pronounced shortage of oral health care options, which often forces area residents to travel extensively for dental care, or to go without.

ECHC is open on Thursday evenings for walk-in no-cost medical care, from 5:30-7 p.m. The center provides basic



Members of the Ely Community Health Center staff and board in the new dental treatment room. The center held an open house on Sept. 6 to let the community see its new facility, which it moved into a year ago. From left-to-right, Executive Director Helen Tome, ECHC Board Chair Mary Bianco, M.D., and dental hygienist Peggy Stolley. photo by C. Clark

non-emergency medical care and referrals.

Appointments for dental services are available Tuesday through Thursday, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. ECHC accepts Medicaid dental insurance

plans. It also offers discounted rates for uninsured patients based on a

sliding scale. Contact the ECHC office if you are experiencing any financial

hardships that are preventing you from receiving dental care.

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### Bring ideas to community input meeting Saturday, 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.

### The Embarrass 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](http://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](mailto:timberhallblooddrive@gmail.com).

### Film festival at Fortune Bay on Saturday, Oct. 14

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. "Extraction" features poetry and ani-

mation by Moira Villard. "Closed System" is a science fiction short by the Bawaadan Collective. Three documentary films will be featured, including "Language Keepers" by Ajuwak Kapashesit, "Good Mythology-Jonathan Thunder" by Sergio Rapu, and "KaYaMenTa" by Jules Koostachin.

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 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.



Join us in celebrating our 25th Anniversary

Sunday, October 15  
4-5:30 PM

Ely School Commons Area

We invite you to share our joy in listening to stories from the past and present and gear up for the future. There is no cost; this is our gift to you. Light meal provided by Gator's and Brainstorm Bakery.

RSVP at [ely.younglife.org](http://ely.younglife.org).



Scan to RSVP



**EBCH**  
Ely Community Pharmacy



RxLocal mobile app now available! Scan QR code to download, or search RxLocal in your smartphone's app store.

### The service you deserve. The neighbors you trust.

At Ely Community Pharmacy, your health is our priority. Our on-site, pharmacist-led team is here to answer questions, help manage your medications and provide the expert care you need—with the personal touch you deserve.

#### Trust Ely Community Pharmacy for:

- Over-the-counter medications
- Diabetic testing supplies
- Immunizations

### OCTOBER SPECIALS COLD PREVENTION



\$4.99 Sale

Emergen-C Vitamin C 1000mg



\$7.99 Sale

Airborne



\$6.99 Sale

Health Mart Vitamin C 500mg • 100 Tabs



\$10.99 Sale

Natures Truth Vitamin C With Rose Hips 1000mg - 100 Caplets



\$2.49 Sale

Halls Defense Drops



\$19.99 Sale

Povidone Iodine

328 West Conan Street, Ely, Minnesota 55731 | 218-365-8788

**Northwoods Splendor!**  
Stay with Us!

Includes Continental Breakfast!  
Book Online: [vermilionparkinn.com](http://vermilionparkinn.com)

Close to lakes, trails, state parks, casino  
218.753.2333 • 30 Center St., Soudan MN

**Previously Driven Specials!**

**2016 Chrysler 200 Limited**  
54,123 miles  
**\$15,990**

**2016 Jeep Renegade Sport 4x4**  
74,975 miles  
**\$15,990**

View Our Full Inventory at [www.waschke.com](http://www.waschke.com)

**WASCHKE FAMILY CHEVROLET•COOK**  
Hrs: M-F 8am-6pm, Sat. 9am-2pm  
126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, MN  
218-666-5901 • 1-800-238-4545



# SPORTS

Serving northern  
St. Louis County  
since 1989

## FOOTBALL

# Wolves bombed by Braham

Ely thumped 55-8 in homecoming contest

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY— The Bombers came to take names here on Friday night, and they left the Timberwolves bloody as they romped to a 55-8 win to spoil homecoming at the end of the road. It was always going to be a tough outing for the Timberwolves against Braham, which made the

trip to Ely sporting a 3-1 record in a competitive part of the state. “Braham is competing at the top of their section,” said Ely Head Coach Louie Gerzin. “They’re good athletes and are well-coached.”

Ely was also playing without two of its starters, both out with injuries.

Despite that, the Timberwolves mostly kept Braham in check in the first quarter, limiting them to a single

**Right: Senior rusher Gavin Marshall looks for daylight as sophomore lineman Tyler Fritz pushes back a Braham defender.**

photo by J. Greeney

touchdown and two-point conversion. But the Bombers blew it wide open in the second quarter as they brought it home three more times before the half to take a 32-0 lead

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



## FOOTBALL

# Grizzlies rout Cass Lake 56-14

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

CASS LAKE- The North Woods football team was on the road last Friday to face Cass Lake-Bena in a homecoming matchup, and the young Grizzlies showed they could take a punch and come back with a roar, trouncing the Panthers 56-14.

The Panthers drew first blood in the contest, scoring on a 15-yard pass play. The conversion attempt failed, leaving the score at 6-0.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Grizzlies’ Talen Jarshaw put the Panthers on notice that they were in for a fight by running the ball back 70 yards for a touchdown, and the Grizzlies went on top 8-6 when Nick Abramson scored the two-point conversion.

“Talen caught the ball going forward and never slowed down,” Grizzlies Head Coach Joel Anderson said. “He brought it up into the middle and made one cut and he was gone. It was a giant boost for us.”

CL-B bounced back with another

See **FOOTBALL...**pg. 2B

## CROSS COUNTRY

# Ely’s Brophy takes fifth at Hibbing Rotary Invitational

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

HIBBING— Ely freshman Molly Brophy took fifth in a field of 146 cross country runners here last Thursday as the Ely girls team finished sixth overall against 19 other competitors at the Hibbing Rotary Invitational meet.

Running at the Hibbing Municipal Golf Course, Ely junior Caid Chittum was Ely’s top boys finisher, taking 22nd with a time of 18:04.3. That helped the Timberwolves finish in ninth place in a field of 21 teams.

