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# The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 34, ISSUE 41 October 20, 2023 \$1<sup>50</sup>

## TELLING STORIES

# Hopes high for future of Indigenous Film Night

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook/Orr Editor

**FORTUNE BAY-** A small but enthusiastic crowd gathered in the ballroom at Fortune Bay Resort Casino for the inaugural edition of Indigenous Film Night, a mini film festival celebrating the work of Native filmmakers in the U.S. and internationally.

The event was organized by Khayman Goodsky, a Bois Forte Band member and currently a Duluth-area filmmaker, in collaboration with Jacob White, director of Ely's End of the Road Film Festival. White received and administered the grant which helped to fund Indigenous Film Night.  
 "The inspiration came with me and Jacob day-

dreaming about having an Indigenous film night on the rez, which is where my father (Terry) and I are from," Goodsky said. "I feel like a lot of Indigenous filmmakers aren't highlighted and when we are, it is a huge deal. When we're able to get the recognition that we need, that's so important. I wanted to pass along that chance to other filmmakers

**Right: Rhiana Yazzie and Khayman Goodsky smile during the recent film night at Fortune Bay.**

photo by D. Colburn

— to have their stuff be seen by other Indigenous people is a huge, huge thing for our community."

The pair selected five

See...**FILM** pg.10



## COST VS. BENEFIT

# High price for clean water

County board backs Ash River sewer project, but where's the due diligence?

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

**REGIONAL—** The St. Louis County Board has thrown its backing to a state bonding request for a \$24 million project to address a problem that supporters can't show even exists.

At issue is a proposal by the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board, which goes by the cumbersome acronym VNPCWJPB, to build a centralized wastewater collection and treatment system to serve a total of 81 sites along Ash River, a tributary to Lake Kabetogama.

It's not the first such project the VNPCWJPB has undertaken in recent years, and it's not the first time some of the organization's decisions have been questioned for

their extraordinarily high cost and questionable benefit.

From the beginning, the VNPCWJPB and SEH, the engineering firm that has driven much of the process, has focused on the development of mostly centralized wastewater treatment systems built around pockets of commercial and residential development along the edges of Voyageurs National Park, including at Crane Lake, Lake Kabetogama, Ash River, and Rainy Lake. As Minnesota's only national park, the VNPCWJPB has cited the "need" to clean up the park's major lakes as reason enough to support truly enormous expenditures of public funds.

The problem, according to the project's engineers, are individual

See...**SEWER** pg. 9

### Phosphorus levels in major VNP lakes

Lake	1974	2001	2016
Crane Lake	0.050	0.025	0.020
Kabetogama	0.057	0.027	0.0195
Rainy Lake	0.031	0.015	0.013

Water quality test results shown in milligrams per liter as reported by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Table 4 - Engineer's Estimate of Probable Cost for Recommendations

Item	Capital Costs	O&M Costs
Low pressure collection system A1 + A2	\$15,777,000.00	\$290,000.00
Subsurface discharge with fast system	\$6,497,000.00	\$170,000.00
Additional cost for one river crossing to serve properties on south side of ash river	\$2,162,500.00	(*)

(\*) Included in Low Pressure Collection System Item

Above: A table of cost estimates for the proposed Ash River wastewater treatment project.

## CITY OF ELY

# Mayor notes threats to staff cars at library

by **CATIE CLARK**  
Ely Editor

**ELY-** Tuesday's city council meeting here got off to an unusual start as Mayor Heidi Omerza updated the council on the threats being levied across the street from city hall in the Ely Library parking lot.

A self-appointed vigilante has been leaving threatening notes on cars belonging to the library staff. The notes started off as merely nasty but recently have escalated, promising to "key" the paint job on vehicles owned by library staff if they don't move out of the electric vehicle (EV) recharging spots in the library's parking lot. When librarian Tricia Flake received a note on Oct. 3 threatening to damage her car, Flake turned the note into the Ely Police.

"People who work at the library park in those spots, so if someone has a car that needs to be plugged in, you just need to walk into the library to say, 'I need to charge my car,' and the people who work in the library will move their cars," Omerza explained. "There's no reason to be nasty about it. There's no reason to put any sort of threatening note on anybody's windshield."

A sign on the EV chargers reads, "Please ask inside (the) library if cars need to be moved to use charger."

According to library staff member Jessie Dunn, the library received a grant from Minnesota Power for the EV chargers and the solar panels on the library roof to power them. The use of the chargers is free. The library staff has been parking in the charger spots to reserve them for EV drivers, as the signs

See...**COUNCIL** pg. 9

## ACTIVISM

# Humphrey brings her musical mission to Ely

by **JEN SHUSTER-DAHLIN**  
Contributing Writer

**ELY-** The First Presbyterian Church packed the house here recently to hear Anishinaabe folk musician, activist, and artist Annie Humphrey, who stopped in Ely as part of her tour to promote her new album, "The Light in My Bones."

She performed with fellow artist David Huckfelt, a singer-songwriter and social activist in his own right. Huckfelt opened for Humphrey, playing guitar and singing about half a dozen of his own songs, and then accompanied Humphrey throughout her set.

Both Humphrey and Huckfelt have visited and played music in

Ely before and shared fond memories during the concert.

"I've played at the coffee shop here and at the ski chalet a couple of times," said Humphrey. "I also painted a mural at Veterans on the Lake."

Humphrey was born on the Leech Lake Reservation, home to the second-largest population

of Native Americans of any reservation in Minnesota. Humphrey travels extensively due to her activism and musical career but still calls Leech Lake, which encompasses parts of four counties, her home base.

Artistic talent runs in her

See...**HUMPHREY** pg. 10



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Community notices

**Construction at Cook Hospital and Care Center Business Office entrance begins Oct. 23**

COOK - Cook Hospital and Care Center is going to be under construction at the business office entrance for two to three weeks. Effective Monday, Oct. 23, there will be signs directing the public to a temporary entrance. Entry can also be made through the main hospital doors (near the ambulance garage).

**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.

**New rehearsal time for TS Singers**

TOWER- Rehearsal start time for the Tower-Soudan Area Singers will be changing from 5:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. starting Monday, Oct. 23.

**Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 and Knights to meet Oct. 26**

VIRGINIA - The Ladies of Kaleva Soinnuttaren Tupa 32 and the Knights will be meeting Oct. 26 at Kaleva Hall at 6 p.m. The program will be "I'm Dying to go to the Cemetery." Coffee will be served after.

**Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference Championship comes to Babbitt Oct. 27-28**

BABBITT - The NMRC will be holding its annual High School Robotics Conference Championship in Babbitt on Oct. 27 and 28. The event will be held in the gymnasium at Northeast Range High School located at 30 South Dr.

This is the NMRC's sixth annual Conference Championship Tournament. Twenty-two teams will be competing, including the Babbitt 5653 Iron Mosquitos.

Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. Friday and 7:30 a.m. on Saturday. Admission is free and the event is open to the public. Competition is expected to continue throughout each day with the final matches concluding around 7 p.m. on Friday and 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Streaming of the event can be found on your-liveevent.com. For more information about this event or links to the live streams please visit the website at NMRConference.org. Special thanks goes out to our presenting partners the Gene Haas Foundation, Digi-Key, NLFX, PMMI, and Aagard for making this event possible.

**Trunk-or-Treat event Oct. 28 in Mt. Iron**

MT. IRON - Calling all ghosts and goblins (and kids in whatever other costumes are popular this Halloween) The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office and Virginia Police Department are partnering with Legacy Church, Legacy's Celebrate Recovery ministry, and Recovery Alliance Duluth (RAD) to host a Trunk-or-Treat event on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 2-4 p.m., in the Plaza 53 parking lot, 5465 Mountain Iron Drive.

The event is free and open to the public. Area businesses and community members will be decorating vehicles with kid-friendly Halloween displays in the trunks, and will be handing out treats.

It's a great opportunity for families to safely trick-or-treat during the daylight, not to mention a chance for kids to wear their costume an extra time before Halloween.

**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.

HALLOWEEN FUN

**Spooky Season at the State Theater**

ELY - Ely's Historic State Theater invites the public to enjoy affordable Halloween entertainment for all ages this month.

"Hotel Transylvania: Transformania" (PG, Family) runs Oct. 20-26. In this animated matinee, a mysterious new invention transforms Drac and pals into humans, and Johnny into a monster. Will they find a way to switch back before it's too late?

For braver moviegoers, "Scream" (rated R) also runs Oct. 20-Nov. 2. Directed by Wes Craven, this throwback to 1996 stars Rose McGowan, Courteney Cox, Skeet Ulrich, Drew Barrymore, and David Arquette. A year after the murder of her mother, a teenage girl is terrorized by a new killer, who targets her and her friends, using horror films as part of a deadly game.

"Five Nights at Freddy's" (PG-13) runs Oct. 27-Nov. 9. In this new



release based on the popular FNaF video game franchise, a troubled security guard finds that surviving his first night shift at Freddy Fazbear's Pizza won't be easy. Directed by Emma Tammi, the film stars Josh Hutcherson, Elizabeth Lail, Mary Stuart Masterson, Kat Conner Sterling, Piper Rubio, and Matthew Lillard.

The theater is located at 238 E. Sheridan St. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit promoting cinematic and performing arts, EHST offers movie tickets for \$5. A variety of concessions are available, including adult beverages and self-serve butter for your popcorn. See elystatetheater.org for showtimes.

LIVE MUSIC

**Bill & Kate Isles to perform Sunday afternoon concert Oct. 22 at Lyric Center for the Arts**

VIRGINIA - This performance rescheduled from last December is an opportunity to enjoy the live music of Bill and Kate Isles at The Lyric Center for Arts Annex Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. The Annex is located at 516 Chestnut Street in historic downtown Virginia. Tickets are available online for \$10 (plus tax and fees) or \$15 at the door on the day of event.



This acoustic singer-songwriter duo is based in Duluth. Using a wide variety of musical styles, their performances carry audiences through a broad landscape of experiences from metaphorical worlds to small town family stories to zany comedy. Consummate performers, they are known for their catchy melodies and memorable songs. They have a deep-seated love for the audience, and each other, and it shines before, during, and

after the performance. Their songs are poetic reflections of life experiences and often explore adventurous, spiritual courses. Bill Isles has become one of the most well known singer-songwriters in the Minnesota acoustic scene drawing national and international attention. Bill and Kate married in May of 2004 and have toured as a duo full time nationally since early 2007.

Wine, beer and soda will be

available for purchase on-site. Your support allows artists like Bill and Kate to continue sharing their talents publicly and gives The Lyric Center the opportunity to continue providing unique and intimate events to the community.

Also coming up is a fun day/evening of Halloween themed events on Thursday, Oct. 26 with the All Ages Open Art Club from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., the Annual Halloween Photo Booth and Dance Party with music provided by DJ Lil Mijo from 2-4 p.m. and closing the evening with Open Mic Night from 7-9 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at lyriccenteronline.org and all questions and concerns should be sent to operations@lyriccenteronline.org for the quickest response.

VOLUNTEERS

**Nominate a volunteer for the Lake Country Power Touchstone Energy Community Award**

COHASSET - Do you know an organization or community group that has made outstanding contributions to the local community?

Lake Country Power is seeking applications for the Touchstone Energy Community Award, which recognizes nonprofit organizations and community groups that have shown a strong commitment to the community. Any organization that has helped make northern Minnesota a better place to live and work is eligible for the \$500 award.

Community members may nominate an organization by completing an application form, available at Lake Country Power or online at www.lakecountrypower.coop. Questions may be directed to

Tami Zaun at 1-800-421-9959, ext. 7152. The application will require a description of the community service project, program or event and the positive impact it brought to the community.

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 1. Mail to Lake Country Power, Attn: Tami Zaun, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55721, or e-mail tzaun@lcp.coop.

The award recipient will contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award, which has a cash prize of \$2,000. The statewide award winner will be recognized in March 2024 at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association annual meeting.

The Touchstone Energy cooperatives of Minnesota, including Lake Country Power, are part of a national network across 46 states that adhere to the values of integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community. Touchstone Energy cooperatives stand out as a trusted source of power and information to their 30 million member-owners every day.

Lake Country Power, www.lakecountrypower.coop, is a Touchstone Energy cooperative serving parts of eight counties in northeastern Minnesota. The rural electric cooperative provides services to more than 43,000 members and has offices located in Cohasset, Kettle River and Mountain Iron.



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## MANUFACTURING

## Lamppa honored with Distinction Award from Entrepreneur Fund

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Tower native Garrett Lamppa is the recipient of a 2023 Distinction Award from the Entrepreneur Fund, one of ten business owners across northern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin to receive the recognition this year.

Lamppa, who recently assumed management of Lamppa Manufacturing from his father Daryl, is being recognized for his commitment to growing his family's manufacturing business while also providing quality jobs on the Iron Range. As the fourth generation of Lamppas to lead the company that manufactures wood burning furnaces and sauna stoves, Garrett oversees 18 full-time employees, reflecting the substantial growth the company has experienced

the past few years. As recently as 2019, the company employed just five workers and operated out of a small, dark, former creamery building on the edge of Tower. Since then, with help from the Tower Economic Development Authority and funding from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, the company has moved into a modern new manufacturing facility in Tower's industrial park and has seen significant growth in sales and its workforce.

Under Garrett's management, the company has made substantial investments in its employees, including promoting from within, offering competitive wages, and providing health insurance benefits. In announcing the award, the Entrepreneur Fund described Garrett as "a true leader in providing



Garrett, Daryl, and Leif Lamppa. file photo

quality jobs in rural Minnesota, setting an example for other businesses to follow."

Other northeastern Minne-

sota Distinction Award winners include Bill Martinetto, of Rapids Brewing in Grand Rapids, and Karine Woodman of 24-

Hour Bookkeeping in Hibbing.

The awards event is set for next Wednesday, Oct. 25, from 4-8 p.m. at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center's Paulucci Hall. The DECC is located at 350 Harbor Dr.

Attendees at the Distinction Awards, will have the opportunity to interact and engage with the ten honorees in rotating behind-the-scenes sessions as they share their best practices, innovative solutions, and insights on what it takes to grow and scale a business successfully. The event will also feature a regional flavors showcase, featuring handpicked regional foods and drinks beginning at 6 p.m., as well as an opportunity to network with business leaders from around the region.

Registration begins at 4 p.m.

## TOWER

## Big changes ahead for Tower's Gundersen Trust

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER— Tower's Gundersen Trust Board formally dissolved itself at their final meeting on Oct. 12. The board's dissolution is actually good news for the city of Tower, and the result of the research and work done by the Gundersen Trust Board over the past couple years with an aim of significantly increasing returns from the fund.

The money, formerly part of the Gundersen Trust, totaling close to a million dollars, is now being managed as a dedicated fund by the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation (DSACF). The DSACF will be making an annual payment from the trust to the city, this first year at four percent of the fund's assets. DSACF estimated distributions to be between 3.5 and 5-percent each year, and most years, this means some of the earnings get added to the

principal amount, which then can grow year to year, and create higher annual distributions.

"With four-percent interest we will be getting about \$40,000 this year," said board treasurer Steve Wilson, who led the effort to have the trust monies managed to bring more benefits to the city and its residents.

The city will now need to establish a committee that will set guidelines for the disbursement of the annual payment, create an application process, and then decide how to award the money each year. The money will be divided consistent with the original intent of the trust when it was established in 1992, with 75-percent going to the city's general fund, and the remainder to community organizations that are working to benefit the city.

"I think I am dreaming," said Wilson, who had done meticulous research into the history of the fund, as well as legal

and accounting issues. He also helped the board find an experienced community trust attorney and investigated possible community foundations to better manage the fund.

The legal and court costs for the transfer have totaled close to \$30,000. But as board members noted, after those bills are paid, it still leaves more proceeds from the fund in the first year than in recent memory, when any proceeds had to go back into the fund to account for inflation.

"These attorney fees were necessitated by past faulty decisions," Wilson said. "And it wasn't just by the Gundersen Board, the city has some responsibility."

A decision by a former city clerk in 2018 forced all the trust funds, not just the original investment, into government-backed securities, which were paying only a fraction of a percent in interest. And prior to that, four years after the trust

was formed, a decision was made not to apply to the IRS for nonprofit status, which also had limited investment options, and created some legal and tax uncertainties.

Attorney Bradley Hanson, who did most of the work on the transfer, told Wilson this was "definitely one of the most complex trust termination cases" his firm had ever had.

"It involved a trust created by a city through a court order. So, any changes had to be made in court, and those changes had to be approved by two layers of decision makers," Hanson noted.

"There were complicated tax issues involved in the history of the trust," he said, because the trust had been set up as a charitable trust, but then the trust board never applied for a tax exemption. This meant the trust fund was treated as a government trust in the city's audit. A final complication was the fact the trust included a

municipal bond, because the city had borrowed money from the trust. This required hiring a bond counsel to oversee that transfer.

In opting to disband, the trust board did approve a final recommendation to the city council about the makeup of the new committee, which will oversee the disbursement of the funds each year. The board is asking the city to create a five-person board, with one council member,

three city residents, and one at-large position, that does not have to be a city resident. The board would need a chairman and secretary/treasurer, although they are hoping the city will take over the actual check-writing duties. They also discussed having the city draft conflict of interest guidelines and term limits for board members.

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# OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

## Editorial

### Clean water at VNP

Officials want to spend \$100 million, but where’s the evidence of a problem?

