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The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989

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\$1⁵⁰

PUBLIC SAFETY

Hauschild roundtable highlights EMS challenges

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

SUDAN- The challenges facing rural EMS were the focus of a roundtable discussion here last Thursday that brought nearly three dozen local stakeholders and interested community members together to talk about possible solutions with state Sen. Grant Hauschild.

The meeting was

part of Hauschild's newly-announced "Northland Strong" initiative, a plan to focus on outreach and policies that create strong families, safe communities, outdoor heritage, innovative economies, and a state that works, according to a press statement.

Ambulance service directors and volunteers, as well as city officials and other involved individuals from Tower, Ely, Babbitt,

Cook, Orr, Hoyt Lakes, and St. Louis County were invited to participate.

"There is broad agreement that what is happening now is not working," said RAMS Executive Director Paul Peltier, who helped moderate the discussion. "That is why we are here."

"EMS was one of the top two issues I heard when I was campaigning," Hauschild told the group. "And I know if we are going

Right: Cook Mayor Harold Johnston speaks with Sen. Grant Hauschild.

photo by J. Summit

to get things done, I need to learn as much as I can from the people who deal with these issues every day."

Hauschild said he is seeing that one of the more effective ways to advocate in the Legislature is to create

See...EMS pg.9



FAMILY FUN

Pumpkin season

Annual carving party draws a big crowd

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- With over 200 pumpkins spread in piles inside the Herb Lamppa Civic Center here, there was no shortage of work to do for the families who attended this year's pumpkin carving party on Sunday.

But it was all smiles and a lot of laughter as children and parents and grandparents worked on creating these most iconic of Halloween decorations. Pumpkin carvers ranged

Above: Cousins Zaija Schroeder and Lily Russell work side-by-side.

Right: Hux Broten seems determined as he cuts the top off a pumpkin.

photos by J. Summit

from toddlers to early teens, with plenty of adults lending a helping hand.

This was the second annual pumpkin carving party, organized by Valerie Turnbull, with funding and

See...PUMPKINS pg. 11



TRAGEDY

Tower woman killed in crash on Hwy. 169

David Kevin Medicine faces multiple charges in the death

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

WUORI – A 61-year-old Tower woman, who was the passenger in a vehicle driven by an intoxicated driver, was killed here last Saturday evening when the 2013 Chevy Impala she was riding in rear-ended a pickup truck at the site of a traffic stoppage at the junction of Hwy. 169 and Fireweed Rd.

Cathy M. Johnson was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash, which left several others with non-life-threatening injuries.

David Kevin Medicine, age 38, of Virginia, is being held without bail in the St. Louis County Jail, facing four counts in the wake of the accident, including two separate counts of criminal vehicular homicide. Both felony charges carry a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and a \$20,000 fine, or both. Medicine also faces two gross misdemeanor counts for criminal vehicular operation under the influence of a controlled substance.

Medicine, whose license was

See...CRASH pg. 9



David Medicine

NEW VENTURES

Musky and a good deed lead to Cook childcare

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK- Thanks to the serendipitous entanglement of Missouri nice with Minnesota nice, Cook has a new option for

Left: As Lora Klancher looks on, Lyra Alfredson practices her chalk drawing skills at the easel. photo by D. Colburn

quality childcare.

Albany, Mo., native Lora Klancher, the wife of Wakemup Fishing Guide Service owner Paul Klancher, recently opened Live and Learn with Lora in the couple's new home at 8884 Beatty Rd., just west of Beatty Town Hall.

But if not for an act of Missouri nice on the part of Lora, she and Paul might never have

met and Live and Learn with Lora might never have been.

While Klancher has a degree in graphic design and spent 20 years as a professional photographer, and also has 13 years of childcare experience, she loves the outdoors, and in 2019 she was working as a campground host at Mozingo Lake Recreation Park in northwest Missouri.

"While I was doing pho-

tography it was a great way to be able to interact and explore," she said.

During that time, Klancher and her daughter Anna befriended an elderly fisherman who frequented the lake.

"We called him Mr. Lindsay," Klancher said. "He

See...CHILDCARE pg. 10



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Community notices



Auxiliary members presenting: Judy Thon, Lisa Kappenman, John Kappenman; **Supervisors:** Kurt Soderberg, Frank Sherman, Jackie Monahan-Junek, Dave Chiabotti and Rich Floyd

Fundraising efforts result in big check for Eagles Nest Fire department

EAGLES NEST TWP- On Wednesday Oct. 18, the Eagles Nest Fire and EMS Auxiliary, a nonprofit 501(c)(3), presented a check for \$10,000 to the Eagles Nest Fire Department at the Township Board meeting.

This will be the culmination of several fund-raising activities over the past year. Retired ENFD Chief and ENFEA Chair, Larry McCray, said “this is a continuation of fund-raising efforts started by the Eagles Nest Fireflies, in which they gave thousands of dollars to ENFD.” The ENFD Fireflies disbanded in 2021. The ENFD Auxiliary picked up where the Fireflies left off and have continued to raise funds to support ENFD.

The Eagles Nest Fire and EMS Auxiliary held numerous events over the past year to raise money to support the Eagles Nest Fire Department with new equipment they normally would not be able to afford. McCray added, “we are committed to supporting the Eagles Nest Fire Department by holding events that raise the money necessary to keep a small-town department running.”

War of the Worlds comes to Giants Ridge

BIWABIK- The classic radio drama “War of the Worlds” will be presented as a dinner theater at Giants Ridge on Oct. 27 and 28. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the shows will start at 6 p.m. each evening. Cash bar opens at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets for the show are \$60. Dinner choices include hickory smoked prime rib, fresh Atlantic salmon or vegetable lo mein (gluten free noodles on request.)

The radio play, originally broadcast by Orson Welles on Oct. 30, 1938, will be presented by Stages of the Range Players, a nomadic theater group that tours across the Iron Range.

Under the direction of Pete Pellinen, the style of the performance and the players will be reenacted as it was in 1938. Based on the H.G. Wells novel, it was originally broadcast over the CBS Radio Network. Cast members include: Nina Kamps, Jerry Newton, Tavia Melhus, Mary Lou Conaway, Maria Koschak, Larry Leppala, and Karel Winkelar.

For ticket information, visit <https://www.onthestagetickets/stages-of-the-range-players>. For more information, contact Pete at 218-780-1264.

Community Connect event coming to Iron Trails Motor Event Center Nov. 1

VIRGINIA - The public is invited to Community Connect Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Iron Trails Motor Event Center. Attendees can check out resources that include: food and clothing, hair trimming, warrant resolution, housing resources, children and family services, vaccine and disease education, health insurance information and much more.

Free transportation to the event is being provided by Arrowhead Transit. This event is made possible by St. Louis County, Essentia Health, UCARE and the ITMEC.

Meeting of Lokka Tupa #1 Ladies of Kaleva scheduled for Nov. 6

VIRGINIA - Lokka Tupa #1, Ladies of Kaleva, will meet on Monday, Nov. 6. at noon at Kaleva Hall.

Sons of Norway Haarfager Lodge #40 meeting Thursday, Nov. 2 at 5:30 p.m.

VIRGINIA - The meeting will be held at City Hall and Wendy Christianson will present, “Cruise to Antarctica and South America. Serving Committee: Sue and Duane Gustafson and Arlene Jershe. Anyone interested in Norwegian culture and heritage is welcome to attend.

OF CONCERN

AAUW and EMPOWER address human trafficking at Oct. 31 Tuesday Group

ELY - The American Association of University Women (AAUW), Ely Branch, in collaboration with Ely EMPOWER invites community members to a presentation Tuesday, Oct. 31, from noon to 1 p.m. at The Grand Ely Lodge (400 Pioneer Road) to learn about human trafficking in Minnesota.

Mary Setterholm, AAUW public policy chairperson, said “for a number of years we have focused our work on issues of Indigenous justice as part of our “Awareness... Then Change” initiative designed to increase understanding, honor the heritage of the area, and to set the stage for supporting policy and social action to reduce risks and support the resilience of Indigenous woman and children. One significant issue for our native friends and family is human trafficking and as such, we are expanding our efforts locally with a multi-pronged approach to educating community members and making additional training and resources available to law enforcement, as well as health and hospitality providers.”

Setterholm said the human trafficking initiative will have a broad focus because the issue touches all ethnicities and genders. To kick off the promotion, Tatiana Bergum will speak at the Oct. 31 Tuesday Group gathering. The title of her speech is

“Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Minnesota.”

The presentation will address the myths about human trafficking, federal and state response to human trafficking and exploitation, terminology, data surrounding youth in MN, protective factors and resiliency, best practices, and prevention. Bergum said, “Data shows that youth in rural communities across Minnesota are experiencing exploitation at higher rates than those in metropolitan areas. It’s important for rural communities to understand this issue, and how to support survivors.”

Tatiana Bergum holds a bachelor’s degree in Social Work and Master of Arts in Leadership and Management. Most Recently Tatiana worked as a federal contractor with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP). She provided national training and technical assistance as part of OTIP’s Nation-



Bergum's upcoming presentation about human trafficking will be the topic of Tuesday Group.

al Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center. This includes working with state systems, organizations, and communities across the country who are working to counter human trafficking. Tatiana worked in Washington, D.C. for five years, doing policy and communications for a legislative nonprofit until she returned to Minnesota and shifted into the mental health field.