Brophy, who has steadily paced Ely’s girls team so far this season, finished in a time of 19:54.2, about a minute and a half off the pace of first place finisher Mia Hoffman, of Bemidji. She was one of only five runners in the competition to finish the 5K course in under 20 minutes.

Ely eighth-grader Mattie Lindsay had another strong performance as well, taking 41st with a time of 21:54.3. Senior Claire Blauch was not far behind with a time of 22:10.8.

On the boys side, junior Silas Solum finished behind Chittum in 44th place with a time of 18:34.3, while Brooks Brenny and Eli Olson finished 62nd and 63rd with times of 19:02.3 and 19:03 respectively.

The Wolves were scheduled to host their own meet this Thursday at the Ely Golf Course. They travel to the border to take on International Falls next Tuesday.

## VOLLEYBALL

# Ely tops Grizzlies in three

It was a tight contest throughout

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ELY-TheElyTimberwolves volleyball squad wasn’t about to let anyone spoil their homecoming for the first match of the season on Memorial High School’s new gym floor on Tuesday, least of all the North Woods Grizzlies. While the Grizzlies were a stiff challenge, the Wolves came away with a 3-0 win.

“We are very excited to be back on our home court,” said Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum. “The players in our whole program have been incredibly patient throughout the season so far with sharing one net with six different teams. We can’t wait to have more space and time on the court.”

That enthusiasm didn’t daunt the Grizzlies, who made the opening set a see-saw battle between two teams performing

at the top of their games. Ely took an early 3-0 lead, but North Woods came back to tie, and a four-point run gave the visitors a 12-8 lead. The Grizzlies kept control until the Wolves forged a 17-17 tie, and the teams fought through ties at 18,19, and 20 before the Wolves took a two-point lead and went on to close out a 26-24 win.

The second set was an intense brawl as the score was tied 13 times through 15-15. A three-point flurry put the Wolves up 18-15, and while the Grizzlies were able to close the gap to one, Ely finally prevailed 25-22.

The third set was all Ely after the Wolves put together a seven-point run to go up 12-5. Full of momentum with the match on the line, the Wolves gave no ground, keeping the Grizzlies at bay as they built the

See **VOLLEY...**pg. 2B



**Top: The Grizzlies’ Lauren Burnett goes up high for a smash attempt as Ely’s Lilli Rechichi and Charlotte Hegman defend.**

**Above: Ely senior setter Sarah Visser keeps her eye on the ball as she prepares to lay in a set at the net.**

photos by J. Greeney

## MILESTONES

# Goodsky posts 1,000th assist

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Last Thursday was a good night for the North Woods volleyball team and senior setter Talise Goodsky, who collected her 1,000th career set assist in the Grizzlies’ 3-0 win over Northeast Range.

With Goodsky getting around 30 assists per match this season, it was a

**Left: As the Nighthawks’ Chelsey Nelmark looks on, the Grizzlies’ Talise Goodsky sets the ball for a teammate.**

photo by D. Colburn

foregone conclusion that she would have a good shot at eclipsing the 1,000-assist plateau at home Thursday, and the North Woods student section came prepared to celebrate, wearing wild tropical attire and carrying several signs marking the accomplishment.

The players were clearly pumped up as well, putting the shackles on the Nighthawks early on with strong serving and good ball movement.

“We started off hot serving,” Head Coach Kandi Olson said. “It actually made us a little nervous for a few minutes because we were starting to rack up some

See **GOODSKY...**pg. 2B





STATE SYMBOLS

# State flag and seal design ideas sought

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- If you have a vision for a new flag and seal to represent Minnesota to the world, it's time to consider submitting that idea to the State Emblems Redesign Commission.

The current state flag was designed in 1957 and uses a 1983 modification of the state seal. Flag experts give the flag low marks for its complexity, its similarity to flags of other states, and its bland design, and it has been ranked in the past as one of the nation's ten worst state flags.

A significant criticism over the years has been the flag and seal's

depiction of a white settler and departing Native American. Critics have said it symbolized the inevitability of white settlement and also celebrated the forcible exile of the Dakota people.

Since 2000, the state legislature has considered ten different bills for redesigning the flag. This past spring, a bill passed establishing the State Emblems Redesign Commission to develop and adopt new designs for the official state seal and state flag by Jan. 1, 2024.

The Commission is now accepting public submissions on its website at [www.mnhs.org/serc](http://www.mnhs.org/serc).

All entries must be original and follow the guidelines outlined on the Commission website. Participants must be 18 years of age or older,

and those under 18 must have their submissions entered by a parent or legal guardian. Each eligible person can submit up to three designs each for the state flag and state seal.

Public submissions will be accepted online and via U.S. mail and must be submitted or postmarked by Monday, Oct. 30, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Mail submissions can be sent to the address listed on the commission website.

Five submissions for each the new state seal and state flag will be selected for final consideration by the commission. The commission will select one design (or a modified version) to be utilized as the basis for each emblem.

# Lost hunter spends night in woods north of Orr

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- An International Falls man and his dog spent last Friday night lost in the woods north of Orr after becoming disoriented while hunting.

St. Louis County Sheriff's deputies and the St. Louis County Rescue Squad responded to an area on Leslie Road west of Hwy. 53 at 10:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29 after receiving a report that the 62-year-old man had not returned to a cabin in

the area after leaving on foot with his dog around 5 p.m.

The man and dog reappeared safe and sound at 8:45 a.m. Saturday morning, walking out of the woods near the Rescue Squad command post. The man told officers he had become lost while hunting and started a campfire for the night until there was enough daylight to find his way out of the woods. Neither the man nor the dog were injured during the incident.

## Obituaries and Death Notices



### Peter J. Johnson

Peter Jon Johnson, 87, of Lake Vermilion-Tower, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023, at Essentia-Virginia. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 6 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Visitation will be held at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred and may be sent to the Virginia Community Foundation, 303 West Chestnut St., Virginia, MN 55792 or the Peter and Colette Johnson Family Foundation, PO Box 1746, Breckenridge, CO 80424. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Peter was a devoted husband and father, a respected local entrepreneur and business owner, and an avid outdoorsman. He had a dynamic personality and a keen sense of humor. Peter was born in Eveleth on Sept. 25, 1936, and was the oldest of four children. He graduated from Virginia High School in 1954, followed by four years at Michigan Technological University. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in mining engineering.

