

# RAKE IN THE FUN PUZZLE BOOK



## Inside:

**Greenwood pickleball...** See /3

**Short-term rental nightmares...** See /11

**Fall sports action...** See /1B

**Free puzzle book....inside**

# the TIMBERJAY



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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Small home plant may come to Tower

Norway-based Tinde Hytter doing final review of MOU to open manufacturing facility here

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER — Tower Vision 2025 principal Orlyn Kringstad and his Norwegian business partners appear close to finalizing an agreement that would establish a high-quality cabin and small home manufacturing operation here, perhaps as early as next year.

Last Thursday, Kringstad, who recently returned from an extended business trip to Norway, presented an Oct. 4

letter from Audun Skattebo to the Tower Economic Development Authority. Skattebo is the CEO of Tinde Hytter, a small home and cabin manufacturer based in Norway. "Tinde Hytter's management and board have great interest in both the export of our small homes and cottages to the USA and for participating in the production of our Tinde units in Tower, Minnesota," wrote Skattebo. Referencing a Memorandum of Understanding drafted



Above: A typical cabin produced by Tinde Hytter, which currently operates only in Scandinavia. The company has been in talks for months about entering the U.S. market with a plant in Tower. While turf roofs are common in Norway, the homes also come with shingled or metal roofs.

photo courtesy O. Kringstad

during Kringstad's trip, Skattebo added: "I want to confirm to you and your collaborating partners in Minnesota, our agreement, and

intention to sign the document soonest possible."

Kringstad said plans for

See...**TINDE** pg. 10

## MINING

### Twin Metals makes moves at Birch Lake

Subsidiary Franconia Minerals applies for new state permits to further explore Birch Lake deposit

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— With its federal mineral leases canceled and a 20-year moratorium on new mineral leasing now in place over a large portion of the Superior National Forest, Twin Metals is looking to state lands in its bid to open a copper-nickel mine in the region.

Franconia Minerals, a wholly owned subsidiary of Twin Metals, has applied to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to begin exploratory drilling in an area that was heavily explored more than a decade ago by longtime prospector Ernie Lehmann and Franconia Minerals, one of several exploration companies founded by Lehmann.

Identified as the Birch Lake deposit, the lode of copper-nickel and platinum group metals is known to be deep, and is located several hundred feet down. But the site, located about five miles east of Babbitt, is not as fully explored

See...**BIRCH LAKE** pg. 10

## TOWER-SOUDAN

### Drinking water plant bid comes in sky high

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER-SOUDAN— It's likely back to the drawing board for the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board after a lone bid for their planned drinking water treatment plant came in nearly \$4 million above the engineer's most recent estimate.

The project, proposed three years ago to address concerns about drinking water quality, was originally expected to cost about \$4.5 million. The city was later awarded a \$3.375 million grant from the U.S. Army Corps, which was expected to fund three-quarters of the project. But delays due to the COVID pandemic and the rising cost of construction, pushed the price tag for the project far higher.

The city's engineers had most recently increased their cost estimate to \$5.5 million, which had pushed the communities to delay action while they sought ways to fill the funding gap. But that gap has now become a canyon as the sole bid, from Lakehead Construction, opened on Tuesday, came in at a whopping \$9.1 million, or more than double the original estimate for the project.

The Tower-Breitung Wastewater

See...**WATER PLANT** pg. 11

## ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### IN THE SPIRIT OF SAINT FRANCIS

by JEN SHUSTER-DAHLIN  
Contributing Writer

ELY- The Sunday, Oct. 1, church service at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Ely was not your typical call to worship, and the pews were filled with a far more diverse crowd than on a regular Sunday. Parishioners arrived bearing cats in crates, dogs on leashes, and photographs of deceased pets to their morning service to be blessed by their priest, Mary Groening. It's all part of their annual Blessing of the Animals in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, a 12th-century Italian friar known for his love of all creatures great and small.

Not including the pets, around a dozen members attended the service, with another congregant watching and interacting over Zoom. About fifty people call St. Mary's their home church, with attendance rotating as congregants lead their busy lives.

"A lot of our members are families, and a lot of families are super busy. You have to adapt and know that not everyone is going to be here every week," said Groening. "We have a lot of kids that attend this church, and every week, there will always be some children, but I never know which ones. But because we tend to have kids, I often read from a picture



Above: Episcopal priest Mary Groening kneels to bless Maya, a German Shepherd belonging to one of her congregants.

Right: Salem Houle brought her cat, Patches, to church for a blessing.

photo by J. Shuster-Dahlin

book instead of doing a sermon, or I do something that is called 'Godly Play,' where I act out the story on the ground...

See...**CHURCH** pg. 12



## SAINT LOUIS COUNTY

### County board works full agenda in Beatty



by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

BEATTY TWP- The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners came to Beatty Town Hall on Tuesday to conduct its regular business meeting, with a number of items on the agenda focused on North Country issues.

Left: County officials held the weekly county board meeting at the Beatty Town Hall on Tuesday.

photo courtesy St. Louis County

Beatty town supervisor Earl Grano extended greetings to the board and county staff and offered a bit of background on the community. "We're one of the larger townships in the state. We're based a lot on tourists and seasonal residents - our population probably triples or quadruples every summer. Anyway, we're a well-functioning township, unlike some of the folks to the east of us. We enjoy what we do. We feel responsible

See...**BOARD** pg. 9



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**Community notices**

**Ameriikan Poijat (Boys of America) to perform at Kaleva Hall Oct. 14**

VIRGINIA - The Finnish American brass band Ameriikan Poijat (Boys of America) will perform at the Kaleva Hall on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m. The "Poijat's" program will consist of a mixture of concert and dance music.

The Ameriikan Poijat, with players based in Minnesota, have traveled widely with performances in most Midwestern states, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Canada and Finland. Admission is \$10 at the door. Kaleva Hall is located at 125 3rd Street North. Kaleva members, family, friends and community are invited to this outstanding musical event. Coffee an' will be served.

**Mesabi Symphony Orchestra to perform "Music is Colorful" Oct. 22**

ELY - The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra will perform "Music is Colorful" on Sunday, Oct. 22, in the Washington Elementary School auditorium located at 600 E. Harvey St. Performance time is 2:30 p.m.

**Care Partners to hold 14th annual Swedish meatball dinner fundraiser Oct. 25**

VIRGINIA - On Wednesday, Oct. 25 Care Partners will bring their Swedish meatball fundraiser, now in its fourteenth year, to a new location. The event will run from 4-7 p.m. at Rock Ridge High School located at 1405 Progress Parkway. Tickets are \$15 per person, and children under 5 are free. For meatballs only, the price is \$15/dozen. Take-out and mobile curbside orders are available. To receive mobile curbside only service text name and order details to 218-780-4133. All proceeds directly benefit local individuals and families on the Iron Range facing cancer or a life-limiting illness. KSKJ LIFE Lodge #59 is a matching sponsor. For more information and questions call 218-404-1411.

**Sons of Norway Lodge host Autumn Fest Oct. 21**

VIRGINIA - The Sons of Norway, Haarfager Lodge #1-40 of Virginia will hold Autumn Fest at Our Savior's Lutheran Church located at 1111 8th Street S on Saturday, Oct. 21 from noon to 4 p.m. There will be a bake sale featuring Scandinavian goodies, coffee an', gift baskets and raffle. Lodge members will present lefse and krumkake making demonstrations. The public is invited.

**Free self-care training for foster, adoptive and pre-adoptive parents and kinship caregivers Nov. 1**

VIRGINIA - If you're a parent and feeling run down or fatigued, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is offering a free, in-person workshop Wednesday, Nov. 1 on self-care to give you a boost. The training is especially designed for foster, adoptive and pre-adoptive parents, and kinship caregivers.

"We all know self-care is important, yet we often fail to care for ourselves amid daily demands," said Colleen Davern, clinical supervisor in Behavioral Health for Lutheran Social Service and workshop presenter. "This is a great opportunity for foster and adoptive parents, kinship caregivers and prospective foster and adoptive parents to learn helpful techniques to improve their wellbeing - and teach the same self-care practices to the children in their care."

Participants will explore ways to make self-care work for them, learn how to increase their capacity for reflection and how to listen to their minds and bodies.

Davern is a board-certified mental health clinical supervisor with more than 20 years of experience serving individuals in office-based counseling, group homes, outpatient settings, residential facilities, and prisons. She has extensive experience supporting people with chemical addiction and mental health challenges, and has served as a community educator, guest speaker and adjunct professor at area colleges.

The training, funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, is open to residents of Minnesota and will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the LSS Family Resources Center located at 507 South 9th Ave. W. For more information or to register, call Kris Hanson at 218-600-6996 or visit [fostercaremn.org/training](http://fostercaremn.org/training).

READ... the Timberjay

**INSPIRED YOUTH**  
**Ely Young Life celebrates 25 years**

ELY - Ely Young Life is celebrating 25 years of relationships and faithfulness in our community on Oct. 15 from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Ely school commons. The public is invited to share our joy in listening to stories from the past and present, and help us look to the future. This is a free event. Young Life will be serving Gator's infamous soups and Brainstorm Bakery's amazing bread. More information on Ely Young Life and how to RSVP for this special event can be found at the Ely Young Life website at <https://ely.younglife.org>.

It's 1998 - our hearts went on with Jack and Rose at the Oscars, the state elected a former pro wrestler as governor, Furbies were flying off the shelves at Christmas, and a kid named Harry Potter flew into our libraries. In Ely, the Listening Point Foundation was founded, the American Legion Baseball team took second at State, and a small group of high school kids and two leaders went to Young Life camp in Detroit Lakes together for the first time.

Billed as "the best week of your life", Young Life camp was just the beginning for this group, and for Ely. Young Life is largely a volunteer-run organization, and completely locally supported. In the last 25 years, hundreds of people have given their time and funds to support Ely area youth. In fact, the first Ely Young Life Area Director was a volunteer position, held faithfully for five years by resident Martha Scott. The first events for kids, called "Club", were held in Martha and Bill Scott's garage. High school teachers Tom Wetzell and Larry Mischke and parents Margo and Al Penke, joined the Scotts on the first Committee, or local board. The first paid staff person, Area Director Ryan Hunter, was hired in 2003 and stayed on staff until 2006. In 2007, Ely High School and UMD graduate



Teacher staff member Max Gantt poses with two campers on the beach at Castaway Camp.

Emmett Penke took over the area director job and a program for middle school students, WyldLife, was added in the fall of 2008. Mike Keller was hired in 2012 to oversee WyldLife and was promoted to Area Director when Emmett left for another job with Young Life in Washington state in 2015. The Kellers moved to North Dakota in 2021, making way for Emmett and his family to move back in 2022. Ely Young Life now has three staff - Emmett as area director, Kris Bercher as area administrator, and Max Gantt as teacher staff.

Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes is still the go-to camp for Ely Young Life, but opportunities for adventure and growth have taken Ely leaders and students to camps in Michigan and Colorado, on backpacking trips to Wyoming, and on mission trips to Puerto Rico. In 2023 alone, over 75 youth and leaders went to either camp or to Puerto Rico from Ely. At the end of September, WyldLife leaders held a late-nighter after the homecoming football game

and over 30 6th-8th grade students joined the fun.

Through all the years, trips, programs, and fun, the mission of Ely Young Life has stayed the same: to introduce kids to Jesus Christ and to help them grow in their faith. Young Life does this by going where kids are at, building bridges of authentic friendship, and earning the right to be heard. All kids regardless of their beliefs, race, ethnicity, or identity are welcomed. Kids not only have outrageous fun but learn about a loving God in the process. Regardless of a kid's response to that message, the staff and volunteers continue to genuinely care for and about them. They enter the world of kids, focusing on what matters to them - fun, adventure, friendship, and a sense of significance. Relationships are the center of all Young Life does, whether that is relationships with kids and adults that love them, between high school and middle school kids, or with churches and other community groups.

**BOOKS**  
**Exploring Graphic Memoir Legacy Tour with Minnesota writer/artist Lynn Von Sien**

MT. IRON - The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to host an Exploring Graphic Memoir Legacy tour with Minnesota writer/artist Lynn Von Sien this month. These free programs are being offered at the following locations:

- Friday, Oct. 13, 3:30 p.m. Mt. Iron Public Library
- Tuesday, Oct. 24, 3:30 p.m. Aurora Public Library
- Thursday, Oct. 26, 6 p.m. Grand Rapids Area Library
- Friday, Oct. 27, 3:30 p.m. Babbitt Public Library

Discover the rich, diverse history of graphic memoir. Attendees will take away knowledge of the genre's

elements as well as Take and Create exercises and resources to explore the craft further. Program will be guided by Minnesota Writer/Artist Lynn Von Sien, recipient of Arrowhead Regional Arts Council (2021) and Minnesota State Arts Board (2023) grants supporting her work in graphic memoir.

This free hour-long program is geared towards patrons ages 12 and up. If unable to attend in person, extra take and create exercises will be available at all ALS member public libraries, the ALS Bookmobile, and Mail-A-Book (if patrons qualify for service), so folks who aren't able to attend the in-person program can

learn more about graphic memoir outside of the library.

Lynn Von Sien is a fiscal year 2023 recipient of a Creative Support for Individuals grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, is funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACFH) and is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at [www.alslib.info](http://www.alslib.info) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/alslibinfo](http://www.facebook.com/alslibinfo).

**FOR DISCUSSION**  
**Public forum set to hear concerns about mental health needs**

MT. IRON - The Northern St. Louis County Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC) is hosting a public meeting and listening session to gather input on mental

health needs for children, older adults, and law enforcement. The listening session will be Thursday, Oct. 19 from 4:30-7 p.m., at the Mt. Iron Community Center located at 8586 Enterprise Drive.

People also can submit their personal stories of lived experiences - either anonymously or to be shared as part of the

conversation - through an online survey at <https://bit.ly/NorthernSLCMentalHealth>.

The forum is an opportunity for people - both local professionals and those with lived experience with mental health - to provide input to County Commissioners and staff from St. Louis County Public Health and Human

Services. The goal is to gather information about unique mental health needs in northern St. Louis County.

The advisory council started in the fall of 2020 with the goal of bringing together diverse perspectives on mental health to improve mental health services in our communities.

**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.





**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.



GREENWOOD

# Pickleball fans form group to work on new Greenwood courts

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

Township agrees to set up committee to work on plans and funding

**GREENWOOD TWP.** While the Greenwood Town Board appeared to throw cold water on the idea of building new pickleball courts at the town hall at their meeting in August, the large group of pickleball enthusiasts who attended the board meeting on Oct. 10 seemed to give the board second thoughts. That's when supervisors voted unanimously to set up a working committee to develop a plan and explore funding options for the construction of four new courts.

Almost 30 people representing the newly-formed Lake Vermilion Pickleball Association (LVPA) filled the town hall, and group leader Paul Thompson gave a presentation on the sport, its growing popularity, and the importance of the sport to a large number of Greenwood residents.

The two pickleball courts at the town hall saw an average of 17 players per day in August, and 13 per day in September, according to data collected by the LVPA. Pickleball is played on half a tennis court, so two existing courts fit on one traditional tennis court space, and



Two possible pickleball court locations near Greenwood Town Hall. submitted photo

eight players can use the courts at a time.

"We've been here since 2002," Thompson said. "We struggled to meet folks." That all changed in 2016, he said, when his wife convinced him to take a pickleball lesson.

"We met and became friends with more people that

year than the 15 years prior," he said. "It really was a tremendous deal for us."

Pickleball tends to convert players rather quickly, since it requires only basic equipment and a quick lesson before getting out on the court.

"It's like tennis but it's fun," he said.

Thompson said the sport allows beginners and more competitive players to have fun together.

"The social aspect is maybe more important," he said. "I play with some people who can hardly hit the ball, but I play for the social interaction."

Many others echoed these

sentiments, and the board also received 17 written comments in support of constructing new courts.