It’s tough to argue with clean water, particularly in the only water-based national park in the country. That’s likely one reason that the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board has been successful in obtaining millions of public dollars ostensibly to clean up lakes within Voyageurs. It’s been doing so mostly by installing highly expensive wastewater treatment systems within the clusters of commercial and residential development located just outside the boundaries of the park.

The story line the board and its lobbyists from the engineering firm SEH tell is compelling—there’s just little reason to believe it’s true. Despite spending millions of dollars, there is no evidence that the board’s actions are actually improving water quality in the park. Water quality within the park’s major lakes was steadily improving well before the board began its work. Helped by better methods and enforcement for individual septic systems as well as the phaseout of phosphorus in products like detergents, phosphorus levels in the park’s lakes have dropped by as much as two-thirds since the mid-1970s according to readily available data on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s website.

What’s more, despite seeking tens of millions in public dollars for each new system they build, the joint powers board has yet to provide evidence that any of the septic systems they seek to replace are actually failing. Instead, they use criteria such as age and the size of cabin lots to classify them as “non-compliant.” They acknowledge they’ve yet to undertake actual inspections, which is the best way to determine if a system is actually discharging inadequately treated wastewater. We know that a properly functioning septic system discharges no pollution to surface water, which can’t be said of many centralized systems. Such systems discharge treated wastewater that still contains some phosphorus, which is the nutrient most likely to fuel algae blooms in Minnesota lakes.

When an entity like a joint powers board is seeking tens of millions of dollars to solve a problem, they sure as heck should be expected to have done the hard work of documenting an actual problem. That due diligence is sorely lacking here.

And even if the joint powers board had evidence that septic systems were creating a pollution threat that was impacting the park’s lakes, there are far less costly solutions—

solutions that were dismissed in favor of alternatives that would generate far more fees for SEH, the engineering firm that has been a primary driver of this entire effort. The Ash River project, a story about which appears on the front page of this week’s paper, would entail spending \$24 million in public funds to connect 81 sites with buildings to a centralized system. That’s \$296,000 per site, and it’s not clear that all of these sites even generate wastewater. In addition, a number of these cabins have holding tanks or outhouses, which typically generate no polluted discharge. Account for those sites and the cost per actual cabin is much closer to \$400,000, or far more than most of the cabins served are even worth.

What’s worse, the master plan for the Ash River proposal projects an annual operating and maintenance cost of \$460,000. Where will that money come from? If it comes from Ash River cabin owners, as one might expect, the monthly cost would exceed \$450 a month, or more than \$5,000 a year. The joint powers board says their goal is to keep the monthly bills for Ash River cabin owners to \$100 per month. If so, they’d better adopt a different plan unless they intend to tax all St. Louis County residents to subsidize the operating and maintenance costs of the Ash River system. I would think most county taxpayers would have something to say about that.

We have no doubt that the elected officials who serve on the joint powers board are well meaning. But they are allowing themselves to be led down the primrose path by engineers with a built-in conflict of interest. They have been too willing to simply vote in favor of proposals recommended by the supposed experts, without conducting their own due diligence, or asking whether this is a sensible use of an enormous amount of public money.

The bottom line is this: there is only so much money available to help clean up Minnesota’s 15,000-plus lakes. When we spend truly astounding amounts of money to address a purported problem that has not been well-documented, other communities in Minnesota, where the need is far greater and the solutions far more affordable, will go wanting. Until the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board and their engineers can actually document a problem and devise a more sensible solution, they should not receive the funding they’re requesting. We need to make smarter decisions than that.



### Trees have much to teach us

Trees talk, they communicate with fellow trees of the forest. They interact and nurture each other, making them very social. Trees are not separate, individual and independent entities. Collectively and connected, trees form forests which are symbiotic communities of interdependent activity. This activity takes place, not in the canopy of the forest, but in the root structures below ground.

The conventional “wisdom” of forestry declares that trees compete with each other for scarce resources. Each tree reaching out for light, nutrient, water and carbon at the expense of the weak. Old prejudices support clear-cutting to eliminate competition so that new crops are “free to grow.” That view is under challenge by an emerging science of connectivity that tracks communication of information in a “wood-wide-web” of relationships interacting in harmony and cooperation.

Mother Trees are hubs to complex and adaptive networks of mutualism and reciprocity. Trees share information in the form of water, nutrient, fungi, carbon and sugar in below ground interactivity among roots that speak out, loud and clear “we are one” looking out for one another, even warning of impending danger.

Holistic science aims to understand interdependency

and interrelationships that make forests more than a collection of trees. Reductionist Western science assumes that the complex systems can be understood through the sum of its parts. WorldWideWeb gives us a glimpse toward understanding that society is more than an assemblage of separate individuals as forests are more than individual trees.

Trees are ‘social creatures’ cooperating and communicating with one another in ways that can serve as lessons for human nurturing, according to ecologist Suzanne Simard, author of “Finding The Mother Tree.” Her groundbreaking work demonstrates that trees looking out for each other is essential for healthy forests as collaboration and sharing is to the well-being of individuals in human society.

Harold Honkola  
Stillwater

### Fund the IRS

A recent Senate Finance Committee investigation pointed out that at least 1,000 Americans who make more than \$1 million a year failed to file tax returns over multiple recent years. The report states that these wealthy Americans potentially owe \$34 billion in taxes. This is an outrage. That’s \$34 billion that should be going to support the government programs and services from which we all benefit.

A fully-funded and ful-

ly-staffed IRS is necessary to ensure that the taxes owed by the wealthy actually get paid. And thankfully, the Biden administration has restored funding to the IRS, after Trump-era cuts that had hamstringed the IRS’s investigative and enforcement efforts. Republicans in Congress, however, recently voted to strip the IRS of its funding. Why?

One suspects that they did so as a favor to their wealthy tax-evading campaign donors. Our congressional representative, Pete Stauber, when recently questioned on the matter, provided an extremely poor excuse for his vote to de-fund the IRS. He implied that the IRS is some sort of evil agency, going after innocent American citizens; “targeting” them. Further, he suggested that IRS enforcement of tax laws is a manifestation of “government overreach and burdensome regulation.” What utter nonsense!

Pete Stauber, along with his friends in Congress, should be intent on seeing that the wealthy pay their share. Instead of shielding his wealthy donors, he should be looking out for the welfare of ALL Americans. That’s how our system of representative government is supposed to work.

Charles Hathaway  
Grand Marais

### We welcome your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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



## COLUMNIST

### A Republican-inspired Halloween list

“I don’t make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.” – Will Rogers

movie actor, but he is most remembered these days, some 88 years after his passing, for his humorous yet insightful social commentary. In its heyday, his regular newspaper column was published in over 500 newspapers nationwide.



DAVID COLBURN

“I am not a member of any organized political party, I am a Democrat,” Rogers once said, but were he alive today watching the circus act unfolding in the U.S. House of Representatives, he might well have said he was a Republican. Any description of the fight over the Speakership in the House would be kind to call it organized chaos. Someone should slap a sign up on the door of the room where the Republican caucus has

been meeting renaming it “Dysfunction Junction” for its failed attempts to unify around an acceptable candidate.

Said Republicans have made a mighty effort in the days since to place the blame for their idiocy on the Democrats and Joe Biden, an entirely laughable attempt to distract the country from their highly visible and wholly ownable family feud. It’s ridiculous to try to blame the Hatfields

when the McCoys have been relentlessly shooting themselves in their collective feet.

After Steve Scalise exited stage right after failing to attract the required 217 votes, the Republicans turned to an even less-desirable option, Rep. Jim Jordan, who finished second to Scalise in the initial balloting. Quite the ringing endorsement, although Jordan did get two small thumps up from clanging

gong and Mr. Dysfunction himself, Donald Trump. Nothing quite like having the blessing of a former president facing 91 felony charges and dozens of lawsuits and investigations. Of course, those things don’t matter to most Republicans, who simultaneously portray themselves as the party of law and order. Talk about a disconnect.

Jordan was up for a



## Letters from Readers

### Leadership has brought much to Ely

The report on funding for our Independent School District 696 shows that we have received over \$1.2 million in COVID funding. How that money was spent is up to you to ask our school board.

The following information on other funding comes from the St. Louis County Commissioner's office in Ely, the IRRRB, our city of Ely clerk's office, the Martha Rukivina Fund, and other internet sources.

In the past two years some of our city businesses have received slightly over \$600,000 in COVID funds from several federal sources. The funds awarded depended upon

the number of full-time employees each business has. The amount varied from \$300 to one local employer receiving over \$49,000. Funds were handled through our county commissioner's office.

In the past five years our funding through the IRRRB office to numerous city businesses and local governments is \$3.279 million. When we include the IRRRB funding for our schools, that grant money is an additional \$7 million to date with another request of \$2 million. We have, to date, all funds added together, received over \$10 million from the IRRRB. A list of those sources can be received from our local county commissioner's office for our local businesses.

Our Minnesota state bonding money totaled

\$1.3 million for extending W. Harvey St., site prep for our trailhead and its new access road and sewer and water extensions. An additional \$1.5 million for the trailhead building from the federal government also \$1.5 million from state bonding, with an additional \$280,000 from the IRRRB for amenities for the trailhead site.

Our city receives \$2.884 million from state LGA (local government aid) which includes our taconite aid for 2023. That money is 72 percent of our city budget. The city of Ely has the 4th highest per capita funding in the state while some cities do not receive any LGA due to the state funding formula. The LGA began during DFL Gov. "Wendy" Anderson's administration. We have

recently seen a photo of a new dentist in our city, Dr. Spencer Wihlm, receiving a Martha Rukivina Fund grant that will, over a period of years, pay off \$120,000 of debt incurred for his dental education. This grant is ONLY for those dentists in our TAA (Taconite Assistance Area).

There is also the Main Street Project for our local businesses but no figures on grants are available at this writing. There is also the Entrepreneur Fund which has provided grants which some local businesses have utilized. Our city also receives an annual CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) allotment which began during President Ford's administration. We also receive large grants for our city-owned

airport (almost ALL airports are owned in our nation by some form of government.

Our school district receives about \$10,000 per student when all school funds are factored in according to Chairman Marsnik.

Our local ATV trail system has received over \$1 million in various state and IRRRB funding with more to come. We are well on our way to having the premiere trail system and trailhead complex in Minnesota, thanks to our local clubs and assertive leadership. In addition, we have also received close to \$600,000 in state funding for our new library, thanks to Director Librarian Rachel Heinrich's grant writing. We received \$700,000 from DEED (Department of Economic Development)

for the newly refurbished street connecting Sheridan to Pioneer Road thanks to the efforts of our past Mayor Chuck Novak.

In conclusion, we have had a serious infusion of federal state, county, and IRRRB funding for our city of Ely. We truly need to thank many of our federal, state, county, city, school, IRRRB, and local clubs for their many hours of grant writing, insightful planning and most of all for their leadership. They have made a huge difference in Ely, the "coolest small town in America."

**John Esse**  
Ely

## Gardner Trust awards \$8,000 to local artists and groups

ELY- The board of the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust voted to award \$8,000 to local artists, art organizations, and fine arts events at its Oct. 11 board meeting.

"The Gardner Humanities Trust had significantly fewer applications this fall than in the spring," stated Peter Schamber, executive director for the trust. "As such, the trust was pleased to be able to fund all applications from individual artists.

"Unfortunately," Schamber added, "we had several applications from organizations that didn't align with the mission of

the trust, which resulted in disqualification. However, the trust was pleased to award full amounts to the remaining organizations. We even had a small surplus, which the trust reallocated to the production of "Frozen" at the high school. We were not able to fully fund their request in the spring, and the board felt this was a perfect opportunity to show our support."

Individual artist grants are awarded for unique, short-term opportunities that will impact an artist's career. Sally Koski was awarded \$1,000 to pursue two courses: one in natural dye production

and use, another in spinning fibers. Tricia Flake was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to complete her masters degree in library and information science at the University of Denver.

The trust's project grant program supports activities in the fine arts and is intended to make possible presentations or productions. Project grants were awarded this year to the following organizations:

► Ely Folk School was awarded \$3,600 to continue their very successful community dance series. They plan to host four more dances for their

2023-24 season.

► Ely Area Television was awarded \$1,250 to produce their fourth annual holiday concert. This year the concert will grow to include live performances.

► Frozen/Boundary Waters Choral Festival was awarded an additional \$1,150 for the Ely Memorial High School production of "Disney's Frozen—The Broadway Musical."

Additionally, the trust allocated \$3,000 at the start of the year for use by the Ely Public Library, which provided the entire library staff the opportunity to attend the

Association of Rural and Small Libraries annual conference this past September.

The trust will have a spring grant round with applications due by the end of March. More information will be published in local newspapers as well as on the website. The 2023 Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust board members are: Jill Swanson, Angela Campbell, David O'Donnell, Vince O'Connor, Sara Skelton, Scott King, and Irene Hartfield.

Any questions about the grant programs, the trust or ways to support the arts in Ely can be di-

rected to Peter Schamber, executive director at 218-365-2639 or at info@gardnertrust.org.

The purpose of the trust is for the enhancement, growth and improvement of the Ely Public Library; the arts and artisans of Ely and surrounding area, including the performing arts, the visual arts and literature; the creation and funding of scholarships, educational and artistic grants; and the cultural and aesthetic environment of the City of Ely and its surrounding area.

### LIST...Continued from page 4

vote on Tuesday and fell short by 20 GOP votes, although he was pledging to try again at a later point. If he eventually wins, he owes a debt to, of all groups, Hamas, whose ruthless and despicable attack on Israel has spawned a Middle East crisis demanding congressional attention, increasing the urgency of resolving the GOP infighting and crowning a new Speaker.

Whoever is eventually crowned, it's likely to be a Pyrrhic victory with the new Speaker handcuffed by the GOP clown caucus, like Matt Gaetz, Marjorie Taylor Greene, and Lauren Boebert, all of whom will be fighting over the steering wheel. There's little likelihood of steering a successful course along a route filled with Republican potholes, where all roads lead back to Dysfunction Junction.

Which is why I'd like to give them a hand by helping them pick out their Halloween costumes this year. A little guidance might help them to actually make their selections before All Hallows Eve

arrives in the once hallowed halls of Congress.

Sure to be a hit with limited takers in a party terrified of drag shows would be "Budget Balancing Barbie." Just imagine Steve Scalise in a pink wig and miniskirt. My apologies if you read that while trying to eat breakfast. But Boebert would surely go for it after her adventure at the theater, where her definition of "reaching across the aisle" was making out and heavy petting with a Democrat while surrounded by families with kids. Any normal person would be furiously searching for a wig to hide beneath after that. The costume itself would be a tapestry of imbalance - heavy makeup on one side, little on the other, a silver dollar for one earring and a sieve for the other, and a large pink purse with a gaping hole pouring out a stream of gold coins. The purse might just sway one or two to consider cross-dressing for the night.

In a nod to one of their Senate colleagues - I'll leave you to guess which one -- might I sug-

gest a "Zombie Turtle" costume. A large shell provides the option of pulling one's head inside rather than having to do the normal more awkward routine of hiding it someplace else, and carrying a road construction barrier will signify blocking anything and everything. Adding a slow shuffle and a thick Kentucky accent will represent the slow, labored pace of getting anything done, equally applicable in the House as in the Senate.

Of broader appeal to Republicans may be the "Climate Change Charlatan" costume. It's a cardboard wearable facsimile of a 1973 Buick LeSabre equipped with long-lasting smoke cartridges and an oil-smudged t-shirt that reads "Electric is for sissies." It's topped off with a hat in the shape of an oil rig. A favorite accessory is sure to be a melting snowman that fits in the LeSabre's passen-

ger seat.

However, it would be unfair of me to leave out the opposition, and so for Democrats and Republicans alike I offer the "Bipartisan Unicorn," which will have a shiny twisted horn with a point, because our representatives always have some twisted point they're trying to make. The unicorn will be painted half blue, half red and it's sure to generate a boatload of laughs since everyone knows unicorns, just like bipartisanship, don't exist.

And finally, there's the "George Santos" costume. This one is the most versatile of all, because it can be anything you want. The only caveat is that the George Santos costume has to be paid for with a campaign donor's credit card.

I've purposefully restricted the number of choices because it's abundantly clear that Republicans have a hard time choosing among

alternatives, and they'll likely pick something that they immediately want to change anyway. Of course, having fewer choices still doesn't preclude the possibility that they'll choose something neither they nor anyone

else can live with for long. It really must be hard to be a Republican these days. Just like getting all those circus clowns to fit in one of those teeny tiny cars.



**the**  
**TIMBERJAY**

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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.

Read us online at  
**www.timberjay.com**



Week of Oct. 23

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

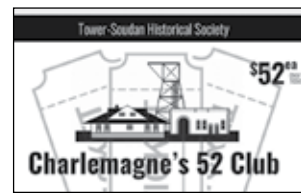
**Tuesday**  
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Nov. 21.

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.

Breitung Town Board- 12 noon on Oct. 26.

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



**TSHS week 12 winner**  
This week's winner of the Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Elaine McGillivray.

**History Tidbit:**  
"Where pride in community betterment will form the bond that makes us one" - from the preamble of the Tower-Soudan Women's Club, which was organized on April 4, 1923, when 56 women met in the high school. The club met on the first and third Mondays of each month. The club is still active and in recent years was renamed the Tower-Soudan Civic Club.

**Free community meal at Immanuel**  
TOWER- Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower is hosting a free community meal on Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., or until the food is gone. The meal is baked chicken and wild rice. Eat-in or to-go is available. All are welcome.