Peter married the love of his life, Colette Kishel. He often gleefully shared the story about the two of them meeting at a Trout Lake Scout camping trip. They had three children and enjoyed living in Britt for more than 30 years.

Peter joined his father's scrambling company known as Johnson and Moore, helping expand operations to include excavation work and contracting for highway heavy construction projects. The company name was changed to Hoover Construction. Years of success followed as the mines expanded throughout the 1970s and taconite plants were built. Continued success came with Peter's investments in Minnesota Explosives, Mining Services, and Michigan Limestone Operations. As a respected expert in his field, Peter served in multiple positions on the Associated General Contractors Association of MN including as state president. He was an arbitrator for construction disputes over the years.

Peter was a member of the Young Presidents Organization, the Queen City Federal Bank Board

of Directors, the MN Power Board of Directors and the Marshall and Nellie Alworth Scholarship Fund Board of Trustees. Teaching himself to hunt, Peter introduced his children to bird and deer hunting early in their lives. He loved to fish in Canada, spending many summer weekends piloting to his

fish camp on Shikag Lake, Ontario. Besides enjoying the Minnesota great outdoors, Peter and Colette traveled extensively with memorable trips to every continent. Peter gave generously to philanthropic endeavors that promoted education and the betterment of his community. He inspired and supported

his grandchildren in their educational pursuits, encouraging them to follow their dreams.

Survivors include his wife, Colette; sons, Peter "Chipper" (Marieta) Johnson and Joel (Karen) Johnson; daughter, Jennifer (Michael) Lundin; seven grandchildren, Megan (Troy) Douglas, Benjamin (Jenna) Johnson, Nicholas (Masha) Johnson, Jessica (Ryan) Naimola, Jon (Rachael) Lundin, David (Lizzy) Lundin and Brandon (Alexandria)

Johnson. He was a proud great-grandfather to 17, between the ages of 11 months and 14 years. Peter is also survived by his brother, Stanton (Pam) Johnson; sisters, Sharon (Jack) Giese and Charlotte (John) Purvis; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Peter "Pete" and Frances O'Korn Johnson; and in-laws, Clarence "Bud" and Lillian Swedman Kishel.

### Jacqueline J. Weum

Jacqueline Joyce "Jackie" Weum, 86, longtime resident of Cook, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023, at Marywood in Duluth. A full obituary will follow. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

## TOWER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Please Donate! New Mower Needed!

Let's raise enough money this fall, so in the spring of 2024, the Cemetery Board can purchase new mowing equipment.

Two weeks ago, we reported on the expenses for the 2023 season. It is not like several years ago when a five or ten dollar bill went much farther. The Cemetery Board would appreciate if you can contribute to what we are calling "a special fund just for new mower equipment in 2024."

Many thanks to all and especially some of the large donations. It is those who give that keep the Lakeview Cemetery grounds so nice. If it wasn't for you all, I don't know who would maintain our local cemetery in Tower. I will start this fund going and donate one hundred dollars!

Secretary Leonard Stefanich  
The Tower Cemetery Assoc.  
P.O. Box 874  
Tower, MN 55790



## ELY-WINTON HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Ely-Winton Hospital Scholarship Fund offers scholarships to students in the fields of:

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Doctor of Medicine        | 6. Physician's Assistant/Paramedic  |
| 2. Nursing (RN/LPN)          | 7. Occupational Therapist           |
| 3. Laboratory Technician     | 8. Physical Therapist               |
| 4. X-Ray Technician          | 9. Pharmacy                         |
| 5. Medical Records Librarian | 10. Other approved by the Committee |

Applicants must have attended school in Ely or Babbitt for at least two (2) years and graduated from that school. Applicants must be engaged in obtaining professional, vocational, or scientific education or training leading to a degree or certificate in one of the above-mentioned fields.

Applications are available at the District Office, Ely Public Schools, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731, or you may contact Lori Westrick at (218)365-1727 or [lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us). Applications are due in the District Office by Tuesday, October 31.



## Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

**Northwoods Transfer Station**  
9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt  
Winter Hours  
Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm  
Tue: 9:30am-3pm  
Wed: 11am-5pm

**Aurora Transfer Station**  
5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora  
Hours  
Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm  
Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm  
Sat: 8am-noon

**Embarrass Canister Site**  
7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass  
Hours  
Thu: 10am-5pm  
Sat: 12:30-4:30pm

**Soudan Canister Site**  
5160 Hwy 169, Soudan  
Hours  
Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun:  
8am-5pm

**Household Hazardous Waste Facility**  
5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia  
Hours  
Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm

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

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

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



## Real Estate & Moving Auction

Elsie Lehtinen, Owner • Joan LeFebvre, POA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 10 AM

713 Maple Drive, Aurora, MN 55705

**CHARMING EXTREMELY WELL-KEPT HOME IN AURORA, MN- (11:00 AM)**  
1,120 sq ft 3 BR home, exc. maintained, w/attached 24x22-ft, two-stall garage w/good cement floor, front & back service entry doors. This move-in-ready 1959-built home has beautiful hardwood floors, replaced vinyl-clad windows, steel siding, gutters/down spouts, and re-roofed in 2009. Large living/dining area, Dining room has a wall-mount Mini Split unit for A/C and heat. 3 BR w/corner windows. 3/4 main floor BA, low-edge, step-in shower. Appliances included. Newer seated elec. stair lift installed on basement staircase. Poured concrete basement with room, 3/4 BA and closet. (NOTE: NOT ingress/egress windows) Finished family room area, large laundry/utility room, and storage room. 200-amp elec. service and is heated by Natural Gas boiler hot water radiant heat. Approx. 80x150 ft lot, city sewer and water. Beautifully landscaped w/perennial flowers, shrubs, rasp/blueberries. Yard also has garden shed. This immaculately maintained home is in a nice, like-aged area of housing in town, within 1.5 blocks from park area on west edge of Aurora. Exceptionally clean and ready for new owners to move in! This home will be offered at auction, at 11:00 am. Legal Description: PID: 100-0070-00470. St. Louis Co. Terms: This home will be auctioned "AS IS", and sale is non-contingent. 10% of purchase price down on the day of auction, the balance will be due in 30 days, subject to seller's confirmation. Buyer will assume ownership of any items that remain in the home, garage or yard as of closing. Questions? Contact Kaija Kokesh, Broker, at 218-845-2260. Also to be auctioned, general yard/shop/household, including a Large GE Upright Freezer, New in 2019; and furniture.