While the game is mostly known for its appeal to senior citizens, Thompson said the nationwide data shows that the game is most popular with ages 18-34. Indeed, the average age of a pickleball player is 34.8 years, he said.

"There aren't that many opportunities to connect with people in Greenwood except going out to the Vermilion Club," he said. "Playing pickleball is healthier." It is also a game that grandparents can play with their grandchildren.

Thompson argued that the addition of more courts would help meet the goal in Greenwood's Comprehensive Plan to encourage healthy lifestyles. But as town board members have noted, the comprehensive plan also included a survey of residents with a majority against constructing more recreational facilities at the town hall grounds.

Thompson said the level of play in Greenwood has been improving, and they would like

See **GREENWOOD...pg. 5**

ELY AREA DENTISTRY

# Ely dentist receives Rukavina loan forgiveness grant

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

**ELY-** Ely dentist Spencer Wihlm became the ninth and latest recipient of a Martha Mordini Rukavina Loan Forgiveness grant on Friday, Oct. 6. On hand to award the \$30,000 grant was retired Hibbing orthodontist Michael Zakula, a past president and current member of the board of directors of the Minnesota Dental Foundation, which administers the program.

Rukavina Loan Forgiveness grants, a program which began in 2009, are supported by a grant from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board. A successful grant recipient will be compensated for outstanding educational debt up to \$120,000 over a period of four years.



Dr. Spencer Wihlm receiving the Rukavina Grant Award at Ely Family Dental on Friday, Oct. 6. From left-to-right: Dr. Crystal Chopp, Tove Wihlm, Dr. Spencer Wihlm, Dr. Michael Zakula, Ely Mayor Heidi Omerza. photo by C. Clark

**Spencer Wihlm**

Wihlm is originally from Mason City, Iowa, but spent a lot of time vacationing in the Ely area as a youth. Wihlm said he welcomed the opportunity to move to Ely right after graduating from dental school.

"We have always wanted to live up here," Wihlm told the *Timberjay*, "because we love it so much up here. Everyone is so nice and welcoming."

Wihlm joined the practice of Ely dentist Crystal Chopp at Ely Family Dental, which is the only full dental practice in the Ely area. Wihlm graduated from the University of Saint Thomas in St. Paul in 2019 and from the

See **DENTIST...pg. 5**

## REAL ESTATE

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# OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

## Editorial

### The federal deficit, part II

Federal responses to economic shocks have driven higher spending

When it comes to the massive annual U.S. deficit and the growing national debt, it's worth considering that 23 years ago, under the second term of President Bill Clinton, the U.S. ran a budget surplus three years in a row. That proved that, in modern times, we could still balance the budget. Unfortunately, it's been downhill ever since until we reached the highest annual deficit in U.S. history—\$3.132 trillion—in the final year under President Donald Trump.

Last week, we considered how tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations implemented by Presidents George W. Bush and Trump, contributed to the growing deficits by substantially reducing federal revenues.

This week, as promised, we'll explore what areas of spending are driving our deficits higher, and the results may surprise you. We examined several resources, including Wikipedia and publications of the Congressional Budget Office for this information.

There are three primary factors that have increased government spending in the years since our last surplus budget in 2001, and by far the most significant are the two severe economic shocks that the country has experienced since then—the 2008 financial crash and the 2020 COVID pandemic. The federal response to each of these events pushed federal spending far higher as the government sought to soften the impact of the economic dislocations for businesses and individuals, mostly through direct payments in one form or another. The cumulative effects of these two shocks, have conservatively added \$10 trillion to the national debt.

Outside of stimulus related to these two shocks, growth in government spending has actually been surprisingly modest, particularly during the Obama administration. After spending jumped in response to the financial crash, it virtually flat-lined from 2010 to 2017, growing by less than the rate of inflation. In real terms, government spending actually shrank during seven of the eight years of the Obama administration.

Deficits during that period weren't so much the result of higher spending as they were a result of the economic crash and the slow recovery, which significantly impacted federal tax revenues. The federal government took in \$2.67 trillion in 2007 and didn't return to that level of revenue until 2012. The growth in federal revenues continued to lag in the subsequent years, increasing by an average of just 2.3 percent (or about at the rate of inflation) from 2013-2020.

Many economists now believe that the federal response to the 2008 crash was too modest and that the relative lack of stimulus contributed to a years-long period of steady but slow economic growth. The federal response to COVID was far more robust (a lesson learned from 2008) and it sparked much faster growth once the lockdown was over. That has sparked a significant jump in federal revenues, which have climbed faster in the last two years than at any time in modern history, helping to reduce the deficit.

At the same time, federal spending dropped by \$1 trillion in 2022 over 2021 levels and was budgeted to drop another \$100 billion this year, leaving a projected deficit of \$1.154 trillion. That's an improvement on the \$3.3 trillion deficit in the final year of the Trump administration, but it's a long way from a balanced budget. And, unfortunately, the latest budget projections from the White House show spending and deficits beginning to increase slowly again

next year. And that assumes we have no more economic shocks, which is no guarantee.

Underlying much of the spending growth looking forward is the rising cost of major entitlement programs, primarily Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

The cost of these programs has increased from \$606 billion in 2000 (equivalent to 5.95 percent of the nation's gross domestic product, or GDP) to \$2.53 trillion (or 10.2 percent of GDP) as of 2022. Back in 2000 these programs occupied 34 percent of the total federal budget, but that's over 40 percent today and rising. The steady increase in healthcare costs, which has fueled Medicare and Medicaid spending, as well as the aging of our population, which has increased the draw on Social Security, are the primary contributors to this growth.

Defense spending has also grown—we spent 2.8 percent of GDP on the Pentagon in 2000 and 2.9 percent in 2022. The cost of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which are typically funded outside the Pentagon budget, have also added to the debt because we didn't raise taxes to pay for them. The immediate direct cost of the wars was approximately \$1.6 trillion although the long-term cost is estimated at closer to \$6 trillion once all the indirect costs, including the cost of caring for thousands of badly injured servicemen and women, are included.

Interest on the debt, which had been quite modest for years thanks to low interest rates, has spiked considerably as the Federal Reserve has raised rates and that's pushing spending higher.

Most other types of federal spending, such as the income supports we think of as “welfare” have been flat for years as a percentage of GDP and account for less than ten percent of the total budget in either case. The cost of running the rest of government, including all the federal agencies, airports, courts, national parks, etc. has actually declined in real terms in recent years. Back in 2000, the federal budget included \$600 billion in spending on general government operations, which equaled about 5.8 percent of the GDP. Today, the federal government is spending about \$910 billion (3.6 percent of GDP) on these same operations, which is well under the rate of general inflation over that period. In real terms, spending on general government has declined over the past 20 years. It clearly isn't driving our debt problem.

If we really want to address the factors driving our rising debt, we need better ways to respond to economic shocks, since it is those shocks that have pushed our deficits and debt out of control. Classic Keynesian economics advocates using the government's spending power to bolster the economy during downturns and its taxing authority to recoup the debts incurred once the economy recovers. We've become devoted to the first half of Keynes' equation, but we ignore the second part. We've come to rely on monetary policy, i.e. higher interest rates, to address the economy when it overheats, rather than fiscal policy, i.e. higher taxes on those at the top. Both approaches serve the same purpose of restricting the money supply, only higher interest rates put the squeeze on those who need to borrow (i.e. lower and middle income Americans), while higher upper end taxes put the pinch on those who can most easily afford it.

That's the discussion we need in Washington. We have a debt problem, and we have solutions available to us. All it takes is the political will.



## COMMENTARY

### Climate change is an urgent challenge

We can no longer pretend that climate change is just a theory or that it's a problem for the future. From deadly fires in Hawaii to devastating floods in the Northeast to record heat waves across much of the country, we see constant reminders of what a warming climate can do.

But how can we best respond to this existential threat? That's a tough question with no easy answers. Climate change is a global problem that crosses every kind of boundary. Real solutions will require cooperation and partnerships. But we can't wait for others to take the lead; every nation needs to do its share.

It's easy to get bogged down in debates over who is most to blame. Is it advanced economies like the United States and Western Europe, which historically have produced the largest share of the greenhouse gas emissions that warm the planet? Or is it big countries like China and India, which produce the most emissions today?

Some regions are more at risk and see the problem as especially serious. Islands and coastal areas are threatened by rising seas. Much of Africa, the Middle East and Asia are vulnerable to drought, food insecurity and conflict, which climate change worsens.

Here in the United States, unfortunately, there's still a lot of disagreement over the issue. A recent Pew Research Center survey finds most Americans want the government to support clean energy, including solar and wind power. But there's a deep partisan divide: Nearly 80 percent of Dem-

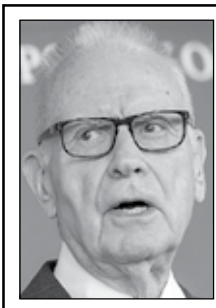
ocrats say climate change is a major threat, compared to 23 percent of Republicans.

Scientists may disagree on the severity, but there's a consensus that we have a problem. The most recent report from the International Panel on Climate Change says it's “unequivocal” that human activities, primarily the burning of coal, oil and gas, contribute to global warming. Experts predict devastating consequences within decades if current trends continue.

We can rarely point to a specific catastrophe and blame climate change, but the evidence keeps piling up. Researchers have long warned that a hotter climate would bring more frequent and stronger storms, and we're seeing that now. The average number of heat waves in U.S. cities has increased from two to six per year since the 1960s, the Environmental Protection Agency says. Phoenix saw a record 31 straight days this summer of temperatures over 110 degrees Fahrenheit. July 2023 was the hottest month, globally, in the 174-year records of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

More than 120 million Americans in the Midwest and Northeast have been under air quality advisories this year because of wildfires in Canada. The fire that killed more than 100 people in Lahaina, Hawaii, burned fast because unusually hot weather

See CLIMATE...pg. 5



LEE HAMILTON

## COLUMNIST

### Facing our fears can change our world

I am a longtime radio fan. One of my favorite stops on the dial is 91.7 KAXE-FM, broadcasting out of Grand Rapids. I first discovered “Northern Community Radio” in 1979, soon after moving here from Oregon. KAXE was founded in 1976 by a couple of radio pioneers and has weathered many challenges since then. With its interesting mix of programming, it's now a trusted companion and a solid fixture on northern Minnesota's arid broadcast media landscape.



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

In recent weeks, I stumbled upon one of their weekly programs produced and hosted by former director — now volunteer, Michael Goldberg. “Stay Human” is a compilation of stories from local contributors and selected music with a theme. This particular week, the program was about “Facing Our Fears”. As I listened to one tale after another — some humorous and others spine-tingling — this “theater of the mind” exerted a power that pulled up one of my worst phobias, one that I'd strug-

gled with for as long as I could remember. Spiders! Not tiny ones like I see crawling around on my hay bales. They're actually kind of cute. And not the slinky daddy-long-legs that entertained me as a child. I'm talking about those big brown and black ones, commonly known as wolf spiders. I have a fifty-year old log house that has lots of cracks and crevices, prime habitat for these giant creepy crawling critters.

Every year in early summer, my anxiety begins to rise. June is when I expect to see my first big spider. I think we unknowingly co-exist prior to this, but somehow I'm able to live in a semi-state of denial. Maybe it's the notion, “What you don't see won't hurt you.” But then they begin to reveal themselves and that's when the trouble starts. For years, every “out-of-nowhere” appearance elicits the same response. You've maybe heard of a “peak ex-

perience”. Well, I call mine an “Eeek! experience”. I quickly grab a broom, give the thing a whack (just enough to stun it), and then a quick sweep out the door! As I've “matured”, I've begun to question myself about this behavior. I want to believe that all God's creatures have a valued place in Creation. I would try to develop a new approach.

Now I keep a wide-mouth Mason jar within reach at all times. When a sighting occurs, I move very slowly, carefully placing the jar over the arachnid. I gently slide the flat lid beneath the jar so as not to snag one of its legs. Holding the lid on tight, I carry it to the edge of the woods and give it a gentle fling with a prayer that he won't find his way back home. I feel myself relax the moment I turn to walk away. Another successful catch and release.

Normally, I have to do this two to three times a season. Then they just seem to be gone. But this summer was different. Lots of things this summer were different! Besides being invaded by record-setting hordes

See FEARS...pg. 5

## GREENWOOD...Continued from page 3

to have the opportunity to host tournament play, as well as have enough courts so that more competitive players can set up matches between themselves. The additional courts would also reduce the conflict between pickleball and tennis. While most of the "local" tennis players also play pickleball and don't mind sharing the court, he said, there have been some conflicts between visiting tennis players and the large group of pickleball enthusiasts.

The township did set aside certain times for pickleball versus tennis at the August meeting.

LVPA's first goal, Thompson said, was to find a way to work with the town board and the Greenwood community to explore ways to add more pickleball courts and find ways to raise the funds needed.

The group's vision includes ensuring free court time for all and adding a four-court pickleball-only design on the town hall grounds.

"This would be a community builder," Thompson said, "as well

as a marketing tool for area resorts and VRBOs." Thompson said the group has talked to the Lake Vermilion Resort Association and had a discussion with a leader of the already-established Greenwood Recreation Committee (which is a 501(c)(3), and oversaw the construction of the pavilion and playground) about possibly cooperating on the project.

The group identified two possible areas for the new courts, one adjacent to the pavilion area, and the other between the town hall and Birch Point Rd. Chairman John Bassing said the flat area by the pavilion is used to pile snow in the winter, and that might create problems. Supervisor Rick Stoehr said another issue with that location would be preventing parking in the helipad area in the center of the adjacent parking lot.

Thompson said the group is more than willing to help with writing grants and fundraising, but first would need to have a plan in place. He said the IRRR has a matching grant pro-

gram that could provide up to \$30,000 in matching funds. Rough estimates of the cost for construction of a four-court area start at around \$100,000, based on other courts built recently in the region.

The board seemed to generally support the goals of the group.

"I am very impressed with the community that has developed here," said Supervisor Barb Lofquist.

The board passed a motion to form a Pickleball Committee, with two members from the town board, two interested citizens, and three members from the LVPA. The motion passed but no one was named to the committee at that time.

In related recreation news, at the suggestion of Lofquist, the board voted to lease the warming shack shed to the recreation committee for one dollar per year, as long as they purchase insurance and sign a hold-harmless clause. This would put the recreation committee in charge of loaning out the equipment stored in the shed.

## Fire Department

Fire Chief Jeff Maus reported that the township has received a \$5,000 matching grant from the DNR's rural fire program. The board approved purchasing wildland firefighting equipment and clothing, handtools/pulaskis, a large chainsaw, and upgrading the lighting on rescue boat one with the grant money.

Maus reported on the boat accident last month that included First Responders and firefighters from Greenwood, the St. Louis County Rescue Squad, Tower Fire Department, Tower Ambulance, and Virginia Ambulance. The department used both fire boats during the rescue.

"It was a very successful rescue," he said, "with good outcomes for the victims." He said the department had conducted a post-incident action review, and that five or six department members had participated in the rescue.

Maus reported that the newest member of the department had passed her background check and had responded to nine calls in

her first partial month on the service.

The department assisted the DNR on the report of a fire by Timbuktu Resort, with two department members taking two DNR employees out on fire boat one, during which they located and suppressed a fire. The department has a contract with the DNR for such work and will be paid for the time and equipment use.

## Other business

In other business the board:

► Did not receive any quotes for snowplowing Birch Point Extension, Twp. Rd. 4136, though clerk Joanne Bassing said Vermilion Property Services, which plows the town hall area, would be sending in a quote and can do the work.

► Did not receive any quotes for brushing on Birch Point Extension, Twp. Rd. 4136.

► Decided to accept the quote for town hall cleaning for \$175 for a monthly visit, on a month-to-month basis.

► Will hire Bench-

mark Engineering to do planning work for possibly repaving or conducting a mill and overlay on the town hall parking lot. The engineering is expected to cost approximately \$4,500.

► Heard the township will be receiving five AED units, at no charge, for the town hall and fire department vehicles.