**St. Martin's Church Schedule**  
All Saints Day, Nov. 1: 9 a.m. service at St. Martin's with Adoration at 8 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's in Cook.  
All Soul's Day, Nov. 2: 9 a.m. service at St. Mary's with Adoration at 8 a.m., 12 noon at Holy Cross, and 5:30 p.m. at St. Martin's.

# Pumpkin carving party on Sunday at the civic center



TOWER- A community-sponsored pumpkin carving party will be held on Sunday, Oct. 22 from 3 - 6 p.m. at the Lamppa Civic Center in Tower. The event is free and open to all ages. There will be food and fun, also.

Pumpkins and carving tools will be provided. Please RSVP to 218-780-1503 (call or text) so we know how many pumpkins to get. The event is made possible by donations from the community, so contributions are also appreciated!

## Trick-or-Treat on Main Street on 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!

## Children's Halloween Party on Oct. 31

TOWER- Plans are also underway for the Tower Fire Department's Children's Halloween Party that afternoon. The party runs from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at the Lamppa Civic Center. There will be games, prizes, and food. The party is sponsored by the Tower Firemen's Relief Association.

## BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

# Township to call for quotes for new McKinley Park playground structure

SOUDAN- At a special meeting on Oct. 10, the Breitung Town Board passed a resolution to sell the PFA loan in the amount of \$284,580 to the City of Tower. The switch was necessary to avoid fees for an external audit. The City of Tower will not incur any extra fees since they already pay for an external audit.

The board reviewed a quote from Flagship Recreation for a playground structure at McKinley Park Camp-

ground (see possible layout at right). The quote for just the structure, not including labor or other associated costs, came in at \$31,806. Since the cost is over \$25,000, the township will need to pursue quotes from other companies as well.

After the short public meeting, the meeting was then closed for contract negotiations with Local Union 49 on behalf of the maintenance employees.



## FOOD SHELF



Kristine Jonas (far left) and Mickey White (second from left) presented a check to Tower Area Food Shelf

# Tower Farmers Market makes donation to the Tower Area Food Shelf



TOWER- Members from the Tower Farmers Market board donated \$250 to the Tower Area Food Shelf, Tuesday. The money was raised from the market's "Sharing the Harvest" raffle fundraiser. The winner of this year's raffle basket, full of homegrown, homemade, and handcrafted items was Penny Jackson.

The farmers market, which is open on Fridays from June through September, had a successful summer season, and welcomed several new vendors this year. Market organizers would like to thank all those who sold their items, as well as all the residents who shopped at the market this year.

# Zupancich earns professional designations

BABBITT- z'Up North Realty's broker/owner Andrea Zupancich recently completed two more real estate professional designations, the Real Estate Negotiation Expert and the Certified Real Estate Broker Management. This past spring, Zupancich completed the Graduate Real Estate Institute (GRI), Seller Representative Specialist and the Certified Residential Specialist.

All of these courses were an additional 30 hours of education per designation, except the GRI, which required approximately 60 hours of education. These classes are all in addition to the required 15 hours of education a year required to maintain a real estate license. "It shows commitment and desire for continued betterment in the profession as well as myself," said Zupancich. "You can always learn new things and new ideas and when the market is ever changing."

Zupancich isn't stopping there; she is currently working on two more certifications and hopes to be done by the end of the year. "Not only do you have to take the required course(s), but a passing grade after each completion is required as well. Depending on my schedule that means either a very



early start to the day, or a later bedtime in order to get through the coursework" Zupancich stated.

The training she received helps agents help their buyers or sellers elevate their negotiating "game", and equips brokers and owners with advanced business management education in an industry that is constantly changing and evolving.

Through its commitment to professional development, z'Up North Realty strives to provide the highest quality of service to buyers and sellers looking for a real estate partner they can trust.

Zupancich isn't the only one in the company with designations. Kim Borgeson and Sheri Israel in Babbitt both have GRI's, and Jodi Nyman in Ely has her At Home with Diversity designations/certificates. With this level of expertise from our agents, clients can be sure that they will receive the best real estate experience possible.

z'Up North Realty recently expanded, opening its fifth location in Tower, and has a total of 18 realtors. For more information about z'Up North Realty and listings, visit [www.zupnorth.com](http://www.zupnorth.com) or call 218-827-2288.

## 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.

### 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.

### St. Martin's Christmas Bazaar set for Nov. 4

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church is hosting their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the social hall on the lower level.

Organizers are very excited about this year's event, there are already 11 private vendors participating. St. Martin's will have their "usual" tables - crafts, Christmas elephant, silent auction and the bucket raffles. The Cookie Patch will return - featuring 19 different types

of cookies, plus a variety of candies; you will create your own cookie box. Two children's events are planned: the Make-and-Take Table and the Christmas Shop. The Make-and-Take table will offer a variety of decorations that the children can make at no cost. The Christmas Shop is only for children - they can do their own Christmas shopping for family and friends.

As always, the St. Martin's Café will be open -featuring six different soups, plus caramel rolls, cinnamon rolls, bars, coffee, and tea.

We hope that you will join us on Nov. 4. If you're not a bazaar shopper, think about stopping in for lunch.

## TOWER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Please Donate! New Mower Needed!

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

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

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

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





## DISNEY'S FROZEN—THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

## LOONy opera does Frozen fundraiser

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- A high school musical fundraiser went looney tunes on Thursday evening, Oct. 12, for the Ely Memorial High School's production of "Disney's Frozen—The Broadway Musical." The event was visited by Duluth's Lyric Opera of the North, commonly known as LOON, which performed numbers from famous operas.

LOON brought four of its touring opera singers to Ely for an Oct. 13 performance of Opera for the Young's adaptation of "Hansel and Gretel." While they were here, LOON volunteered to present solo numbers from popular operas for the Thursday, Oct. 12, fundraiser and cast reveal event.

Music teacher Mike Rouse had 16 elementary students rehearsed and ready to perform with the opera singers for Friday's performance. LOON takes an opera adaptation every

year to northern Minnesota schools and includes students in the chorus of that annual opera production.

This year's chorus of elementary students from the Ely production of "Hansel and Gretel" were invited by LOON to perform with the operatic soloists on Thursday evening—and four did. The students and opera professionals sang the opening ensemble piece from "Hansel and Gretel."

LOON performed selections from famous operas at the fundraiser, including bass-baritone Rob Riordan singing the Toreador song from "Carmen," soprano Angela Born singing a selection from "Phantom of the Opera," soprano Anna Donnelly singing an aria from "La Bohème," and mezzo Kaisa Herrmann performing a piece from "Marriage of Figaro."

The event raised just over \$2,000. The complete cast list and the list of "Frozen" supporters are online at frozeninely.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. 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



an early breakfast things slowing down from summer

birds ready to fly

## 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.

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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.



Four professional opera singers from the Lyric Opera of the North (LOON) perform with students from Ely's Washington Elementary School on Thursday evening, Oct. 12, at a fundraiser for Ely Memorial High School's production of "Disney's Frozen—The Broadway Musical." From left-to-right, back row: LOON singers Kaisa Herrmann, Anna Donnelly, Angela Born, Rob Riordan; front row: Washington Elementary students Henry Gillson, Ethan Perkins, Kayla Larsen, Elya Perkins; piano: LOON music director Carson Rose Schneider. photo by C. Clark

## NLAA raises \$3,000

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association raised over \$3,000 for its youth arts fund at its Oct. 14 fundraiser at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater. The event was modeled after the popular masked singer TV show. The audience voted with dollars to pick their favorite singer and the winner was Jess Edberg, the executive director of the Dorothy Molter Museum.

Second place was Lisa Pugh, who was disguised

as a mosquito. Third place was taken by Elijah Olson, who was costumed as a white fluffy cloud.

The other singers were Bra Dekkers as a pirate, Alison Poppler as a caterpillar, Jennifer Merhar as Lady Lillian, Nick Bates as a scarecrow, and Crystal Chopp as the Queen of Hearts.

The judges for the event were Karl Kubiak, Jim Lah, and Sara Skelton. The MC was the ever-funny Lacey Squiers.



Elijah Olson in his cloud costume in the Northern Lakes Arts Association masked singer fundraiser on Oct. 14. Olson took third place. photo by C. Clark



The Ely eighth grade's annual weather balloon launch broke into the stratosphere on Monday, Oct. 16, reaching an altitude of 22,796 meters, over fourteen miles up. The balloon payload took this selfie. submitted photo

## 8th grade hits stratosphere

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

ELY- Science teacher Nate LaFond's job description does not include tree climbing. He went up a tree anyway because that's where the weather balloon landed, several miles south on Lake County Road 2 on the road to Two Harbors. The balloon was launched by his eighth-grade science class on Monday morning.

"I followed the GPS trackers to the balloon," LaFond posted to the weather balloon project's Facebook page, including a picture of the payload frame and deflated balloon stuck in a pair of birch trees.

A supermajority of 68 percent predicted on

Facebook that the eighth grade's weather balloon would land in a tree yesterday. They were right.

## A yearly tradition

"It's become a tradition that the eighth grade launches the weather balloon every year," LaFond told the *Timberjay* in an interview. LaFond said this year was his fifth launch. The project is older than LaFond's time teaching in Ely.

LaFond explained that the yearly launch includes not just weather and atmospheric physics data, but also includes data collection that supports other high school classes like the seventh-grade life sciences and eleventh-grade chemistry. The weather balloon project isn't just for Ely. Several other Arrowhead region

schools also launch their own weather balloons, all originally funded through a grant from St. Louis Co.

## The flight

This year's launch was originally planned for Thursday morning, Oct. 12, but was pushed back to Monday due to staff scheduling problems.

On Monday morning, the balloon lifted off shortly after 10 a.m. from the Ely Memorial High School baseball field. The balloon carried aloft a parachute, flight computer, a GPS tracker, Go-Pro camera, and other instrumentation,

LaFond reported that the maximum altitude recorded this year was 22,796 meters, which is 14.165 miles.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

## Ely Public Library

ELY- 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 Super-

rior'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. 3, 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.

## NLAA Art Show

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association 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.

## Turkey Trot

ELY- The early registration deadline for End of the Road Yoga's Turkey Trot event on Thanksgiving morning is Sunday, Oct. 22. The discounted early registration for the 5k run/walk is \$20 and \$30 for the 10k run. Details and registration are online at endoftheroad.yoga, under the event schedule tab.

## Community Choir

ELY- The Northern Lakes Arts Association Community Choir, con-

ducted by Susan Germek, will start rehearsals every Wednesday, from 5:30-7 p.m., at the Fine Arts Theater, Vermilion Campus, Minnesota college North. First rehearsal is on Oct. 18.

## Thai Food

ELY- Paan, of Ely's favorite food truck, Thai Cuisine by Paan, will be teaching how to make Thai cabbage rolls along with her special dipping sauces, at Ely Community Education, at the Ely Senior Center, on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 2-4 p.m.. Cost is \$32. Sign-up at elyclasses.com.

## Concert

ELY- The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra will perform a concert titled "Music is Colorful," featuring works that use musical instruments in intriguing ways. The program includes Mendelssohn's famous "The Hebrides," better known as "Fingal's Cave."

## Estate Planning

ELY- Attorney Kelly Klun will teach a no-cost estate planning class at Ely Community Education, at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25, in the media center at the ISD 696 campus, 600 E. Harvey St. Use the new center entrance to the school with the door No. 1 sign. Go through both sets of doors, and then turn right the media center is on the right after the school nurse office, across from the new gym. The class will repeat Nov. 15 and Dec. 13.

## Pumpkin Carving

ELY- Ely Flower and Seed will hold a pumpkin carving contest, bake sale, and raffle event on Saturday, Oct. 28, from noon-4 p.m., at 145 W. Camp St.

## Calendar Parking

ELY- Calendar parking for the purpose of clearing snow begins inside Ely city limits on Nov. 1.



# The Great Pumpkin comes to Orr for sincere weigh-in



In Charlie Brown lore, the Great Pumpkin rides far and wide in search of the sincerest pumpkin patch in the land, and that may have been in Orr last Saturday for the Orr Lions Club Pumpkin Weigh-In at the Orr Center. In addition to the weigh-in there was free food and fun activities for kids. Above: Fred Gutzmann poses with his \$100 first-place pumpkin, a 154-pounder. Right: Curt Laakkonen and Bill Purdy carry a pumpkin to the scale. Purdy had the second biggest pumpkin at the event at 143 pounds, and Paul Markwardt took third with a 139-pounder. The Lions were sincerely grateful to all who made the event a success. photos by D. Colburn



## NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

# North Woods seniors play final regular season home match

FIELD TWP- The North Woods volleyball seniors – Talise Goodsky, Madison Dantes, River Cheney, Addy Hartway, and Tori Olson – were the center of attention at Tuesday's final home match of the regular season, and deservedly so, given what they've added to the Grizzlies best season showing since 2018.

The quintet received individual plaudits from their teammates before the match against Floodwood, some spoken between tears as the emotional bonds were evident.

And this year's senior class added a different wrinkle to the traditional festivities by stepping up on stage and leading the audience in the singing of the National Anthem.

After the match, a momentarily disappointing 3-2 loss, Grizzlies Head Coach Kandi Olson took a few moments to talk about her seniors.

She began with Goodsky, who earlier this season eclipsed 1,000 set assists for her career.

"She just had 49 set assists – I think we know what she brought to the floor today," Olson said. "And look how calm she stayed during that whole match. Just to have a setter who has that floor dynamic is so calming and soothing to the rest of the

players, yet she's so excited for them when they succeed. She had a great night tonight."

"Maddie is kind of a wild card for us," Olson said of Dantes. "We put her in a spot where she was going to have to step up and do some different things for us this season. In the past we've had her either play just defense or play as a setter. This year we made her play the front row, front right side, and we think she has grown and done a great job in that spot. It's been exciting to see how she grew throughout the season."

Hartway was up next. "Addy came into the season ready to play, and she was an awesome force right from the start," Olson said. "And you could just see her developing through the whole season. She has such a great court dynamic and communication ability, and she is always just looking for the holes and trying to play the game as intelligently as possible so that we can be the best team we can be."

Olson managed to hold her emotions in check as she talked about her daughter Tori.

"Tori has been working with this whole team since she took over the libero spot in eighth grade," Olson said. She

bounced around to another spot for a little while, but she's just got an infectious energy in the backcourt and she's excited to be there at all times. She's put up so many great digs in key moments, and it's exciting to see how far she's come."

While most of the group has been playing together since junior high, Cheney is a relative newcomer.

"River is one that we were honestly excited to have come into the season last year as a newbie," Olson said. "We didn't know she was going to come out until partway through the summer season. To see how she grew in just two years of play is incredible. She is running everything any other middle player can run in only two years. What I love about her is that she's got this awesome energy that everyone feeds off of, and it's exciting to watch her play."

Senior night was not really saying good-bye, as the Grizzlies will be on their home court again next week for the start of the 7A sectional tournament. They have the possibility of playing two matches at home, and if they win both will advance to the semifinals at Rock Ridge.



North Woods senior volleyballers, from left, Talise Goodsky, River Cheney, Addy Hartway, Tori Olson, and Madison Dantes lead a packed gymnasium in the National Anthem for Tuesday's Senior Night. photo by D. Colburn

## HOMECOMING



Seniors Luke Will and Addy Hartway were crowned North Woods homecoming king and queen at a coronation ceremony on Friday afternoon at the school. The royal court was re-introduced at the Grizzlies football game that evening. photo courtesy of Connie Stone Photography

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Gallery features exhibits and wood carvers group

COOK- October is the month North Woods Friends of the Arts celebrates its members with a show at the NWFA Gallery in Cook. On display are member art keepsakes and a myriad of mixed arts, crafts and gifts. Patrons can view the exhibit on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.—4 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m.—1 p.m. through the end of the month.

In the works for November is the exhibit "Native American Art: Past and Present" opening Thursday, Nov. 2 and running through Nov. 23. A reception honoring Native American artists will be

held on Friday, Nov. 3 at the gallery from 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

The woodcarvers group continues its tradition of Thursday evening get-togethers to carve at the gallery from 6 p.m.—8 p.m. The group is interested in adding new members -- call Howard Hilshorst at 218-290-1391 for more information. The woodcarver group is not a class but a chance to work with and share experience with other woodcarvers.

Winter gallery hours begin in November. Open hours will be from 10 a.m.—4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m.—1 p.m. on Saturdays.

More information about NWFA art classes and events is on Facebook and Instagram as well

as the at [www.nwfamn.org](http://www.nwfamn.org). Or, email questions to [nwfamn.org@gmail.com](mailto:nwfamn.org@gmail.com). NWFA, supporting 30 to 40 artists winter and summer by inspiring, nurturing and celebrating the arts in the region of Cook,

### It's Fiber Arts Month in October Cook Public Library

COOK- October is Fiber Arts Month at the Cook Public Library, featuring displays by local fiber artists all month long. Everyone is invited to see the many fiber arts on display during the Fiber Arts Tea on Thursday, Oct. 26. Hot beverages and goodies will be served.

A table with free fiber art books, patterns and notions is also available.

Enter to win a gift

basket which includes a \$30 gift certificate from Cabin Quilting in Cook

Buy your raffle tickets for the Halloween-themed quilt on display at the library. Tickets cost \$1. The raffle is sponsored by the Friends of the Cook Public Library and the quilt was generously donated by Diane Frerichs. Raffle drawing will take place on Nov. 1.