She worked as a mental health practitioner and program coordinator where she supported youth who experienced human trafficking and exploitation across Minnesota. She has extensive experience in community planning and collaboration, nonprofit strategy, and state legislative and policy work around the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of youth and children. She is passionate about youth development, community outreach, and innovative approaches to issues that affect marginalized or underserved populations.

HALLOWEEN EVENTS

Trick-or-Treat on Tower’s 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 in Tower on Oct. 31

TOWER- Plans are also underway for the Tower Fire Department’s Children’s Halloween Party on Oct. 31. 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.

Trunk-or-Treat at Cook Community Center

COOK- Cook Lions and Cook VFW are hosting Trunk-or-Treat at Cook Community Center from 4-6 p.m. on Oct. 31. Food, prizes, candy, and a visit from Cook’s Country Connection animals.

Nett Lake Halloween Carnival

NETT LAKE - Halloween carnival Oct. 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Nett Lake RTG building.

Vermilion Halloween Carnival

VERMILION RES. - The Bois Forte Halloween Carnival, Nov. 2, 5:30-7:30 p.m., in the Wellness Center gym.

Ely Halloween Party and Parade on Oct. 28

ELY- By popular demand, the Halloween costume parade and party for kids PreK through fifth grade are back after the COVID hiatus. On Saturday, Oct. 28, the Ely Community Resource will hold a costume parade at Ely Carefree Living and the Boundary Waters Care Center, where the residents will be ready to greet the kids. Assemble at the south end of the Carefree Living Complex (closest to the corner of Pattison and 2nd).

Also on Oct. 28, the Ely Parent Teacher Organization will hold Halloween festivities from 3-6 p.m. at the school district campus, 600 E. Harvey St., in the new gym and commons area. Enter through Door No. 1 in the new addition. The party will feature games, bounce houses, prizes, cakewalk and pizza.

Ely 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. This is a fundraiser for Contented Critters, Ely’s no-kill animal shelter, which will be present at the event with animals for adoption.

Studio North Halloween Costumes and Crafts on Oct. 29

ELY- Studio North will hold a costumes and crafts fair for kids, PreK through second grade, on Sunday, Oct. 29, from 1-3 p.m., at its gymnasium and dance facility at 1610 Washington St. Admission is \$10 and includes crafts, music, treat bags, face painting, and a bounce house. Concessions will be avail-

able for purchase. Hayrides will also be available, weather permitting.

Halloween Bingo for Kids in Babbitt on Oct. 30

BABBITT- The Babbitt Public Library, 71 South Dr., will hold free Halloween Bingo for kids grades PreK-6, on Monday, Oct. 30, from 4-5:30 p.m., with treats and prizes. Costumes are encouraged.

Trunk-or-Treat in Ely

ELY- The annual Ely Trunk-or-Treat will be on Halloween, Tuesday, Oct. 31, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in Whiteside Park. For the safety of the participants, 7th Ave. will be closed between Sheridan and Harvey Streets.

Ely Library Trick-or-Treat

ELY- On Tuesday, Oct. 31, stop by the Ely Public Library library in your Halloween costume to get a Halloween gift, during regular library hours, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Halloween weekend nightlife

ELY/WINTON - The Winton Roadhouse is hosting live music and a Halloween costume contest on Friday, Oct. 27, starting at 7 p.m. The band is Van and the Free Candies. There is no charge for the event.

On Saturday, Oct. 28, the Kwazy Wabbit hosts a Halloween party and costume contest from 8 p.m. until closing time.

Also on Saturday, Zaverl’s Bar will host a Halloween party with live music starting at 7 p.m., featuring Minnesota musician and songwriter Justin Champa. There is no charge for this event.

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TRAILS

Lake Vermilion Trail facing development challenges

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Supporters seeking project takeover by regional rail authority

REGIONAL— The future of the proposed Lake Vermilion Trail is likely to hinge on a decision that could be made as early as next week. After more than a decade of effort but limited progress, the Friends of the Lake Vermilion Trail board is asking the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Rail Authority to assume responsibility for future planning and construction of the nearly 40-mile-long trail.

It may be the last best hope for the trail, but supporters say it's not the end of the road.

"This isn't people throwing their hands up," said Tim Johnson, of Cook, who chairs the Friends of the Lake Vermilion Trail board, which manages the organization as a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

"The consensus of the group is that this makes sense," said Johnson. "It's about who has the ability to get this done."

Johnson said the rail authority, which has overseen the planning, design, construction, and management of the 132-mile-long Mesabi Trail, has demonstrated its ability to undertake



a significant and sustained project in the region. Members of Johnson's board recently met with Mesabi Trail Director Bob Manzoline and deputy director Sarah Ciochetti to discuss the possibility of assuming authority for trail development. "They haven't agreed to it, but they

seem positive," said Johnson. "They've been very supportive of our efforts."

As envisioned by supporters, the Vermilion Trail could become a spur or extension of the Mesabi Trail, which would intersect in Tower, which is supposed to be the eastern terminus

of the Vermilion Trail.

Johnson said his organization would be willing to assume the maintenance responsibility for the trail once completed. "At this point, we wish we had some trail to maintain," he said.

Whether that's in the cards anytime soon is likely to hinge

on a decision by the rail authority board, which Manzoline said is scheduled to meet next Wednesday, Nov. 1. The five-member board is chaired by St. Louis County Commissioner Keith Nelson and includes fellow commissioners Mike Jurgovich and Patrick Boyle, along with Lake County commissioners Rick Goutermont and Jeremy Hurd.

Manzoline was non-committal on the idea of assuming authority for advancing the Lake Vermilion Trail, noting that the Mesabi Trail still has a few missing segments, including the segment from Wahlsten Rd. to Tower, to complete along with several spur requests already in line. That includes an extension from Aurora to Hoyt Lakes, from Ely to Winton, and a significantly longer requested extension from Grand Rapids to Deer River.

Manzoline said the Vermilion Trail would also require passage across tribal lands, which was an issue they didn't have to address during planning for the Mesabi Trail. "The biggest unknown is the tribal lands.

See TRAILS pg. 5

EMPLOYMENT

Superior National Forest looking for help

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Seeking students and recent graduates in forestry for full-time career positions

REGIONAL— The Superior National Forest wants you to apply for a job. The largest national forest in the eastern half of the United States is seeking to hire 25 entry-level technicians and foresters and interested persons can apply now for the open positions.

Positions are available throughout the forest, including at the Cook, Ely, Aurora, Tofte and Grand Marais offices as well as at the main office in Duluth. The forest service is also looking to add one experienced forester to its staff.

The application process

opened Oct. 24 and runs through Wednesday, Nov. 1. Applicants need to apply online via USAjobs.gov. Salary levels start at around \$33,700 for an entry level GS-04 forestry technician but come with solid benefits, including health insurance, vacation time, sick leave and paid holidays. These full-time positions are also a great way to get your foot in the door for a career in the U.S. Forest Service, which offers a wide range of opportunities for significant advancement and for working other parts of the country.

Potential applicants

are encouraged review the job announcement online carefully for deadlines and required information to include in your application. Start dates vary for employment.

Forestry technicians in timber and silviculture perform a variety of work to help the national forest meet goals for forest restoration, resiliency, and management. Duties are specific to each location and could include marking for timber sales, forest inventory, reforestation and stand improvement, timber sale boundary layout, and recreation and trails management.


These entry-level positions are for candidates with as little as one year of work experience or two years of college or vocational school.

If you think this opportunity might be for you, the Superior National Forest was scheduled to hold a virtual application workshop via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, Oct. 25, from 4-5:30 p.m. The session will be recorded and will be available for viewing at least through the application deadline.

The workshop will assist interested applicants by describing the vacan-


cies and duties, explaining how to apply, answering questions, and getting career advice. For a link to the workshop, along

with the meeting ID and Passcode, contact Renee Frahm at renee.frahm@usda.gov, or 218-626-4308.



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Orr-\$40,000 40 acres on the Shuster Rd. Nice rolling elevation on south part of property. **MLS#143084**

Have A Safe & Happy Halloween!



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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Creepy Crawlies

Learning to live with most insects is probably the best approach

Just in time for Halloween, there's a new poll out that shows that nearly one-in-three Americans are concerned about being bitten by blood-sucking pests. Of course, had they taken the poll in June here in the North Country, it would have been a lot higher, since blood-sucking pests pretty much rule the roost in these parts that time of year.

The poll is the kind that seems to fill our email inboxes here at the newspaper on a daily basis, as businesses or nonprofit organizations compete to generate the kind of timely, off-beat content that might get an editor to take a second look and possibly shine a little light on their activities.

In this case, it was the National Pest Management Association that was taking advantage of the spooky season to scare up some attention for their efforts to promote the pest control industry.

Most insects and spiders, of course, are benign, and they contribute to the world around us in a myriad of ways. What is far more frightening than a biting mosquito or black fly is the fact that the populations of most insects, including those, like pollinators, that are highly beneficial are falling rapidly through a combination of habitat loss, overuse of pesticides, and climate change.