► Voted to withdraw from the Lake Vermilion Trail joint powers group due to the lack of any progress on the proposed trail.

► Voted to move the \$91,155 in the community enhancement fund to the general fund, and to combine the township's building fund with the capital equipment fund. They also voted to move more township reserves into higher-interest paying CDs at Frandsen Bank. The township has received over \$5,000 in interest from a CD they purchased earlier this year.

► Is considering converting the phone system to an internet-based phone service to save money.

## DENTIST...Continued from page 3

University of Iowa dental program this spring. He and his wife Tove moved to Ely in July. He started work seeing patients at Ely Family Dental as soon as he arrived in town.

## Rukavina grants

The Rukavina grants help early-career dentists to repay qualified dental education loans if the recipients commit to practicing dentistry full-time in the Taconite Assistance Area (TAA). Since the

program was established in 2009, nine new dental graduates have received grants, including Ely's own Crystal Chopp, and now her new associate, Spencer Wilhm.

"The requirements are that a recipient works at least four days a week in a rural community," Zakula said, "in the TAA, with the understanding that if you stay here five years, then you get the \$30,000 a year for the four years. That's all money for you to

help address some of your debt. And communities benefit because they have someone young who can address the dental needs and provide dental health for people that need them badly."

According to the Minnesota Dental Foundation, newly graduated dentists average around \$300,000 in student debt, with monthly loan payments usually over \$4,000. Incentive to attract and retain dentists in the region is un-

derscored by the positive impact that every dentist contributes to local economy.

"Every dentist makes a \$5 million contribution to the local economy," Zakula remarked.

## Dental deserts

The loan forgiveness program was initiated by the late Tom Rukavina, a former Minnesota legislator and St. Louis County commissioner. It is named in honor of Rukavina's late

mother to attract new dentists to practice and provide quality dental care in northeastern Minnesota.

Rukavina became motivated to create a program to attract dentists to the region's rural "dental deserts" when his mother moved into a nursing home in the Arrowhead but could not locate a dentist to take care of her teeth.

The lack of dentists is acute in northeastern Minnesota. For example, Ely's dental practice has a

waiting list of over 1,000 potential patients.

Rukavina worked with the late state Sen. David Tomassoni, to try to fund something through the Minnesota Legislature, Zakula said. After failing to make progress at the state level, Rukavina, Tomassoni and some Iron Range dentists worked to set-up the IRRR grant program for new dentists with debt, in order to establish them in the TAA.

## CLIMATE...Continued from page 4

had dried vegetation and because winds from a Pacific hurricane drove the flames.

International responses to climate change have proceeded in fits and starts.

The Kyoto Protocol, which took effect in 2001, was a first effort but had limited support. The Paris Agreement, starting in 2015, required countries to set targets for cutting emissions,

but disagreements remain over how to monitor compliance and how to protect and compensate vulnerable countries.

The issues are difficult. Should we prioritize

slowing climate change or mitigating its impact? Do we focus on regulating industry or on promoting new technology? Should we turn away from fossil fuels immediately or

gradually reduce their use? These are real questions.

But there shouldn't be any doubt that this is urgent. The disasters that we're seeing now are sure to get worse if we don't

act. It may be a cliché, but we only have one Earth. We need to do what we can to ensure future generations can live here and thrive.

## FEARS...Continued from page 4

of mosquitoes; blanketed by smoke from Canada's forest fires for weeks; scorched by record-breaking heat; gardens shriveled from lack of rain — my number of spider sightings quadrupled. And, they showed up in the weirdest creepiest places. My phobic anxiety returned to an all-time high.

I became afraid to reach for my bath towel. I couldn't step from my bed before scanning the floor around me for some unwanted pest. And, never would I enter or exit through the Magic Mesh without first conducting a thorough search around my front door. I'd found them in closets, under shoes, day and night. I was on perpetual alert the entire summer. Even when in bed, I'd bolt from a deep sleep frantically brushing some imagined spider from my arm.

After weeks of hyper-vigilance, I was exhausted from living in fear. I needed to deal with it, but I wasn't sure how. Then, a distant voice of one of my children returned, "Mom, just Google it." I began another round in my boxing match with my fear.

I learned that spiders are equipped with a highly sensitive capacity to detect a foreign presence from yards away. And like bees, they can sense our "fear hormones" which

trigger their defense systems. Just those two small bits of information helped me understand why spiders always seem to reveal themselves right before I'm about to touch them. Their doing so always gives me an opportunity to step away before inadvertently harming them. And if I could tame my fear, they would be less threatened and less likely to bite. This information showed me how we might co-exist even in one another's presence. I liked this new found path toward detente.

I conceded. I'd never had a serious spider bite. In fact, spiders had always seemed quite passive, just poised wherever I found them. And never did a disaster ensue. They had never exhibited an overt intent to harm. My fear was never based on a show of their aggression. In fact, I was the one who had upset their world.

For the past two months I'd been chopping, chiseling, sanding, and staining the outside of my house in my effort to refurbish the logs. I had removed rot, filled cracks and holes, applied powerful chemicals to deter invading insects, and applied a toxic stain. I was equipped with dust masks, ear protection, gloves, and respirators to reduce any risks to me, but the spiders

had nothing of the sort. All those poor eight-legged were escaping the mayhem that I was creating. Moving indoors was their desperate attempt to find refuge.

When I collected my next visitor, I took time to examine his physical structure and marvel at his jointed legs, his head, what looked like bulging eyes and his mandibles. I felt the wonder in this creature for which I had only felt fear. In that moment I was overwhelmed with empathy and respect. I had conquered my fear. I recalled the radio storytellers describing their transformations.

The young man, after harnessing his terror, scaled his first glacier. An eighty-year-old woman and her daughter parachuted from an airplane and once having tamed their churning tummies, discovered the thrill of free-falling. A woman, terrified of heights, forced herself to climb onto her snowy roof to clean her

plugged chimney and described her surge of pride and confidence that stayed with her thereafter. And the girl who, with some expert support, overcame her phobia of snakes, holding one up close and marveling at its beauty. Their courage was contagious. And their success had inspired mine.

We can face our fears and grow beyond them. And it feels good. Tapping our courage can change our lives. Knowledge and understanding can dispel fear and offer a way forward, enlightening us to the value of other species — and other humans — beings we label "the others" because they are different.

Courage and knowledge are needed to reach understanding — all ingredients that make it possible for us to live together. And oh, do we need to learn to live together. I think it starts by facing our fears. Now onto my next endeavor — ticks!



## the TIMBERJAY

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Week of Oct. 16

SUPPORTING PUBLIC SAFETY

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

**Tuesday**  
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Oct. 17.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Training meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

**Thursday**  
AA Meeting- Lake Vermilion 12x12 (Open) 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower. Use the rear side door entrance.

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at [vermilioncountry.org](http://vermilioncountry.org).



**TSHS week 11 winner**  
This week's winner of the Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Victoria Carlson of Tower.

**History Tidbit:**  
Known locally as "The Oliver", the Oliver Iron Mining Company was a wing of US Steel - the world's largest corporation at the dawn of the 20th century. The Soudan Store, known as S.O.S. (Soudan's Only Store) was built in 1892 by the Oliver Mining Co. to house the mining offices. The offices were later relocated to Ely and the building became the Oliver Club, an establishment to offer the miners an alternative to drinking alcohol.

## 2nd annual Tacos with Cops brings the Tower-Soudan community together



Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing, along with his wife Ivette, cooked up a taco feast for a fundraiser for the Breitung Police Department. This was the second year in a row the family has sponsored this event, which has quickly become a community favorite. Pictured clockwise from top right: The couple's daughter Lily welcomed visitors. Cade and Andrea Reing helped their children, Otto and Ada, spin the wheel to win a prize. Diners gave a thumbs up to the tacos and chips. Dan and Ivette Reing. photos by S. Ukkola

## 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. 16 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Sectionals is a group of eight singers of various ages and backgrounds from around the Iron Range. While performing together in larger en-

sembles 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 free will donation will be accepted, and refreshments will be served following the concert. Invite your

friends for what will be a fun evening. The Sectionals performed at St. Mary's Hall twice last year and the auditorium was full each time so come early.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Lunch Bunch to meet Monday, Oct. 23

ANGORA- The Lunch Bunch will meet on Monday, Oct. 23 at 12 noon at the South Switch Bar and Restaurant in Angora. Please RSVP to Kathy at 218-753-2530. Anyone that would like to join us are welcomed.

### 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 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

an' and a short meeting. Everyone is invited to attend. Questions call Brenda Winkelaar at 218-290-4912.

### 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.

### 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.

### Trick-or-Treat on Main Street on Tuesday, Oct. 31

TOWER- Tower Main Street businesses will be handing out treats to children on Tuesday, Oct. 31 after school (approx. 3 p.m.). Participating businesses will have signs on their doors welcoming trick-or-treaters. Trick-or-treating continues until businesses close for the day, or the candy runs out!

Plans are also underway for the Tower Fire Department's Children's Halloween Party that afternoon. More details next week.

**Get Informed!**  
**Get the Timberjay!**

**GOOD STUFF SALE**  
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



### Meet our students

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

**Brody Anderson**  
**How long have you been at VCS?** Since seventh grade.

**Why did you decide VCS was the right place to come?** My brother and cousin were both here. I liked the idea of going to a smaller school.

**What do you like here?** I like being able to get the help I need when I need it. The staff here care a lot more than at other schools.

**What activities have you enjoyed at VCS?** Snowshoeing was fun. The winter camping field trip was really cool. It was so cold, but so fun.



Brody, senior

### Meet our staff



Sam O'Brien

**Can you introduce yourself?** My name is Sam O'Brien. I am the school director and I teach science. I started working here part-time in December 2022 and became full-time in May 2023.

**How long have you been working in education?** I've been working in Minnesota public schools

since 2007 and I've been in education since 1999.

**What's special about VCS?** How students get individual attention. We do a lot of activities that engage students and offer things that bigger schools can't. Like lots of hands-on learning and field trips outdoors.

**Vermilion Country School is a free, public, grades 7-12 school located in Tower**



COMMERCE

# End of the Road Yoga starts Ely Turkey Trot



**Above: Inside End of the Road Yoga at 18 E. Sheridan St. Not used to taking their practices lying down, local "yogis" are floored by the roomy studio space.** submitted photo

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- End of the Road Yoga is sponsoring a Thanksgiving morning Turkey Trot with a 5k running-or-walking event and a 10k run. Early bird registration runs through Oct. 23.

For yoga business owner Cindi Rahn-Kloehn, she's returning to an activity she used to do all the time before she moved to Ely in the fall of 2021. "I used to run these," Rahn-Kloehn said, referring to the tradition of Turkey Trot runs which are a frequent fun running event

throughout the U.S. during the Thanksgiving holiday. Given the huge number of social media pictures of runners in turkey and pumpkin suits, the silliness of many turkey trot events may have something to do with their popularity.

"This is the first year, so I'd like to keep things low-key and fun," Rahn-Kloehn explained about the Turkey Trot. "We're just getting this started."

The course for both races will use Miners Drive and the Trezona Trail on the south side of Miners Lake. "I already have all the arrangements made with the city for traf-



**Cindi Rahn-Kloehn**

fic routing and road closures along the race route."

The 10k event will be for runners and the 5k event will be for both runners and walkers. The start time for both runs is at 8 a.m. Both courses are short

enough that participants should be done running or walking by 9 a.m. and home before Thanksgiving dinner starts.

Early bird registration is \$20 for the 5k run and \$30 for the 10k run. More details and registration information is at endoftheroad.yoga, under the event schedule tab.

### A quiet move

Ely residents might have noticed that the business sign for End of the Road Yoga vanished sometime before the end of summer and their studio space at 1203 E. Sheridan appeared empty.

The "Yogis" who practice at End of the Road Yoga have known about the new location for the studio since the very end of February. That's when Rahn-Kloehn moved out of the temporary studio space at 1203 E. Sheridan, which she started using in June 2022. Rahn-Kloehn had been waiting for the work at 18 E. Sheridan to be complete, since the interior renovation started back in early 2022.

The interior was ready this winter. The main entrance for the studio is off the alley. The storefront on Sheridan is currently

understated and the small sign in the curtained window doesn't stand out.

### Big sign

It wasn't Rahn-Kloehn's intent to conduct an understated move. She's been wanting to throw a grand opening event to celebrate the relocation but waiting for the exterior of 18 E. Sheridan to be painted first. "It's primed and ready to paint," stating that she was unsure about the reason for the delay.

Rahn-Kloehn also isn't shy about the town knowing about her business. As soon as the paint dries on the building exterior, she plans to put up "a big sign like the Boat-house," that will catch and hold the eye.

Ely has been good for her profession and advocacy of teaching yoga. "I was 17 years in Hayward, Wis., and Ely has a larger group of yogis here." Since starting up her business in Ely in Oct. 2021, Rahn-Kloehn has gained enough paying students that she has three other instructors on her payroll to cover the demand.

# Ely business sews mayhem

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- A new sign appeared a few weeks ago on the storefront at 438 E. Sheridan St., which was certainly a hint that the empty retail space was once again filled and open for customers. The building was formerly the home of Lakeshore Liquor.

Ely is now home to another young small business entrepreneur. Madden Reed is the proprietor of Mayhem, an aptly named alteration and sewing repair business. The business moved into 438 E. Sheridan in April with little fanfare, but with a local clientele already established. Reed worked for a sewing repair firm in the Twin Cities but "escaped the Cities" and moved to Ely in April 2022.

Reed initially worked for the production end of Wintergreen's apparel business after landing in Ely. They started offering alteration and repair services in the fall of 2022. The previous retail location was on the corner of 1st Ave. and Camp St.

Since then, Reed has built this bootstrap busi-

ness from the ground up. Growing demand prompted this expansion into the storefront on E. Sheridan.

"I do alterations, repairs. I replace zippers," said Reed. Pointing to a pile of the large backpacks popular for portaging, Reed remarked, "I've been pretty busy lately repairing gear for outfitters."



**Left: The new store sign at Mayhem, an Ely alterations and sewing repair business. The sign went up in the middle of last month. The retail space formerly housed Lakeshore Liquor. Mayhem has been in the building since April. Above: Madden Reed, owner of Mayhem, at one of the sewing machines inside the relocated business premises at 438 E. Sheridan St. in Ely.** photos by C. Clark

## 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 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, Oct. 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.

On Tuesday, Oct. 31, stop by the library in costume to get a Halloween gift, during regular library hours.

The library board will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 5:30 p.m.

A new Kahoot trivia game will begin on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 3 p.m., and will run until Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 8 a.m. The kahoot will be on the first three books of the "Pages & Co." series by Anna James. Pre-register in advance with an email address so the library can send the link for the game.

The Library Scientists group will meet on Friday, Nov. 3, from 3-4 p.m., where the attendees will learn about DNA and will attempt to extract DNA from fruit. Pre-register in advance so the library can order enough supplies.

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

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

### Thai Food

ELY- Ely Community Education is offering two classes by Paan, of Ely's favorite food truck, Thai Cuisine by Paan. She will

teach how to make her to-die-for spring rolls and her special dipping sauces on Saturday, Oct. 14. She will teach Thai cabbage rolls and their sauces on Saturday, Oct. 21. Both classes will be at the Ely Senior Center, from 2-4 p.m. Cost for each class is \$32. Sign-up at elyclasses.com.

### Masked Singer

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA) fall fundraising event will be to unmask the masked singer, on Saturday, Oct. 14, 7-9 p.m., at the Fine Arts Theater, Vermilion Campus, Minnesota College North. Can the audience identify a local singer by voice alone? Tickets are \$20, which buys four votes for favorite performance. Extra votes can be purchased for \$5. Masks for the event were made by local students and will be sold in a silent auction.

### NLAA Art Show

ELY- The NLAA art show for October is "Northern Lake Stories," by Lin Rose, from Oct. 16-29, in the lobby of Ely's Historic State Theater, whenever the theater is open.