### Trinity to offer Veterans Day meal

COOK- Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook will host a Veterans Day luncheon on Friday, Nov. 10 from 11 a.m.—1 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

This free lasagna lunch is in recognition of the service and dedication

all veterans have given for our country.

All area veterans and their family members are welcome to attend, as well as surviving spouses of veterans.

Questions may be directed to the church office at 218-666-5965. Trinity is located at 231 2nd St. SE. Handicapped parking is available.

### Nicholas scores semifinalist threepeat for music award

COOK-Cook native and Chicago high school vocal music teacher Trevor Nicholas is once again among 25 semifinalists for the 2024 Music Educator Award presented by the Recording Academy, known for its annual Grammy awards, and the

Grammy Museum.

It's his third consecutive nomination as a semifinalist for the award. The prior two award years, 2022 and 2023, Nicholas was further honored for his work at Senn High School in Chicago by being named one of ten award finalists.

Music Educator Award semifinalists were selected from a pool of more than 2,000 initial nominations from across all 50 U.S. states. Finalists will be announced in December, and the ultimate recipient of the 2024 Music Educator Award will be recognized during Grammy Week 2024, days ahead of the 2024 Grammys.



## SEWER...Continued from page 1

septic systems at lakeshore cabins and resorts, many of which they claim are failing or no longer compliant, allowing them to leak pollutants, mostly phosphorus, into area lakes. Phosphorus is frequently a limiting nutrient in Minnesota lakes, so the addition of phosphorus can lead to more frequent and more intense algae blooms.

### Evidence lacking

Yet, while the VNPCWJPB's mission appears to be worthwhile, the board has actually done little to document the problems it claims to be addressing. Far from declining water quality, the relatively limited testing data available from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency shows that phosphorus levels on major lakes within the park have been declining for decades. That's due, in part, to stricter regulations surrounding the design and permitting of individual septic systems as well as the phaseout of phosphorus in products like laundry detergent.

Back in the 1970s, testing at Crane Lake and Lake Kabetogama yielded phosphorus levels averaging at or above 0.05 milligrams per liter (mg/l). Subsequent testing demonstrated continuing declines in phosphorus levels. By 1991, testing on Kabetogama found that phosphorus levels had fallen to an average of 0.0265 mg/l and that had fallen even further, to just 0.0195 mg/l as of the most recent testing in 2014-15.

Both Crane and Rainy lakes, experienced similar trends of declining phosphorus levels over the same time frame.

Nor has the VNPCWJPB documented that any septic systems in their service area are actually discharging inadequately treated wastewater into surface waters. The master plan for the Ash River project claims that 23 systems along the river are either "non-compliant" or "probably non-compliant," although that in itself is not evidence a system is actually polluting. Another 15 systems were rated as "maybe non-compliant" or "may be compliant."

The SEH engineers who drafted the master plan acknowledge that it based its determinations on reviews

of permit paperwork and other county records, rather than onsite inspections that could confirm whether any of the systems was actually polluting.

Individual septic systems, when operating properly, should have no discharge of pollutants to surface waters. That's according to Sara Heger, a University of Minnesota researcher and associate professor with the university's Water Resources Center, who works with homeowners and communities to plan onsite sewage treatment solutions. "At the end of the day, the wastewater coming out of a septic system is cleaner than what comes out of a treatment plant," Heger said. "There is this whole idea that a treatment plant is the best option. But a lot of time for the environment, it's not better to be hooked up. The output from a well-maintained septic system is zero."

### Extraordinary costs

The Ash River project is currently estimated at \$24 million, although given recent inflationary trends in construction, the price could well go far above that. The same engineer who is behind the cost estimates at Ash River had recently projected the cost of a new drinking water treatment facility in Tower at \$5.5 million, while earlier this month the project's lone bid came in at \$9.1 million, which has put that project in limbo.

To raise \$24 million, supporters of the Ash River project are seeking \$7 million in congressionally directed spending for the project, along with an additional \$7 million in state bonding. Grants from several other sources could bring in another \$8 million in mostly state dollars, while an anticipated \$2 million loan from the Public Facilities Authority would round out the funding.

The VNPCWJPB, in a recent resolution, claim that they've already received commitments from Third District Sen. Grant Hauschild and Rep. Roger Skraba to advocate for state bonding dollars for the project. Hauschild said he met with members of the VNPCWJPB and SEH recently to discuss the project, but acknowledged he had not read the master

plan and was unfamiliar with the details of the proposal. He said given the high number of projects that lawmakers are asked to back every year, he has to rely on local elected officials to undertake that kind of due diligence. "This was vetted as a county priority. I guess I don't really know why they are making this such a priority, if it's so costly," he said.

Given the relatively small number of cabins or homes involved, the cost of the project is astounding. While the master plan cites 81 cabins currently in the area they propose to serve, roughly half of them have septic systems that are compliant or may be compliant, or use holding tanks or outhouses, which typically don't pollute. Many of the cabins are relatively small and are used only seasonally or on weekends and generate very little wastewater.

Depending on how one calculates it, the project's cost per cabin served ranges from \$296,000-\$470,500.

"That's insane," said Heger, when informed of the project's price tag. "There's no one in their right mind who would say that's a good idea—except people who don't have to pay for it."

The cost of construction is just part of the overall price tag. The project's master plan projects an annual operating expense of \$460,000, and it's not clear where the money to cover those costs will come from. County commissioner Paul McDonald, who chairs the VNPCWJPB, said the board's goal is to keep the monthly charge to users to about \$100. But even if the owners of all 81 cabins in the coverage area are assessed a \$100 monthly fee, that would generate just \$8,100 a month. With an anticipated operating cost of \$38,333 a month, that leaves an enormous funding gap. Covering that gap through fees to users would require a monthly charge of nearly \$475 for the owners of each of the 81 affected cabins, or more than \$5,000 a year.

McDonald said that the project would likely not proceed with construction without adequate funding that allows for affordable rates for the users. "I believe the goal for the Ash

River District is in the \$100/month range per EDU. This rate is similar to the rates for the existing systems at Island View, Kabetogama, and Crane Lake."

### Does it make sense?

Local officials in the area have come under fire in the past for pushing expensive centralized wastewater treatment systems. When Crane Lake officials faced criticism and threats of lawsuits from residents over a similar plan there, the board overseeing the project reached out to Heger, who agreed to consult on the project. Heger said she eventually felt that she was brought in more to provide political cover than advice the Crane Lake officials intended to rely upon.

Heger had argued at the time for a different model, one which relied on individual septic systems or cluster systems in some cases, with a sewer district that manages the systems and pays for maintenance and eventual replacement as needed. Other lake communities in Minnesota, such as Otter Tail County, have adopted a similar approach, providing protection for lakes at a small fraction of upfront capital and subsequent operating and maintenance costs than the model proposed by the VNPCWJPB.

When asked about alternatives, McDonald said the members of the joint powers board were familiar with the Otter Tail service district, and noted that the Crane Lake Sewer District operates a hybrid system, with a centralized pipe system that serves portions of the community with a managed septic system program elsewhere on the lake.

"A managed ISTS system is not a recommended solution for the Ash River District as many of the lots in the service area are too small for properly sized ISTS systems," said McDonald, in comments on the issue he offered earlier this year. "There are also many issues in that area with bedrock and high groundwater levels."

St. Louis County continues to permit septic systems for lake homes and cabins in northern parts of the county, using mound systems that are designed for areas with shallow soils

and high water tables.

### Questionable claims

Adding to the concern about the Ash River project are claims made by the VNPCWJPB. A resolution approved by the board this past December, which was submitted to Congress and other potential funders claims that the board's efforts have had "a very positive impact on the waters of Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness." Yet, the board has made no data available publicly that documents an improvement in water quality in the park as a result of their efforts. What's more, none of the waters within the BWCAW are impacted by the VNPCWJPB's work since the wilderness area is located upstream of the area served by the board. County officials, when asked about that discrepancy, acknowledged an "administrative error."

In addition, the project's master plan appears to make claims that either aren't factual or are highly exaggerated. The plan categorizes a large portion of the southeast shore of the Ash River as "high-density residential," and proposes extending a sewer line under the river to connect cabins along that stretch of shoreline. In fact, the plan indicates a total of 17 properties along that approximately one mile of water-access shoreline, many of which include very small and rustic cabins assessed at less than \$50,000, and with annual property tax bills of around \$1,000.

### Is money driving the process?

A 2022 report produced by SEH for the VNPCWJPB pegs the combined cost of their proposals for Ash River, Crane Lake, Kabetogama Township, and Rainy Lake at an eye-popping \$104.9 million. The report further notes that a 25-percent engineering fee is built into that figure, which means that full implementation of the plan would be expected to net SEH about \$26 million.

"That is the biggest issue, that engineers work on a percentage of the project," said Heger.

Supporters of the Ash River proposal note that

the MPCA approved their proposal back in June 2022, but the agency focuses its review on whether or not the plan will protect water quality, not whether it's cost-effective.

Heger said that's where the plan falls short. "I'm not saying that what they're proposing won't work. At the end of the day, it will protect the environment. But will it do so in the mostly economical and sustainable way? The answer is no."

Heger notes that the ultimate goal of any such proposal should be to remove as much phosphorus from wastewater discharges as possible for every dollar spent. "That's what we should care about. Not lining anybody's pocket."

Heger, an advocate of onsite wastewater treatment, said engineering firms have a built-in aversion to wastewater treatment programs designed around installing and maintaining well-designed individual or clustered septic systems, an approach that is typically far less costly than the methods that SEH has consistently pushed with the VNPCWJPB. But she said many engineering firms don't have septic system designers on staff and so don't recommend solutions dominated by the use of such systems. In St. Louis County, non-engineers are routinely certified to work as septic system designers and their typical fees are modest by comparison with a large engineering firm.

"Going back to the engineering firms," said Heger, "lower cost simply isn't to their advantage."

In the end, Heger said it should come down to the effective use of public funds. She notes the state has only so much funding available for clean water projects, so when funds aren't spent cost-effectively, it's a setback for the overall goal of cleaner water in Minnesota lakes. "As a taxpayer, that's what I care about."

The *Timberjay* submitted questions last week to the St. Louis County Administrator seeking documentation of the need. County officials replied right at presstime and offered little additional information.

## COUNCIL...Continued from page 1

on the Siemans-brand EV chargers state.

Omerza was hopeful that her comments would halt the threatening notes and any potential damage to library workers' vehicles. "If the issue continues," said Omerza, "more extreme measures will be taken."

### Calendar parking

The council heard a report from Ely Police Chief Chad Houde which included the bad news that calendar parking goes into effect on Nov. 1. For the first few weeks, he noted that the PD would be putting friendly reminders on vehicles while posting notifications on the city Facebook page and website as well.

For those in Ely who may have forgotten the dreaded winter scourge of calendar parking, cars need to park on the correct side of the road so snowplows can clear the other side during snow season. Personal vehicles must alternate which side of the street to park on depending

on the date.

In general, on even days of the month, park on the even-numbered side of the street or avenue. On odd days of the month, park on the side of the street or avenue with the odd-numbered houses. Some streets in Ely have their own calendar parking instructions instead, which the public should follow.

### Other business

In other action on Tuesday, the council:

► Approved the recommendation from the Projects Committee for the city attorney to assist with drafting the easements for the Prospectors Loop Trail connection for the Bear Run and the Y-Store to Pfeiffer Lake sections.

► Approved the recommendation from the Projects Committee for the City of Ely to submit an application for Ely water system Improvements for Community Development Block Grant funding.

► Heard from Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski that the city's

facilities at its parks were now winterized and ready for cold weather.

► Approved the resignation of Officer Wimmer from the Ely Police Department and voted to send Wimmer a thank you letter for his service to the city.

► Approved Houde's request to post for an open police officer position. Because Wimmer's resignation is the second in two months, the ad for the position will stay open until the department's vacant positions are filled.

► Approved the conditional job offer for an open patrol officer position to Courtney Schurhammer, pending passing a background investigation and a psychological and medical examination. Schurhammer has worked for the Ely PD in the past as a traffic control officer.

► Approved the second readings of Ordinance 372, second series, "An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minn., amending the Ely City Code, Chapter 10," and Ordinance 373, second

series, "An Ordinance of the City of Ely, Minn., deleting from the Ely City Code, Chapter 6, Section 6.32, entitled 'Kennels.'" The council also voted to adopt Resolution 2023-025, "to establish license fees for dogs." With the approval of these three items, the council finished the three-month-long updating of the city's ordinances on pets.

► Approved a note and mortgage for a residential rehab loan for Joseph and Nicole Shusta at 539 E. Chapman St. for \$6,000 for a new furnace.

► Approved the following claims for payment for Oct. 17: City of Ely and Ely Utilities Commission claims for for \$580,158; pay estimate No. 3 for the East End Development Project for \$189,919.97 to Low Impact Excavators Inc.; invoice No. 90086 to AE2S for the Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) Project for \$14,167; invoice No. 454833 to SEH for \$6417 for the Prospector Loop Trail.

► Received and

approved a timeline from the owner of 1545 E. Harvey St. for the removal of the trailer home and the sale of the property. As mentioned in the Oct. 6 edition of the *Timberjay*, the owner of the property indicated a willingness to work with the city at the Oct. 3 city council meeting to amend the property's condition and to avoid a blight action.

► Approved Resolution 2023-026, authorizing the Ely Igloo Snowmobile Club to sell pull tabs at the Kwazy Wabbit bar as a fundraiser.

► Accepted the resignation of Scott Kochendorfer from the Police Commission and advertise for an open seat on the commission.

► Approved the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 23, from 8-10 a.m., for both a 5k or 10k walk-or-run event put on by End of the Road Yoga.

► Approved the "Trunk-or-Treat" event on Oct. 31 in Whiteside Park. This event will close

7th Ave. (Linda Fryer Way) from Sheridan St. to Harvey St.

► Scheduled the continued combined city council study session meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) on Nov. 28, to continue the discussion on the updated permissible and conditional uses list. The council and P&Z began their shared study session on Sept. 26. The action is independent of the conditional use permit (CUP) by Dean Peterson, to reopen and expand the RV Park property on Pioneer Rd. bordering Miners Lake. The Ely Board of Adjustment voted to table the CUP Application on Sept. 20, as summarized in the Sept. 29 issue of the *Timberjay*. Peterson withdrew the CUP application on Oct. 11, which was the only item of business on the 37-second-long Board of Adjustment meeting last week.



## HUMPHREY...Continued from page 1

family. The biography on Humphrey's website states that her father was a singer and musician, and her mother a poet and artist. Humphrey is the Cultural Arts Organizer for Honor the Earth, a nonprofit organization founded in 1993 that creates awareness and fundraises around environmental issues affecting Native Americans and the planet.

Humphrey previously toured annually as a fundraiser for homeless shelters, driven by the lack of resources available and her own experience.

"I met with the director of the homeless shelter in Bemidji, and she had written to, ironically enough, around thirty churches in the city to ask for help with food, bedding, what-



Humphrey performed recently at the First Presbyterian Church in Ely. photo by J. Shuster-Dahlin

ever, and hadn't gotten any responses, and I remember thinking right then, 'We should do something about that,' because I have experienced homelessness and it's really hard with kids, and so I did this tour, year after year and raised money and left the money (with the

homeless shelter). A lot of people aren't sympathetic toward homeless people."

Humphrey graduated from Cass Lake High School and spent four years in the United States Marine Corps. She has attended several higher learning institutions, including

Bemidji State University and Itasca Community College. While attempting to earn a Fine Arts degree from North Dakota State University in Grand Forks, Humphrey was forced to stop attending due to the historic 1997 flood.

"I couldn't finish my degree because of the flood. All the students had to leave...but the college kind of forgave all the students and gave everyone a grade," said Humphrey. "I've been to a lot of colleges. I went to Bemidji State University and Leech Lake Tribal College. I went back to school during COVID. I was 54 years old at the time, and I went back to become a carpenter. Now I supplement my income with carpentry."

Humphrey, who sang and played the piano during

the concert, estimates that "The Light in My Bones" is her seventh album.

"I was recording on cassettes back in the 90s, so I count those too."

Earlier in the day, an art class was held at the Ely Folk School, run by Shanai Matteson, a member of Humphrey's nonprofit organization, Honor the Earth. The class was part of Humphrey's tour, and participants stamped print images onto fabric and discussed stories of activism and community organizing. Many of the print stamps included lyrics from Humphrey's new songs, such as "Be Brave" and "Let your Light Shine."

"One of the reasons we do these classes is to let people tell their stories about their relationships with the land and challeng-

es we face with the mining industry and exploitation of our resources," said Matteson.

Humphrey is a gifted lifelong artist who engages in both practical and visual mediums, such as mural painting, sewing, poetry, and jewelry-making.

Her current tour has ten stops in Minnesota and Wisconsin, running through the end of November.

"The tour is going awesome...we're playing at a lot of churches, and I love the energy and the beauty of them. The people that come to the shows turn out to be a mix of the community and the congregation of the churches. It feels really comfortable."

For more information or to donate to Honor the Earth, visit [honorearth.org](http://honorearth.org).

## FILM...Continued from page 1

short films representing a variety of genres for the first portion of the program, followed by dinner and then the event's feature presentation, "A Winter Love" by noted and award-winning Dine (Navajo) playwright Rhiana Yazzie, artistic director at the New Native Theater in St. Paul.