## ESTATE AUCTION

Estate of David Stern • Audrey Stern, PR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 3 PM

5544 River Rd., Buyck, MN 55771

**5 ACRE RECREATIONAL SITE WITH SMALL OLDER HOME- ORR MN AREA- (3:30 PM)**  
5.18 acres of high land, w/ mature pine trees, frontage on River Rd. Home is a smaller, 1940's vintage, 2-story on full basement. 2 upstairs BR with BA and shower, main floor kitchen, dining and living area. Basement has newer Goodman propane forced air furnace and propane water heater. Washer and dryer included. 6-in. drilled well. Mound system inspected in 2016 and passed, (will have inspected by auction day) This small older home, was re-roofed approx. 5 years ago and new windows installed. Also, new vinyl siding included, but not installed. Property has two older garages. This home was lived in year-round through the winter of 2022-2023. This is an ideal weekend get-away site for camping, RVs with all high land. Close to Boundary Waters and a multitude of outdoor recreational activity areas. This property will be sold "As Is," and as a non-contingent sale. Any and all remaining furniture or items in the home, in buildings, or on property will become the buyer's upon closing. Legal Description: PID: 510-0011-01262. St. Louis Co. Terms: 10% of the sales price down on the day of auction (non-refundable), the balance is due in 30 days, subject to seller's confirmation. To be sold as is, sale will be non-contingent. Questions? Contact Carol Reinhardt, Broker, at 218-845-2260. Plus 2010 Ford F150 and 2004 GMC Envoy; Boat and Sporting; Snowmobiles; Cub Cadet Garden Tractor; Yard Items; Asst. Shop and Tools; Some household.

For complete listings see [www.reinhardtuctions.com](http://www.reinhardtuctions.com), or call 218-845-2260.

Reinhardt Auction Service- "Work hard-Sell right!"



# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## WILDLIFE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

# COVID studies exploring human-animal transmission



## Virus reservoirs in animals may pose public health risk

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

**REGIONAL-** The origins of the COVID-19 virus remain unclear, although the most promising theory points to a transfer of the virus from a species of bat in China to humans sometime in 2019.

Researchers determined quickly afterward that the virus was able to spread inter-species, as isolated cases of positive COVID tests in cats and dogs began to appear. Some pets showed COVID-like effects,

but scientists were unable to conclude definitively at that time if the virus was the direct cause of the symptoms.

Scientists began to pay particular attention to the phenomenon of human-to-animal COVID transmission as more dogs and cats, as well as hamsters, ferrets, mink, otters, lions, tigers, leopards, hyenas, white-tailed deer and even manatees were diagnosed with the virus. This research continues to the present day, with \$4.5 million awarded just last week to Penn State University to test

for COVID-19 in 58 different species of wildlife animals. More than 20,000 samples will be collected from wildlife such as chipmunks, gray squirrels, raccoons, coyotes, moose, and three species of deer.

Today, the concern related to human-to-animal transmission is that wildlife could serve as a reservoir for COVID strains to survive, mutate, and re-infect humans. The risk is considered low for now but isn't fully understood.

### Deer studies

After federal and aca-

demical researchers discovered infections in captive white-tailed deer, they focused their attention on wild deer. A pilot blood sampling study in four states found that 40 percent of those samples contained COVID antibodies, indicating those deer had been exposed to the virus.

The first year of an extensive study of white-tailed deer in the U.S. reported in June by the U.S. Department of Agriculture sampled over

See COVID, pg. 5B

## WILDERNESS WANDERING

# QUETICO BOUND

*There is adventure after 70*

by Frank Davis

**H**aving paddled across Nym Lake, the trip into the Quetico formally begins with the portage into Batchewaung. No more than fifty yards or so on the portage, the cares and strains of daily life begin to slide away, replaced by the familiar welcome of birch, spruce, aspen, pine and the yellowing of ferns on either side of the trail. It is a homecoming. Kristin and I first made this portage over forty years ago, in our early thirties. There have been many crossings since that first one left us breathless from the effort and the beauty. Homecoming and a new adventure joined together by a liturgy of returning. A Great Mystery it is.

The land is drier than I have ever seen it, scary dry. The water line marking the rocky shores of Batchewaung is another sign of just how parched the land is, longing for autumn rain. Back from the shore on the higher ridges, the aspen is already turning to spun gold. It looks more like late September than a couple of days before Labor Day weekend.

Soon into that first day of paddling, we begin to notice tiny maples growing all alone here and there. These tiny maples scattered about call to mind toddlers just starting their lives or grandmothers carrying the weight of their years. Wearing their bright scarlet, these little maples sing "O Canada" to us. These forest sprites spread across the northern landscape add joy and energy to the steady rhythm of putting paddle to water.

Over the course of our trip, the



**Above: Frank Davis and (rt) Kristin Foster mark their passage in the Quetico with portraits along the shore of one of the lakes they visited.**

submitted photos

swatches of red reveal themselves more and more as we grow quieter, and our senses keener in response to a place where humans come only as pilgrims, not permanent residents. Kristin and I carry no cell phone, no satellite phone either. Can a trip be called an adventure without some degree of measured risk?

If we have a "wrinkle", we will figure it out.

What about the maples? As we paddle into Jessie and later Elizabeth for a day outing we spot more of them. It seems as if our eyes are growing a reflexive attraction to the blaze of red. As this visual attunement deepens, we begin to notice actual tree-sized maples back from water's edge. There they are, the ancient ones, shimmering rubies flashing in a tapestry of green and gold.