### Free Flu Shots

ELY- The Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital will be giving free flu shots at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. 1st Ave. E., on Wednesday, Oct. 18, from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

### Community Choir

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association Community Choir, conducted by Susan Germek, will start rehearsals every Wednesday, from 7:30-9 p.m., at the Fine Arts Theater, Vermilion Campus, Minnesota college North. First rehearsal is on Oct. 18.

### Youth Archery

ELY- The End of the Road youth archery program for the 2023-24 season is about to get started. The program is open to all students in grades 4 through 12 who live in the Ely area. All equipment is provided. New archer instruction will be Oct. 30 through Nov. 16, on Mondays and Thursdays. Instruction times will be determined based on enrollment numbers. Regular practices begin Nov. 27. Days and times for the regular season will be determined after

the coaches know how many archers will be on this season's team. Participation per archer cost is \$156 online or \$150 by check or cash. Sign up at endoftheroad.com.

### Medicare Class

ELY- Ely Community Education will offer a class by local Medicare expert, Joe Weise, on navigating your Medicare choices, on Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 5:30 p.m., at the Ely School district Media Center, 600 E. Harvey St. Enter through door No. 1 and turn left after the school entryway and offices. The media center is immediately on the right across from the new gym, under the historic Workman murals.

### Swing Dance

ELY- The Reflections Dance Company will teach a six-week swing dance class on Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at the Ely Recreation Center, from Nov. 1 to Dec. 7, led by Megan Wind. Partners are optional. If you don't have a partner, attendees will be paired up at class. The class is \$100. Register under the Reflections Dance Co. tab at northernlakesarts.org.

## 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. 17: PolyMet update with MCEA
- Oct. 24: No meeting this week
- Oct. 31: Human Trafficking 101 with Tatiana Bergum
- Nov. 7: Well Being Development's Recovery Project
- Nov. 14: Meet New Elyites

## Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



pick before the frost harvest time here already garden soon to rest

## 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 Ledgerrock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.
- BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Thursdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.
- AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely.
- BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.
- CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Wellbeing Development, 41 E. Camp St. Ely.
- ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.
- CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living. Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B.



NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

# Homecoming and powder puff football



North Woods School has selected its candidates for homecoming royalty, with the winners to be revealed at this Friday's Bigfork football game. King candidates include, back row from left, Zefrym Mankowski, Luke Will, Travon Boshey, and Jonah Burnett. Queen candidates are, from left, Trinity Vidal, Emily Grahn, Addy Hartway, and Chloe Johnson.

photos by D. Colburn

The seniors won big over a team of underclassmen in Tuesday's powder puff football game. Top left, officials for the game included a dinosaur; top right, senior Helen Koch runs the ball; bottom left, senior Addy Hartway sprints toward the end zone after making an interception; bottom right, quarterback Brynn Chosa gets protection from Amber Sopoci as she prepares to pass.

## COOK LIONS CLUB AWARDS



At a 50th anniversary celebration last week, Cook Lions Club Steve Kajala presented the Member of the Year award to Dede Doi.



Cook Lions Club members surprise Cook Zup's Market manager Matt Zupancich, right, with the club's Citizen of the Year award for outstanding contributions to the community. Pictured with Zupancich are, from left, Jody Refsdahl, Julia Maki, and Steve Kajala.

## ORR CITY COUNCIL

# Council will fill vacancy by appointment, not election

Persistent Pine Drive blighted property issue resurfaces as neighbor demands action

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- The Orr City Council on Tuesday walked back the idea of filling the council seat vacated in May by Lloyd Scott by election, choosing instead to accept applications for the position.

At the September meeting, the council passed a resolution calling for a special election to fill the remaining one year on Scott's term beginning in January.

But on Tuesday, City Clerk Angela Lindgren walked the council through multiple logistical issues that would make it extremely unlikely that such an election could be held before February at the earliest.

The clearest barrier to having a November election is something Lindgren discovered while reviewing requirements for a special election.

"There was some verbiage that 74 days prior to having the election I need to notify the county," Lindgren said. "We're past that timeframe. So, it really doesn't seem feasible."

Another challenge to having a special election is that as city clerk, Lind-

gren must attend training to be able to administer the election. Lindgren indicated it would not be possible for her to get trained in time for a November election.

Council member Bruce Black also raised the issue of cost.

"Can we figure out how much it's going to cost us?" he asked. "If you do it you're going to have to have ballots, you're going to have to have voting judges, you're going to have to have this room."

After additional discussion, the council agreed to post and advertise the position to be filled by application. They established a deadline of the Wednesday before the next regularly scheduled council meeting on Nov. 13 to receive applications. The council will hold a special session that day to review the applications and select someone to fill the remaining year of the council seat.

Those interested in the council position should contact Lindgren at city hall for information on how to apply.

### Blight situation

An old unresolved issue continues to haunt the former neighbors of Jeremy Morris, now serving a

ten-year sentence in federal prison on a drug-related conviction. That issue is the condition of his property at 4720 Pine Dr., which was cited as a blighted property in 2020 and has been an ongoing issue ever since.

While some clean-up occurred last year, the blighted condition has not been resolved to the satisfaction of at least one neighborhood property owner who recently sent an email to the city complaining about it. While the sender's name was not disclosed, the text of their letter was included in the council's packet.

The writer contended that the property had been taken away from Morris several months ago by his father, who had according to the writer made the claim via payment of money owed the city. The writer said Morris's father promised to renovate the property to make it suitable to rent. Little progress has been made on that promise, the writer claimed. "For the life of me I can't believe any decent person would live in that hovel," said the letter. "I am way past being patient with the problem and so is everyone else on this street. If

we don't force Mr. Morris to bring the property up to standard then I and everyone else will be looking at this garbage pile all winter."

The writer asked for a formal response from the council including a time frame in which the issue would be resolved.

"We do have a blight ordinance and it needs to be enforced so that law-abiding folks are not forced to keep their properties looking good and clean having this continued dump across the street."

Black asked if the owner paid all the back taxes. Lindgren did not know the answer to that.

"Can you send a letter to him?" Black asked.

"We can send a letter to him," Lindgren replied. "I'm also wondering since there has already been active blight attempts on this property and the city attorney has been involved, it might be recommended to go forward with the city attorney."

Lindgren asked if the council wanted her to look into the back taxes owed on the property before moving ahead, as she said she was unsure when the property switched to Mor-

ris's father.

The council agreed to have Lindgren check the ownership status of the property, and if the owner is Tommy Morris, Jeremy's father, then she will send a blight notice if the property taxes are paid. If the taxes are unpaid, then she will refer the matter to the city attorney.

The *Timberjay* checked property records available through the St. Louis County Land Explorer on Wednesday and discovered that Jeremy Dale Morris and Eliana Villele are listed as owners of the property while Tommy D. Morris is listed as the taxpayer. 2023 first half taxes of \$808 were listed as paid, with \$808 due for second half taxes.

In other business the council:

► Approved the 2024 Fire Protection Services Contract in the amount of \$12,821 with the county for coverage of Unorganized Townships 63-19 and 66-20.

► Reviewed and updated the city's Data Practices Policy.

► Accepted a donation of \$500 from Stuart and Mary McKie for the Orr Ambulance Service.

► Approved a request from Ambulance Director

Donna Hoffer to obtain bids for snow removal service for the Orr Ambulance garage.

► Approved removal of the ice machine from the kitchen at the Orr Muni.

► Removed from the agenda an item related to recommended pay raises for muni manager Laura Manai and bartender Marie Cloyd. The raises were discussed and tabled at the September meeting until better information was available on how the budget would be impacted by the raises.

► Heard that because a new visitor center for Voyageurs National Park is being built in Crane Lake, Crane Lake is pulling out its support of the Tourist Information Center in Orr. This will be a financial loss of \$3,000.

### Lions pumpkin weigh-in is Saturday in Orr

ORR-The Orr Lions will be having their Pumpkin weigh-in on Saturday, Oct. 14 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Orr Center, along with other fun activities.



**BOARD...**Continued from page 1

to our constituents and we work hard. We take this seriously. We want to run a good government and ensure that you have the same goal.”

**Ash River**

**Wastewater**

The board reviewed county priorities for state bonding in the upcoming legislative session, with the proposed wastewater treatment plan for Ash River, developed by the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board, as it’s third priority with a requested amount of \$7 million. The county’s top two priorities are, in order, \$6 million for development of an integrated solid waste management campus and \$11.342 million for the St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center, commonly referred to as The Depot.

The Ash River system would involve installation of low-pressure grinder pump stations feeding into a centralized aerobic treatment system, as a traditional gravity-based collection would be infeasible due to the high bedrock and water table in the area and the bury depths required. Effluent from the treatment system would be discharged through a soil-based subsurface dispersion system. The total estimated cost for the recommended improvements would be \$24.437 million, and will be obtained from seven different sources, including state bonding funds.

“This is the last of four projects at entry points to Voyageurs National Park,” Commissioner Paul McDonald said. “It’s the opportunity to put in a collection system up there to match what we have as we protect the waters of the entry points to our water-based Voyageurs National Park. This is the last of the four. We’ve got the planning stuff, we’ve got everything ready to go and we’re working on just a couple more easements, and then just waiting for funding.”

While there was agreement on reaffirming the three funding priorities, Commissioner Keith Nelson leveled criticism at county staff for misrepresenting the priority rankings in a handout provided at a meeting of area entities and Duluth-area state legislators. The handout was organized with The Depot at the top and no rank numbering, giving the impression, Nelson said, that The Depot was the county’s top funding priority.

“There seems to be some confusion going on that when the board makes a decision, then we have this, I think you call it poetic license in other circles,

**Businesses pinched for liquor sales to minors**

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Four North Country businesses have been fined and will have their liquor licenses suspended for a day for serving alcohol to minors.

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday approved a recommendation from the county Liquor Licensing Committee to suspend the licenses of Pelican Lake Resort in Leiding Township, Voyageire Lodge and Houseboats in Crane Lake, The South Switch in Angora Township, and The Landing in Beatty Township for one

day, Monday, Oct. 30, and impose \$100 fines for the alleged violations, which occurred between Aug. 11-19.

The Liquor Licensing Committee imposed penalties of 10-day license suspensions and \$1,000 fines for each establishment, but in separate agreements with the business owners stayed nine days and \$900 of those penalties, provided no additional incidents of sales to minors are reported for a year. Entering into the agreements negated the need for public hearings on the violations.

Should another violation occur within a year, the full penalty and possible additional sanctions will be imposed. The maximum penalty allowed under state law is 60-days license suspension

but certainly we have a lot of discussion going on in the Duluth courthouse as to what is important and what isn’t important in St. Louis County. I have to tell you that it’s been awhile since this commissioner was angry. Administrator (Kevin) Gray took the blame for it, which it’s not his fault. I don’t think it originated with him. Commissioner (Annie) Harala did a great job on her feet of correcting it in front of this group.”

Nelson provided a printout from the Minnesota Management and Budget Office showing that the projects were ranked appropriately in their system, then referred back to the handout.

“If you’ll note, The Depot is on the top,” he said. “I don’t care how it ended up there, I really don’t. It doesn’t belong there. The sheet should clearly state one, two and three. I do not want people adjusting our decision to meet their needs or to meet their favor.”

“I don’t have time to go down and sit in the Duluth courthouse and wonder what is going on that is being changed on decisions that we as a board have made,” Nelson continued. “Folks, it is not easy for me to sit here and complain about what we’re doing in administration because I know how many good things are being done. But folks, there are some things that have to change. I don’t expect that I’m going to see a sheet like this being presented in front of elected officials.” Nelson emphasized that in his experience, it’s the number one priorities that get funded, while other priorities are approved if the state has the necessary funding.

After the board took a break, Board Chair Patrick Boyle reconvened the meeting by stating that he believed this year was one of the best years in his ten years on the board in working together with county administration.

“Commissioner Nelson, I don’t think that

was done on purpose, I think it was a mistake,” Boyle said. “As long as it (waste management campus) shows up on your project summary as number one, we have that on there. I apologize for that error and we’ll take responsibility for that.”

The legislative priorities were moved without recommendation, meaning that they will be considered at a future meeting, following a work session with the county’s lobbyist to discuss the upcoming legislative session scheduled for the end of the month.

Gray took an opportunity to express his appreciation to the board for the feedback and reaffirmation and clarification of the bonding priorities.

**Road projects**

Application for funds for two North Country road projects were on the board’s consent agenda, one for \$1.5 million for reconstruction of a section of Harvey St. in Ely, also designated as County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 156, and the other a road realignment project for a section of County Rd. 180 at Elephant Lake.

As consent agenda items are approved without discussion, the *Timberjay* reached out to county engineer Eric Fallstrom for more details about the projects, which would likely be slated for the 2025 and 2026 construction seasons.

Regarding the Ely project, Fallstrom said, “It’s a reconstruction project for Harvey St. from Central Ave., nine blocks up to Ninth Ave. It would be removal of all the existing sidewalk, curb, gutter and pavement, putting in some new granular material below the roadway, and then new pavement, curb,

gutter and sidewalk along that stretch. We’ll also be redoing the storm sewer through that area as well, hoping to alleviate some of the storm sewer concerns that happen when we get higher flows and higher rain amounts.”

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$3.5 million, which the county hopes to offset by receiving \$1.5 million from the state’s Local Road Improvement Program. The project is slated for 2025.

The Elephant Lake realignment project in Camp Five Township will move a three-quarter-mile section of CR 180 from its current location alongside the lake to the west.

“It’s an area homeowners and landowners up there have been wanting us to look at,” Fallstrom said. “It’s just north of Melgeorge’s where you get really tight up against the lake. It’s gone through some lots there, most of them aren’t year-round homes but some are year-round homes or cabins that the roadway kind of bisects the property. It’s also been a historic area that’s caused some maintenance concerns for us.”

Fallstrom said the project is in its preliminary stages at the moment, with some designs and environmental work completed, and conversations have started with property owners about acquiring land for easements. Receiving a \$1.5 million grant for the estimated \$2 million project could boost it up on the Public Works schedule.

“If we get this local roads improvement program funding it would be something that might move this up a little bit

higher on our priority list to look at the project in 2025 or 2026,” Fallstrom said.

**Liquor violations**

Penalties for liquor license violations for selling alcohol to minors were also on the consent agenda for four North Country establishments – Pelican Lake Resort, The Landing, Voyageire Resort and Houseboats, and the South Switch. As consent agenda items, they were approved without discussion. Details are reported in a separate article in this edition of the *Timberjay*.

**Whiskey Point**

If petitioners living around Namakan Lake get their wish, a point of land on the southeast shore of the lake will officially be named “Whiskey Point,” a name it’s unofficially carried since the 1960s.

Information provided to the board by those requesting the change indicates that the landowners at the time, the Maddison and Zikmund families, named the spot Whiskey Point and posted signage at that time that has been maintained since. As a common landmark referred to when directing people to various locations in the area, having the name appear on official maps would aid in that usage and provide a reference point for visitors. Petitioners noted that St. Louis County also recognizes the usage of Whiskey Point when establishing addresses in the area.

Such name changes have to be approved by the Department of Natural Resources. When contacted by the county attorney, the DNR’s Pete Boulay noted that Lake Vermilion has an island named Whiskey Island with an unofficially named Whiskey Point nearby. However, Boulay said a Whiskey Point name in Unorganized Township 69-17 on Namakan Lake should be far enough away to avoid confusion.

As required by law, the board established a public hearing on the matter for Nov. 28 at 9:40 a.m. at the Leonidas Community Center in Eveleth.

**Management analyst**

When Gray presented a proposal to redefine a management analyst II position as a management analyst position with increased responsibility for policy

and governance activities and to commence a search to fill the position, Nelson asked if the position could be based outside of Duluth.

Gray responded that it would be open to any location, but that the primary support relationship for the position would be with the deputy administrator, and he said they would have to look at the efficiency to see if the position could work from another point.