The first film was a three-minute animated short of a poem written by poet, educator and motivational speaker Tanaya Winder, who grew up on the Southern Ute Reservation in Colorado and is an enrolled member of the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe. The animation was created by Minnesota visual artist Moira Villiard, a Fond du Lac direct descendant with mixed Indigenous and settler heritage. "Extraction" is a powerful piece that tells a story of Indigenous identity stolen through colonialism and conquest, from boarding schools to today's plight of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Up next was a deep dive

into the realm of eco-science fiction with "Closed System," a 13-minute film created by a group of Canadian filmmakers known as the Bawaadan Collective. From a description by the film's creators, a genetically modified invasive species of fly, bred to eat plastic and spin it into rope, makes a bid for freedom in the last wilderness on Earth. A dutiful female naturalist is sent by a ruthless computer algorithm to hunt it down and destroy it. As she experiences the forest for the first time in her life, the scientist begins to question everything she has been taught about pollution, conservation, and the myths of the untouched wilderness. This film generated much discussion during the dinner break, as it was crafted to propose questions but allow for audience members to draw their own conclusions. "What did you think it was really about?" was a commonly heard question around the ballroom.

The films then turned to

documentaries, beginning with actor, writer, and director Ajuawak Kapashesit's film "Language Keepers." Kapashesit, of Anishinaabe, Cree, and Jewish heritage, featured three Ojibwe activists, including Bois Forte Band member Terry Goodsky, and their efforts to utilize technology in pursuit of language preservation.

"Good Mythology" by filmmaker Sergio Rapu, a native of Rapa Nui (Easter Island), "follows Anishinaabe artist Jonathan Thunder as he dives deep into the inspirations behind his surrealist paintings and animations," according to a PBS summary. "From the killing of an iconic American hero to critical perspectives of how Indigenous people were portrayed in early children's cartoons, Thunder's art prompts viewers to take a critical look at our shared mythologies."

"KaYaMenTa" by Cree filmmaker Jules Koostachin sought to answer the question, "Why don't we

talk about menopause," through observations of five Indigenous women who gathered to share food and stories to dispel the taboos surrounding this natural stage of womanhood. The film struck a fine balance between serious and comedic, conveying a sense for viewers of being pulled right into the gathering themselves as the conversation ranged from hot flashes and mood swings to celebration.

After the dinner break, complete with musical entertainment by Laura Hugo, the crowd settled in to enjoy "A Winter Love," Yazzie's first venture into film after establishing herself as a noted playwright.

As Yazzie describes it on her website, the film tells the story of Blue, a 35-year-old Navajo singer-songwriter who has lost her creative spark to a series of bad relationships and to the harsh Minneapolis winter. But when she meets a younger guy, Eddie, a 25-year-old Lakota law school dropout, she feels like she's regained her edge, only to find it slip away again when she discovers Eddie's love was never his to give in the first place. "A Winter Love" is modern day, inter-tribal, love story that shows true love is found in the season you love yourself.

The relationship between Blue and Eddie seemed to develop rather quickly at first, until viewers realized that's exactly how they were meant to come together in a relationship born as much from personal need as mutual attraction. Brian Watson's almost eager adolescent portrayal of Blue's youthful suitor played well against Yazzie's more mature initial deflections and eventual affections. Both actors seemed to easily find the necessary tension and emotion to carry the natural relationship conflicts forward in a way that varied from tender to comedic and contentious to compassionate. Yazzie's use of extras often provided a lighter touch to the story, used sparingly to

good effect. And as with all heart-warming love stories, the film ends up on a "happily ever after" kind of note, but not one most viewers expected.

In a special treat for the audience, Yazzie was there in person to talk about the film and her experience in creating it. She wore many hats in bringing the film to the screen - writer, director, producer, and lead actor Blue.

"Since this was my very first film, I just learned everything in the moment," Yazzie said. "It took two winters to film it and the whole thing was a blur."

With a number of aspiring creators in the audience, it wasn't a surprise when one of them asked Yazzie how she put together her film crew.

"I just put an ad in the Minnesota film and TV classifieds," she said. "I had a set amount that I could pay for the daily rate, and then I started to hear from people. It did end up being a mostly female and BIPOC crew."

But not all of her crew came by way of the classifieds. Two critical spots, director of photography and film editor, were filled by a little bit of serendipity. Yazzie said she met her director of photography, who is from Wales, and they were standing outside a concert they couldn't get into.

"I said, 'I'm thinking of making a film one day,' and he said, 'Oh yeah,' and he gave me his card," Yazzie said.

About a year and a half later she gave him a call and he agreed to do the film.

"It turned out that he mostly made films with female writer/director/actors - it was such a weird coincidence," Yazzie said. "That was a huge help because in a way he mentored me."

And he also connected her with a film editor in London.

"The whole film was edited over Skype," Yazzie said.

The transition from writing and directing for the stage to the film screen had Yazzie making numerous adjustments.

"I always heard that you make your film three times, when you write the screenplay, when you shoot it, and when you edit it, and that's true," she said.

"Sometimes you think something is really going to work in a screenplay until you film it. Or maybe there's another piece that you accidentally filmed that was really cool and you want to put that in. So it does change, and I think a big piece that I've learned is that if I had more time and the funding wasn't just my money, I would have had more time to figure out how to get the shots I needed to."

And film gave Yazzie the opportunity to stage some scenes that just wouldn't work in a play.

"One of my favorite moments in the film is Blue and Eddie in the flat," she said. "That would be really hard to put on stage because it's such an intimate moment. I would never put those kind of things in a play because you have to tell that intimate moment from 20 feet away. That's why I felt this was better as a film than as a play. And the visuals of winter and snow was something that I wanted to feel and see the truth of that rather than being on a stage with foam. And plays are told through dialogue, and with film all you need is a reaction from someone and you know everything. There are huge differences between being a playwright and being a screenwriter."

Yazzie entertained several more questions and then stayed after her time was up to talk individually with individual audience members.

For Goodsky, the event went off as good as she had hoped it would.

"To be able to bring it to my reservation and have this event means a lot!" she said. "Miigwetch to the family and friends who came to watch the films, the film makers, and Laura Hugo for playing awesome music! I'm blown away by how beautiful the night was."

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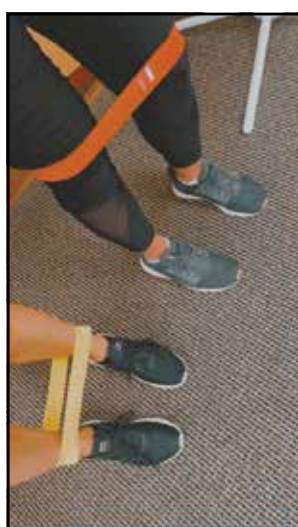


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## FALL PREVENTION



ST. LOUIS COUNTY

# Sheriff's office offers first-ever Citizens' Academy

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office is offering the public a new opportunity for an inside look at how it operates through a ten-week Citizens' Academy. Classes begin Nov. 1 and will be offered Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Classes will include interactive presentations and tours to give citizens a better understanding of the range of services provided by the Sheriff's Office.

"It is to better educate the public and give the citizens of St. Louis County an opportunity to see firsthand what the sheriff's office

does on a daily basis with all of our different entities," said Sgt. Adam Kleffman. "We want to deep dive into every aspect of the sheriff's office so all the citizens in St. Louis County are aware of all of the different things that our sheriff's office does, just kind of a front row seat on how we go about business."

The majority of classes will take place at the Public Safety Building, 2030 Arlington Avenue in Duluth with additional sessions held at relevant locations for tours, including the St. Louis County Jail and Emergency Operations Center.

Kleffman said the

academy draws on experiences he gained at another agency that offered a citizens police academy, but that the inspiration for the St. Louis County version came from Sheriff Gordon Ramsay.

"This was Sheriff Ramsay's idea to bring this to St. Louis County," Kleffman said. "I just happened to have some expertise and background in working with one previously."

The Citizens' Academy will cover topics including patrol operations, a K-9 presentation and demonstration, the St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad, Emergency Response Team

and Tactical Operations, Lake Superior Violent Crimes Task Force, St. Louis County Jail operations and tour, 911 operations and tour, crime scene investigations, Internet Crimes against Childrens Task Force, Child Abduction Response Team, Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC), and an interactive use of force simulation training.

"I was an investigator before I got my current position, and so I was on the Child Abduction Response Team, and I worked on the ICAC Task Force," Kleffman said. "People aren't aware of the amount

of entities that that we work with for investigations, like the Lake Superior Violent Crimes Task Force, the response team, etc."

Citizens completing the academy will have the opportunity to go on a ride-along with a St. Louis County Sheriff's Deputy.

Since this is the first go-round for the academy, Kleffman said they're not quite sure what the response will be, but they're hoping for around 15 to 20 participants, with the class capped at 30.

"I've already had a few people reach out that are interested in it," Kleffman said. "We're just excited to get started."

The sheriff's office expects to offer another Citizens' Academy with classes held in the northern part of the county next year. Kleffman said the intent is to rotate the academy south to north on an even-odd year basis.

Any St. Louis County resident ages 18 or older may apply. Applicants will be required to pass a criminal background check. The deadline to apply is Oct. 25, 2023.

To learn more or to apply, visit [stlouiscountymn.gov/sheriff](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/sheriff), or contact Sgt. Adam Kleffman at 218-726-2371 or [KleffmanA2@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:KleffmanA2@stlouiscountymn.gov).

STATE FINANCES

## Latest forecast shows extra \$860 million in state surplus

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- After wrangling with what to do over last year's \$17.5 billion surplus, Minnesota legislators will have another round of haggling next session as the state will have about \$860 million extra dollars to spend.

Most of last year's record surplus was allo-

cated last session, but Minnesota budget officials had projected \$1.6 billion was left for the 2024 legislative session.

On Monday, as a result of more revenue from taxes and fees than what was forecasted, that surplus holdover grew to \$2.42 billion, an \$860 million increase and 50 percent larger than expected.

The extra funds will be added to the state's surplus for the next budget cycle. It will be up to legislators to decide how the surplus will be allocated, likely through a supplemental budget bill or an anticipated capital investments bill. The final surplus amount won't be announced until early December.



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PUBLIC HEALTH

# COVID indicators on a downward path in state

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

Previously reported CDC county level data vastly overstated hospitalization rates in area

REGIONAL- There was positive news on the COVID front in Minnesota last week, as weekly COVID hospital admissions in the state took a downward turn after eight consecutive weeks of increases.

The reported data, collected through the week ending Oct. 3, showed a 15 percent decline in COVID admissions, from 248 to 212. Brown, Redwood and Renville counties in southwestern Minnesota are the only counties in the state still listed as in the medium category for COVID activity, with everywhere else in the state rated low based on hospitalizations.

Emergency room visits for COVID are also down for two consecutive weeks, mirroring a longer downward trend for the United States as a whole. As has been seen throughout the COVID pandemic, one or two weeks of data may not represent an overall trend, but this sign in conjunction with national data is promising.

The latest statewide and regional wastewater COVID viral load data also shows reason to hope that the recent surge of COVID cases is on the downswing. COVID-19 levels have decreased by 21.5 percent statewide and 7.5 percent in the northeast region. Northwest Minnesota is the only region in the state that posted an increase in the most recent wastewater sampling.

## Regional COVID data

The *Timberjay* has routinely been reporting COVID hospitalization data for St. Louis County, as hospitalizations are now the standard metric

for gauging community levels of COVID activity.

However, recently the *Timberjay* noticed a recurring discrepancy in CDC data between the county's population of 200,000 and the number of cases admitted per 100,000 people, which was lower than expected.

Portrayed as county-level data by both the CDC and the Minnesota Department of Health, direct communication via email between the newspaper and the CDC has revealed that the data for "St. Louis County" actually isn't that at all.

Instead, according to a response from the CDC-Info Correspondence Team, the data presented as "county data" is actually aggregated data based on an assigned "health service area (HSA) that is anchored to St. Louis County due to the comprehensive hospital services available in Duluth, but includes Carlton, Cook, Douglas, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and Pine Counties, a geographic area of about 18,500 square miles.

This past week, the CDC county-by-county COVID map reported 18 new COVID hospitalizations for St. Louis County. That number is actually new hospitalizations for the 19 hospitals in the eight-county, 18,500-square-mile HSA, an average of less than one per hospital. The same number is repeated for each individual county in the HSA, reported by county name with no reference to the HSA, making it appear to an unaware observer that there were 18 hospital admissions in Cook County, in Lake County, and so on. Without the explanation

provided to the *Timberjay*, someone using the CDC COVID map could get the impression that there were 144 new hospital admissions in those eight counties as opposed to only 18.

The CDC also explained the discrepancy noted by the *Timberjay* for St. Louis County, saying that the number of weekly hospital admissions is divided by the total population of the HSA, or 381,133, and not the 200,000 of St. Louis County, which results in a lower figure for hospitalizations per 100,000.

Given the size of the HSA and the number of counties included in it, it is impossible to tell from the aggregated data what the COVID community transmission level is in St. Louis County versus Cook County, for example.

The *Timberjay* will no longer report weekly COVID hospitalizations for St. Louis County but will report if the HSA community transmission level changes from "low" to "medium" to "high" as a possible indicator of increased risk of contracting COVID.

This represents a drastic change from earlier in the pandemic when COVID test results were reported to the state by community health organizations and made available at the zip code level, data the *Timberjay* used to localize the scope of the pandemic for our North Country coverage area. Home testing, which is not reported, and the concurrent decline in lab-based testing made case count data unreliable and caused the shift to reporting hospitalizations instead as a more accu-

rate indicator of COVID activity. However, as just described, hospitalization data is severely limited in describing COVID activity on a per county basis.

Meanwhile, the weekly COVID update from MDH still does not include any setting-specific data for public schools, data that was supposed to return to the site by mid-October. Formerly reported weekly on a building-level basis that was useful for parents and others to have some idea of overall COVID activity in a given school, it is unknown if the new data will be reported the same way, or will be aggregated in the same way individualized long-term care facility data was eliminated and replaced by combined statewide numbers.

## Long COVID

The persistence of the COVID virus in a person's gut months after an initial infection has been implicated in long COVID cognitive symptoms, as reported by University of Pennsylvania researchers in the Oct. 16 edition of the journal *Cell*.

A group of long-COVID patients involved in the research study were found to have components of the COVID virus in their stool samples months after an infection. The continuing presence of the virus triggers an inflammatory reaction that decreases absorption of the amino acid tryptophan and leads to abnormal blood clotting.

Tryptophan is a building block for serotonin, a chemical messenger that

helps regulate memory, sleep, digestion, and the vagus nerve, which helps the body and brain communicate. When less tryptophan is absorbed, serotonin level go down, which may cause memory loss. Replenishing serotonin in a group of mice with long COVID improved their memory loss.

The research is important in that it raises the possibility for the first

time of matching long COVID patients to treatments or clinical trials that address specific causes of their long COVID symptoms and more effectively assess their progress.

*MPR News contributed to this article.*

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## MINNESOTA

### Prescription drug turn-in events set for Oct. 28

REGIONAL Saturday, October 28, is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is Saturday, Oct. 28. This day is aimed at reminding people of the importance of safely disposing of unused and expired medications. Proper disposal of prescription and over-the-counter medications in a local drop box helps prevent accidental poisoning, reduces the possibility of medication misuse, and prevents water pollution and other environmental threats.

Medication drop boxes will be staffed and available for take-back events on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the St. Louis County Sheriff's offices in Virginia and Hibbing. Medications to be disposed of should be brought in in their original containers with any personal identifying information crossed off.

A list of drop-off locations that are open all year, along with information about what is or isn't accepted, is available online at [stlouiscountymn.gov/medwaste](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/medwaste).

Anyone who is unable to access a local drop box can contact Maggie Myers at 218-471-738 or [MyersM@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:MyersM@stlouiscountymn.gov) for information about alternative disposal methods, such as a free medication mail-back envelope or a DisposeRx kit.

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# SPORTS

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## VOLLEYBALL

### Ely remains unbeaten in Section 7

Playoffs set to get underway next week with Ely seeded at number one

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY— With the Section 7A volleyball playoffs set to get underway next week, Ely remains the team to beat. This week, the Wolves added three more straight-set victories to its perfect record against regional competitors, with wins over Nashwauk-Keewatin, Cook County, and Bigfork.

Playing at home on Tuesday, the Wolves relied on their front four in the kill zone, led by junior Lilli Rechichi and senior Hannah Penke, who posted nine kills apiece as the Wolves downed the Huskies 25-11, 25-16, and 25-12.

Freshman Audrey Kallberg

See ELY GIRLS...pg. 3B



Left: Ely freshman Charlotte Hegman goes up high for a kill during Tuesday's regular season finale with Bigfork. The Wolves remain unbeaten in section play.

photo by J. Greeney



Ely's Caid Chittum moves toward the front of the pack. photo by R. Brophy

## CROSS COUNTRY

### Brophy, Chittum leading the way for Ely

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

HOYT LAKES— Ely runners here had another strong outing on Tuesday as the girls team claimed second among five teams with 55 points, while the boys took third in a field of seven with 79 points.

Ely freshman Molly Brophy finished in fifth place overall in a field of 43 runners with a 5K time of 20:53.7. Ely junior Caid Chittum took sixth among 36 racers on the boys side, with a time of 17:39.1. Both Brophy and Chittum have been Ely's top finishers on the girls and boys teams all season and are looking strong ahead of next week's sectional competition in Coleraine.

Ely girls finished second in the

See RUNNERS...pg. 2B

## FOOTBALL

### Barnum thumps T-Wolves

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

BARNUM— Ely's offensive struggles continued here last Thursday even as their passing attack showed signs of life under freshman quarterback Max Brandriet. It would take more than signs of life, however, for the Wolves to overcome the unbeaten Bombers, and Ely fell as expected 39-8.