Here in the North Country, we haven't experienced the huge declines in the numbers and diversity of our insect populations seen in other places, at least not yet. But insects are highly attuned to the conditions, cycles, and seasonal fluctuations in their environment and are among those organisms that can be devastated by rapid changes in climate.

At the same time, the warming temperatures we're experiencing here in Minnesota, is allowing some species

that formerly couldn't survive the cold of a Minnesota winter to gain a foothold here, and that's one of the scariest developments we've seen in recent years. In particular, the spread of black-legged and lone star ticks into the North Country has come with major ramifications for those who spend time in the woods, particularly in the fall. A bite from a black-legged tick, commonly known as a deer tick, is certainly something to fear, since they are a common carrier of Lyme Disease, a debilitating disease that can have life-changing consequences, particularly if it isn't diagnosed quickly. While fall is the season when most other biting pests in our region are absent or on the decline, it is actually one of the most active periods of the year for black-legged ticks, which remain a threat until our blanket of winter white arrives.

A bite from a lone star tick is known to cause a strange condition that renders sufferers allergic to red meat, so it's definitely something to avoid for those who enjoy the occasional hamburger or steak.

It's also a time of year when many insects are looking for warm and protected places to ride out the winter months, and that means many of them are hoping to spend the winter inside our houses. Many area residents have seen significant numbers of cluster flies, Asian tiger beetles—which look like lady bugs—and a wide assortment of other insect squatters, suddenly appear on windows and ceilings inside. While the National Pest Management Association is no doubt hoping you'll turn to a local pest control to address the problem, we'd argue that learning to live with them, and learning a little more about them, might be the best approach to your insect pest problem.



"I'VE COUNTED 5 VAMPIRES, 3 FRANKENSTEINS, 6 ZOMBIES, 2 JASONS, A FREDDY KRUEGER AND 23 TAYLOR SWIFTS!"

Ely library increasingly inaccessible

The *Timberjay's* story about library staff parking in the EV charging stations added one more thing to my list of frustrations with the Ely Public Library. Of course, it is very bad to leave threatening notes on vehicles and you should just talk to someone. But should you have to? It would be absurd for gas station workers to park at the pumps to reserve those spots for customers. It's not convenient for anyone. It will definitely decrease usage. Why would the library go through the work to get a great community resource and make it difficult to access?

During COVID, the library restructured its hours so it's not open on weekends. I'm sure that's very convenient for staff who no longer have to work one Saturday per month. But it's a barrier to access. My family lives in Soudan and my children go to school in Tower, if we were to visit the Ely library on a school night it would take up our entire evening. Visiting on a weekend is a much bet-

ter choice.

Weekend access at libraries is a very important resource for communities. The library provides a warm, safe place filled with access to knowledge and opportunities to create special family memories. Unfortunately, school-age children only have three and a half hours after a long day at school to make that happen. Ely students who are enrolled in after school activities or have working parents may also find it difficult to access the library.

Recently, the Ely library closed their indoor book return slot, because they wanted to use the space for craft storage. That's great for the Ely library staff, but for me it's another barrier. To return books in Ely, I now have to put my books on the ground, bend over or kneel at the outdoor slot, and put my books in one at a time. It's fine if you only have one book, if you have an able-body, or have a helper with you. But for me, with 15 children's books I have to return while my kids are in school, it's really a nuisance.

Lastly, at other ALS libraries I frequent, if I forget my card, the helpful staff will

look me up with a little information. I found out the hard way that the Ely Library has a policy that requires patrons to have their library card with them to check out books. When I drove 20 miles specifically to check out the second book of a series I found enrapturing I discovered that I didn't have my library card with me and soon found myself fighting back tears of frustration in the lobby. Thankfully, a kind gentleman saved my day and checked the book out for me.

I have been a lifetime Arrowhead Library System user and lover, I have so many fond memories from the library and I want my children to have the same. Since I started using the Ely library it seems to be a never-ending source of frustration instead. Yes, these are small grievances but put together they paint a picture of an unwelcoming place.

I encourage the Ely Public Library to start thinking from a patron's point of view to make library experiences and services more accessible and more enjoyable for all.

Stephanie Ukkola Soudan

COMMENTARY (HALLOWEEN-STYLE)

The effects of climate change on post-corporeal humans

REGIONAL-Climate change has been impacting many different people across the globe. Given the small but non-trivial population of post-corporeal humans in the Ely area, the *Timberjay* reached out to some of those residents last week for their perspective on how global warming has affected those commonly known as ghosts.



CATIE CLARK

We stopped by the former bowling alley on Camp St., long known for its post-corporeal human residents, and

spoke with the late Zora Slabodnik, the local chapter president of the American Post-Corporeal Entity Union (APCEU). Slabodnik has been at the former bowling alley since her passing away in 1913.

"Of course," Slabodnik remarked, "I still think of this place as the Ely Opera House. We used to go to variety shows featuring local talent when I was still living." She also described some of the unique

challenges with haunting the building.

"Monseignor Buh took up residence here after he died in 1922," Slabodnik said. "He was the Catholic priest in town for 21 years and he's always considered Ely his home; however, he suffers from displacement disfunction, a common affliction of many post-corporeal persons. He thinks he is currently still in Purgatory. No matter what we tell him, he just won't believe that Dante and Vergil are not in residence."

Other problems observed by Ely's post-corporeal resi-

See GHOSTS...pg. 5

COLUMNIST

Are we in need of new role models?

I love libraries because I can wander the aisles and just browse, inviting that unexpected book title to jump out at me. I've certainly browsed online retailers and the Arrowhead Library System, but it's not the same at all. Face-to-face with the bounty of books, I can audition them: Is it a good size for

reading in bed at night? Coffee table books, while beautiful, are just too awkward. Does the dust jacket blurb sound interesting?



BETTY FIRTH

How about the font style and size? My 20-20 vision is no more, and I refuse to struggle with difficult-to-read text styles. If the author

decided it's artsy to forego punctuation or capitalization, opting instead for a lot of dashes, that book isn't going home with me, regardless of how enlightening the content might be. Browsing the shelves, I also might choose a fondly remembered book that is worth a reread.

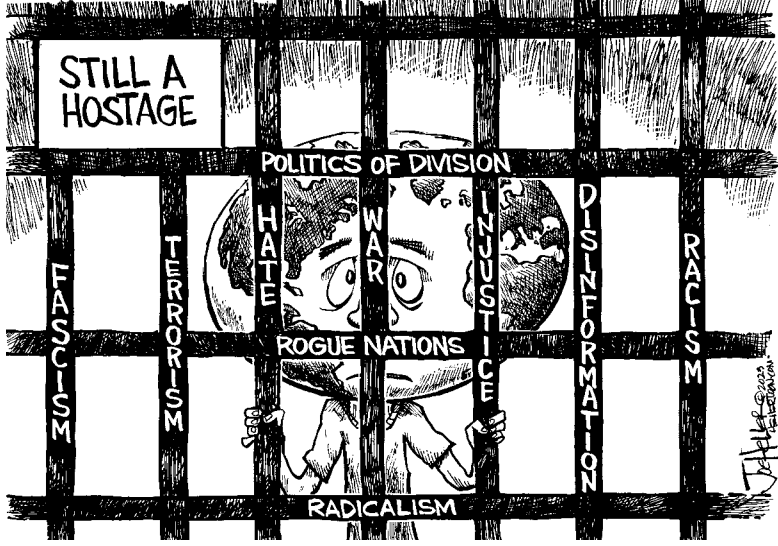
Without our beautiful library to roam in, I would never have read about Martha Stewart. As I was looking for a different biography, MAR-

THA, INC. grabbed my attention. I had always thought Martha was kind of a flake, showing how to set a table, add candles, and make silly crafty things that I thought people ought to be able to figure out on their own. However, she had become a recognizable first-name-only celebrity, with perhaps a bit of a challenge from Martha Washington, so I thought I should open my opinions and see what I could learn.

I was amazed at how this woman drove herself unceasingly, sleeping four hours a night and working the other twenty; how she created opportunities to promote herself and her products; and how she skillfully negotiated contract with chains such as K-Mart and large media outlets, always to her own benefit. She even structured the IPO when she took her multimedia company, MARTHA, INC, public in 1999, causing

Wall Street jaws to drop at her audacious timing and strategies. That move made her a billionaire, but she lost the title along with a lot of money when she was convicted of insider trading in 2004 and sentenced to five months in prison. She rarely socialized unless it benefitted her public image or her bottom line. A typical day could start at 4:00 a.m. feeding the goats and col-

See ROLE...pg. 5



Letters from Readers

The Iron Range can benefit from the fight against climate change

Many of us are concerned about climate change. Northeast Minnesota is home to the MN Northland Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby and to the Ely Climate Change Group. A recent combined meeting of these groups viewed and discussed the 24-minute video on opportunities for iron and steel in Minnesota made by CCL. You can watch it on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-4JyAWRuvsI>.

The manufacture of

steel contributes around seven percent of the world's greenhouse gases. Minnesota is the major source of iron ore in the U.S. and Minnesota exports its iron ore to other states, some in the form of taconite pellets and some in the form of direct reduction grade (DR grade) pellets. All the processing of these pellets into direct reduced iron (DRI) and finished steel occurs in the Rust Belt, with the jobs and associated "value added" going to other states (like Ohio).