Nelson reminded Gray that he had asked for a deputy administrator position “up north” 14 years ago. He noted that governing issues have only grown over the years, and that “an awful lot of those issues are not in downtown Duluth, they’re just not. I think it’s important that we have people all over St. Louis County to address issues.”

Commissioner Mike Jugovich reinforced Nelson’s statements, noting that the board has also had conversations about a deputy administrator for the northern portion of the county for about seven years.

“I think it should be somewhere north,” he said. “(It) would actually bring a lot to the northern part of the county having these people here on hand, and it is easy to get to people with the communication we have available. I’d like to see it north, and I’ll continue to advocate for a deputy administrator for the northern part of the county.”

Commissioner Paul McDonald also voiced his support.

“We do have a number of issues in the northern half of the county, and I think moving forward with the opportunity to have somebody up here would speak volumes to the constituents,” he said.

Gray noted that a number of leadership positions that were formerly based in Duluth are now based in the north part of the county, and said that they’re intent not only on hiring the best candidates, but geographically serving the entire county.

“We try not to be site specific about these key leadership positions, we make a concerted effort to be aware that the geographical presence matters as well,” Gray said.

Commissioners approved the position and posting with the proviso that it not be advertised as being located in any specific location.

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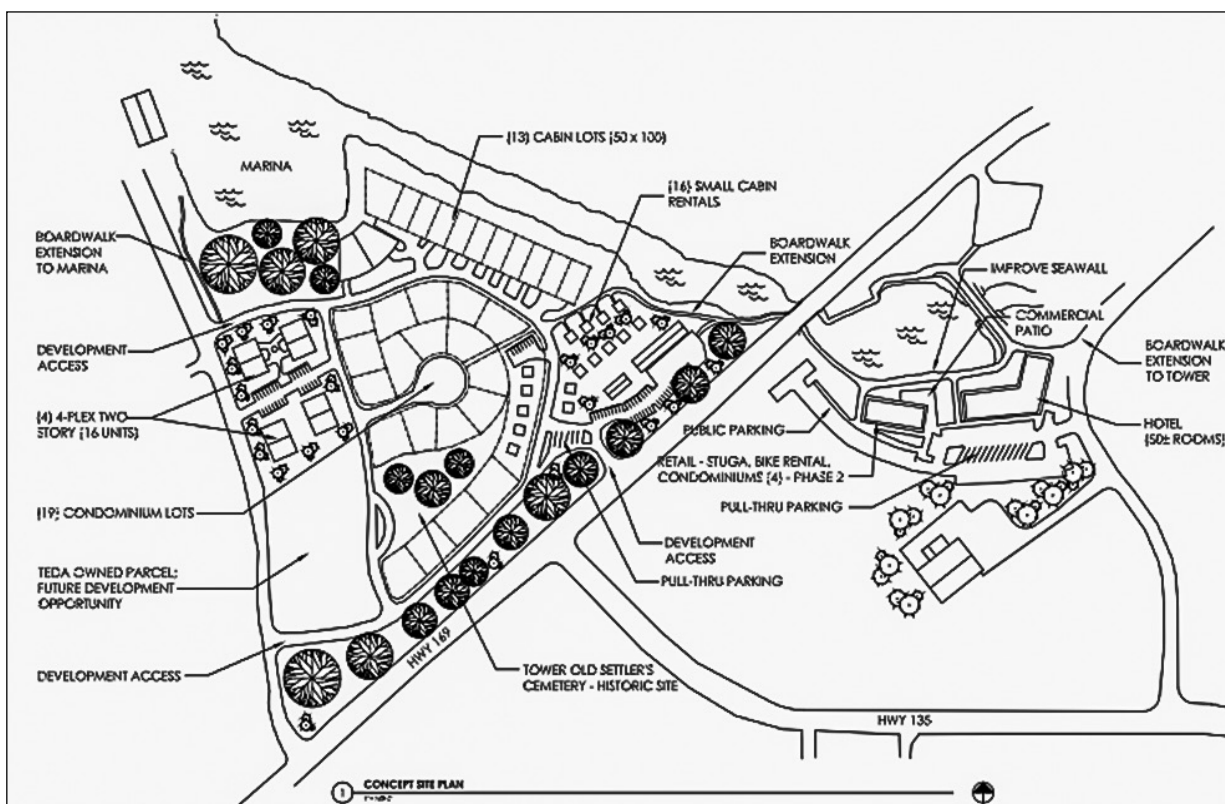


**TINDE...**Continued from page 1

the first imported cottages, which will be shipped into the port in Duluth, are already being drafted by Tinde and could be delivered as soon as December, assuming the Duluth Harbor remains ice-free until then.

The Tinde cottages are expected to be assembled in the pending development of the property formerly owned by Tom and Joe Mesojedec, which has been purchased by the principals of Your Boat Club. A more refined concept plan, presented to TEDA last week, shows 13 small cottages along the west shore of the East Two River, with several other small units located just behind the Marjo Motel. The interior of the 18-acre parcel would be developed into larger, two and three-bedroom home/cabins, with a handful of four-plexes located just off Marina Drive on a five-acre parcel currently owned by TEDA. All of the units would be linked via paved trails and road to the adjacent Your Boat Club marina.

Your Boat Club principal Luke Kujawa recently returned from a visit to Norway to visit the Tinde plant and some current construction sites where the Tinde units are being built. He said he's more convinced than ever that the units will be an excellent



**An updated concept drawing for planned development on the Marjo Motel property, now owned by Your Boat Club, as well as the Tower harbor.**

fit for the property. "I'm really, really impressed by the cottages, their manufacture and construction, and their clean design. They're also very efficient," he said. "They have a very modern look, yet they tie in well with the natural wood and natural colors that fit the landscape."

The visit to Tinde included Kringstad, his Norwegian business partner Lars Hansted, and local contractor Shawn Webster, of Webster's

Northland Construction, who is expected to oversee much of the expected construction on Kujawa's site. Webster may also be involved in the potential construction of a Tinde manufacturing plant in Tower.

The TEDA board briefly discussed options for a Tinde plant, which would most likely be built in the city's industrial park. Webster, who also attended the TEDA meeting, indicated that the plant would

likely need to be around 13,000-15,000 square feet. The construction cost for a facility that size is currently unknown.

With plans for significant residential development near the Your Boat Club marina, questions have been raised about the wastewater treatment capacity of the Tower-Breitung wastewater ponds. While recent work to reduce inflow and infiltration into the sewer system appears to have freed up some capacity, it's

not clear that a development of the size that's being considered could be fully accommodated. That's one reason that Kujawa and Kringstad are pursuing an alternative waste treatment technology that may allow the development to treat its own wastewater.

It's not the only way in which the new development could maintain its independence. "If I had to guess, we'll be building the whole development to be entirely off-grid, covering

all our heating and cooling needs with solar technology. If the development is ultimately connected to the electric grid, Kujawa said he hopes the development will be a net producer of power to the grid rather than a consumer. "I really want to explore and am motivated and energized to explore this as a self-sustaining development," he said. "That's not only something that matters in the marketplace, it's something that matters," he said.

He's especially excited about a new technology, known as solar capture, being used by another Norwegian company to provide full home heating with hot water heated from the sun. The same technology also provides cooling in the summer.

"We met with some of the top engineers on solar and solar capture, and everything just started coming together," said Kujawa, who said the engineers guaranteed that the technology would work well, even in northern Minnesota.

"This is going to be done the right way," said Kujawa. "We want to do something that's going to be good for the environment and the community, and that will be a model that's replicable elsewhere."

**BIRCH LAKE...**Continued from page 1

as the Maturi deposit, which has been the focus of the now defunct mine plan issued by Twin Metals two years ago. At this point, most of the Birch Lake deposit qualifies as an "inferred" resource, which is the lowest level of certainty in the mining industry. Further drilling by Franconia could help Twin Metals raise their degree of confidence to "indicated" (the next step up) or "measured," which is the highest degree of certainty.

Franconia proposes to conduct drilling at six sites, three located along the eastern shore of Bob Bay

with the remaining three located just to the southeast of Unnamed Creek, near the Dunka Pit. Franconia Minerals and Rendfield Land Co., a subsidiary of ALLETE, are the surface landowners in much of the area that would be subject to the drilling, while the state of Minnesota controls the mineral rights.

The drill sites are all located about five miles southwest of the Maturi deposit and could be subject to use for exploratory drilling through March 31, 2025 if the application is approved. The DNR had until Oct. 12 to deny the

application as submitted or the request is approved automatically.

Such exploratory applications are routinely approved by the DNR without much public notice or comment. That's not the case this time, however, as groups that had beat back Twin Metals' earlier mine proposal are objecting.

In an Oct. 9 letter to DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen and Pollution Control Agency Commissioner Katrina Kessler, Matt Norton, policy and science director for Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, notes that

the DNR is a party to an ongoing lawsuit challenging the ability of current state rules to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from potential impacts from copper-nickel mining. As part of the legal proceedings in that case, brought under the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act, or MERA, the DNR has already acknowledged that existing law does not adequately protect the wilderness from the noise or light pollution from mining operations. "By demanding that DNR approve exploratory drilling in the Rainy River-Headwaters water-

shed before the MERA action and related administrative proceedings have concluded, Franconia is essentially requiring DNR to preempt the ongoing MERA lawsuit, short-circuiting DNR's analysis on noise and light pollution," wrote Norton in the letter.

Norton notes, as well, that Birch Lake is impaired due to mercury levels in fish tissues and that NMW's own water quality monitoring program has found the lake exceeds the wild rice standard for sulfate as well. "It is reasonable to assume that Franconia's exploration activities will only

exacerbate the two existing impairments by adding sulfate to Birch Lake and increased mercury in fish tissue in Birch Lake," states Norton.

Even if the exploratory drilling is permitted, an operating mine in that area remains a distant prospect at best, with significant additional drilling almost certainly required to fully characterize the deposit.

The Timberjay submitted questions to the DNR for this story. The agency did not respond as of presstime.



Thank You

Thanks to everyone who helped make it a great summer at the Tower Farmers Market!

See you all next year!

## LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

					Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday															
					49 40	47 36	49 35	50 34	50 38															
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.
10/02	82	61	0.00		10/02	82	62	0.00		10/02	82	61	0.02		09/25	64	54	2.05		10/02	81	60	0.00	
10/03	82	66	0.00		10/03	83	63	0.00		10/03	84	64	0.00		09/26					10/03	83	64	0.00	
10/04	82	59	0.00		10/04	83	60	0.18		10/04	82	62	0.16		09/27					10/04	82	60	0.23	
10/05	64	45	0.04		10/05	66	39	0.04		10/05	64	50	0.24		09/28					10/05	63	41	0.05	
10/06	55	41	0.07		10/06	55	43	0.14		10/06	56	45	0.25		09/29					10/06	55	43	0.30	
10/07	47	34	0.25		10/07	49	27	0.10		10/07	52	42	0.02		09/30					10/07	50	29	0.14	
10/08	46	32	0.00		10/08	46	28	0.00		10/08	48	38	0.01		10/01					10/08	46	31	0.05	
YTD Total			20.66		YTD Total			22.58		YTD Total			17.20		YTD Total			NA		YTD Total				21.24

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CITY OF TOWER

# Council hears of short-term rental nightmare

More financial woes for the ambulance service; possible Hoodoo Point campground expansion aired

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

TOWER— Short-term rental horror stories are hardly unusual, but they had been relatively uncommon in Tower—that is until now. At Monday’s council meeting, residents from North Star Addition issued a plea for action from the city to address a residence that is being operated as a short-term rental allowing up to 14 guests at a time.

Nick Levens, who lives next door to the residence at 5587 Pine St N., said the neighborhood has put up with a laundry list of inappropriate and disturbing behavior from guests staying at the facility, which is owned by Treasured Memories, LLC, based in Lakeville.

“We’re having problems with trespassing and parking on private property, parking without permission, unloading and loading of side-by-sides in the road blocking traffic... myself, I’ve experienced problems with public urination, drunkenness, parties disturbing the peace, vulgar language in front of children.”

Levens, who lives behind the problem residence, notes that his front yard, where his children often play, is next to the backyard of the neighboring property. “So, we’re all playing basketball or

trying to enjoy our yard and we’re faced with this litany of drunk, vulgar language basically three days a week for the past 11 months. We’ve experienced things like snowmobiles coming home in the middle of the night after the bar closed. Six snowmobiles driving up that road sounds like an invasion.”

Levens noted that, just this past weekend, a large group took over their quiet cul-de-sac. “They came with many trucks, with big, utility-sized trailers that they off-loaded in the road for hours, blocking the road and clogging traffic. I had a confrontation with one of the tenants and it got ugly. I tried to contact the owner of the property but she took their side. So, the man I had the confrontation with, I believe in retaliation, pulled his ATV into the middle of the road at seven in the morning and cranked his stereo at like an obscene volume for approximately five minutes.”

Dan Jones, another North Star Addition resident, confirmed that Leven’s complaints were accurate and said he agreed with his concerns about the impact of the property on neighbors. City-clerk Michael Schultz did say he’s received calls about the rental property from other residents of North Star Addition as well, expressing similar concerns.

Levens estimated that the neighboring property has been a party spot for at least 200 strangers over the past 11 months and he said the regular disturbances are “affecting my right to peaceful enjoyment of my property.”

If Levens hoped for immediate action, he was likely disappointed. While St. Louis County has a well-developed ordinance and permitting requirements for short-term rentals, that is currently not the case in Tower. “What I can say is that we do not currently have an ordinance that addresses this but we are actively working towards that,” said council member Joe Morin. “It’s not a quick process, but it’s on our radar for a number of reasons. And this probably helps us support an efficient process.”

In other business, the council approved another \$5,000 transfer of funds from Hoodoo Point Campground to help cash flow the city’s ambulance service, which continues to operate in the red. With the latest transfer, Schultz reported that the city has now tapped \$25,000 from the campground account to make payroll on the ambulance and he suggested that Monday’s request likely won’t be the last, especially with a sizable worker’s compensation payment coming up soon.

Last year, the city transferred a total of \$15,000 to help support the ambulance service.

Mayor Dave Setterberg said he had worked out “a possibility” involving pay schedule changes that could allow the service to break even, but he said he wanted to wait to discuss the change with ambulance personnel before talking about it publicly. “We’re going to present it to them and then once we get any feedback from them, we will be incorporating anything that they suggest, or at least looking at what they suggest. We know we need to do something and then we will bring it to the council, hopefully at the next meeting to implement the kind of pay schedule type changes that we can cram data together,” Setterberg said.

The council also agreed to explore an idea offered by Setterberg to expand the Hoodoo Point Campground. Setterberg said he had recently visited the campground and had noted that the point extends well beyond the current area designated for camping and that there could be room for several additional sites on high ground along the point’s interior. He said the area is currently heavily timbered with a significant number of downed trees that make it difficult to traverse the area.

“Has anyone talked to [campground manager] Randy about it?” asked council member Kevin Norby. Setterberg said he hadn’t so far, but was waiting to gather a bit more information. The council agreed to establish a committee of Norby and Bob Anderson to explore the idea and come back to the council with recommendations.

In other business, the council:

► Heard from Schultz that all of the funds from Gunderson Trust have been successfully transferred to the Duluth-Superior Community Foundation, which is now managing the fund for the city. The soon to be defunct Gunderson Trust Board will be meeting soon to recommend the makeup of a new board that will oversee donations from the proceeds from the trust.

► Heard a brief report on the recent visit of members of the House and Senate bonding committees, who came for an in-person report on the city’s request for funding

for the Tower-Breitung drinking water plant.

► Briefly discussed the possible acquisition of the county public works building. Norby said the city should conduct a cost-benefit analysis to consider what current city buildings could be divested. Morin said the city should think of other possible uses for some of the property at the county site, such as possible commercial opportunities. Schultz said he is still waiting on a list of expenses as well as an inventory of the property from the county.

► Agreed to have Morin and council member Josh Zika work with Schultz to work on a new lease for D’ericks.