"They're really good," said Ely Head Coach Louis Gerzin. "It's a well-run program with a lot of athletic kids." Barnum wasted little time in demonstrating why they were sitting at 7-0 ahead of this week's final game of the regular season. They scored nearly at will in the

See FOOTBALL...pg. 2B



## VOLLEYBALL

### Grizzlies fall to Polar Bears

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Grizzlies honored their seniors on Tuesday before the regular-season-ending match against Floodwood, but the Polar Bears stole what the team and fans wanted most, a two-point match win in the most intense contest of the season.

In a match where shots and saves were flying fast and furious

Above: North Woods' Isabel Pascuzzi threads the needle between two Chisholm defenders for a kill.

Right: Brynn Chosa, in return position, focuses ahead of a Chisholm serve.

photos by D. Colburn

on both sides of the net, two balls the Grizzlies didn't touch ultimately proved to be their undoing.

See VOLLEYBALL...pg. 2B



## FOOTBALL

### Grizzlies upend Bigfork

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods football team may have opened Friday's homecoming game with a Friday the 13th fumble, but they broke open a close game in the second half to win their

Left: North Woods' Kaden Gornick breaks through the line on an 83-yard touchdown run against Bigfork.

photo by D. Colburn

third contest of the season 36-20.

The Huskies took advantage of a Grizzlies fumble on their opening possession, engineering a six-play, 35-yard drive aided by a North Woods personal foul penalty for a six-yard touchdown. Bigfork failed to score the two-point conversion and led 6-0 with 5:33 left in the first quarter.

It took all of 16 seconds on the game clock for North Woods to answer. Starting at their own

43 after a good kickoff return by Talen Jarshaw, running back Kaden Gornick broke a tackle at the line and scampered 53 yards for the tying score. Nick Abramson got the call and the ball for the two-point conversion.

The Grizzlies turned the ball over on their next two possessions, but the defense held tough and flipped the script by forcing a

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B



## SWIMMING

## Several strong finishes for NER/Ely swimmers

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

INTERNATIONAL FALLS— Junior Anna Larson posted the two highest finishes among NER/Ely swimmers here last Thursday, as she notched a seventh-place and an eighth-place finish against large fields in a

meet dominated by much larger schools.

Larson finished seventh among 34 competitors in the 100 butterfly with a time of 1:11.43, just 1.24 seconds off the pace of the second-place finisher. Raini Gibson, of Hibbing, dominated the race with a time of 1:05.52.

Larson notched an eighth-

place finish among 45 racers in the 50 freestyle with a time of 27.96, just over two seconds back of the winning pace set by Tresa Baumgartner of Chisholm.

Sophomore Tuuli Koivisto finished 11th among 36 racers in the 500 freestyle with a time of 6:27.84, while the relay team of Larson, Koivisto, and

sophomores Alyssa Ice and Via DeBeltz, finished tenth in the field of 36 teams in the 200 freestyle relay with a time of 1:57.75.

The relay team of Larson, Koivisto, Ice, and DeBeltz finished tenth in a field of 36 in the 200 freestyle relay with a time of 1:57.75. The same swimmers finished tenth in a similar field

in the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 4:26.02.

Rock Ridge topped the field with a combined team score of 2,196, easily outpacing Mesabi East, which finished second with 1,801 points. NER/Ely finished in eighth place among the 12 teams competing with 964.5 points.

## GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

fumble that was recovered by Trajan Barto at the Bigfork 39. A fourth-and-seven conversion on a pass from Jarshaw to Barto set the Grizzlies up at the 11, and North Woods got a gift from the Huskies on a fourth-down pass interference call in the end zone that gave the Grizzlies a fresh set of downs at the seven. This time it was Barto throwing to Jarshaw for the touchdown and a 14-6 lead.

Aided by a pair of penalties that gave Bigfork possession down near the Grizzlies goal line, the Huskies used a quarterback draw by Scott Sorlie to score with 1:39 left in the half. North Woods retained the 14-12 lead by turning back the conversion attempt.

Bigfork opened the second half with an onside kick that they recovered at the Grizzlies 39, but stalled when they reached the 20-yard-line. A fumbled snap bounced all the way to the 45 where it was recovered by Gornick to end the Huskies' scoring threat.

The Grizzlies defense came up big again after Bigfork recovered another Grizzlies fumble at the North Woods 25. After picking up a first down at the 12, Noah Westman got a tackle for a three-yard loss, and a host of Grizzlies snuffed out a fourth-down pitch.

On second-and-eight from their own 17, Gornick enhanced his growing reputation as a big play back by



Carson Johnson and Trajan Barto converge on a Huskies' runner during last week's contest. photo by D. Colburn

racing past the Huskies defense and down the left sideline for an 83-yard score. Abramson punched in the conversion for a 22-12 lead.

The Huskies were knocking on the door again at the start of the fourth quarter with a first-and-five at the North Woods seven. But after two runs netted only two yards, the Huskies tried a pass that fell incomplete, and the Grizzlies crushed a fourth-down run to pull off the goal-line stand.

Abramson gave the Grizzlies some breathing room by running to the North Woods 28. Barto dropped back to pass and found Jarshaw deep, and he took it to the house for a 72-yard touchdown. Abramson was tapped again for the conversion, giving North Woods a 30-12 lead with 8:50 left in the game.

After halting the next Huskies drive at the 50, it was time for another bolt of Gornick lightning, as he made

it a one-play touchdown drive with another run down the left side. A conversion pass attempt failed, leaving the score 36-12.

The Huskies scored on a meaningless 54-yard reverse play, and North Woods ran out the clock to preserve the 36-20 victory.

Gornick was the workhorse for the Grizzlies offense, piling up 187 yards on only seven carries with three touchdowns. Abramson tallied 66 yard on 11 carries and scored six points on conversions. Barto was four-of-13 passing with two touchdowns, both to Jarshaw, and one interception.

Carson Johnson was seemingly everywhere for the Grizzlies defense, with seven unassisted tackles, five assists, two tackles for losses and a defended pass. Barto and Abrahamson each had four solo tackles.

North Woods was scheduled to try to even its record at 4-4 with a Wednesday home game against 3-4 Cook County. The Vikings were coming off a somewhat surprising 38-0 pasting of Kelliher/Northome, a team that beat the Grizzlies 28-0 in the second game of the season. Seedings and location for a first-round sectional game for the Grizzlies next Tuesday will be announced this weekend and will be posted to the *Timberjay's* web and Facebook pages.

## Nighthawks top Vikings in homecoming match-up

BABBITT— It was homecoming and parents' night here on Tuesday and the Nighthawks delivered for the fans with a straight set victory over Littlefork-Big Falls. The 'Hawks won 25-19, 26-24, and 25-19.

"It felt so good and the team was excited to win at home," said Head Coach Misty Roseth. "We dedicated our dig pink match to a young 40 year-old friend and co-worker of mine with terminal breast cancer, Crystal Latvaaho. The team played for her and it was super special."

Allison Flug, the team's lone senior, had a strong performance in the final home game of her volleyball career, posting six kills, 11 digs, and three ace blocks. "She had an amazing last season game...I'm so proud of her," said Roseth.

Else Beeled in kills for the 'Hawks, with nine along with eight digs. Setter Maizy Sundblad added 17 assists, six kills and six ace serves, while Danica Sundblad added 13 digs.

Proceeds from the night's contest will go to Latvaaho to help in her fight against cancer.

The Nighthawks are set to start the playoffs on Monday, most likely on the road. Their opponent had not yet been announced as of the *Timberjay's* presstime.

## FOOTBALL...Continued from page 1B

first half, racking up a 33-0 lead as of the half.

Ely's opening kickoff in the second half seemed to suggest lady luck might turn their way as the kick bounced off the chest of a Barnum player, only to be recovered by the

Wolves. But like so many such opportunities this season, Ely just couldn't take advantage. Against Barnum it was a nearly impenetrable defensive line that kept the Wolves bottled up all evening.

Ely did find some

success in the air, particularly late in the third quarter when Brandriet connected on two short passes for a first down before finding freshman receiver Alex Merriman scampering toward the end zone. The 50-yard strike hit home and

Merriman ran it in for Ely's lone touchdown, followed by a successful conversion on a short Brandriet to Merriman pass play.

Brandriet would connect on another long pass later in the contest but the Wolves couldn't finish

the drive.

Brandriet notched 111 yards passing, his best performance of the season thus far. Merriman added 81 yards receiving, while Danny Daniels caught passes good for 27 yards. Barnum added another six

points in the final stanza to round out the scoring, leaving the Wolves at 1-6 on the season as they were set to host 4-3 Mille Lacs on their final regular season contest on Wednesday, after the *Timberjay's* weekly presstime.

## VOLLEYBALL...Continued from page 1B

With the match tied at two sets apiece and Floodwood leading 8-7, the Polar Bears' Logan Hart stepped to the service line and fired a shot that looked like it might sail long. The Grizzlies let it go and the ball dropped just inside the end line for an ace. Hart's next serve sliced and caught the right sideline for another ace, giving Floodwood a 10-7 lead and forcing North Woods Head Coach Kandi Olson to call time out. With Floodwood feeling momentum swinging their way, they scored two more points before the Grizzlies' River Cheney snapped the string with a kill the Polar Bears couldn't return. But the four-point cushion was enough, and although Tori Olson put the Grizzlies in position to tie the set was a pair of aces of her own, it was Floodwood standout Kenzie Kiminski who snuffed out the North Woods rally with a kill that handed the set and match to the Polar Bears, 15-13.

North Woods fought from behind at the outset and tied the opening set 15-15 when a Floodwood kill sailed long but ran out of steam as the Polar



Clare Thomas and Lilli Rechichi combine for a block during Tuesday's game with Bigfork. photo by J. Greeney

Bears regained control and slipped away for a 25-19 win.

The Grizzlies fell behind 6-0 in the second before River Cheney slammed the ball down for a North Woods point, and tied the set 10-10 on an Isabel Pascuzzi kill off a block attempt. North Woods was up 18-17 when Pascuzzi stepped to the service line and the team caught fire. A slam at the net by Lauren Burnett and a Cheney kill were part of a five-point swing that put the Grizzlies ahead 23-17. Trailing 24-18, the Polar Bears wouldn't surrender

quietly, closing to 24-23 before Cheney blocked a Kiminski kill shot for the win to even the match.

North Woods led almost the entire third set and held a three-point lead at 22-19 when a service fault handed the ball to Floodwood. The Grizzlies hitting touch suddenly deserted them, with balls sailing long, wide, and into the next, and Floodwood scored six straight points to win 25-22 and take a 2-1 lead.

In a do-or-die fourth set for the Grizzlies, it was Addy Hartway who got the kill to break a 12-12

tie and give North Woods a lead they would not relinquish. The Grizzlies quickly extended the lead to 19-13 and maintained control to collect a 25-20 win and force the deciding fifth set.

"Floodwood is an awesome team," Olson said. "They were so scrappy everywhere, off the net, out of the back court, everywhere. I've got to give them credit because they were running like crazy out on that court."

Olson notes Cheney's role as a catalyst in pumping up the Grizzlies' attack.

"When she turns the energy on, it's just infectious for everyone," Olson said. "She just really became a force in that second set and everyone just fed off of her energy. She was amazing."

While the loss was disappointing on senior night, Olson had nothing but praise for seniors Addy Hartway, Madison Dantes, River Cheney, Talise Goodsky, and Tori Olson.

"Many of them have been playing together since eighth and ninth grade on varsity - they earned those spots right away

and they've just continued to develop their skills throughout," Olson said. "If you look at our seniors as a whole, they each come to the court with different skill sets that they use to really help our team."

## Chisholm

Sometimes teams win by overpowering their opponents, other times by outthinking them. The Grizzlies did both on Monday at Chisholm, taking down the Bluestreaks in straight sets.

Sophomore Brynn Chosa got the starting nod for the Grizzlies, filling in for injured senior Tori Olson, and she set the tone early with a strong turn at the service line that put North Woods up 6-0. The Grizzlies had no problem turning that early lead into a 25-17 win.

Burnett and Pascuzzi got big hits to break a 5-5 tie in the second set, and the with the Grizzlies set on cruise control they took the second set 25-16.

Chisholm pulled off the gloves in the third set, leading by as many as four in the early going. When North Woods tied the score at 13 on a Burnett kill, the

Bluestreaks responded with a four-point flurry to take a 17-13 lead. But the Grizzlies pulled back into an 18-18 tie, and the teams traded blows from there, locking the score at 19, 22, and 24. Talise Goodsky broke the deadlock with a stuff at the net, and Cheney sealed the 26-24 match winner with a block.

## Silver Lake

The 6-14 Silver Bay Mariners put up little resistance when the Grizzlies came calling on Thursday, Oct. 12. North Woods was firing on all cylinders as they defeated the Mariners in straight sets, 25-13, 25-16, and 25-15.

According to the QRF seeding formula on Minnesota-scores.net, the Grizzlies have a lock on the No. 2 seed in their subsection when 7A sectional play begins next week. North Woods will have home court advantage for its first game on Wednesday. Official seedings, matchups, match times and locations will be announced this weekend and will be published on the *Timberjay's* website and Facebook page.

## RUNNERS...Continued from page 1B

team competition thanks in part to strong races by eighth-grader Mattie

Lindsay (21:45.6) and senior Claire Blauch (21:56.4) who finished

in tenth and 14th place respectively. Senior Grace LaTourell finished in 21st

place with a time of 23:23.5.

For the boys, the team saw help from junior Silas

Solum, who finished 13th with a time of 18:45.5, and freshman Brenny Brooks

who finished 16th with a time of 18:51.1.



CROSS COUNTRY

# Grizzlies run to dual league championships

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

GRAND MARAIS – With North Woods runners in the front of the pack, the South Ridge Panthers boys and girls varsity cross country teams took first place last week in the Polar League Conference Championship on the Pincushion Mountain course at Grand Marais. As he's done all season long, Alex Burckhardt had the

highest finish for the Panthers, claiming second with a time of 17:01.6 behind winner Jack Riley of Carlton. Teammate Sawyer FierkeLepp also continued his record of top finishes by placing fourth with a time of 17:43.4.

"Alex has continued to do what he has done for us for several years," said Pathers Head Coach Jeremy Polson. "He is a consistent front runner and we look to him to lead the team.

Sawyer qualified for state last year with Alex and has been our solid number-two runner."

North Ridge seventh-grader Kahlil Spears turned in another good finish at the varsity level. Placing 13th with a time of 18:29.6. Teammate Lincoln Antikainen wasn't far behind, clocking a time of 19:03.2, good enough for 20th.

The girls won despite the absence of last year's league champion Evelyn Brodeen,

who has been nursing an injury for several weeks. In her stead, eighth-grader Zoey Burckhardt came to the fore with a third-place finish in a time of 20:35.

"Zoey has stepped into the number one spot with the loss of Evelyn. Zoey has done an excellent job taking on that role," Polson said.

Addison Burckhardt finished sixth with a time of 21:19.2. Tatum Barto slipped in at 12th with a time of 22:20.9

to round out the North Woods contribution to the Panthers' victory.

"Both teams did exactly what they needed to do to win the conference titles," Polson said. "It truly is a team effort when you have to rely on five of your seven runners to get the job done. The course we raced at is always a very challenging course and our kids handled it well in rainy muddy conditions."

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

added six kills, while junior Clare Thomas added five kills along with a game-high 13 digs.

Penke added four digs and five ace serves, while Rechichi posted four digs on the night. Freshman Charlotte Hegman added three kills and six digs, while sophomore Saide Rechichi posted six digs. Senior setter

Sarah Visser tallied 28 assists and four digs.

It was more of the same during Monday's contest in Grand Marais as Rechichi tallied 14 kills while Penke added ten as the Wolves easily outpaced the Vikings 25-12, 25-11, and 25-7. Thomas and Kallberg tallied five kills apiece, while

Kallberg led the backcourt action with 13 digs and Thomas added eight along with five ace serves. Rechichi added nine digs, while Penke posted eight. Sarah Visser added ten digs along with 36 set assists.

The front four combined for 38 kills last Thursday when the Wolves hosted Nashwauk-Ke-

watin and sent the Spartans home with a spanking, 25-16, 25-13, and 25-6. Showing machine-like efficiency, the Wolves displayed why they're again the odds-on favorite to win the section for a second year in a row.

Rechichi led with 13 kills, while Kallberg added nine and Penke and Thomas posted eight

apiece. Backcourt stats were well-distributed as seven players combined for 39 digs. Penke led with nine, while Kallberg posted eight, and sophomore Sadie Rechichi added six. Freshman Charlotte Hegman posted five digs and five ace serves. Visser added 33 assists.

COUNTY SCHOOLS

# School board backtracks on hiring decision for counselor

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- In an about-face from its September regular meeting, the ISD 2142 school board approved the hiring of retired counselor Joan Kjorsvig-Beans to a part-time position at Northeast Range in a special meeting called to address the issue.

The recommendation to hire Kjorsvig-Beans was opposed by board member Chris Koivisto at the board's Sept. 26 meeting, and she was not hired after the board failed to make a motion for approval.

"I believe that retire-

ment in that position set us up to make some positive shifts to better support our students' needs in our changing environment," Koivisto said at that meeting. Koivisto had also argued that NER deserved to have a full-time counselor due to the trend of increasing mental health needs among students.