The weather is unusually calm on this trip. We have only one day when a persistent southwest wind raises a bit of adrenaline. Mostly, there are only gentle winds that bring some pleasant cool to the hot and sunny days. The maples are before me, in my mind, and gradually they open my heart as well. As we paddle,



I wonder about the maples. I know precious little about the ecology of the boreal forest, but their relative paucity suggests to me that we are outside their comfort zone. What is that like to be rooted outside of one's comfort zone? Maybe these little maples are gnomes blown in from afar by straight line winds from the west or from the northeast on the backside of powerful wintertime low pressure. Who knows?

But here they are, living mostly solitary lives in the midst of great beauty. In their solitude I wonder if they have cultivated the keen vision and deep contemplative spirit of the hermit who lives with few needs and without the prattle of Main Street. Standing

See QUETICO, pg. 5B



**Jimmy Laine with his giant heirloom tomato with a colorful past.**

## GARDENING

# Homegrown with a story

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

**LAKE VERMILION**— Jimmy Laine is no stranger to music fans in the region, but he is perhaps less known for his accidental gardening exploits. As anyone who gardens heirloom vegetables knows, the best seeds always come with a story, and there is certainly one behind the giant tomato that Laine brought into the *Timberjay* office last week.

It was huge, about six inches across and weighed just shy of two pounds. While I didn't taste it, Laine insists they're delicious, and he should know since he's been growing them since 2016 from a few seeds he saved from a giant tomato given to him by Annie Lind the year before. Lind was cooking at Wolf Bay Lodge back in 2015 and Laine had been playing drums there on Tuesday nights and they often traded good stuff to eat, like Lind's garden produce for Laine's home-smoked meats.

After enjoying that first tomato, which filled out four BLT sandwiches with tomato to spare, he asked Lind for the story behind it. She told him it came from a VA officer in Hibbing who had gotten the seeds from a WWII vet who had saved them while deployed in Palermo, Sicily. He had been growing the tomatoes since the war and they've gotten passed around over the years and have made an appearance in any number of Iron Range gardens in the more than 75 years since the war.

Laine says the tomato, which he calls his "Mafia tomato" is prolific and that this is the first variety of tomato he's ever had success growing at his home on Pike Bay.

One interesting side note is that Laine's father served during the war on a destroyer that was torpedoed and nearly sunk during the battle of Palermo in July, 1943. His ship, which was commanded at the time by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Jr., the president's son, subsequently docked at Palermo to undergo repairs.



WARMING CLIMATE

# September proved much warmer than average, again

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The North Country’s trend of warming early fall weather bore out once again this year as one of the mildest Septembers in recent history made its way into the record books. While the Twin Cities set a new all-time record for the warmest September, most longstanding stations in the North Country fell short of an all-time mark.

It was the sixth warmest September on record at International Falls (which has records going back more than a century) with an average temperature of 59.2 degrees. Meanwhile, Hibbing experienced its third warmest September, based on records that go back to 1962, also averaging 59.2 degrees for the month. Tower reported an average for the month of 59.1 degrees, while Ely recorded 59.3 degrees.

Overnight low temperatures, more than daytime highs, helped contribute to the exceptionally warm September. In fact, Hibbing experienced its warmest overall low temperature in September in its

roughly 60 years of record keeping. International Falls experienced the third warmest overnight low temperatures this past month.

This month’s temperatures ranged from four to six degrees above average for the month, a trend that has become increasingly common in recent years as the climate warms. “It has become like a summer month,” said state climatologist Pete Boulay. “It didn’t used to always be that way.”

The updated forecast calls for a distinct cool-down heading into the end of the week, followed by another round of above-average temperatures. Both the 6-10 and 8-14 day outlooks call for above average temperatures and below average precipitation.

The 90-day outlook, running Oct. 1-Dec. 31, suggests above average temperatures in northeastern Minnesota with equal chances of precipitation. According to Boulay, however, the return of a strong el Nino is likely to contribute to a milder winter than usual.

The normal high as of

## LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
46 34					46 32					51 34					55 37					58 39				

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.
09/25	57	55	0.75		09/25	59	55	0.57		09/25	60	56	0.36		09/25	64	54	2.05		09/25	56	51	0.84	
09/26	64	49	0.14		09/26	64	47	0.05		09/26	63	51	0.02		09/26	72	52	0.01		09/26	65	48	0.01	
09/27	68	46	0.00		09/27	71	44	0.00		09/27	69	50	0.00		09/27	64	43	0.00		09/27	70	47	0.00	
09/28	65	54	0.00		09/28	64	54	0.00		09/28	65	53	0.01		09/28	64	55	0.00		09/28	64	54	0.00	
09/29	63	56	0.00		09/29	64	56	0.00		09/29	64	57	0.00		09/29	63	57	0.00		09/29	64	57	0.00	
09/30	62	57	0.00		09/30	64	58	0.00		09/30	63	57	0.48		09/30	70	55	0.00		09/30	64	57	0.31	
10/01	na	na	0.27		10/01	68	60	0.22		10/01	65	59	0.00		10/01	82	61	0.00		10/01	67	60	0.00	
YTD Total			20.30		YTD Total			22.12		YTD Total			16.50		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total			20.47	

## COVID...Continued from page 4B

11,000 specimens and detected active COVID virus in 12.2 percent of them. One in three had antibodies from previous COVID exposure. The research showed that the virus was transmitted from humans to the deer, mutated, and was potentially transmitted back to humans.

Another study conducted by the University of Missouri in collaboration with Ohio State University and state and tribal wildlife agencies collected more than 9,000 respiratory samples from white-tailed deer in 27 states and found that COVID had been transmitted from humans to the deer 106 times, with three instances in which the virus was possibly transmitted back to humans.

“Deer regularly interact with humans and are commonly found in human environments — near our homes, pets, wastewater, and trash,” said University of Missouri professor Dr. Xiu-Feng Wan. “The potential for SARS-CoV-2, or any zoonotic disease, to persist and evolve in wildlife populations can pose unique public health risks.”

Of concern in the most recent deer research released by Ohio State researchers in August was the presence of the Alpha COVID variant in ten percent of the samples, eight-to-12 months after that variant’s dominance in humans.