► Appointed Setterberg and Morin to engage with Breitung in negotiations over the 2024 police contract.

► Appointed Cade Gornick to a vacancy on the city’s Planning and Zoning Commission.

► Approved the low bid of \$1.279 per gallon for propane from Edwards Oil for the next year.

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## WATER PLANT...Continued from page 1

Board took no action on the bid at a special meeting this week, but Tower Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz predicted that the board won’t move forward with the project based on the current bid.

Schultz said the city can reach out to the Army Corps to see if any other funding is available, but an earlier request to the Corps for additional funding was declined. Schultz said the city could also reach out to the Public Facilities Authority to see if the latest quote could allow

for a higher percentage of grant funding. At this point, however, there are no guarantees, which could put the entire project, including the Army Corps, in danger.

Once a project was approved, the wastewater board was supposed to be able to use the grant funds to pay for a roughly \$250,000 in engineering fees already

incurred for the project. The wastewater board would likely be on the hook for those expenses should the project not move forward.

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NETT LAKE POWWOW

The last weekend in September, the Bois Forte Band celebrated the wild rice harvest with the Miigwetch Manomin powwow at Nett Lake. The event drew dancers from around the region, including Canada, as participants endured the unseasonably warm temperatures.

Below: U.S. Navy veteran Adrienne Whiteman carried the Bois Forte Band flag in Sunday's grand entry. Left: A young dancer twirls in his regalia. photos by D. Colburn



ISD 696

# Ely School Board tackles sports-related issues

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- Athletics were the theme here on Monday, with four sports-related topics taking up a third of the 45-minute meeting of the Ely School Board.

The board accepted a quote of \$53,650 from Phil Hegfors and Son Construction, of Ely, for track repairs, which are scheduled to get underway next June. While the track repair quote has been reviewed by the track coaches and the track club, school superintendent Anne Oelke said there is still some discussion over materials. Oelke urged going forward with the work, "none (of the ongoing discussion) has deviated hugely from what we already have decided. That's why we're moving forward with this

quote ... We don't want to delay this any longer."

The new track surface will complete the loop around the football field and extend out to the pickleball courts.

The board also accepted a donation of \$48,000 from the Ely Track Club to help pay for the new track surface and repairs.

The board also approved giving an individual pass for team sport events to those school staff who complete a supervision shift at an Ely game. This supervision would be in addition to the supervisory staff already in place at games. "This is just an enhancement," remarked Tom Coombe, athletic director.

The board also approved a new cooperative agreement with Northeast Range School in Babbitt

for boys basketball, and boys and girls nordic skiing for the 2023-24 season. Coombe pointed out that if the agreement did not pass, Northeast Range would not be able to field its own basketball team on its own this year.

"The only teams that they have by themselves right now, Coombe added, "are volleyball, and girls softball, and I would not be surprised to see softball coming down the pike (in a future cooperative agreement) as well. They also host girls swimming. And really, it's a good deal for us ... It's really a win-win situation for everyone."

Coombe was confident that Ely's cooperative sports teams with Northeast Range students was balanced by the cooperative swimming team hosted in Babbitt. He not-

ed that Northeast Range saved a lot because they didn't need to hire coaches for the teams run by Ely, while footing the large bill to run the swim team and maintain the school's swimming pool.

Coombe also noted that a detailed balancing of costs with Northeast Range School might be something to consider for the future. "I think there's room to talk ... on just how that will take shape. I'd be more than happy to get involved in those discussions."

The fourth athletics-related item concerned more donations, all of which support sports in the Ely School District.

The first three donations were from the Ely Net Club, TD Club, and Ely Hoop Club, for \$1,300, \$1,500, and \$2,600 respectively, to

fund Hudl subscriptions for football and basketball. Hudl is a subscription service that allows team sports to upload videos of games and watch videos of other teams in turn. Coombe described how a Hudl subscription eliminated the former practice of driving out-of-town to scout other teams.

The last donation that the board accepted was for \$13,759, for a new floor in the school district's weight room, which Coombe revealed included some astroturf.

In other action, the board:

► Heard from Superintendent Oelke that 23 students between the ages of 5 and 17 are currently being home-schooled within the boundaries of ISD 696 during the 2023-24 school year.

► Approved the Sep-

tember financial report, with receipts of \$686,826, and disbursements of \$281,805.

► Approved the hiring of paraprofessionals Trenton Flegel, Ronda Puzel and Michelle Zollar, as well as adding one new paraprofessional position.

► Approved the following extra-curricular assignments for the 2023-2024 musical as recommended by Jeff Carey, Ely Memorial 6-12 Principal and Mike Rouse, Musical Director: Elias Mocole, Music Director; Tatianna Riabokin, Choreographer; Marcia Homer, Band Director; Nick Holt, Technician; Cathy Gucciardo/Jane Dandron (split stipend), Costumers; Barb Litchfield/Margie Miller, (split stipend) Accompanist.

## CHURCH...Continued from page 1

and the adults love that too, actually. We do interactive stuff here."

St. Mary's is a welcoming and comfortable church on the outskirts of Ely, located next to the golf course. During the week, the church shares the meeting space with Northern Lights Clubhouse. On Sundays, if the weather is pleasant, the parishioners gather outside. Indoors, they sit on couches and in chairs in a circle rather than in traditional church pews. One driving by this place of worship would probably not realize it is a church at all, as the congregation meets in the house of a late parishioner.

The house was willed to the church by Mary Catherine Brown, who spearheaded the formation of the Ely branch of St. Mary's. Brown and her husband, Allen, moved to Ely in the 1970s and wanted an Episcopal church to attend. Tower's Episcopal church only met in the summer and holidays, as it had no heating or plumbing. The building was deconsecrated in 2012 and moved down Hwy. 169 to the other end of Tower in 2015. It has since been renovated and reopened as the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center.

"When Will [Helms] and I moved here, we wondered where we were going to attend church. We heard of the Episcopal church in Tower, but it rarely met, and it was kind of faraway...then we get this phone call out of the blue. It was Mary Cather-

ine Brown telling us, 'We have a service that meets at our house on Wednesday evening, and you will attend.' But it didn't meet that often, maybe once or twice a month, and we met at coffee houses as well. Then the Presbyterians invited us to meet at their church as well...but when Mary passed away, she willed the house to the Episcopal Church, and that is how we ended up here," Groeninger said.

Groeninger and Pam Webster were ordained as priests in 2010 and started at St. Mary's in the same year. The two worked together to cover services, with Groeninger covering the Ely church and Webster going to Tower until its closing.

"Several of us were working very hard to establish a church in Ely, and the church allowed us to use Mary Brown's house. Gradually, we acquired new members. Our mission has been to serve the people of Ely," said Webster, who now resides in Alabama full-time with husband Peter Davis, but the two visit Ely regularly.

"For me personally, it was an amazing experience. I especially enjoy marrying people and, in contrast, being with people facing death and in transition, which I have done in several places either through hospice or work referral," said Webster about her time as a priest at St. Mary's.

Groeninger and Helms moved to Ely in 1994 and raised their three children in the Epis-

copal Church. Groeninger is from Massachusetts, and Helms is from Virginia. The couple met at the University of Virginia and were married in a Catholic Church, not becoming Episcopalians until later. Their children were baptized by priests Roger Weaver and Pat Gillespie.

St. Mary's congregation is a close-knit group of individuals, and a com-

mon theme among the members is the sense of inclusion and peace they find in the church.

"It's not a one-way conversation," St. Mary's member Jim Barrott said about the sermon, "It's a talk, and we can converse. It's laid-back and intimate."

Barrott is a retired Forest Service worker who primarily resides in

Duluth, spending some of his time in Ely and attending services at St. Mary's when he does. Barrott has a Lutheran background, and after searching for a church to attend in Ely, he found the Episcopal Church to be a good fit for him.

Members Bob and Mary Ann Stark, who have been visiting Ely since 1993 and relocated

permanently in 2020, feel similarly. The couple were both Catholic since the 12th grade and became Episcopalians in 2011.

"This church is inclusive; you can offer opinions without judgment, and everyone is welcome. The spirit of God is alive and well here," said Mary Ann.



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## CROSS COUNTRY

### Ely runners shine in home meet

Ely's Molly Brophy takes first in the girls competition with a personal best

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY— Timberwolves runners made their mark here last Thursday as both the boys and girls put in one of their best performances of the season in blustery weather at the Ely Golf Course.

Freshman Molly Brophy, who has been a rising star all season for Ely, led the way for the girls. She blew away a field of 104 runners to claim the top spot in the 5K event with a time of 19:34.8,

a full 22 seconds ahead of second place finisher Olivia Pascuzzi, of Chisholm.

"I'm so very happy for Molly as that was her best time ever," said Ely Head Coach Jayne Dusich. Ely eighth-grader Mattie Lindsay finished in 14th place with a time of 21:41.2, while senior Claire Blauch crossed the line in 24th with a time of 22:09.7.

On the boys' side, North Woods junior Alex Burckhardt, running for South Ridge, finished third among 158 runners from with a time of 17:25.4,

**Right: Ely's Molly Brophy and Chisholm's Olivia Pascuzzi were stride for stride about midway through their race last Thursday in Ely. Brophy pulled away later in the race to claim first place.**

photo by C. Clark

while Ely's Caid Chittum was close behind in fourth place with a time of 17:36. Ely junior Silas Solum posted one of his best finishes of the season

See **RUNNERS...**pg. 2B



## FOOTBALL

### Warriors throttle T-Wolves

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

DEER RIVER— It was another painful outing for the Timberwolves here last Friday as an effective Warriors passing attack left Ely on the short end of a 32-0 final score. It's become a familiar story this season as the Wolves' lack of offensive horsepower has left them heavily reliant on the defense.

Deer River's passing attack proved too hot for Ely to handle, as quarterback Caiden Schjenken completed 11 of 18 passes for 123 yards and five touchdowns, all in the first half. Both teams mostly went through the paces in the second half as the game shifted to running time with the Warriors up 32-0.

There was little Ely offense of note. "To be honest, I think we got two first downs the whole game," said Ely Head Coach Louis Gerzin.

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

## VOLLEYBALL

### Grizz top Spartans

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods volleyball team put their fourth-best record in Section 7A on the line Monday with a home match against Nashwauk-Keewatin and notched their 16th straight-set win of the season over the Spartans.

It was "Dig Pink Night" for breast cancer awareness, and the Grizzlies came out in bright pink warm-up tops to match the sea of pink in the stands. Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners was the beneficiary of the evening's fundraising activities.

The Grizzlies were up early 4-2

See **NW GIRLS...**pg. 2B



## VOLLEYBALL

### Ely sweeps ME tourney

North Woods finishes in second place

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA — The Timberwolves proved it again here last Saturday — in Section 7A volleyball, they're the team to beat. For the second time this season, Ely swept eight straight sets to take first in a Section 7 weekend tournament.

Mesabi East offered the only substantial competition on the day, as Ely took the first set 25-19 and missed multiple match points before taking the second set 28-26. Floodwood came out fast in their match with the Wolves, before falling 25-20. But Ely mopped the floor with the Polar Bears in the second set, winning 25-7.

**Above: The Grizzlies' Isabel Pascuzzi attempts a kill against Ely defenders Audrey Kallberg and Sarah Visser.**

**Right: The Nighthawks' Else Bee eyes the ball while under heavy pressure from Floodwood defenders.**

photos by D. Colburn

The Wolves had no trouble in their opening contest against Northeast Range, routing the Nighthawks 25-3, 25-13. And Ely put an exclamation point on their straight set victory over North Woods earlier in the week, topping the Grizzlies

See **TOURNEY...**pg. 2B



## FOOTBALL

### Grizzlies walloped by Cherry

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

CHERRY- Last Friday's North Woods football game was a classic case of the Grizzlies' David against the Cherry Tigers' Goliath, with one major difference — the Grizzlies came without rocks for their sling, getting pummeled 76-8 on the road.

The Tigers have been an offensive juggernaut

this season, scoring over 63 points per game, and they haven't been slouches on defense, either, giving up only six touchdowns through five games. Big, fast, and undefeated, a victory against the inexperienced Grizzlies, 76-0 losers to equally dominant Mt. Iron-Buhl earlier this season, was a foregone conclusion.

But Grizzlies fans couldn't help but get their

hopes up that their team would somehow fare better than the Tigers' first five victims, and those hopes were buoyed after Cherry opened the scoring with a five-yard touchdown by Noah Asuma and a two-point conversion by Noah Sundquist.

But North Woods found lightning in a bottle in the

See **GRIZZ...**pg. 2B

**Right: North Woods senior defensive lineman Noah Westman fights to get into the Cherry backfield.**

photo by D. Colburn





BIKE RACING

# Team BOREALIS wraps up its 2023 race season

by CHRISTINE KOLINSKI  
Team member parent

E L Y - T e a m BOREALIS bike team is wrapping up its 2023 race season, demonstrating well-versed skills and techniques, and competitive race times. While racing is optional for the team, around half of the team's 20 athletes chose to compete in at least one of the entire race series held around the state. So far, the team has raced at Lake Rebecca in Rockford (Sept. 9-10), Excel Energy MTB Park in Shakopee (Sept. 16-17), and middle school racers competed at Spirit Mountain in Duluth (Sept. 23-24).

Races are organized by grade and gender, with middle schoolers racing on Saturday and



Members of Team BOREALIS gather for some pre-practice advice on a recent outing at Hidden Valley recreation area in Ely. submitted photo

high schoolers racing on Sunday. Team series racers include Ely sixth-grader Beck Sponholz; Ely seventh-graders Addison Kannas and Grady Anderson; Ely Freshman June Nelson, George

Sponholz, Mason Molden, and Thauden Schwartz; and JV2 racer-Ely sophomore Rena Johnston. Other first-time racers and team members include Ely sixth-graders Hokan Lunn and Ava Wohnsen, and

Ely seventh-graders Siiri Nelson and Sawyer Chick.

Top race places for middle schoolers at Spirit Mountain were Beck Sponholz with 4/18 for sixth-grade girls. Grady Anderson placed 17/30 for seventh-grade D2 boys, while Addison Kannas and Siiri Nelson placed 14/27 and 22/27 respectfully for seventh-grade girls.

Topracers for team high schoolers at Excel Energy MTB park race for freshman boys D2 were George Sponholz with 27/75, Thauden Schwartz with 37/75, and Mason Molden with 54/75. Freshman racer June Nelson came in with the middle of the pack as 12/24; while JV2 racer Rena Johnston finished with a place of 15/37.

Impressive scores for this team competing with metro youth racers!

"On this team we're all about building a love of bike riding and being outdoors. It's been a really great season watching each and every one of these kids' progress, improving their skills and confidence on the bike," said head coach Mark Sponholz. "Race weekends are a great opportunity for them to see how big the community of mountain bikers is in the state of Minnesota."

The team season runs from July-October and practices at Hidden Valley Ski and Bike Club's Trails in Ely. All youth in the communities of Ely, Babbitt, Tower, and the surrounding area are welcome to join.

Formed in 2020, the team is led by head coach Mark Sponholz and a number of dedicated coach volunteers and parents. Team BOREALIS is a member of the Minnesota Cycling Association (MCA), a 501(c)(3) youth development organization. The team competes and participates within the 2,600 student-athletes and 1,300 coaches. MCA currently has over 80 teams and over 125 schools.

The final upcoming race is this weekend at Whitetail Ridge in River Falls, Wis.; with the state finale at Mount Kato in Mankato. Racers must qualify to race in the state finale.

More at <https://team-borealis.org/>

## RUNNERS..Continued from page 1B

with a time of 18:10.4, good for 13th place. Freshman Brenny Brooks picked up the pace as well, finishing in 26th place with a time of 18:54.5, while junior Eli Olson finished in 33rd with a time of 19:09.6.

In the team competition, Proctor and Rock Ridge duked it out on the girls' side, taking first and second respectively with a mere four-point margin, 46-50 respectively. Ely finished third with 104 points.