A new and much cleaner way of making steel uses DR grade pellets and electric arc furnaces to produce direct reduced

iron using green hydrogen made with renewable energy. We are well situated to do this process here in northern Minnesota, right at the mine sites. We have the iron ore (no one else has this), we have access to large amounts of renewable energy (wind and hydropower), we have a well-developed transportation network, we have the water and the brown field sites ready for development and we have the labor force wanting good paying jobs. Minnesota was selected recently as one of the Department of Energy Hydrogen Hub locations. The demand for "green" steel continues to increase as people become

more concerned about climate change.

There can be side benefits to making DRI here. For example, Form Energy makes iron-air batteries designed to run for 100 hours for the management of renewable energy on the electric grid. These batteries need DRI. Xcel is planning to install these batteries (10MW, 1000MWh) at Becker (the Sherco site). Many more will be needed as the electric grid transitions from fossil fuels to wind and solar power. Form Energy is building a battery plant in West Virginia. They would find ideal conditions to build their next battery factory in Minnesota next to a DRI

plant.

Another application for the highly reactive DRI material is to decrease the sulfate in water discharges that inevitably come from the mining and production of iron. An inexpensive procedure that cleans discharge water has been developed in Babbitt by ClearWater BioLogics. DRI is essential for this.

National Renewable Energy Lab and MN NRRI research shows that Minnesota leads all other states in the most cost-effective development of these clean-energy and iron-based industries. Now is the time to push for these initiatives before these opportunities disappear to

competing states. The Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provide enormous funding for exactly these types of projects that develop and use technology to reduce CO2 emissions and generate well-paying, sustainable jobs. Please let your state and federal legislators and local leaders know you support this future for Northern Minnesota.

Barb Jones for Ely Climate group; Jeff Hanson, Brett Cease, Mike Overend, Eric Enberg, Charlie Orsak, Katya Gordon and Russ Mattson for the MN Northland Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby

GHOSTS...Continued from page 4

dents are directly tied to global warming. "One thing we've noticed is that our poltermice infestation is getting worse," Slabodnik noted. Poltermice are those ghostly mice-shaped entities that living cats often stare at as they run across floors and up walls.

"The poltermice population is migrating northward as equatorial regions become too warm for them. Since my occupancy of the opera house, the poltermice population has tripled. The local animal shelter, Contented Critters, is too efficient at rounding

up our mousers and adopting them out to forever homes. This is a big problem for us since there are no full-time mediums in Ely to exude ectoplasm and we have very limited reserves of ectoplasm on hand. The poltermice eat that stuff like you would not believe."

Other global warming-related problems also plague the post-corporeal residents of Ely. Slabodnik described how these effects are causing a cascade of adverse consequences.

"Rising seas and cata-

strophic weather are destroying residences for both living and post-corporeal people," Slabodnik explained. "At the same time, heat waves and other climate disasters are killing off the living at an accelerating rate. This is pushing the ghost population northward into places like Minnesota. But there is a housing shortage in the U.S. and the number of preferred old homes for the still-functioning dead is in decline. Climate-driven trends are increasing the ghost population everywhere. Locally, we're

running out of old Ely houses for them to stay in."

The Ely APCEU tried to reach out to the former planning and zoning (P&Z) administrator for the city about the need to preserve old homes. "When we tried to talk with him at City Hall, he kept on looking right through us," Slabodnik recalled. "When he paid a visit to the old opera house, we approached him about the matter but for some reason he ran screaming out of the building, despite telling our poltergeist to stay in his room."

When the *Timberjay* asked if the Ely APCEU planned to reach out to the city's new P&Z administrator, Slabodnik replied, "Maybe in a few months. He's new to town and not used to the place yet. We don't want to spook him."

Slabodnik commented that any newly-dead persons are welcome at local APCEU meetings, every Friday night at midnight, at the old opera house, 43 E. Camp St. Use the former door in the middle of the south façade that used to enter the downstairs.

TRAIL...Continued from page 3

How do we expend state dollars there?" he questioned.

The request to the rail authority comes at a time when at least one township that had originally opted to join the joint powers board that was supposed to oversee the project has backed away from the project. Officials in Greenwood Township, which would be home to a significant portion of the trail if built, ended their participation in the effort earlier this month out of concern for the lack of visible progress.

The effort has had some success fundraising and has undertaken pre-engineering and design work for a segment of the trail from Tower to the Y Store. The group has also flagged a considerable amount of the proposed route. "We've put a lot of blood, sweat, and tears into it," said Johnson.

But the trail faces a number of challenges, including the significant amount of private land as well as wetlands along the south side of Lake Vermilion.

"It's a million puzzle pieces and you're not sure how they all fit together," Johnson added. While a generally popular idea, Johnson noted that the project has faced some opposition from landowners at various points along the route, which has further complicated the process. That's something that the Mesabi Trail has managed to work around, although it's often been a painfully slow process, even with their experience and access to funding.

As a long standing trail-building effort with a track record, the Mesabi Trail has typically been able to access trail grants as the various segments have been ready for construction. As a new trail venture, without a track record or significant matching funds, the Vermilion Trail hasn't always been able to tap the trail dollars it needs to advance the project. Were the trail to reach the construction phase, the funding requirements would only escalate. While con-

struction costs vary considerably depending on the terrain, the construction of paved trails through the woods are currently running about \$300,000 per mile, said Manzoline. At nearly 40 miles, that could put the total construction cost of the trail at about \$12 million in today's money.

Johnson sees that as a worthwhile investment in the communities surrounding the lake. "This would be a real economic driver," he said.

ROLE...Continued from page 4

lecting eggs from the henhouse, putting on an exquisite breakfast spread to be televised, and commuting to New York to broker some deals, broadcast her TV show, and dine in an elegant restaurant with important people, staying long enough to be noticed, then heading home to work until midnight. Some days she would personally make presentations or broadcasts in four different cities across the country.

Martha's career started in Wall Street in the 1960s, but when the market collapsed, she and her husband, Andy, exited Wall Street and New York, purchasing a falling-down, six-bedroom farmhouse in upper-crust Westport, Conn. They couldn't afford to renovate unless they did the work themselves, which provided the foundation for Martha's new career as a suburban caterer in the '70s, best-selling author in the '80s and media impresario and businesswoman in the '90s, with Martha at the center as the hearth-and-home maven, in spite of the fact that her personal life was drastically different from the image she worked so hard to maintain. As she gained success and expanded her model farm

and her realm of impressive real estate holdings, she apparently morphed from a pleasant, considerate friend, into a raving, abusive harpy, shrieking at all within earshot to do as she demanded, including telling guests that they had to do farm and renovation chores. Needless to say, she lost friends. Ironically, she stated that her job was to be the role model for the perfect American woman. Her husband, Andy, consistently took the brunt of her aggression, yet he put up with it for 30 years for some bizarre reason. But her fans adored her. Why?

As I learned more about her seemingly impossible life and personality, it occurred to me that her profile was similar in many ways to that of Donald Trump. They both had grown up with a severely critical, verbally abusive father and an inadequate mother, which shaped an adult life of insatiable need for success, money, and approval. Both of these larger-than-life figures cared only for their own needs, cheating friends and relatives out of money invested in their various ventures. They used whatever and whomever they could to get ahead. Martha antagonized neighbors in multiple neighborhoods,

and we have seen Trump viciously turn on people who have been loyal to him, working for his success and protection, and serving in his administration. They both accumulated ostentatious properties, although Martha was financially more astute and is very rich, unlike Trump who just says he is.

Martha's unauthorized biographer, Christopher Byron, said sometimes her words didn't hold up to scrutiny when she blurted out something unprepared, "as if inspired by little more than the sense that it ought be true." Sound familiar? Trump frequently seems to be out of touch with reality, contradicting himself, and making statements that are transparently untrue or downright indecipherable. His mindset seems to be the same: if he wants it and says it, it must be true.

My overriding question is why do people fall for it? The conclusion I've come to so far is that Martha and Trump are both selling versions of the American dream. Martha's carefully crafted image is of a beautiful woman

breezing through her life, capable of doing anything from high finance to farm work with elegance and panache, yet with home-grown values, while ending up incredibly rich. Trump sells a slightly different dream of getting rich combined with the "values" of simpler time when white men ruled exclusively; annoying groups like women, people of color, and immigrants (and basically anyone who doesn't buy his twisted perspective) could be ignored and suppressed; and manipulation of money, laws, and people was even considered admirable as long as you got away with it. They both appeal to people who want to believe that the American Dream of great success is magically possible for them, that it's someone else's fault if they don't achieve it, and who yearn for a life without the complex issues facing us in the 21st century.

Martha appears to be maintaining that image a bit better than Trump. At the age of 81, she was on the cover of the 2023 Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue. In the words

of award-winning writer Ryan Murphy, who interviewed her, "Her secret, I think, is that we all kind of want to be her — optimistic, daring, adventurous, capable of turning the most mundane into exu-

berance," he wrote. She apparently decided to pay her taxes, and she served her time. If justice prevails, Trump will also.



the TIMBERJAY

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Week of Oct. 30

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.

Vermilion Country School Board- Meetings posted online at vermilioncountry.org.



TSHS week 13 winner

This week's winner of the Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Cathy Wright of Tower.