“We have Alpha lineage persisting in deer for over a year,” researcher Andrew Bowman, DVM, PhD said in an article published by the University of Minnesota Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy. “That’s potentially creating a reservoir of divergent strains that could come back into the human population. That is the thing we need to keep an eye on.”

Also, the rate of evolution of the virus leading to new variants was approximately three times higher in deer for the Alpha variant, and 2.7 times higher for the Delta variant, which was also found in sampling.

“When the virus jumps from one species to another, it is exposed to a new set of selective pressures. These pressures can favor the emergence of new variants that are better adapted to the new host,” said Jonathon Heale, a USDA staff biologist.

But white-tailed deer may pose little current risk of sparking a COVID outbreak in humans, as in the second year of the USDA study the prevalence of COVID in white-tailed deer dropped from 12.2 percent to 1.6 percent. Bowman suggested the drop could be related to the Omicron variant that caused the pandemic’s largest spike in cases in January 2022 and that has spawned subsequent variants driving caseloads through the present day.

“We’ve seen some early experimental work that deer seem to be less susceptible to Omicron lineages, and the virus doesn’t replicate as well as older lineages,” Bowman said.

But while the incidence of COVID in white-tailed deer has declined, the dynamics of transmission, incubation, and mutation present a cautionary tale of the potential public health threat reservoirs of animal COVID infections originating from human populations may pose in the future. For a virus most believe originated in wild animals, much is still to be learned about how animals may aid in preserving and

propagating it back to humans once more.

“More research is needed to understand the full extent of the role that spillover events play in the evolution of SARS-CoV-2,” Heale said.

**Cook VFW**  
POST 1757

**HAPPY HOUR • 3:30-6:30 PM**  
MON, WED, THURS, FRI,  
SAT, SUN  
- CLOSED TUESDAYS -

**FRIDAY**  
**BURGER NIGHT • 4:30-7 PM**  
**1/3 LB. BURGER - \$6**

**Take-Out 666-0500**  
206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

## QUETICO...Continued from page 4B

alone, mostly tiny with the occasional tall ancient one, these maples whisper how acceptance cultivates resilience. Acceptance and resilience, hm? Little maples in the big woods, no sentinel white pine, no mighty Norway pine.

As our trip rolls on, the miracle of the maples continues. Kristin and I call out to each other with considerable enthusiasm, “There’s one. There’s another and another, right over there next to that big rock by the water.” And so it goes.

The final portage completed, we decide to paddle back to the landing by a different route than the one we have always followed in the past. This decision proves to be a poor one. We get turned around and find ourselves in a maze of islands that doesn’t fit what our map shows us, so hot and tired, we sheepishly turn around and paddle back to the landing by the tried and true course.

Now in the air-conditioned car, we pause at the only convenience store in our beloved Atikokan for the celebratory ice cold

can of Coca Cola paired with a large bag of freshly popped popcorn. Kristin and I maintain the quiet for the most part on the drive home. We are still filled up with the great Silence and Mystery of the forest, the lakes, the almost full moon, the soft wind and the maples glowing red at an early turning of the season.

*Frank lives in rural Cook with his wife, Kristin Foster, and their one year old Black Lab, Ellie.*

**SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

### Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

<p><b>Northwoods Transfer Station</b> 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: 11am-5pm</p> <p><b>County 77 Canister Site</b> 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm</p> <p><b>Embarrass Canister Site</b> 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm</p> <p><b>Household Hazardous Waste Facility</b> 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm</p>	<p><b>Cook Transfer Station</b> 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm</p> <p><b>Soudan Canister Site</b> 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun 8am-5pm</p> <p><b>Aurora Transfer Station</b> 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon</p> <p><b>Regional Landfill</b> 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

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

**Ritchie Automatic**  
Livestock Waterers  
and Parts

**HIBBING**  
*FEED and SEED*  
262-3049

**RANGE JEWELRY & GIFTS**  
“A Gift For Every Occasion”

- In-store jewelry & watch repair
- Cash for Gold & Silver
- SISU JEWELRY

OPEN: Tues-Sat 9-5  
218-827-2515  
Babbitt Shopping Center

# CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

**CLEAN**

- ✔ Boats, trailers, and gear
- ✔ Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, nets, and gear before leaving boat landing

**DRAIN**

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

**DRY**

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

## STOP INVASIVE SPECIES!

LEARN MORE AT [CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG](http://CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG)





# 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.

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

**MARINE**



*Centrally Located On Lake Vermilion*

Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage  
 Lease or Purchase Options  
 Marina • Mechanic on Duty  
 Convenience Store  
 24-Hour Fuel • Live Bait

4551 Bradley Road, Tower • 753-5457  
 www.shamrocklanding.com

### AUTOMOTIVE

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

### BUILDING SERVICES

**EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC**

*"Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota In Your Home"*

Superior Quality  
 • Plank Paneling  
 • Trim  
 • One-Of-A-Kind Moldings  
 • Industrial Lumber

**218-744-1788**  
 8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

### HAIR CARE

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

### HOSPICE

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

### MARINE

**MERCURY OUTBOARDS**  
**Frank's Marine Sales & Service**  
 Mercury, Crestliner, Lund  
 www.franksmarinesales.com  
 franksmarine@centurytel.net  
 Hwy 53, Orr • Call 218-757-3150

**MOCCASIN POINT MARINE**  
 4655 Moccasin Point Rd  
 Lake Vermilion  
**218-753-3319**

Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales  
 Mechanic on Duty

moccasinpointmarine.com



Since 1926  
**Handberg's MARINA**  
 & GENERAL STORE

Boat Sales, Service & Storage

YAMAHA MERCURY  
 218-993-2214 • handbergs.com  
 Crane Lake, MN

**ARONSON BOAT WORKS**

LAKE VERMILION, TOWER  
 Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169

NEW Fall Hours:  
 Mon-Sat: 8:30 AM-5 PM  
 Sun: 9 AM-4 PM

MERCURY LUND HONDA  
 Storage • Complete Service • Sales

**HELP WANTED**

CARPENTER NEEDED- Part-time, paid weekly, pay rate based on experience. Call or text 218-290-5370. 10/6