For the boys, Cloquet finished first with 64 points to Rock Ridge's 88. Ely took third with 117 points. South Ridge finished in 11th place with 332 points. Team scores are based on the combined places of each team's top five finishers.

With the season winding down, Dusich said she's narrowing down the team that will compete at sections. "While the top three runners in both boys and girls have been consistent, the next six runners have switched places around. I'm not sure who will run in sections yet, but only seven can race," she said.

The section meet is set for Thursday, Oct. 26 in Coleraine.

**Right: North Woods' standout Alex Burckhardt grimaces as he tries to outpace Conner Feldt of Mesabi East for second place.**

**Far right: Ely senior Grace LaTourell keeps a steady pace.**

photos by C. Clark



## TOURNEY...Continued from page 1B

As she has much of the season, junior Lilli Rechichi led offensively for the Wolves with 41 kills on the day, while posting 13 digs from the backcourt. Senior Hannah Penke, who is back in the lineup after an injury, posted 29 kills and 24 digs. Freshman Audrey Kallberg added 16 kills and a team-high 33 digs, while junior Clare Thomas

tallied 16 kills, 30 digs, and ten ace serves. Senior setter Sarah Visser notched an impressive 87 assists along with 15 digs, while freshman Amelia Penke added 13 digs.

For the Grizzlies, the hoped-for rematch with the Wolves was a sour end to an otherwise strong outing in the tournament. North Woods fended off a tough second-game chal-

lenge from Chisholm to win its opening match 25-10, 27-25, then followed up with a convincing 25-16, 25-18 defeat of Two Harbors to win their morning pool. With a strong showing against Mesabi East in their first afternoon round, 25-20, 25-15, North Woods faithful were hopeful that momentum would carry over into the Ely match. The Grizzlies

came out strong and led 6-5 in the opening set, but then Ely reeled off seven consecutive points to take charge 12-6. The Grizzlies could get no closer than four the rest of the way in the 25-15 loss. The second set played out much the same way, with the Grizzlies surrendering an 8-7 lead under a barrage of nine straight points by the Wolves, who breezed to the easy 25-13

win to take the match. After getting trounced by Ely in their opener, Northeast Range bounced back to play more competitive matches the rest of the tourney. Floodwood dealt the Nighthawks a 2-0 defeat with wins of 25-8, 25-15. That the Nighthawks were on the upswing could be seen in a scrappy close battle with Barnum. After the Bombers won a tough

opening set 25-20, the Nighthawks turned the tables and won an even tougher 26-24 slugfest to force a third set. Despite strong team play across the board, the Nighthawks came out on the short end of a 19-17 score to drop their third match of the day. Chisholm prevailed over NER in the nightcap, 2-0.

## FOOTBALL...Continued from page 1B

The Wolves mostly handled the Warriors' running attack, but the team's offensive versatility,

particularly Schjenken's passing arm, was more impressive than Ely defenders had faced so far

this season and it left the Wolves reeling.

Ely highlights all came on defense as sophomore

Tobin Bird, from Babbitt, notched his first interception of the season. "Brady Eaton and Chase Anderson

both played really well on defense," said Gerzin.

The Wolves were on the road on Friday to take on

undefeated Barnum. They finish up the regular season next Wednesday when they play host to Mille Lacs.

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

when Addy Hartway got hot and scored four consecutive points on a pair of blocks and a couple of kills, giving North Woods an 8-2 advantage. After the Spartans pulled into an 11-11 tie, a kill and a dunk by River Cheney and con-

secutive big kills by Lauren Burnett got the Grizzlies on a roll as they took a 17-11 lead. The Spartans got back to within 22-21, but North Woods held on for the 25-22 win.

The Grizzlies took control early at 12-5 in the

second set, getting an ace from Hartway to go along with a kill from Isabel Pascuzzi and key points at the net from Cheney and Talise Goodsky. But the Spartans again made it close at the end, getting to within 23-21 before a

Burnett kill and Hartway block gave North Woods the 25-21 win.

There would be no repeat of Spartan comebacks in the third set. Madison Dantes put shackles on the Spartans with her serve in a seven-point

run that put North Woods up 10-3, and the Grizzlies never looked back, breezing to a match-deciding 25-14 win.

The Grizzlies picked up their 16th win of the season, one more than last year, against only four

losses. The Grizzlies were scheduled to go on the road Thursday to play Silver Bay, then have another away contest at Chisholm on Monday before finishing out the regular season at home Tuesday against Floodwood.

## GRIZZ..Continued from page 1B

form of running back Kaden Gornick, who responded with a scintillating 66-yard touchdown dash down the right sideline on the next possession, and a conversion pass from Trajen Barto to Talen Jarshaw knotted the score at 8-8 with 7:26 left in the first quarter.

Aided by a Cherry holding penalty that nullified a long touchdown pass, the Grizzlies held tough and forced a Tigers punt, and it looked like North Woods might have a shot at hanging around for awhile in this one.

But Cherry snuffed out that fantasy before the quarter came to a close, scoring three touchdowns in less than five minutes on a 14-yard pass, an interception return for a pick six, and a 66-yard touchdown pass to quickly expand the lead to 32-8.

ued in the second quarter when Cherry blocked a Rogelio Noyes punt from the North Woods 26 and recovered at the 17-yard line. Four plays later the Tigers were in the end zone again, going up 40-8. Clamping down on defense and cranking up the offense, the Tigers added three more touchdowns before halftime on a 56-yard run, a 24-yard pass, another pick six off of Grizzlies quarterback Barto, and a 30-yard pass following a Grizzlies turnover. The score at intermission was 68-8.

With the clock running in the second half, opportunities to score were more limited, and Cherry's final score of the game came at the 3:09 mark of the third quarter on a 19-yard run, one play after another touchdown run had been called back due to a Tigers penalty.

The Grizzlies mounted their best drive of the game in the fourth quarter, moving from their own 37 to the Cherry 21, getting good runs from Barto and James Yernatich. But Barto was picked off for a third time to snuff out the Grizzlies' scoring opportunity.

A sign of the Tigers' defensive dominance could be seen in the Grizzlies' 121 yards of total rushing, 66 of which came on Gornick's touchdown run. Gornick added just ten more yards

for the night on six more carries for 76 yards total. Barto had 24 yards on two carries, and Nick Abramson had 12 yards on seven carries.

Barto completed more passes to Cherry defenders than he did to his teammates, going two-for-nine with completions to Jarshaw and Mason Rutchasky while tossing three interceptions.

The 2-4 Grizzlies were scheduled to tee the ball up at home on Friday with a chance to get back in the

win column against 1-5 Bigfork. North Woods will close out the regular season on Wednesday, Oct. 18 with

a home game against Cook County. Kickoff will be at 6 p.m.

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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.



## BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

# No more free gravel deliveries in Breitung Township

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Staff Writer

**SOUDAN-** There was much ado about gravel at the Sept. 28 Breitung Township Board meeting. During the normally routine road and bridge report, Maintenance Supervisor Tom Gorsma reported that he had made several deliveries of gravel to township residents this summer.

The gravel was sold to residents for ten dollars a yard. Gorsma said when he was first hired, he was told that delivery of the gravel was a service the township provided to its residents and requests only came in sporadically.

But after a large demand this summer Gorsma brought it to the town board because of the significant pressure it was putting on the maintenance department's time and funds. The board agreed that free gravel delivery needed to stop, but the board never came to a consensus for an alternative.

Options included having residents hire a private contractor to deliver the gravel, or to have township employees do the delivery and charge the regular

equipment rental fee of \$100 per hour, with a half hour minimum.

The board will discuss it again at the next township meeting.

## Police

The board approved two new police department policies, one requiring part-time officers to work at least one weekend per year and another to require officers to carry Narcan to prevent opioid overdose deaths. A third policy will need to undergo some more edits before approval, the policy designates an acting administrator for the Breitung Police Department should the chief of police be required to take an extended leave of absence after a use of deadly force incident.

Police Chief Dan Reing said the township is considering enacting a 15-mph speed limit for ATV's on township roads, similar to the existing one already in place in Tower. Reing will write the ordinance and bring it to the next township meeting.

The Breitung Police responded to 138 calls for service including an arrest for DWI, an arrest for theft-related charges, and issued seven citations including one for expired regis-

tration, four citations for driving after revocation, and two citations for speed.

## Other business

In other business, the board:

► Agreed to purchase a Bobcat Toolcat for \$80,000 to replace the township's lawn tractor. The lawn tractor will be sold after the tool cat is received. This model can also be used for snow removal.

► Breitung Supervisor and Wastewater Board Supervisor Matt Tuchel said that the wastewater board's PFA loan, serviced by the township, would require an outside audit that could cost anywhere from \$6,000 to \$35,000. To save costs, the wastewater board is exploring whether the city of Tower could be the loan servicer instead, since they already do an external audit, or if the audit could be restricted to just the water commission fund, instead of the entire township, to save on costs.

► Heard that a representative from Flagship Recreation was here to take measurements for McKinley Park playground. The old playground equipment has been removed and site prep has begun to install a new playground next summer. The town-

ship is waiting to get drawings back from the company.

► Heard that two neighbors were both interested in a small township-owned lot between their properties on an alleyway behind Jasper St. The lot is North of 61 Jasper St. and part of an odd-shaped township lot. The piece the landowners are interested in is about 5,000 sq ft. The township will sell the property to the highest bidder, with the buyer paying the fees for recording, survey, and subdivision. Bids will be opened at the next meeting.

► Donated a resolution to accept donations from Eric Norberg in the amount of \$40 for the police department and from the Tower-Soudan Civic Club in the amount of \$50 for flowers.

► The next regular board meeting is Thursday, Oct. 26 at noon at the Breitung Community Center.

## Stolen park signs recovered

When "numerous" signs were stolen on a snowy weekend last March from the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park, there was no physical evidence left behind to help the Breitung Police locate

the stolen items because any potential footprints or tire treads were covered in snow.

But on Aug. 10, the Breitung Police received a call from the East Range Police Department saying they had received information on the location of the stolen signs. A search warrant was issued on a home in Aurora, and later that day, all but two of the state park signs were recovered.

An adult male suspect was located shortly after, and he was arrested and charged with felony theft-related charges.

"The case is now working through the court process," said Breitung Police Chief Dan Reing. "It is always satisfying to have cases brought to a closure. So many thefts go unsolved."

Reing said he wishes to thank Officers Erickson, Mathison, and Garrick from East Range, and to Officer Zupancic for his assistance conducting the search.

"I would also like to thank the park staff for their detailed property descriptions and their patience," Reing said. "I am happy I was able to contribute to the positive conclusion of this case."

## PUBLIC SAFETY

# Tower Ambulance still operating in the red, city adding funds

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

**TOWER-** The costs of maintaining 24/7 on-call coverage for the Tower Area Ambulance Service (TAAS) continues to outpace the revenue the service receives for providing its life-saving work.

At the Oct. 5 quarterly Ambulance Commission Meeting, representatives from the local governments in the ambulance service area heard that the city of Tower has transferred another \$5,000 to the operating fund to cover the most recent payroll. This is in addition to the \$20,000 transferred earlier this year.

"We only take in a little over 40-percent of what we bill," said TAAS Director Dena Suihkonen. "Medicare and Medicaid account for over 80-percent of our runs." Federal reimbursement rates are set at \$400 per run, for BLS (basic life support) service. ALS (advanced life support) payments are only \$100 higher, Suihkonen said.

The ambulance commission represents the interests of the governmental units that contribute to the ambulance subsidy account, which is the main source of capital for purchasing new ambulances. The current assessment is \$15 per capita, though most participants opted to make double payments this year to pay for a new ambulance which is expected to be delivered ei-

ther at the end of this year, or very early next year. As of yet, there is no funding agreement in place for 2024.

Among the other issues raised at the meeting was the \$1.66 per mile fee that the ambulance service pays to the ambulance replacement fund for transfer miles. This fee was added back in 2020 to cover depreciation and other costs of running the ambulances on non-emergency transfer calls. It is billed on the total mileage of the call, not just the "loaded" miles, when a patient is in the ambulance, which are the only miles for which the service is reimbursed.

"My question to the larger group is that we have a township [Greenwood] that hasn't paid," said Vermilion Lake representative Frank Zobitz. "They have taken flack." But then Zobitz wondered how this was any different than the city not promptly paying the \$1.66 fee.

"We are robbing Peter to pay Paul," said Suihkonen. "The only way that \$1.66 gets paid is if the ambulance service has the money to pay it. We can't just add it to the city's levy."

Zobitz said that issue should not be a problem for the commission.

"We are here for the money we contribute to the [subsidy] fund. Our job is to give the blessing to say yes to the purchase of a new ambulance."

Eagles Nest representative Frank Sherman noted that the city was

responsible for paying any shortfall between the amount in the subsidy account versus the actual cost of the new ambulance.

"If you didn't put in the \$1.66 per mile, it doesn't matter to us. I don't think this has the urgency of the township contributions. I still don't understand why what Greenwood wants to accomplish has anything to do with paying into the replacement fund."

Greenwood representative John Bassing noted, several times, it was a matter of trust, and said the ambulance service had presented conflicting information on the actual number of transfer miles in previous years.

"The numbers are all over the place," Bassing said.

Suihkonen said it looked like confusion between reports on previous years and current years, and Breitung representative Matt Tuchel, who is a member of the ambulance service, agreed.

Bois Forte representative Jeff Damm said they only need to care about "buying a new ambulance, not about how it is being run. Do we need a new ambulance right now? Yes or no? Let's get the money for it."

"All the other stuff is just for our information," Damm said.

Suihkonen also noted that the service has been totally upfront about money owed to the subsidy account that hadn't been

paid in yet.

"Every single meeting, we note we have not been paying that yet," she said.

## Transfer subsidy overpayment

Tower Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz was at the meeting, and presented financial information that showed the city had actually paid the mileage reimbursement fees twice for 2020, during a time before he was clerk-treasurer. His research into the issue showed the city had paid \$9,550 into the subsidy account in October 2020, and then paid another \$12,412 in January 2021, for a total of \$21,962 for mileage incurred in 2020. The service actually owed the \$12,412 for 2020 transfer miles, so had overpaid by \$9,550.

Then the city paid a total of \$9,791 for 2021 transfer miles, and another \$10,496 in 2022 (another \$8,057 owed for 2022 has yet to be paid). Transfer miles in 2021 were quite low due to the pandemic, Suihkonen noted.

So, the ambulance service paid a total of \$42,250 for the three years, but owed \$40,757, his research showed, meaning the service had paid in full for transfer miles through 2022.

The commission did not act on this new information.

Right now, the subsidy account has about \$195,000, but still have 2023 payments on their

way from Bois Forte and Breitung. The cost for the new ambulance is about \$250,000 minus \$17,000 paid in advance.

## Finances

Sherman asked how much money the service makes on transfer calls. Suihkonen said it depends on the insurance for the patient who is being transferred. She noted that in previous years, a much higher percentage of ambulance patients had private insurance, which pays a higher rate compared to Medicare or Medicaid.

Suihkonen said the little extra made on transfers does help with staffing costs for the service. Damm noted that the issues facing TAAS are statewide, not just local.

Bassing said he thinks that eventually the financial costs are going to force a regionalization, such as has been seen with schools and hospitals. But Greenwood's attempt to force this issue, including funding a study of possible solutions, has gone nowhere.

"Why do we think we can prop up something that is going to be forced by money eventually to consolidate?" Bassing said.

"But in the meanwhile," asked Sherman, "are we going to see Greenwood coming into the fold?"

Bassing said, "I don't think so, basic trust for one, as well as indemnification."

Suihkonen noted that the indemnification issue, where Greenwood is asking Tower to take all the liability for non-ambulance personnel isn't acceptable to the city. For example, she noted that Greenwood First Responders, who are not members of TAAS, have been taking training to administer certain medications on scene. Bassing appeared to deny this, though the Greenwood Town Board has been discussing these trainings for several months, and supported the advanced level of training for its First Responders.