History Tidbit: In 1918 St. Louis County elected to "go dry". According to the *Tower Weekly News* Feb 22, 1918, "One brewery will not quit. There is one brewery in St. Louis County which will not close its doors on March 15, 1918. The Iron Range Brewing Association intends to go on as before, save that they will not brew beer with a "kick in it". They will, however, manufacture a beer which they have named "Iron Beer" which is made the same as beer but without any alcohol in it."

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.

Tower-Soudan-Embarrass Bookmobile Schedule

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Bookmobiles will be in the Tower-Soudan area on Wednesday, Nov. 1 & 22, Dec. 13
Stops include: Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m.; Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m.; Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 - 1 p.m.; Soudan (Post Office area): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.; Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.; and Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 - 6 p.m.
More info online at alslib.info/services/bookmobile.

HALLOWEEN FUN



Carving up some Halloween fun

The Lamppa Civic Center was pumpkin central on Sunday during a family pumpkin carving community event. Left: Ethan Olson works on his design. Bottom left: Nash Lenci gets some help from his mother Valerie Turnbull, who organized the event. Bottom middle: Spencer Erickson, from Hoyt Lakes, enjoyed the pasta dinner served. Bottom right: Harley Banks was all smiles as she starts her carving. photos by J. Summit



TEACHING TOOLS

Iron Range Rotary donates dictionaries to TS third-graders

When is President Abraham Lincoln's birthday?
What does the word mire mean?

What is the capital of Qatar?
How many planets are closer to the sun than Earth?
Minnesota is a Dakota Sioux Indian word. What does it mean?

TOWER- These are the questions that Rotarians asked third graders in six local elementary schools including Tower-Soudan Elementary.

Rotary gifted "A Student's Dictionary" to 290 third graders and their teachers in area schools. In addition to being dictionaries, the books are a wealth of information. After the books are used at school, they belong to the students to take home to use for projects and homework.

"A Student's Dictionary" also contains weights and measures; a table of the elements; math multiplication tables; roman numerals; information about the U.S. flag; the words and music to the Star Spangled Banner; information regarding the makeup of the U.S. government;

the Constitution; information about each President; information about the states; information about the countries of the world; information about the planets; information about weather; hand symbols for sign language and braille letters. The students are particularly enthralled with "the longest word in the English language".

Why do kids still need to learn about dictionaries when they can "Google" anything electronically? Students who have used only the internet for homework and research are taken from one virtual place to another and have little experience for step-by-step logic. Thus, it becomes difficult for students to listen and learn from conversation and lectures. Dictionaries point students to the educational basics of reading, writing and arithmetic and provide a solid foundation to accomplish educational objectives.

From literacy and peace to water and health, Rotary is always working to better our world. The Iron Range Rotary provides such service to our local communities.



Club projects, besides Dictionaries for Third Graders, include the Kid's Fishing Contest on Silver Lake in Virginia each June; the ODC Bowling event for disabled adults each fall, a meal at the Salvation Army Supper Club each month, highway cleanup, an Ethics Forum for high school

students, and many more. We are always seeking new projects and new members. For more information call President Craig Doughty at 218-780-5282.

TRAILS CLUB WORK DAY

Come help get the Tower Ski Trails ready for winter

TOWER- The Howard Wagoner Trail Club will be hosting a volunteer day at the Howard Wagoner Ski Trails south trail head on Hwy. 135 at 9 a.m. on Saturday Oct.28.

Since the trees are cleared off most of the trails, and the trails

have been graciously mowed by the city of Tower, we have been able to see where all the rocks and bumps are in the trail. The goal of this trail day is to fill in some of the big holes and try and remove some of the higher rocks. If we have enough people, we can split

up into an east side group and a west side group. The focus will be on the Pine Ridge and Golden Eagle trails.

Please bring gloves, good boots, shovels, rock bars, rakes, and the right clothing for a work day in who knows what kind of

weather. Also if people want to bring refreshments for before and after the work, I'm sure no one will object.



COMMUNITY NEWS

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 are \$30 per person (paid in advance), which covers the cost of the food. There are only about 15 seats still available! 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.

THANK YOU

The Breitung Township Board and the Breitung Police Department would like to thank the community for their generous donations totaling \$2,868⁵⁶ towards the Police Fundraiser "Tacos with Cops".

Your donations are very much appreciated.

FIRST RESPONDERS

Ely's first sensory-sensitive first responder day

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- It rained at the event, the helicopter was canceled because of the weather, and the attendance was low—and that was just fine. The first sensory-friendly first responder day for neurodivergent kids with sensory sensitivities was a success.

It sounds counter-intuitive, but the event was not designed or intended for high attendance. Neurodivergent individuals often do not cope well with a lot of people and noisy environments with too much sensory stimulation. Because of these factors, the event was designed to create a quiet, welcoming atmosphere for kids with sensory sensitivities. The event goal was to increase the children's familiarity with emergency personnel and vehicles so they are more comfortable if they are ever in an emergency situation. This is more important for neurodivergent individuals because they are 80 percent more likely to need emergency first responder services than the "neurotypical."

"Events like truck night are not a good fit for my kids," said Micah Perry of Ely, mother of

two neurodivergent boys. "It would be a help if my boys had some familiarity with first responders in a non-emergency situation."

The event didn't advertise beforehand. Instead, the social networks of parents, caretakers and special education professionals spread word of the event through local networks of neurodivergent-impacted families and friends, Perry told the *Timberjay*.

Kids in ambulances

The children who did attend the event were able to meet and visit with uniformed first responders and were permitted to explore the insides of ambulances from Ely and Babbitt.

"This sort of opportunity is a lot better for (neurodivergent kids)," commented Babbitt paramedic Matt Littler. "They don't usually get these (sensory-friendly) interactions with first responders."

The Babbitt Ambulance Service has been at the forefront of accommodating sensory-sensitive kids. Littler unpacked and explained the Carter Kit Sensory Bag that each Babbitt ambulance rig carries. Carter kits are named after Carter Severs, an autistic boy from Michigan.



Above: Paramedic Matt Littler hands Wolfgang Perry a toy during the sensory-friendly first responder event last Saturday, Oct. 21. From left-to-right, Xavier Hansen, Rachel Rouse, Wolfgang Perry, Abby Maki, and Matt Littler. Right: Part of a Carter Kit Sensory Bag belonging to the Babbitt Ambulance Service. photos



Carter's father invented the kits to give first responders appropriate tools to use when arriving at a scene where a special needs child is involved.

Because many neurodivergent individuals do not react well to noisy environments, the kits include sound-cancelling

headphones. They also have laminated cards with graphics that non-verbal kids can use to indicate how they feel. Because weighted blankets often relieve stress in many, though not all, neurodivergent people, each Carter Kit also includes one.

The attendees of the event agreed that the rainy

weather probably kept some of its target audience from attending and all agreed that repeating the event in the near future on a less inclement day would be a good thing.

"I hope other people start doing this," Littler remarked.

Fundraiser for Wesley Weisinger

WINTON- The Ely-Winton Rod and Gun Club will hold two raffles and a spaghetti feed at Samz in Winton. The fundraiser is to raise funds to defray Wesley Weisinger's traveling costs for dialysis, and to help fulfill any last wishes he may have.

The spaghetti feed will be on Saturday, Nov. 11, 4 p.m. Cost is \$10 per plate. The first raffle is \$10 per ticket and will be drawn at 7 p.m. The top three raffle prizes are a Savage Axis II XP stainless bolt action 270 Winchester rifle, a Bog Death Grip tripod and case, and a hunting backpack packed with hunting swag. The second raffle is also \$10 per ticket, to win two tickets to the Vikings versus Chicago Bears game on Nov. 27. Samz is located at 1225 Winton Rd.

Weisinger has battled health issues for almost forty years. He received his second diagnosis of renal failure earlier this year, after the kidney donated by his mother in 2004 lost the ability to function effectively. In September, he received news that he had inoperable liver cancer.

Local no-kill shelter rescues 42 cats

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Contented Critters, Ely's no-kill animal shelter, rescued a whopping 42 cats last week from a northeastern Minnesota farm. The shelter is now full up with felines and cannot accept any cat surrenders or strays until the current crop of felines finds their forever homes. Contented Critters has asked for donations of supplies and funds to help care and feed for the felines until they are adopted.

"We are a FULL house, beyond full," the shelter said in a



One of the kittens rescued by Contented Critters last week from a farm where people have been dumping unwanted cats. submitted photo by Contented Critters

statement on social media. The farm that was the site of the rescue had become a dumping ground for unwanted cats. Then those abandoned cats followed the call of nature and produced more cats. When Contented Critters arrived, there were over 60 cats on the premises.

A private family was attempting on their own to fix, feed, and deworm the cat population, using their own time and money. "These cats have been well taken care of by this family," Contented Critters stated. "They have put so much work, and money into getting whatever cats they can afford fixed, fed and dewormed but need help before winter, there is no way to financially care for that many cats and we need to help put a stop to the reproducing."

After taking so many kitties in, the shelter staff with the help of the Ely Veterinary Clinic, dewormed, vaccinated, and evaluated the health of every feline rescued.

Help requested

With only a limited amount of food and cat litter on hand when the latest influx of cats arrived, Contented Critters has turned to the community for help, posting convenient links on their Facebook page for people to use to make donations of preferred supplies or money to help care for the shelter's new residents. Please help if you can.