**Advertise Here**



**One Low Price**

**Total Coverage**

**Call Today 218-753-2950**  
 Online at [timberjay.com](http://timberjay.com)

### WANTED

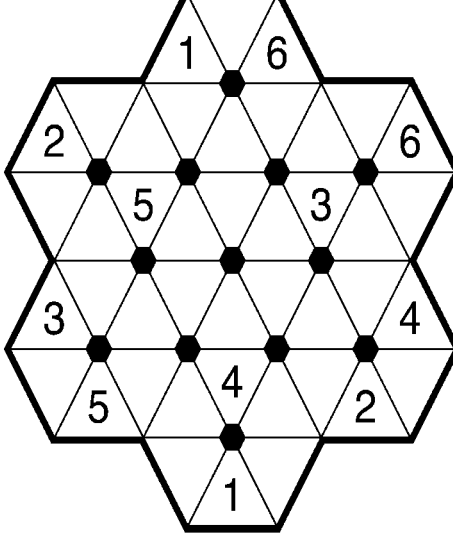
SELIGA CANOES WANTED: We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

### PUPPIES

AKC Golden Retriever puppies ready Oct. 4. \$800 for males and \$850 for females. Located in Tower. Text/voicemail 218-410-6373 or email charityross79@gmail.com. 9/29

**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

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

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

## Super Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Worker welfare gp.  
 5 Bark syllables  
 11 Perform a dynamic crowd action in a stadium  
 20 Hospital bed attachment  
 21 Nomadic type  
 22 Turpentine, for one  
 23 1983-2014 periodical for adolescents  
 25 Reins are parts of them  
 26 The first task on the to-do list  
 27 Help-wanted, e.g.  
 29 Musician Nugent  
 30 Musician DiFranco  
 31 Africa's Sierra —  
 33 No-problem advancement  
 37 What a biting sarcastic person has  
 41 Ostrich lookalike  
 42 Olympic swimmer Tom  
 43 Royal heirs, often  
 44 Veep's boss

45 NYC subway org.  
 46 Shocking fish, at times  
 47 Stuff causing a blowup  
 48 Conservative moral principles  
 55 Like Ikea assemblies, for short  
 56 Sitcom alien  
 57 Sloop, e.g.  
 58 Sch. group  
 59 Summits  
 62 Smell terrible  
 65 Splendid  
 67 Special times  
 68 Span rotating horizontally to allow ships through  
 70 Sci-fi guru  
 71 Natives of Palermo or Catania  
 73 Runs slowly  
 74 Peeled  
 75 Above, in poems  
 76 Meara of "Southie"  
 77 Photo lab blowup: Abbr.  
 78 Ryder vehicle  
 79 Alternative to bifocals  
 85 Naples loc.  
 88 Deep, as a voice

89 Month, to Manuela  
 90 Put a rip in  
 91 Luau favors  
 92 De Mille of choreography  
 95 Game-airing channel  
 97 Welcome wind on a hot day  
 99 Entry at no charge  
 102 Key just above D  
 103 Tell untruths  
 104 Strike caller  
 105 "... boy — girl?"  
 106 Trial blasts, for short  
 109 They die hard, it's said  
 113 Bob Fosse film title relevant to the starts of eight answers in this puzzle  
 117 Distributes in shares  
 118 Shape-fitting game  
 119 For — (not pro bono)  
 120 Young superhero of DC Comics  
 121 Off the mark  
 122 Road curve

**DOWN**

1 Globe  
 2 — Paulo  
 3 Coxa, more familiarly  
 4 Some nuts  
 5 Jason's ship  
 6 Horse hue  
 7 Perturb  
 8 Parisian bud  
 9 Title anew  
 10 One of the Corleones in "The Godfather"  
 11 Cry from Homer  
 12 City in Kansas  
 13 Actress Wright  
 14 Fit carmaker  
 15 Up 'til  
 16 "Cursed" director Craven  
 17 Reaven attack  
 18 Capital of Austria  
 19 Junior naval officer  
 24 Assist illicitly  
 28 More or less  
 31 Keep going  
 32 Business coll. topic  
 33 Rocker Julius  
 34 Lighter — air  
 35 Imagine  
 36 Laze about  
 38 Grand Ole —

39 Firearm rights org.  
 40 H.S.-level exam  
 45 Popular dog biscuits  
 46 Shirk  
 48 "— the season ..."  
 49 Sharp taste  
 50 Place to live  
 51 Pines  
 52 Willing to participate in  
 53 Musical exercise  
 54 Mixed greens  
 55 Lover of Lucy  
 59 Fable penner  
 60 Town shouter  
 61 User's shortcut  
 62 Relatives of geese  
 63 Rake parts  
 64 Those elected  
 65 Rapper — Khalifa  
 66 Actress Meg  
 68 Tendon  
 69 Croissant, e.g.  
 72 Crooner Julius  
 74 Dads  
 77 "Yeah, but still ..."  
 78 Noun follower, often

80 Open delight  
 81 Devilkins  
 82 School in Berkshire  
 83 Natal lead-in  
 84 Bando of baseball  
 85 Sense no danger  
 86 Oscar winner Minnelli  
 87 Play — (enjoy some tennis)  
 91 Alternative to a right hook  
 92 Drifting at sea  
 93 Car part between headlights  
 94 Acupuncture item  
 95 NFL rusher Smith  
 96 Savor pekoe, say  
 97 Certain fuel-carrying ship  
 98 Take a break  
 100 Burj Khalifa locale  
 101 Super-angry  
 106 Razor brand  
 107 Skinny  
 108 Toward down  
 110 Sweetie  
 111 Make a move  
 112 IRS ID  
 114 Env. insert  
 115 Buddhist discipline  
 116 Brits' alphabet ender

**King Crossword**  
 Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

**CryptoQuote**  
 answer

Bittersweet October. The mellow, messy, leaf-kicking, perfect pause between the opposing miseries of summer and winter.  
 — Carol Bishop Hipps

**Even Exchange**  
 answers

1. Charm, Chart	6. Boris, Doris
2. Slork, Stock	7. Tempo, Temp
3. Jerky, Perky	8. Insure, Injure
4. Robin, Rosin	9. Pasta, Paste
5. Garret, Garnet	10. Latter, Lather

### Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

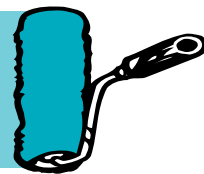
**Get Results!**



**Advertise in the Timberjay!**



# HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



### Your Source For Roofing

- METAL ROOFING
- ARCHITECTURAL SHINGLES

Bryan (218) 269-1039  
Karl (612) 418-8953

Licensed • Insured BC# 785662

VermillionRoofing.com | VermillionRoofing@gmail.com

### Kitchens That Cook!

#### New Cabinets for Home or Cabin!

Stop in today and speak with one of our qualified sales professionals about **CUSTOM CABINET DESIGN**



Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344  
Hours: Mon. Fri: 7-5, Sat: 8-12  
eric@cookbuildingcenter.com

### YOUR HOME-DECOR STORE

Clean, minimalist modern styles for your office



All furniture may not be as shown.  
**ANDERSON**  
FURNITURE & KITCHENS  
AndersonFurnitureCompany.com  
214 2nd Ave. S, Virginia, MN • 218-741-9356

INTEREST FREE FINANCING AND LAYAWAY AVAILABLE  
VISA

### YOU CALL, WE HAUL!

Cement Trucks, Building Materials  
Septic-pumping Trucks, Dirt  
Well-drilling Equipment  
Propane Delivery

Carl Anderson

### Anderson Barging, Inc.

Cell 218-780-4955

www.andersonbarging.com

Covering all of Lake Vermilion

### Tekautz Mechanical

Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration  
Repair & Install

Steve Tekautz  
612-845-1625  
P.O. Box 264  
Soudan, MN 55782  
(We accept credit cards)



### PLUMBING & HEATING SOLUTIONS, INC.

Here for all your Plumbing and Heating needs, Plumbing and Heating Service, Repairs, and New.

Brandon Stone • 218-590-5294

### FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Delivered Redi-Mix Concrete  
Septic Tanks

We have: Concrete Steps & Sidewalk Pavers, Crushed & Washed Rock, Sand, Garden Soil, Crushed & Screened Gravel, Different Types of Concrete Blocks.  
**FREE ESTIMATES** for site development, roads, fill and excavations.

Celebrating Over 50 Years!

From Ely to Tower-Soudan and Virginia, using local gravel pits to support all your needs.

FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS



1715 E. Sheridan, Ely, MN 55731  
office 218-365-6161 • plant 218-365-4030  
fax 218-365-6985 • cell 218-341-3197

### TIP-TOP CHIMNEY SERVICE LLC

A Renewable Energy Company

- Chimney Repairs and Service
- New Wood Stoves and Gas Appliances
- Stainless Steel Liners and Caps

218-290-5370

Email: tiptopchimney@gmail.com

Bonded & Insured



### Fall Clean-up & More!

Window Insulation Kits  
Leaf Bags  
Rakes



### VERMILION LUMBER



HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS  
218-753-2230  
302 Main St., Tower, MN  
M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; Sat: 8 AM-Noon

VISA

For all your HEATING, PLUMBING and AIR CONDITIONING needs...



We're the Professionals!

### Heisel Bros.

PLUMBING & HEATING  
Northgate Plaza • Virginia  
218-741-8381 • www.heiselbros.com

HOURS:  
M-F 8 AM-5 PM  
Sat 8 AM-Noon  
Master Plumber  
PC644131



### KUUMA

Smokeless Wood Furnaces and Fantastic Sauna Stoves!

Call about the 30% tax credit!

WORLD'S #1  
HOT AIR WOODBURNING FURNACE!

.45 gr/hr. emissions  
99.4% comb efficiency  
99% smokeless burns

833-660-1064

lampmfg@gmail.com lampakuuma.com

### RANGE LP GAS

Call Us For All Your LP Gas Needs!

Hoover Rd, Virginia  
741-7393  
1613 E. Camp St., Ely  
365-8888

24 Hour  
Emergency  
Service

• Toll Free •  
1-800-862-8628

### LAW OFFICE

### KELLY KLUN Attorney At Law

Real Estate

- General Questions
- Buying/Selling
- Easements
- Contract for Deed
- Property Line Problems
- Road Maintenance/Assoc.
- Litigation

Complimentary 15 Minute Consultation



Minnesota State Bar Association  
Certified Specialist  
Real Property Law

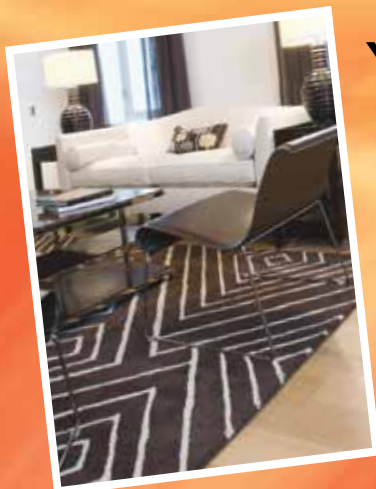


KLUN LAW FIRM  
Direction. Guidance. Results.

1 E. Chapman Street  
P.O. Box 240 • Ely, MN 55731  
218-365-3221 • 218-365-5866 Fax  
www.klunlaw.com

# RUGS & REMNANTS!

YOU'LL LOVE OUR AREA RUG PATTERNS AND PRICES!



STOP in TODAY!



REMNANTS GALORE... and while you're here... Check out our HUGE SELECTION of carpets!

WE HAVE WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!



FLOOR to CEILING  
INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWROOM

floortoceiling.com/virginia

8401 Enterprise Drive N, Virginia/Mt. Iron • 218-741-6690 • HOURS 9-5 M-F

### POWERFUL SAVINGS WITH GENERAC

- FREE estimates
- Financing available
- AFFORDABLE backup power
- Delivery, Installation and Service
- Family and locally owned and operated



GENERAC

CLEARBROOK ELECTRIC

10-Year Warranty! Aug. 28-Oct. 8

Automatic Standby Generator

SALES AND "SERVICE"  
Randy Wetenkamp  
218-776-3995 • 218-556-5981

Serving ALL of Northern Minnesota