But with Koivisto absent from the Oct. 4 special meeting, Superintendent Reggie Engebritson lobbied the board to change their decision.

"We have a dean of students (Rachael Thom) who was working on her counseling degree, but she needs to work with a licensed counselor to get her intern hours in.

So, the plan has been that Joan would train her and (Thom would) spend this year learning what it's like to be a counselor, and Rachel will also be doing some counseling duties under the supervision of Joan. If this isn't approved, then I don't have a counselor, and I don't have anybody to supervise Rachel."

Engebritson noted that the probationary position Kjorsvig-Beans would fill would be terminated in the spring and the counselor position would be opened up for applicants, with the hope that Thom would apply for the position, although she is under no obligation to do so. It was noted that the

position would be open to anyone with the appropriate qualifications.

Board chair Pat Christensen referred back to Koivisto's concerns when he questioned the advisability of having a past counselor with a history of "some difficulties" being put in a supervisory training role for Thom, and asked for assurance that the situation would be adequately monitored. Engebritson said there was somebody who would do that, and that Thom will also have broader learning opportunities through a professional learning community of counselors that meets every Wednesday and through possible shadowing opportunities

at other district schools.

The board voted to approve the appointment of Kjorsvig-Beans to the part-time position.

In a separate working session after the special meeting, board members learned that the district's director of human resources, Meredith Carter, had resigned to take another position. Engebritson said she wanted the board to be aware of the vacancy so that they would not be surprised if a hiring recommendation came before them at the October business meeting. Engebritson said that they already had an applicant they were planning to interview.

Board member Bob

Larson noted the district's budget concerns and asked if vacancies such as this were evaluated by administration to determine if there are any staffing alternatives that might result in some savings. Engebritson replied in the affirmative, and said that another position vacancy that had been split between human resources and payroll. The human resources portion of that position will be eliminated and will be filled on a half-time basis to provide payroll support, Engebritson said.

# Ely and trails group get IRRR funding

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- An Ely housing project and small trails in the North Country will benefit from action taken by the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board on Tuesday.

Board members approved a \$108,000 grant that will partially fund infrastructure and site work for the \$1.22 million Voyageur North Outfitters housing project. The proposed five rental cabins and three fully electric RV sites can serve workforce, tourism, or student hous-

ing needs. The board noted that the project is projected to create two permanent jobs and eight construction jobs.

A regional trails grant of \$100,000 was awarded to the Iron Range Tourism Bureau for small grants managed through the Northern St. Louis County Trails Task Force. The award can fund ten grants at a maximum of \$10,000 each, and matching funds are required. Eligible projects include trail upgrades and construction, equipment purchases, trail amenities, trail planning and other projects that connect people with the outdoors. Prior IRRRB

grants have funded 48 local trails projects since 2020.

Task force members represent land managers from the Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, and St. Louis County, as well as clubs and user groups including ATV, snowmobiling, road cycling, mountain bike, hiking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding.

## Obituaries and Death Notices

### Lucille Y. Bush

Lucille Yvonne "Lucy" Nevala Bush, 74, of Cook, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023. The family would like to thank all who showed compassion and care to Lucy through her tough journey. Special thanks to the Cook Care Center for taking care of the whole family. A celebration of life will be held at the South Switch in Angora on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 1-3 p.m. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to Angel Fund, PO Box 114, Hibbing, MN 55746. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her loving partner, Rich Holm; fur baby, Pearl; son, Phillip; sisters, Kathleen (Leroy) and Marie (Gary); and nieces and nephews.

### Ronald A. Anderson

Ronald Arthur Anderson, 82, of Babbitt, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023, at Ely-Bloomsen Community Hospital. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 2-6 p.m. at the Hide Away Bar and Supper Club in Babbitt. Interment will be at a later date. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his children, Brenda (Mike Thielen) Hebl of Embarras, Douglas Anderson of Julian, N.C., and Sue (Rod) Meier of Babbitt; grandchildren, Tyrel (Amber) Hebl, Sarah (Kyle) Lamppa, Charlie (Megan) Anderson, Anthony Anderson, Cierra (Scott) Brelie, Jason (Daniela) Meier and Jared (DeeDee) Meier; 14 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Shirley Lambert; Phil Hebl; special friends, Steve Nelson and Harvey Wills; and many other friends too numerous to mention.

### Eileen Bentley

Eileen Oquist Bentley, 87, of Babbitt, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023, at her residence. Eileen's daughters are honoring her request that no services be held at this time. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her husband, Orville Ray Bentley; sister, Violet Maki; daughters, Debbie (Jeff) McGraw, Vicky Slining, Dawn (Joe) McKennedy and Joan (Don) Swartz; grandchildren, Jill Anzinger (Chad Lockey), Brenda (Joe) Carlan, Sean (Jessica Dunn) McDonald, Patrick (Summer) McDonald, Donald (Briita) Noyes Swartz, Samantha (Joe) Roarty, Lacey (Logan) Murphy and Larry Powers; 11 great-grandchildren; and many more cousins, nieces and nephews.

### Gerald Fuhrmann

Gerald Fuhrmann, 83, of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023, at Carefree Living in Ely. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

### Betty Erickson

Betty Erickson, 80, of Ely, passed away at Boundary Waters Care Center on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

### Sharon Anderson

Sharon Anderson, 81, of Ely, passed away at Carefree Living in Ely on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

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# Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

## FRESHWATER WONDERS

### Bryozoans bring an other-wordly feel to Minnesota lakes

They may have an ick factor, but they're a sign of healthy water

by CATIE CLARK  
Ely Editor

FALLLAKE- If the strange blob that Paul Pelkola found on his Fall Lake boat lift had been green instead of brown, it could have been straight out of "The Attack of the Green Slime," one of the most famous bad science fiction films ever made.

Yet what Pelkola found on his boat lift was not an alien from outer space, but rather a colony of simple invertebrate aquatic animals known as bryozoans of the species *Pectinatella magnifica*.

While they may look other-world-

ly, bryozoans of this species are a ubiquitous resident of Minnesota's freshwater lakes and rivers, where they frequently form slimy-looking colonies in shallow waters, growing on submerged logs or branches and the underwater portions of docks, boathouses, moorings, boat bottoms, and other man-made structures in the water. Bryozoan colonies can also float freely, though this is less common.

Pelkola recently posted his picture of his bryozoan colony on the "What's Up, Ely?" Facebook group, wondering what his slime could be. The identity of the gooey-looking

**Right: Ely-area resident Paul Pelkola found this gooey brown colony of bryozoans growing on his boat lift last weekend.**

photo by P. Pelkola

lifeform was quickly revealed, along with one commenter posting, "I will not ever swim again!"

#### The life of a blob

One bryozoan is called a zooid (pronounced "ZOH-id"). These tiny animals get together in the warm part of the year to form complex

See BLOBS...pg. 5B



## WINTER WEATHER?

# OUTLOOK UNCERTAIN

While el Niño brings milder conditions on average, effects are highly variable

REGIONAL— Seasonal weather forecasting here in the North Country is far from an exact science, and that goes double under an el Niño weather pattern like the one currently taking shape in the Pacific Ocean. That's according to meteorologists with the National Weather Service office in Duluth, who spoke to area media about the upcoming winter's weather during a Monday workshop.

The el Niño is a warm upwelling in the eastern Pacific that typically affects winter weather across North America, how significantly is often dependent on the strength of the warming associated with the el Niño. This year's el Niño is setting up to be a strong one, with a 30 percent chance that it will be classified as "very strong," according to the NWS meteorologists.

While el Niños typically bring greater chances for warm air intrusions to the lower 48, the North Country is often close to the boundary between the warm air—which tends to dominate western North America during an el Niño—and the cooler air it typically brings to the northeastern U.S. And that means slight variations in temperatures and storm directions can make a big difference in the winter weather we actually experience here in northeastern Minnesota.

"No two el Niños are the same," said Ketzle Levens, a meteorologist with the National

### El Niño: What Can We Expect?

Strong El Niño Expected

#### Overview

- Typical Impacts for the Northland:
  - ◆ Greater chance for warm air intrusions - does not mean cold air outbreaks are not possible!
  - ◆ Slight chance for less precipitation, but this can be very dependent on El Niño strength and other calculations.
- No two El Niños are the same, just the last 5 El Niños were all very different!
  - ◆ "The influence of El Niño on U.S. winter climate is a matter of probability, not certainty." - climate.gov
- Can be highly influenced by other shorter term teleconnections.
  - ◆ These are predicted on shorter timescales and will come into better focus within several weeks of an event, rather than months.

#### El Niño Favored Through This Winter

Northland on the edge of typical impacts - can create variability

#### El Niño Departure from Normal (Duluth, MN)

Year (strength)	DJF Temps	DJF Precip	DJF Snowfall
2018-2019 (weak)	-0.7"	+1.05"	+16.2"
2015-2016 (v. strong)	+4.8"	+2.18"	-0.6"
2014-2015 (weak)	-0.9"	-1.30"	-27.0"
2009-2010 (strong)	-1.2"	+1.00"	+6.1"
2006-2007 (weak)	+1.1"	-0.49"	-16.1"
All El Niños (27)	-0.4"	-0.24"	-9.3"

Weather Service office in Duluth.

In general, said Levens, el Niño patterns create a slightly higher likelihood of a warmer and drier winter than average, although recent history has shown a remarkable degree of variability depending on the year.

The most recent el Niño, experienced in the winter of 2018-19, was categorized as weak, although its effects were quite pronounced, with significantly higher (16.2 inches above average) snowfall and an average Dec.-Feb. temperature that was 0.7 degrees colder than normal. The weak 2014-15 el Niño also brought slightly colder

temperatures as well one of our driest winters in recent memory, with total snowfall a full 27 inches below normal. The lack of snowfall that winter prompted an outbreak of frozen water and sewer lines in many parts of the region.

By contrast, a very strong el Niño in 2015-16 brought an exceptionally warm and wet winter, even as total snowfall was below average since an almost unprecedented amount of precipitation fell as rain. The temperature for the Dec.-Feb. period averaged a whopping 4.8 degrees above average.

By contrast, the strong el Niño experienced in 2009-10

brought colder than average temperatures and slightly above-average snowfall.

The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center is betting on a warmer and drier winter for much of the northern tier of the U.S., with its Dec.-Feb. forecast showing a strong likelihood of above normal temperatures and a less pronounced chance of below normal precipitation.

Levens noted, however, that such long-term forecasts are based on probabilities and are far from certainties. When it comes to el Niños in northeastern

See WINTER...pg. 5B

## NATURAL HISTORY

### White Pine

The Natural and Human History of a Foundational American Tree

John Pastor



## The white pine's remarkable legacy in America

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Earlier this week, PBS aired a two-part Ken Burns series, "The American Buffalo," that recounted the senseless and tragic destruction of an iconic North American species that once dominated vast swaths of the continent. It wasn't the first time that rapacious Europeans wiped away the natural abundance and beauty that had been the honored and protected birthright of native North Americans for millennia.

In his new book, "White Pine, the Natural and Human History of a Foundational American Tree," UMD professor emeritus John Pastor provides a fascinating and equally tragic story of the loss of the once-vast forests of white pine that spread from Maine to the prairie edge in northern Minnesota. As with the buffalo, it was the same genetic lust for monetary wealth and a worldview that saw the natural world as nothing more than a target for plunder, that drove the destruction of the original white pine forests and left virtually nothing but the occasional "Lost 40" remaining of an ecosystem that once stretched for thousands of miles.

While Pastor tells that story, he doesn't dwell on it since there is so much more to know about this remarkable tree. Pastor, an ecologist who focused his research and teaching on the natural history and ecology of northern ecosystems, offers any number of insights into the white pine and its role in world history. The white pine's strength, massive size when mature, and

See WHITE PINE...pg. 5B



COLORS OF THE SEASON



Golden aspen glisten in the sun on Jasper Peak on Tuesday, almost two weeks later than their normal early October peak.

photo by M. Helmlinger

WHITE PINE...Continued from page 4B

supple wood made this tree the most highly-desired of all for the creation of the ship's masts that powered the British Navy of the 1600s and 1700s. It was the trade in masts, which the British needed by the thousands, that became one of the early American industries and began the centuries of exploitation of the white pine that finally came to an end with the cutting of the last of the original white forests in northern Minnesota by the 1920s.

The destruction of the white pine had devastating consequences for the wild creatures that made their homes in these once-complex ecosystems. It also attracted the growing concern of those Americans who recognized what was being lost in the mad rush to exploit this vast natural resource. People like George Perkins Marsh, the author of "Man and Nature," an 1864 classic that was as influential as Darwin's "On the Origin of the Species" in its day, and Henry David Thoreau of "Walden" fame, first planted the seeds of a young conservationist movement

that was ultimately taken up by many others. Their combined efforts came too late to save any but a smattering of the remaining herds of buffalo or a few scattered remnants of the original white pine forests, but they set the stage for an environmental movement that ultimately reshaped America's relationship with the natural world for the better.

Pastor includes other interesting insights that warrant a mention. While the white pine dominated the forests of northeastern North America as far west as Minnesota, the continent is home to a remarkably diverse array of pine species, certainly as compared to Europe and northern Asia, where forests are largely limited to a single pine species, the Scots pine.

Pastor highlights a now well-documented theory that posits that the 40-odd species of pine in North America originated as a result of the fluctuating climate during the Eocene, which began nearly 60 million years ago. The theory, developed by Constance

Millar, a conifer biologist with the U.S. Forest Service, proposed during warm, tropical periods during the Eocene, North American pines retreated to isolated refugia in the high altitudes of the young and then-growing Rocky Mountains. "The complex terrain of different mountain ranges and valleys isolated the populations from one another and prevented cross-pollination," writes Pastor. As the isolated populations adapted to their new environments, they grew apart from the genetics of their forbearers and

eventually became separate species.

As a cooler climate returned, the pines spread to lower elevations, with implications explained by Pastor. "Many previously isolated populations could no longer interbreed successfully and had therefore become separate species, while other interbred and formed new hybrids. Some of the hybrids were less able to compete with their parent species and went extinct, but others outcompeted their parent species and drove their parents to extinction or into marginal

habitats." With the return of more tropical conditions, the new assemblage of pines retreated to the high altitudes, only to continue their genetic alterations over time. As this pattern repeated, the genetic pools of North American pines became remarkably well shuffled, resulting in the many species we see today.

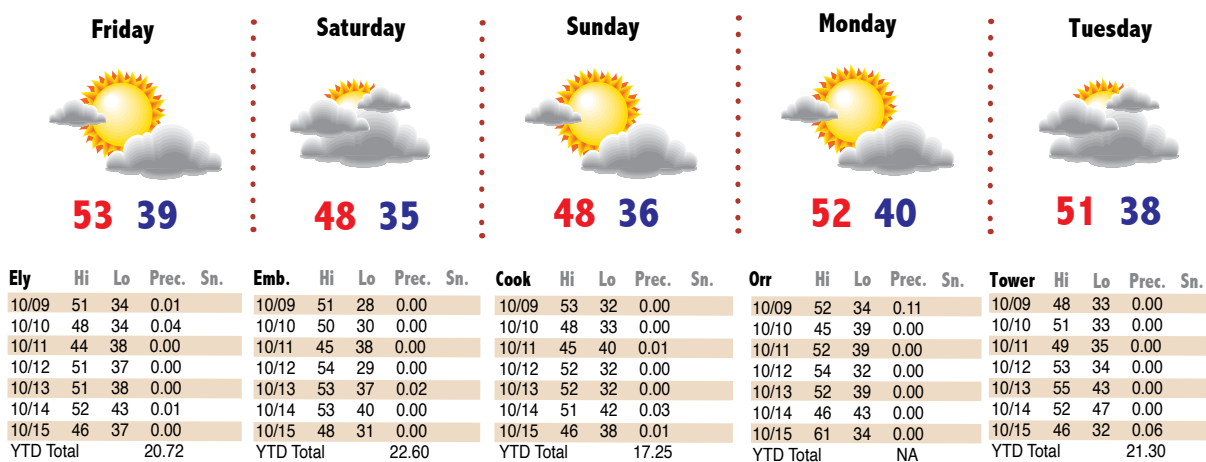
While the past shaped all North American pines, including the white pine, the future may have the greatest impact of all, Pastor notes. With climate change warming the planet at a pace that far exceeds the climate fluctuations of

the past, Pastor notes that the conditions required for white pine survival are likely to shift northward, bringing uncertainty as the tree is forced to compete with other species in new landscape. Once again, it is the activities of humans that threaten the white pine's future. Yet, as Pastor writes, research is already underway to find ways to ensure this remarkable tree's survival. That's a story yet to unfold.

Pastor's book is published by Island Press and is widely available at area bookstores or online.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



BLOBS...Continued from page 4B

colonies that resemble coral, however, each zooid lives inside a gelatinous tube that's made of mostly protein instead of the hard calcium carbonate exoskeleton of coral. It's the protein exoskeleton that gives a colony of Pectinatella magnifica its icky slimy appearance.

Bryozoans feed by filtering tiny algae and protozoa through a crown of tentacles. In turn, they are eaten by snails, caddisflies, midges, and small fish. They are a competitor

for living space with the invasive species of zebra mussels that plague North American freshwater lakes. So don't be tempted to clean that bryozoan colony from the undersides of your dock because they help combat the spread of the undesirable zebra mussel.

Colonies of Pectinatella magnifica start with just a few zooids and then grow during the summer, forming yellow-brown gelatinous blobs that can be as large as a basketball.