"If there was that indemnification clause," she said, "Tower would be responsible if something went wrong."

Tuchel tried to reason

with Bassing, who continued to press for a regionalized service.

"In the meantime," Tuchel said, "this service is still covering Greenwood. It truly is not fair... To be honest, the ambulance service needs the money. We want to work with Greenwood. Let's try to find a compromise."

Bassing said that Chisholm is moving to providing ALS service.

Tuchel said they are "grasping at straws" and losing a lot of money. He said they are making their money on ALS transfers, and are lucky enough to have paramedics, already trained, in their area, as well as being close enough to area hospitals to be able to take on transfers on a regular basis. And even an ALS service, like Virginia, with a larger hospital and many transfers, is suffering financially. Suihkonen said the Virginia service posted a large deficit last year.

News reporting on the Virginia City Council in the *Mesabi Tribune* in September said the ambulance department had posted a \$550,000 deficit, though at their October meeting it was reported that the department had increased its revenue in 2023, which they noted was a good sign.

"We are not in the transfer business," Tuchel said. TAAS only gets called to do hospital transfers if the "home" ambulance service, like Virginia, Ely, or Cook, is not available.

Tuchel also noted that "regionalization will not eliminate the staffing issues."

"It comes down to the people in this room," said Tuchel. "The politicians and the boards managing them. The best case is that everybody in this room puts their money into a study, and then agrees to do whatever the study comes up with."

The idea of getting a regional tax district to support ambulance services is something that hasn't happened anywhere in the state.

"Too much politics," said Damm.

## Obituaries and Death Notices

### Yvonne C. Swanson

Yvonne Claire Duncanson Swanson, 81, of Cook, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023, at the Virginia Care Center. Visitation will be held at noon on Saturday, Oct. 14 followed by the funeral service at 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Cook. Lunch will be served following the service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her sons, Troy (Denise) Swanson of Barnes, Wis., and Scott (Michelle) Swanson of Eveleth; granddaughters, Rachel Swanson of Burnsville, Kaitlin (Cassidy) Thornberg of Eveleth and Lynsey (Daniel) Becker of Little Falls; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

### Dale H. Kinnunen

Dale Harlan Kinnunen, 56, of Embarrass, passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023, at Essentia Health St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. A private family gathering will be held and then a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his sons, Evan and Dilon Kinnunen; daughter, Briita Kinnunen; sisters, Laurie (Steve) Rasmussen and Kathy (Mike) Hannay; brother, Gerald Kinnunen; and many nieces and nephews.

### James A. Pintar

James Alvin Pintar, 58, of Bab-bitt, passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023, at his residence. Ar-

rangements are pending with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

### Anthony A. Knutson

Anthony Aaron Knutson, 59, of Nett Lake, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023. Services will be announced when finalized. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

### Sheila Shultz

Sheila Shultz, 74, of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023, at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.



# EMPLOYMENT

## OPENINGS



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

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### Hospital/ER

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

### Business Office

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

### Outpatient Services

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

### Dietary

FT & PT Dietary Aide/Cook

### Environmental Services

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

### Radiology

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Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 6 & 13, 2023



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Visit <https://wolf.org/about-us/employment/> to apply. 10/13

## POSITION OPENING

## Ely Public Schools High School Paraprofessional

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Paraprofessional for the 2023-2024 school year; background check required.

### Qualifications include:

- Associate's Degree/equivalent or complete a Para Pro exam with a passing score ([www.ets.org/parapro](http://www.ets.org/parapro))
- Preferred experience working with school age children
- Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting
- Ability to perform job description duties

### Benefits include:

- Paid sick leave, personal days and vacation
- Health and life insurance
- Flexible spending account
- PERA retirement

Application available at: [www.ely.k12.mn.us](http://www.ely.k12.mn.us)

### A complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume
- College Transcripts
- 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email [lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:lwestrick@ely.k12.mn.us). Contact the District Office for a complete job description.

Starting Rate of Pay: \$17.23/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: October 23, 2023; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 13 & 20, 2023

## POSITION OPENING

## Ely Public Schools Paraprofessional

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### Qualifications include:

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Starting Rate of Pay: \$17.23/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: October 25, 2023; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 13 & 20, 2023

## COUNCIL VACANCY

## CITY OF ORR

The Orr City Council will be appointing an individual to serve the remainder of a term on the Council due to a resignation. Individuals who would like to be considered should submit a letter of interest to the City. The letter should include full name, mailing address, telephone number and email address. In order to be eligible for consideration, the individual must be an eligible voter in the City, must be at least 21 years of age and must be a resident of the City for at least 30 days prior to the appointment. Letters should be sent to the City of Orr, PO Box 237, Orr, MN 55771 or emailed to [Orrmn@centurytel.net](mailto:Orrmn@centurytel.net). The deadline for accepting letters is 4:00 P.M. on October 31, 2023.

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 13 & 20, 2023

## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: V equals F

FLBP ZLXSGH WI PLI VBKXYDPI

VYSDPE WIKIYBJI XV OLSYOL

TITWIYZ FLX BYIR'P XYHBDRIH?

GBETBR-BHI.

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## CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

MFC LRBMFCB ZTC HCME PTMZ

MFC UPDNCBTCEE, MFC HBCRMCB

PE MFC RMMBRIMPZT ZL PME

DZTC DG LBCCNZQ.

— MFCZLNZBC BZCEWCMD

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## Super Crossword

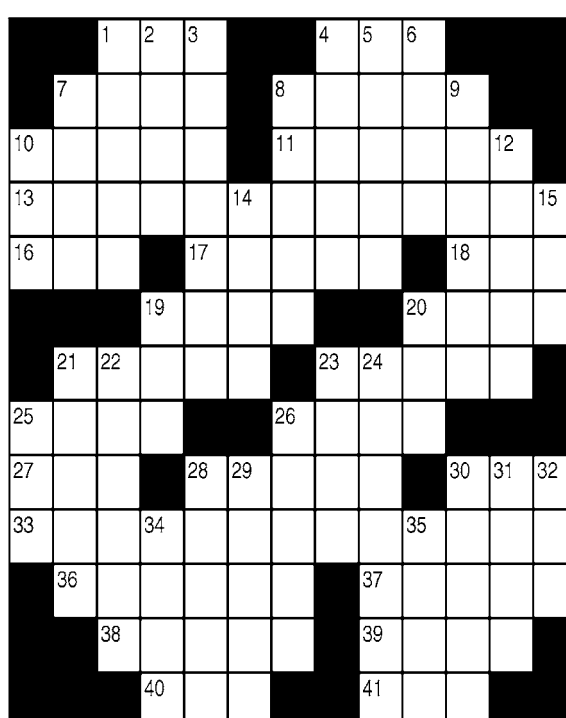
### Answers

DAMASK TENDS ONUS PCS  
 OPINER STARTAFIRE SAP  
 WHATWOULD OUCALLA NOY  
 DIM GTO PDA IGLYO  
 DISHEATENBY POLICEMEN  
 POR SOY ROLEO  
 IFEAR ATTA SEERS GHWB  
 GIVINGTHEMSPECIAL EIN  
 GLEN OKIE HULK ERNIE  
 YER GRIN SIRE AREARUG  
 STRENGTHANDENERGY  
 HEIRESS ROTSDITSVET  
 ANNIE HORS LIMA CIAO  
 TIC TOCAPTUREFUGITIVE  
 EDEN RAVES AMYS TRIES  
 OWETO ACU ESL  
 BRITISHCONSERVATIVES  
 RESET AOK ORC COM  
 EMU CHICKENCATCHATORY  
 WIZ HANGSLOOSE EYELET  
 STU SISISTOPSPRELISH

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Big mouth
- 4 Scoundrel
- 7 Actress Rogers
- 8 Underneath
- 10 Choir member
- 11 Loves to pieces
- 13 Woven containers
- 16 Raw mineral
- 17 Levels
- 18 Cistern
- 19 Pet food brand
- 20 Feel sorry for
- 21 Answers an invitation
- 23 Sandbox toys
- 25 Dandies
- 26 Billions of years
- 27 Simile part
- 28 Egypt's Mubarak
- 30 Pallid
- 33 Company codes used at a stock exchange
- 36 Journalist Bly
- 37 Bakery smell
- 38 Japanese wrestlers
- 39 Minnelli of "Arthur"



- 40 AOL rival
- 10 Tango team
- 25 Corpulent
- 41 Tofu source
- 12 Sports figures
- 26 Road curves
- 14 Eyeglass frames
- 28 Big wheels at sea

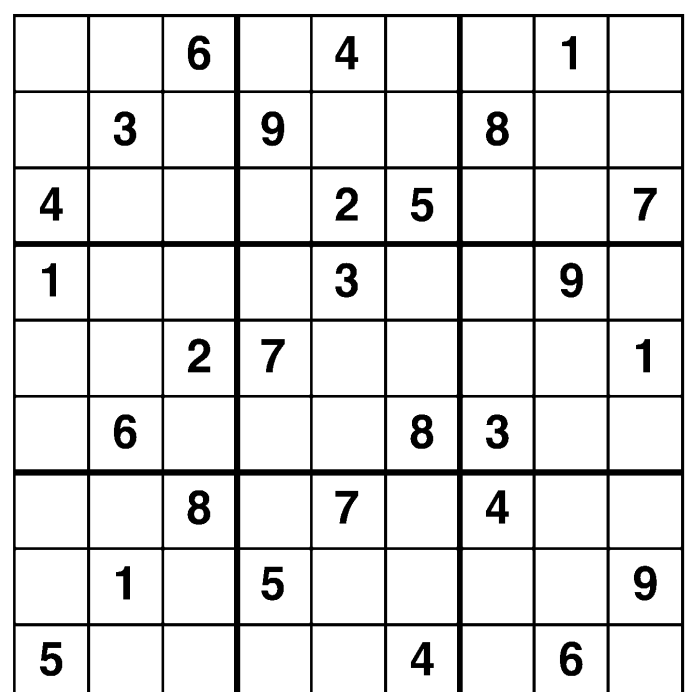
### DOWN

- 1 Chop finely
- 2 Out of control
- 3 Spy's device
- 4 Fragrant wood
- 5 At — for words
- 6 Dweeb
- 7 Israel's Golda
- 8 Innocents
- 9 Cotton pest
- 15 Pigs' digs
- 19 Hosp. hook-ups
- 20 Math ratios
- 21 Cello bow application
- 22 Parking spots
- 23 Shetland, for one
- 24 Cracker shapes
- 29 Hunter in the sky
- 30 Lightheaded
- 31 Mater lead-in
- 32 Code-breaking gp.
- 34 Heidi of "Project Runway"
- 35 Vivacity, in music

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

## DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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





# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

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## HOSPICE

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## PET CREMATION

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

## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**SNOWFLAKES**  
by Japheth Light

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:**  
◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

M	A	W	C	A	D															
M	I	M	B	E	L	O														
T	E	N	O	R	A	D	O	R	E	S										
W	I	C	K	E	R	B	A	S	K	E	T	S								
O	R	E	T	I	E	R	S	V	A	T										
			J	A	M	S	P	I	T											
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T	I	C	K	E	R	S	Y	M	B	O	L	S								
N	E	L	L	I	E	A	R	O	M	A										
S	U	M	O	S	L	I	Z	A												
M	S	N		S	O	Y														

## CryptoQuote

answer

The farther one gets into the wilderness, the greater is the attraction of its lonely freedom.  
- Theodore Roosevelt

## CryptoQuip

answer

What should be the favorite fruity beverage of church members who aren't ordained?  
Layman-ade.

## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## Super Crossword

**POTENT POULTRY**

**ACROSS**

1 Durable, lustrous fabric for table linen  
7 Babysits, e.g.  
12 Heavy burden  
16 Machines connected to mice  
19 Person expressing viewpoints  
20 Do some igniting  
22 Syrup source  
23 Beginning of a riddle  
25 Even a hint of  
26 Not so bright  
27 Old sporty Pontiac  
28 The Palm Treo was one, in brief  
29 Arctic home  
31 Riddle, part 2  
39 "— que?" ("Why?" to Juanita)  
40 Tofu base  
41 Contest involving balancing on a floating log  
42 Lead-in to bad news  
45 "— girl!"  
47 Fortunetellers  
49 U.S. pres. during the Gulf War  
53 Riddle, part 3

57 Austrian "a" perhaps  
58 Hidden valley  
59 "— From Muskogee"  
60 "Incredible" superhero  
61 Bert's Muppet pal  
63 "— darn tootin!"  
64 Broad smile  
65 Foal's father  
66 Mini-carpet  
68 Riddle, part 4  
72 Woman with will power?  
74 Deteriorates  
75 Dads' Morse counterparts  
76 Pet treater  
79 "Tomorrow" musical  
80 — d'oeuvres  
81 Peru's capital  
82 "Gotta go!"  
83 Muscle jerk  
84 Riddle, part 5  
89 Tree of Life's garden  
91 Boffo reviews  
92 Funnywomen Schumer and Poehler  
93 Has a go at  
94 Have a loan from  
96 Lead-in to puncture or pressure  
97 Class for U.S. immigrants  
98 End of the riddle

107 Put back to 0,  
108 NASA "yes"  
109 Tolkien meanie  
110 Rom- (film genre)  
112 Aussie avian  
113 Riddle's answer  
121 Diana Ross musical, with "The"  
122 Relaxes, informally  
123 Shoelace hole  
124 Disco (guy on "The Simpsons")  
125 "Yes, yes!" in Yucatán  
126 Discontinues  
127 Cookout condiment

**DOWN**

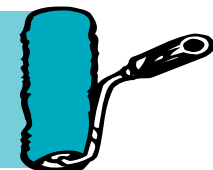
1 Op-ed columnist Maureen  
2 Green garden pest  
3 Marlins' city  
4 House pest  
5 Stitch up  
6 Food chain  
7 Letter-shaped opening in a machine shop  
8 LAX abbr.  
9 Certain caucus reply  
10 Visit briefly  
11 Reading room  
12 Two — kind  
13 Not a one  
14 Website ID  
15 Frozen floating brine  
16 Church song  
17 Tippy craft  
18 Observe slyly  
21 Put — on (limit)  
24 Broadway's Hagen  
30 Mapmaker's sci.  
32 Home to Barcelona  
33 Driver's alert  
34 Lauder of perfume  
35 Chomsky of linguistics  
36 Vacuum cleaner company  
37 Actress Petty  
38 Rick's love in "Casablanca"  
42 Azalea of rap  
43 Manicurist's tool  
44 From the time that  
45 Guitarist Chet  
46 Entity  
47 Rejects with disdain  
48 Trapped morays  
50 Much-married English king  
51 Nintendo console that debuted in 2012  
52 Rare blood type, in brief  
54 Pierces  
55 Japanese massage technique  
56 Ogling looks  
62 Old washcloth  
64 Say "hi" to  
65 Cutoffs, e.g.  
66 Hostility  
67 Affix a new label to  
69 Hexa- halved  
70 Recurrent theme  
71 Benefit spiritually  
72 Dislike a lot  
73 "National Velvet"  
77 Roof's edge  
78 Feet have five  
80 Widespread destruction  
81 Primate of Madagascar  
82 Keyboard command for "paste"  
85 Rich rocks  
86 Vatican's denom.  
87 Go quickly  
88 Stilted-sounding reply to "Who's there?"  
90 G flat, for one  
95 — hat (Broom-Hilda costume part)  
96 Beginning of a classic JFK quote  
97 Artist working on glass  
98 Pub offerings  
99 Send in, as payment  
100 Japanese truck maker  
101 "Mighty" trees  
102 Yule songs  
103 9-Down and 119-Down are opposite ones  
104 Bit of a circle  
105 GI tract bacterium  
106 Tender spots  
111 Fictitious tale  
114 "Bali —"  
115 Officeholders  
116 Hi-tech film effects  
117 Dove's noise  
118 Cobra type  
119 Certain caucus reply  
120 — Aviv-Yafo

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121										122									123		
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