The links go to lists of desired pet supplies on amazon.com and chewy.com, or to the shelter's contribution site on PayPal.

The Pumpkin Carving event at Ely Flower and Seed, at 145 W. Camp St., is also a fundraiser for the shelter. The event will be this Saturday, Oct. 28, from noon until 4 p.m. and includes a pumpkin carving contest, a bake sale, and a raffle. Staff at Ely Flower and Seed told the *Timberjay* that Contented Critters will have some felines on hand who are available for adoption. Every adoption will help relieve the full-occupancy conditions at the shelter.

Clarifications

Regarding the Oct. 6 Ely City Council article, Joe Pioreschi reported on the potential hazard of the unmarked stepdown at the entrance to City Hall. It was solely Harold Langowski who commented on the deterioration of the sandstone steps, not Pioreschi.

Regarding the Oct. 20 article on the Frozen fundraiser and cast reveal event in Ely, and the Lyric Opera of the North performance at Washington Elementary School the following morning, music teacher Karl Kubiak was also involved in rehearsing the 16 elementary school students who sang with the opera singers. The article omitted his contribution.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely Public Library

ELY- 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.

100+ Ely Women Who Care

Ely- 100+ Ely Women Who Care will meet at the Ely Senior Center, 27 S. 1st Ave. E., on Sunday, Oct. 29, from 4-6 p.m. The group is a giving circle that supports local Ely-area nonprofits. This event is one of two that the group holds every year to decide who the next recipient will be for the group's collective donations. The potluck will begin at 4 p.m., with nominations and voting to follow. Social time is included in the event schedule so attendees can mingle and meet new friends. All interested women are welcome. For more information or to register, visit 100elywomenwhocare.org.

Medicare Class

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

Swing Dance

ELY- The Reflections Dance Company will teach a six-week swing dance class on Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at the Ely Recreation Center, from Nov. 1 to Dec. 7, led by Megan Wind. Partners are optional. If you don't

have a partner, attendees will be paired up at class. The class is \$100. Register under the Reflections Dance Co. tab at northernlakesarts.org.

Calendar Parking

ELY- Calendar parking for the purpose of clearing snow begins inside Ely city limits on Wednesday, Nov. 1. On even dates, park on the side of the street with even house numbers, and on odd dates, park on the odd number side of the street.

North Country Trail

ELY- The Ely Chapter of the North Country Trail Association will meet virtually on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 7 p.m. The link to the virtual meeting is on their Facebook group page under the events tab. The meeting is open to all interested parties. The newly

organized chapter maintains a portion of the North Country National Scenic Trail, which runs from North Dakota to Vermont.

Ely Winter Sports

ELY- The Ely School District will hold a student and parent meeting on the upcoming winter sports season on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 6 p.m. in the gymnasium of Ely Memorial High School.

Frozen Sponsors

ELY- Businesses who have made sponsoring contributions to the Ely Memorial High School production of "Disney's Frozen—The Broadway Musical" can email their business logos to admin@frozeninely.org so they can be displayed on the sponsor page of the musical's website 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. 31: Human Trafficking 101 with Tatiana Bergum
- Nov. 7: Well Being Development's Recovery Project with Kap Wilkes
- Nov. 14: Meet New Elyites
- Nov. 21: Health Professionals for a Health Climate

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



yellow leaf carpet
whistling wind bending tree
trunks

warmth soon disappears

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous

OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.
AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m. Fridays, First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Harvey St., Ely/
ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Monday at noon at Ledgerrock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Thursdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church.
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely.
BABBITT AL-ANON - Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.
CO-DEPENDENTS' 12-step support group, 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Wellbeing Development, 41 E Camp St. Ely.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED

Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living. Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital. Conference Room B.

County re-ups lease on Linden Grove DNR property

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday rectified a delinquent lease situation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for property adjacent to its former Public Works facility in Linden Grove, authorizing a five-year agreement retroactive to Jan 1.

The 40-acre parcel in question contains a 10,000-square-foot salt dome, built in 1994, and a 6,500-square-foot post-on-ground warehouse, built in 2000, as well as two smaller storage buildings totaling roughly 870

square-feet. The buildings and surrounding gravel/dirt parking area used by the county cover about 6.5 acres of the tract.

The county's lease to use the parcel expired on Dec. 31, 2022. The new five-year lease agreement dates from Jan. 1, 2023 through Dec. 31, 2027 and requires a lump sum advance payment of \$3,080, which represents an \$84 per year increase from the prior five-year agreement.

In an email from Public Works Director Jim Foldesi to County Administrator Kevin Gray that was provided to the *Timberjay*, Foldesi said that DNR initiates the lease renewal process, and that renewing a lease after it

has expired is not unusual. Leases normally contain monthly continuation clauses to cover such situations, Foldesi explained.

"In the past we have asked to buy this property, but there are mineral rights issues, so we just choose to continue to lease because we are getting a reasonable rate and we have cold storage buildings on the property that we own and use," Foldesi said.

The adjacent five acres containing the former county shop, warehouse, and office buildings was sold in August 2021 to Darrel Kaml, who planned to turn the facility into one producing customized counter tops.



St. Louis County Public Works department is re-upping its lease for the shaded area above at the former county shop facilities in Linden Grove.



North Woods' Noah Westman (54) clears a path to the goal line for teammate Kaden Gornick by totally annihilating a Bigfork defender.

ATHLETE RECOGNITION

Senior Grizzly leader bows out at Cherry

FIELD TWP- North Woods senior lineman Noah Westman played his last football game in a Grizzlies uniform on Tuesday night at Cherry, but he pulled a little switcheroo as a final hurrah before hanging up his cleats for good.

North Woods Head Coach Joel Anderson was full of praise for the team's only senior in comments made after the game.

"There's nothing but positives - I can't say enough good things about Noah," Anderson said. "He's played a lot of really good football for us the last two years."

Anderson said Westman was aware of the need for his leadership this season would be high on a team dominated by underclassmen.

"To be a lone senior and to just accept that responsibility was big," Anderson said. "I think he

felt like there was a lot of pressure on him at the beginning. He did a good job of stepping up, and we had a couple of junior guys who stepped up and kind of rode alongside him in leadership roles this year. Noah never said no - anything you asked him to do he would do to the best of his abilities. He's a great young man and he's got a bright future ahead of him."

As the game clock was winding down Tuesday in the Grizzlies' season finale at Cherry, Anderson had a thank you and going away present for Westman - when the offense took the field after a Cherry kickoff, Anderson put Westman in the backfield as a running back.

"He's been begging me for two years to get him a play and he got so excited," Anderson said.

Westman lined up to take a handoff from quar-

terback Trajen Barto, but the pair looked slightly confused as Barto plunged ahead on a keeper for a yard.

"Noah forgot to take the ball on the first run," Anderson said.

The next play, Westman got the play he wanted, running the ball into the middle of the line. Running mostly straight upright, he was an easy target for Cherry defenders and ended up with no gain on the play.

"That second one, his second attempt at running the football maybe proved why he's been playing guard and tackle for us," Anderson laughed. "It was good to see the smile on his face, good to see him get a good finish and a memory that he won't forget. I can't say enough good things about that young man."

STREAMING SUPPORT



North Woods School Principal Kelly Engman, left, and Assistant Principal Crystal Poppler receive a \$1,000 donation from the Cook Lions Club and presented by club president Steve Kajala to assist with the subscription fee for the school's new Hudl streaming service, which will broadcast for free all student concerts, programs, sporting events, and other special events for individuals who are unable to attend in person. The Hudl system has been made possible by the donations of local businesses, clubs, and individuals. submitted photo

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cook Trunk-or-Treat event to be Oct. 31

COOK- Get ready for a creepy crawly good time on Halloween as the Cook Lions Club and Cook VFW host Trunk-or-Treat on Tuesday, Oct. 31 from 4-6 p.m. at the Cook Community Center.

Animals from Cook's Country Connection will be there to chase away any fright night fears, and there will be plenty of food, prizes, and candy to go around.

Having a "trunk" of goodies is a great way for businesses and individuals to show their support for the youngsters of the community. Spaces are available by calling Therese Cheney at 218-235-8729 or emailing therese.cheney@yahoo.com.

Gallery switches to winter hours in Nov.

COOK- The Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook is transitioning to winter hours in November, which will not include Wednesdays.

Gallery hours beginning Nov. 1 will be 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays (except Thanksgiving) and on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

LaCroix forest office to host open house on Dec. 5

COOK- Superior National Forest Forest Supervisor Tom Hall invites the public, businesses, tribes, organizations, and partners to attend an open house at the LaCroix District Office, 320 N. Highway 53, Cook on Tuesday, Dec. 5 from 4-6 p.m.

Hosted by Forest Supervisor Hall and District Ranger Sunny Lucas, attendees will meet staff, learn about career opportunities, and engage with project and program managers on current and upcoming forest projects. For more information, call 218-666-0020.

Dreamcatcher class to be offered at NWFA Gallery

COOK- Join American Indian educator Stacy Palmer and make your own contemporary dreamcatcher on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 2 p.m. at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook. During November the gallery is featuring a very special exhibit called "Native American Art: Past and Present".