According to the

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, bryozoan colonies will release microscopic larval "stratoblasts" before they disintegrate with the onset of colder weather. The stratoblasts can survive winter conditions and will create new zooids come spring, starting the colony-building cycle for the upcoming year.

While the ick factor of a bryozoan colony in Minnesota waters can be substantial, the individual zooids seen through a microscope are actually

quite beautiful.

Healthy water

Bryozoans can make water cleaner by decreasing turbidity. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as filter-feeders, bryozoans also take in clay and silt along with their diet of algae and diatoms, so the clarity of the water where they live will actually improve. A single tiny zooid can filter as much as eight milliliters (one-quarter ounce) of water every day; and there are hundreds, even thou-

sands, in a single colony.

"In general, because they are filter feeders, bryozoans want high-quality water," DNR biologist Don Eaton told the Timberjay. He cautioned that was the general case, especially for bryozoans in the ocean.

Narrowing in on bryozoans in freshwater lakes, both the USFWS and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers both identify Pectinatella magnifica as an indicator of a healthy lake, though the "Field Guide to Fresh Water Invertebrates

of North America (Elsevier, 2001)" notes that freshwater bryozoans can tolerate acidic water conditions and eutrophication.

Bryozoans in freshwater are harmless and non-toxic for humans. They can create a nuisance when they occasionally clog water intakes. Bryozoan colonies can be safely detached from surfaces if necessary and set afloat to find a new home without harming most of the organisms living in the colony.

WINTER...Continued from page 4B

Minnesota, the impacts are highly variable.

Communicating to the public

Whatever winter weather arrives in the coming weeks and months,

the public can turn to www.weather.gov/dlh/weather-story at any time of day for the most up-to-date information on upcoming weather in northeastern Minnesota. During severe winter weather, the

forecasts are refined and updated every few hours, typically with detailed maps and timelines showing the extent and timing of the expected weather impacts.

## Learn To Skate

### at the ELY ICE ARENA

Sessions Begin:  
Saturday, November 11  
(For Ages 3 to 7)

- Wednesdays:  
6:15-6:45 PM &
- Saturdays :  
10:15-11 AM

Sessions teach the basics of skating to children.  
Register at: [Elyhockey.org](http://Elyhockey.org)

## ELY ICE ARENA

COME TRY HOCKEY FOR FREE  
NOVEMBER 4 • 10-11 AM

A GREAT CHANCE FOR YOUNG SKATERS  
TO GIVE HOCKEY A TRY!

FALL. GET UP.  
FALL. GET UP.

Hockey teaches kids a lot more than how to skate. Come Play Youth Hockey and experience more great moments in your child's life.

For ages 4 to 9 • Equipment provided, snacks & fun!  
Please Register in advance at: [TryHockeyForFree.com](http://TryHockeyForFree.com)



# EMPLOYMENT

## OPENINGS



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

- 1 FT Paraprofessional** (full-time, benefits eligible) High school diploma required.
- 1 Van Driver** (part time - 15-19 hours per week) Current Driver's License Required, CDL not required)

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

## 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*

**Information Specialist II - Attorney's Office**  
**\$19.25 - \$22.73 Hourly**  
**Apply by 10/30/23**

[www.stlouiscountymn.gov](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov)  
**or call 218-726-2422**

*Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 10/27*

**Heavy Equipment Mechanic Apprentice**  
**\$19.69 Hourly**  
**Apply by 10/26/23**

[www.stlouiscountymn.gov](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov)  
**or call 218-726-2422**

*Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 10/20*

**Residential Appraiser I - (Hibbing)**  
**\$26.55 - \$32.26 Hourly**  
**Apply by 10/25/23**

[www.stlouiscountymn.gov](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov)  
**or call 218-726-2422**

*Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 10/20*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### 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*

**Legal notices are online each week at [timberjay.com](http://timberjay.com) and at <https://www.mnpublicnotice.com/>**



## COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

Waschke Family Chevrolet is currently seeking an Auto Body Technician and an Automotive Detailer. Stop in and apply in person at 126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, or inquire by phone at 218-666-5901, or send resume to [Dgrecinger@waschke.com](mailto:Dgrecinger@waschke.com).

## WANTED!

Waschke Family Chevrolet is currently seeking an A/B technician. Prefer GM Certified but will train. Base pay plus incentives! Stop in and apply in person at 126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, or inquire by phone at 218-666-5901, or send resume to [Dgrecinger@waschke.com](mailto:Dgrecinger@waschke.com). tfr

## POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools 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 25, 2023; open until filled.

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

## Tribal Police Officer Closes: 11/14/2023

**Position Purpose:** A Police Officer ensures safety, security, and the preservation of life and property by maintaining law and order and enforcing laws and ordinances. Solves community problems by fostering open and continuous communication and cooperation between the community and law enforcement. Maintains confidentiality of all privileged information.

**Excellent Benefits:**

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

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

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3 & 10, 2023*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 707 NETT LAKE STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 707 (Nett Lake), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 7th day of November 2023 for the purpose of electing one school board member to fill vacancy in term expiring January 6, 2025.

**Instruction to Voters:**  
**To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this:**

**School Board Member  
Vote for One**

- Danelle Porter
- Write-in, if any

The polling place for this election and the precincts serviced by those polling places will be as follows:

NETT LAKE SCHOOL AT 13090 WESTLEY DRIVE, NETT LAKE, MN 55772

Any eligible voters residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place or combined polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will open at 8:00 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: October 9, 2023

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
 Danelle Porter, School District Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 20 & 27, 2023*



## OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

**Care Center**  
 FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$17.79/hr., \$1,500 sign-on bonus)  
 PT Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse (RN wage starting at \$36.22/hr; \$4,000 sign-on bonus. LPN wage starting at \$22.20/hr; \$4,000 sign-on bonus)

**Hospital/ER**  
 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.)

**Dietary**  
 FT & PT Dietary Aide/Cook

**Environmental Services**  
 PT & Casual (Environmental Tech I) Housekeeping & Laundry Aide  
 Casual Laundry Aide

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

**TO APPLY:**  
[www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/](http://www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/)

More Info? Contact Human Resources  
**218-666-6220**  
[humanresources@cookhospital.org](mailto:humanresources@cookhospital.org)

The Cook Hospital is an equal opportunity provider and employer

The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PERA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

## NORTH COUNTRY INN, ORR PT CARETAKER WANTED

As the new owners of the North Country Inn, we are looking for someone to look over the premises. There is a third-party property manager involved; however we need a day-to-day person on premises. Responsibilities would include (but not limited to): light lawn care, light maintenance, laundry and guest room cleaning upon check-out only. It would also include some time-to-time guest interaction or assistance; however, the North Country Inn will be mostly a remote/digital check-in and check-out process.

As part of this position, we're offering free rent and utilities. The live-in suite is a spacious living area with a large kitchen and bedroom. The position will be paid on a part-time basis.

You can find photographs of the North Country Inn at [www.northcountryinn.com](http://www.northcountryinn.com). If you're interested in learning more please email: Brandon Schuh at [bschuhep@gmail.com](mailto:bschuhep@gmail.com) or call 612-619-9296.

**Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!**



**Read It Here 753-2950**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE FIRST MEETING OF THE GREENWOOD PICKLEBALL COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the Greenwood Pickleball Committee will be held at the Greenwood Town Hall on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 6 p.m.

ALL CITIZENS WELCOME

PURPOSE: To bring forth recommendations to the Town Board for its assessment and/or action.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION WILL BE LIMITED TO:

1. Committee structure- chair, vice-chair, clerk
2. Committee decisions- use voting or consensus
3. Discussion on location and number of courts
4. Funding sources and fiduciary
5. Assignments for next meeting
6. Set date and time for next meeting

Dr. JoAnn Bassing, Town Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 20, 2023*

# Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

## DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

## AUTOMOTIVE

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

## BUILDING SERVICES

**EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC**  
"Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota In Your Home"  
Superior Quality  
• Plank Paneling  
• Trim  
• One-Of-A-Kind Moldings  
• Industrial Lumber  
218-744-1788  
8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

## HAIR CARE

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

## HOSPICE

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

## PET CREMATION

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

## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

## MARINE



Centrally Located On Lake Vermilion

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

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

## MARINE

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

## MOCCASIN POINT MARINE

4655 Moccasin Point Rd  
Lake Vermilion  
218-753-3319

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

moccasinpointmarine.com



Since 1926  
**Handberg's MARINA**  
& GENERAL STORE  
Boat Sales, Service & Storage  
YAMAHA MERCURY  
218-993-2214 • handbergs.com  
Crane Lake, MN

## WANTED

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

## GUITAR LESSONS

GUITAR LESSONS- Now accepting new students for private guitar lessons. Whether you are an absolute beginner or an intermediate player, we'll customize a lesson plan just for you! Located in Ely. Learn more at elyguitarlessons.com. Call/text 218-994-4466. 11/3

**ARONSON BOAT WORKS**  
LAKE VERMILION, TOWER  
Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169  
NEW Fall Hours:  
Mon-Sat: 8:30 AM-5 PM  
Sun: 9 AM-4 PM  
MERCURY LUND HONDA  
Storage • Complete Service • Sales

## HELP WANTED

BARTENDER WANTED at the Cook VFW. Pickup an application or call 218-666-0500. 10/20

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

# Advertise Here



One Low Price

Total Coverage

Call Today 218-753-2950  
Online at timberjay.com

## Super Crossword

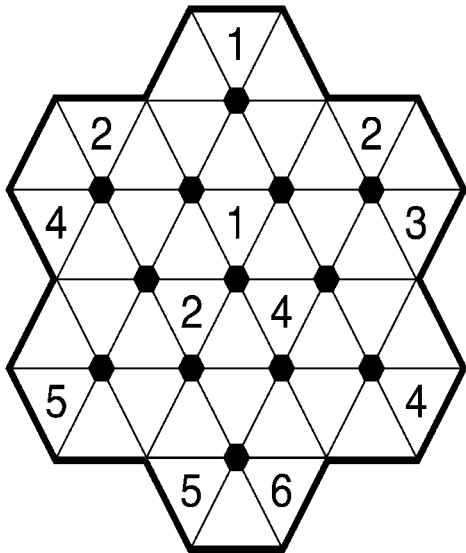
SIX BELOW

- ACROSS**
- 1 Airplane walkway
  - 6 Gentle pat
  - 9 River delta deposit
  - 13 Pixie or elf
  - 19 Unhesitating and fast
  - 21 Low-quality
  - 22 Binds with string
  - 23 Grew older with contentment and dignity
  - 25 Very ardent
  - 26 Fluffy scarf
  - 27 Wiggly fishes
  - 28 Perennially popular hymn
  - 30 Makes a leg warmer, e.g.
  - 32 Plow beasts
  - 33 "— -Pan" (James Clavell novel)
  - 34 Shouts of discovery
  - 35 Is wearing
  - 37 Kept posted
  - 39 Hair salon job
  - 41 Growth theory subj.
  - 42 Accumulate
  - 44 Hdqrs. where officers work
  - 46 Red-carpet-walking type
  - 50 Liquid filling la mer
  - 51 Fend off
  - 52 Title detective of 1970s TV
  - 55 Give the boot
  - 56 Prepared to do some grilling
  - 58 Tier
  - 59 "I'm not that impressed"
  - 60 Egg-shaped
  - 61 Musical ornaments
  - 64 Place to play pool or table tennis
  - 66 Do the task flawlessly
  - 69 Alternative to a 401(k)
  - 71 Hogs' home
  - 72 Eye-irritating cleanser
  - 74 1963 Johnny Cash smash
  - 76 Gush forth
  - 77 Be in arrears
  - 79 U.S. med. research agcy.
  - 80 Final toast of a meal
  - 84 In the style of
  - 85 Law-of-motion subject
  - 87 Glistened
  - 88 Historic span
  - 89 Slowly, to a maestro
  - 91 Island setting
  - 92 "I love you," in Spanish
  - 93 Course of action
  - 94 Hip about
  - 96 Enter quickly
  - 99 Film spools
  - 100 Pupil's place
  - 103 Very big bird
  - 105 Domino spots
  - 106 Unsullied places
  - 108 Complete disaster, in slang
  - 111 Spinner in a compass
  - 112 Spinner in a kid's room
  - 115 Surround with a nimbus
  - 116 1990s sitcom ... and what literally appears six times in this puzzle
  - 119 Add to the mix, maybe
  - 120 British noble
  - 121 Prayed before partaking
  - 122 Pole carvings
  - 123 Eye irritation
  - 124 Ovine female
  - 125 Sun-related
  - 5 Enter by sidling
  - 6 Watch faces
  - 7 Missile paths
  - 8 97-Down insect
  - 9 Foamed up
  - 10 Honolulu palace name
  - 11 Amusement, to texters
  - 12 "Give this a whirl"
  - 13 Low-end cigar
  - 14 Radar sound
  - 15 Put a new border around
  - 16 Basketball great — Thomas
  - 17 Mozart's "Rondo Alla —"
  - 18 Fencing blades
  - 20 Get in a stew
  - 24 Sends via phone line
  - 29 Streaming music service
  - 31 Prefix with disclosure
  - 32 Give the boot
  - 35 Boot part
  - 36 Brazilian palm berry
  - 37 Line of work
  - 38 "Morning Edition" ailer
  - 40 HDTV maker
  - 42 Pilot's skill
  - 43 Old Cougar carmaker, in brief
  - 45 FDR and HST's party
  - 47 Volcanic outflows
  - 48 Praise heavily
  - 49 Stomach
  - 51 Decongestant brand
  - 52 Gulf of — (arm of the Baltic)
  - 53 Just free of the bottom, as an anchor
  - 54 Film for which Holly Hunter won an Oscar
  - 57 Luminous
  - 58 Spiral-shaped pasta
  - 60 "Well, golly!"
  - 62 Hide-hair link
  - 63 "No seats left" abbr.
  - 65 "Odyssey" temptress
  - 66 Like twangy voices
  - 67 Adequate
  - 68 "That is ..."
  - 70 Warm blanket
  - 73 Jaw-dropping
  - 75 As of
  - 78 Prior to, in verse
  - 81 Heavenly
  - 82 River of Russia
  - 83 Cooking vessels
  - 85 Tiny particle
  - 86 Road gunk
  - 87 Six, in Seville
  - 90 As surplus
  - 92 Plains tent
  - 93 Hogs' home
  - 95 Wyoming mountains
  - 97 Collection of hives
  - 98 Round shape
  - 99 Corp. shuffles
  - 100 "That is ...," to Caesar
  - 101 Head for hurriedly
  - 102 Cry to a battlefield medic
  - 104 Impulses
  - 106 Grammy winner
  - 107 Scott in an 1857 court case
  - 109 Slender
  - 110 Brothers' group, in brief
  - 111 Chew like a beaver
  - 113 Kind of whale
  - 114 British noble
  - 117 Operate
  - 118 Bushy hairdo, for short

## 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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## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19				20				21				22							
23								24				25							
26				27				28				29							
		30	31					32				33				34			
35	36							37				38			39	40			
41					42	43						44	45			46	47	48	49
50					51							52	53				54		55
56					57							58					59		60
					61							62					63	64	65
66	67	68						69									70		71
72								73									74		75
76								77									78		79
84								85									86		87
89								90									91		92
								94									95		96
100	101	102						103									104		105
108								109									110		111
115																	116		117
119																	120		121
122																	123		124
																	125		

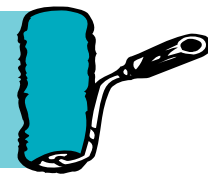
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT

A trailer was recovered from Lake Vermilion, March 2023. To identify, claim, and pay recovery fee, call the Breitung Police Department at 218-753-6660.

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 20, 27 & Nov. 3, 2023

### STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No. 69VI-PR-23-150

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

Estate of Reynolds L. Christensen (aka Reynolds Christensen), Decedent

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will, and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and if no objections or claims are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

It is Ordered and Notice is now given that the Petition will be heard on November 13, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., by this Court at 300 5th Av. S, Virginia MN 55792, Minnesota.\* This hearing will be held remotely via Zoom Technology.

Notice shall be given to all interested persons (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-204.

Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

BY THE COURT  
Andrew R. Peterson  
Judge of District Court  
Amy Turnquist  
Court Administrator  
Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

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

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 20 & 27, 2023

### STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No. 69VI-PR-23-163

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT OR DISTRIBUTION AND FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL, EXEMPT ESTATE

Estate of Marlene Elaine Kovich, (aka Marlene Kovich), Decedent

Notice is given that a petition has been filed requesting that the Estate assets be summarily assigned. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and if no objections or claims are filed or raised, the Court may issue a decree distributing or assigning the Estate's assets. \*This hearing will be held remotely via Zoom Technology.

It is Ordered and Notice is now given that the Petition will be heard on November 13, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., by this Court at 300 5th Av. S, Virginia MN 55792, Minnesota.

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

BY THE COURT  
Andrew R. Peterson  
Judge of District Court  
Amy Turnquist  
Court Administrator  
Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

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

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 20 & 27, 2023

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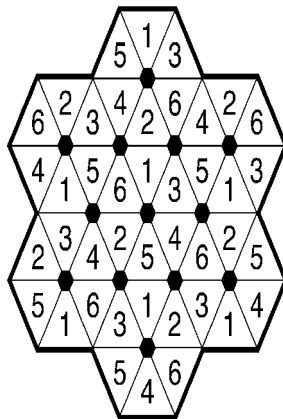
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## SNOWFLAKES

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

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