Palmer teaches Native culture at North Woods School. She is also a member of the Bois Forte of Chippewa Band. In this class students will create a contemporary ten-inch diameter dreamcatcher at the gallery at 210 S River St. Students must pre-register for the class by calling Alberta at 218-666-2153. NWFA charges minimal fees for classes. This class is \$15 for NWFA members and \$20 for non-members. There is also a supply fee of \$30. NWFA membership is \$25.

Ethnographers believe dream catchers originated from the Ojibwe Chippewa tribe, an Anishinaabe people from the area that is currently southern Canada and the northern Midwestern U.S.

The Ojibwe tribe believe that the night air is filled with dreams, both good and bad. The dream catcher attracts and catches all sorts of dreams, nightmares, and thoughts into its protective woven spider web. Good dreams can pass through the sacred hoop and gently slide down the feathers to comfort the sleeper below. Bad dreams, however, are caught up in its net and destroyed, burned up in the light of day. For this reason, dreamcatchers traditionally must be hung above the bed in a place where morning sunlight can reach it.

Authentic dreamcatchers are made of spiritual sacred objects: a wooden hoop, sinew, strips of leather, feathers, beads and other objects.

Some objects hang below the center of the "Sacred Hoop".

The Ojibwe tribe was inspired by spiders, believed to be their guardians and protectors. Many Native American belief systems have stories of a mystical Spider Woman or Spider Grandmother. One such story says that Spider Woman's mission was to protect babies and children as well as other members of the tribe while they were vulnerable in sleep. As the tribe grew and migrated around the country, she was no longer capable of protecting the entire tribe. As a result, she created the dream catcher as a way of protecting the growing tribe. Because of this belief, mothers and grandmothers began recreating the dreamcatcher and it evolved into a maternal memento.

The workshop coincides with NWFA's November exhibit, "Native American Art: Past and Present," beginning Thursday, Nov. 2. A reception honoring the exhibiting Native American artists will be held on Friday, Nov. 3 at the gallery from 5-7 p.m. Open hours for viewing the exhibit are on Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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.

FAMILY FUN FUNDS



Lori Udovich accepts a donation of \$500 from Cook Lions Club President Steve Kajala for the North Woods School Family Fun Night which was scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 26. submitted photo

ELY SCHOOLS

Communication and completion top board agenda

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY — “We’re done.” That was the welcome news that Ely schools facilities director Tim Leeson delivered to the school board here on Monday when asked about the status of the new school addition that connects Ely Memorial High School with the Washington Elementary School. The addition includes a new kitchen, a cafeteria and commons area, a second gymnasium, a new band room, a media center, staff offices, and a secure entryway.

It had been a long time coming as the project faced numerous delays and significant cost increases, mostly related to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While Leeson had Monday’s biggest news, most of the short work session was spent discussing the superintendent’s efforts at improving communications

with the school district’s stakeholders, and effort prompted by two miscommunication mishaps at the end of the 2022-23 school year, previously covered by the *Timberjay*.

Addressing school district communications is one of Superintendent Anne Oelke’s priorities for her first year at the district’s helm and based on her comments and those of some school board members the situation is improving.

Oelke’s efforts so far have included a new website just for school board members, monthly messages to district stakeholders and the public published in local newspapers—including the *Timberjay*—and the district open house held on Oct. 16.

Oelke reported on the success so far of the newspaper pieces she has written, “I’ve gotten good feedback on those. People have responded quite favorably to them.”

The open house was the subject of most of the board’s feedback, which included a bit of congratulatory backslapping over the new addition.

School board member Tony Colarich commented on what he heard from the public at the openhouse, “I received numerous comments about how nice (the new addition) looked.”

School board member Tom Omerza added, “People were very impressed.”

Widseth contract

According to Oelke, the Ely School District received \$4.4 million from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRR) for renovations, mostly for the Ely Memorial High School building. The district is currently negotiating a contract for the work with Widseth Smith Nolting and Associates Inc. of Crookston, who acquired the district’s previous renovations general contractor. The renova-

tions have been in the school board’s sights for a while as the next steps to perform for upgrading the district’s buildings. Minnesota law requires all public school districts to project and plan their upgrades and renovations for the next ten years.

The proposed Widseth contract paperwork was included in the agenda packet. It detailed the terms and extent of the renovations, including:

- Replacement of casework, ceilings, lights, and finishes of the existing chemistry room and art room.

- Replacement of plumbing fixtures, ceilings, lights, and finishes in nine student bathrooms.

- Adding a new single-use bathroom for both elementary special education and high school faculty.

- Replacement of exterior windows.

- Replacement of all interior corridor doors in Ely Memorial

High School.

Omerza asked about the timing of the work and how that would be reflected in the contract. “We want to get things going as soon as school is done,” said Omerza, adding that the renovations would need to be completed before the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. Both Leeson and Oelke responded that the contractor was aware of the district’s timing requirements.

Another provision in the contract paperwork was the cost “IRRR gave us \$4.4 million for this,” Oelke remarked, “but Widseth used \$3 million on paper and this is one of the things that must be clarified before the contract can be approved by the board.”

The approval of the final version of the contract will be on the agenda for the Nov. 13 school board meeting.

EMS...Continued from page 1

regional partnerships.

“If we don’t unite, we will miss out,” he said. “We need to be together as one region.”

Hauschild said he will bring the information he is gathering to the governor’s office and hopes to see a task force created to look for solutions to the issues facing rural ambulance services.

He noted that one of the greatest challenges for rural ambulance services is the federal reimbursement rates paid by Medicare and Medicaid, which cover only about a third of the actual costs of serving those patients. “I am not afraid to advocate at the federal level,” Hauschild said, “and have been working with Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith. But I am also looking at statewide solutions.”

While such solutions will not happen quickly, Hauschild said he was committed to working on this issue and said he will be inviting many of those in the room down to the state capitol during the session.

Area ambulance service directors and representatives from Tower, Cook, Ely, Hoyt Lakes, Babbitt, and St. Louis County all had similar things to say, with financial support and staffing issues topping their agendas.

“We had 908 runs last year and lost money,” said Hoyt Lakes Ambulance Director Melanie Olmstead. “Last year we lost \$85,000.” Ambulance services in Tower and Ely are also facing large shortfalls. Meanwhile, finding staff was the largest issue facing the Cook Ambulance, said Cook Mayor Harold Johnston.

Duane Johnson, the 911 Emergency Operations Manager for St. Louis County, said his largest worry is when a 911 call comes in and there isn’t an ambulance service available to take the call.

Transfers from the smaller hospitals in Cook,

Ely, Virginia, and Hoyt Lakes are taking a larger share of ambulance calls. Often these are for emergency situations, where patients can receive life-saving care for heart attacks and strokes that aren’t available at smaller hospitals. Recent trends which have consolidated more specialized medical care in Duluth also means that more patients need to be transported to Duluth for care. These calls take highly-trained personnel out of their regular coverage area, often for four hours at a time.

Johnston said he is seeing more and more pages going out three times before getting a response. “Back in 1995 pages got answered right away,” he said. “But now people are working two jobs, and recruitment and retention is a huge issue, not just here but nationwide.” Johnston noted that more fire departments are shutting down for lack of personnel, including Greaney-Rausch-Silverdale a few years ago, and Evergreen set to close at the end of this year.

“St. Louis County is the sixth-busiest 911 call area in the state,” Johnston said, getting 600-1,000 calls a day. While the majority of these calls are in Duluth, the rural call volume has expanded greatly, especially with the wider phone coverage created by cell phones.

The costs of operating rural ambulance services have also been steadily rising, with equipment, ambulances, and medical supplies a major factor, as well as the requirement to have on-call staffing 24/7.

Ely City Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski recalled that when the Ely Joint Powers Ambulance Board was formed about 15 years ago, it did work. But now, with the wages that are required to operate an ALS (advanced life support) service, it is no longer financially viable under

Hauschild launches “Northland Strong” initiative

State Sen. Grant Hauschild has recently launched his “Northland Strong” Initiative, an effort to focus his outreach and policy priorities to keep Northland communities strong and safe. Hauschild, who represents the largest district geographically in the state, says it’s critical that he focus his outreach and policy work to be most effective for northeastern Minnesota.

The “Northland Strong” Initiative will encompass five key priority areas including: Strong Families, Safe Communities, Outdoor Heritage, Innovative Economy, and A State that Works. Hauschild’s goal is to hear directly from constituents and stakeholders about their thoughts, ideas, and con-

cerns related to these priority areas.

“Northland Strong is about bringing us together around a shared vision for a stronger and safer Arrowhead region. That means developing an innovative economy, building safe and strong communities, and advancing our long-held heritage of outdoor traditions,” said Hauschild. “Over the coming months, I’ll meet with hundreds of northern Minnesotans to listen to their ideas as to how our region should approach the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead so that I am fully prepared with my policy priorities going into the upcoming legislative session.”

The second roundtable, A State That Works - Discussion

on the Minnesota Regulatory Environment, was scheduled at North Shore Health in Grand Marais on Oct. 26 at 11 a.m.

The third roundtable, Strong Families - How Ely looks out for their youngest and wisest, will take place in November, date TBD.

The fourth roundtable, Outdoor Heritage - Investing in the Northland’s Outdoors, will take place in December, 2023, date TBD.

The fifth roundtable, Innovative Economies - Diversifying the Northland Economy, will take place in January, 2024, date TBD.

Constituents interested in having their voices heard can reach out to Sen. Hauschild’s office at sen.grant.hauschild@senate.mn.

their current joint powers agreements.

“The joint powers is looking at an operating gap of \$60 per capita,” Langowski said, noting that the arrangement began with a \$5 per capita payment by the city and surrounding townships, which has since been raised to \$10.

“We don’t expect people to work for poverty wages,” he said. “We need a permanent solution, regionally.”

Response times in rural areas are also troublesome, with coverage areas so large that it can take up to a half hour to get an ambulance on scene. This also means that when an ambulance goes out, it can take two hours to do a call to a local hospital, but four hours for a transfer call, meaning on-call staff is out of their home territory for long periods of time.

But even the economics of shorter range calls are astounding.

Olmstead said she needed an ambulance at her house, 18 miles from the Hoyt Lakes station. It cost them \$1,122 for that run,” she said. “We charge \$1,758, and Medicare pays us \$476. We lost \$645 on that run.”

“That’s the worst word problem you’ll see in

school math,” said Peltier. “It’s an example of why it is working so poorly.”

Depending on the ALS service provided by Virginia is getting tougher. Tower Ambulance Director Dena Suihkonen said while Virginia has five rigs, they have been struggling with staffing.

“They are overwhelming their people,” she said. “They have paramedics out for work-related injuries.”

It was also noted there is little to no financial incentive for larger ambulance services to cooperate with smaller rural services.

Hauschild asked about creative ways services have found to increase efficiency and cut costs.

Tower City Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz said staffing costs are a large piece of the puzzle, but if services try to cut on-call pay, they risk losing staff. “It’s a catch-22,” he said.

Hoyt Lake’s staff talked about the high cost of equipment needed for the ambulance. Olmstead said replacing a relatively new pulse oximeter was going to cost \$800 for a unit that also read carbon-dioxide levels. They ended up ordering a less expensive one, that doesn’t measure carbon dioxide.

Hauschild noted that smaller cities do not have the staff available to handle all the paperwork required. “When we pass legislation,” he said, “we have to understand the capacity of rural governments.” Hauschild said his goal would be to enact some new funding sources that would be simpler to oversee.

There was some discussion on the existing primary service areas (PSAs). Ambulance services are required to cover these areas, but there is no requirement that these areas contribute financially to the operation of the ambulance service that covers them.

While fire and police protection are considered essential services in Minnesota, with some state funding, ambulance service is considered non-essential.

“The state says we care for you if your house is on fire or if someone steals from your house,” said Olmstead, “but not if you have a heart attack in your house.”

“We see four or five fires a year in our area,” said Suihkonen, “but get over 500 EMS calls a year.

Hauschild talked about options for creating tax districts for ambulance services, which could be

either on a per capita or per parcel basis.

Staff from both Ely and Hoyt Lakes said their services are in danger of shutting down in the next year or two, due to funding shortfalls. Tower noted the city is already subsidizing the service, but that this is not sustainable.

“I’m not saying this is going to be easy,” said Hauschild. “But it is important to talk about. We need to put pressure on elected officials. I know this is a real challenge.”

“You aren’t thanked enough,” he added. “You face trauma providing these services. Solving this is a top priority for our area.”

Hauschild said he plans to keep in contact with ambulance and city leaders on this issue.

“We will be working on a bill to fix the Medicare gap,” he said, “and we can look at options for taxing districts. Saving peoples’ lives is very important.”

Peltier said this issue will also be a top lobbying issue for RAMS.

“This is an issue that affects us all,” Peltier said. “One Range, one voice.”

CRASH...Continued from page 1

revoked years ago and never reinstated, was behind the wheel of the northbound Impala when it rear-ended a Ram 1500 pickup, which was stopped in the northbound lane during a traffic tie-up. Reports from the scene said another pickup truck, pulling a trailer, had tried to turn around on the highway, just prior to the

accident, and had gotten stuck. A line of cars was waiting in both directions for the pickup truck to get out of the way when the accident occurred. Conditions were wet at the time of the incident.

According to a statement of probable cause, one of the occupants of the Impala, Angie

Buckanaga, acknowledged to a state trooper that she and Medicine had been smoking marijuana while traveling back and forth from Virginia. Medicine also reportedly acknowledged drinking two shots of alcohol about an hour and a half prior to the crash. A breath test administered at the scene showed a

preliminary reading of 0.009, which is well below Minnesota’s current blood limit of 0.08. Results of a blood test were pending as of presstime.

The driver of the pickup, Gregory J. Lenz, 58, of Embarrass, and passenger Carl Brummund, 56, of Ely, were both treated for non-life-threatening

injuries. A third passenger, Henry Lenz, 14, of Embarrass, was not injured. Reports from the scene said the Ram had its emergency flashers illuminated at the time of the accident.

Medicine and another passenger, Angela Buckanaga, 45, of Tower, were both treated for non-life-threatening inju-

ries at Essentia Health-Virginia. Medicine was then taken into custody and booked into the St. Louis County Jail.

The Minnesota State Patrol, St. Louis County Sheriff’s Department, Tower EMS, Virginia Fire and EMS, and Britt Fire Department all responded at the scene.

READ THE TIMBERJAY!

CHILDCARE...Continued from page 1

was in his 80s and he had Parkinson's. I met him doing my routes one day, and he was always fishing. One day I said, 'I've got a kid at robotics camp right now, and when she comes back would you be interested in teaching her how to fish.' So, Mr. Lindsay and Anna became really, really close and they actually helped each other out."

As the end of the summer approached, Anna asked Klancher a poignant question.

"Anna said to me, 'Do you think Mr. Lindsay will be here next year?'" Klancher said. "I said I don't know, and you could just kind of see the sadness. I don't know what she was really asking. But I said, 'You know, maybe we should see if Mr. Lindsay wants to go on a fishing trip.'"

Mr. Lindsay accepted the offer, and between Anna's newfound interest in catching a musky and Mr. Lindsay's lifelong dream to catch a salmon, they decided they could do both by coming to Minnesota.

"I didn't even know what a musky was. I was like, 'Where do you catch a musky,' and she just researched it and said Lake Vermilion was the place to go." Klancher said.

And after checking with several guide services Lora chose Paul Klancher.

The trio first stopped in Duluth on the way up and went salmon fishing on a Lake Superior charter for Mr. Lindsay to realize his dream. Then it was on to Lake Vermilion, although they had to stay at Pelican Lake because they couldn't find anywhere else to stay.

"Then we drove over here and met Paul," Klancher said. "He was wonderful with Anna. He was 100 percent onboard. He loves teaching fishing and seeing that excitement in their eyes."

Lora and Paul struck



A special activity room at Live and Learn with Lora has a variety of colorful and stimulating educational equipment for intellectual and motor skills development. photo by D. Colburn

up a friendship, and Lora booked another trip for the summer of 2020.

"I just saw it as he's going to be a great friend and a good connection for when we'd come back up to fish," she said.

But it was more than musky that got hooked that next summer. Lora had discovered the best of Minnesota nice in her friend and fishing guide, and that became a life-changer.

"He proposed at the end of the summer and we got married that winter," Klancher said. "The rest is history."

First work with kids

Klancher got her start working with young children as a nanny while she was attending the Colorado Institute of Art in Denver, and also in Kansas City after getting a job there. She also worked at a corporate childcare setting for a time in Kansas City.

She was a single mother of a little boy named Miles when she opened her

own daycare back home in Albany and was licensed for 14 children. It was a way for her to be with Miles while continuing to do some graphic design freelancing on the side. "Many people want to see their kids grow up, and I was one of those," Klancher said. "So, it worked out great that I was able to raise them at home with other children."

Klancher eventually discovered that her art background was a good match with photography, and she was good enough that she opened a studio for her business in Albany, called Miles and Me, in 2005, and opened a second about 40 miles away in Maryville in 2015.

But working with children had remained in the back of her mind, as one look at the big picture windows in the Klanchers' new house reveals.

"I wanted them because I had good northern light for photos, and I knew I wanted

them low to the ground to explore nature as much as possible because I knew that daycare was in my backpocket as an option the whole time we were building this house," she said. "I was tired of chasing the photography and I'm ready for it to be just a hobby."

Live and Learn

The post on the Live and Learn with Lora Facebook page that Klancher put up to announce that she was open for business contains a very important clue to her approach in working with young children: "childcare with Montessori inspired principles."

That's a reference to the renowned Italian educator Maria Montessori, whose philosophy and practices developed in the early 1900s continue to help define what early childhood education professionals consider to be best practice in caring for and teaching young children. Thousands of schools around the world bear the Montessori name, and two major organizations, the Association Montessori Internationale and the American Montessori Society, continue to set the standards for the Montessori model.

Klancher was exposed to Montessori principles at the center where she worked in Kansas City and through her daughter's childcare provider, and they are a perfect fit with how she wants to promote children's development.

"A lot of what I love about the Montessori approach is that it teaches children to be independent," Klancher said.

To facilitate that, a Montessori infused approach such as Klancher's relies on a materials and activity rich environment in which a child is allowed to choose what they want to do. Klancher's job is to create that environment and then interact with children on the fly, introducing and teaching educational concepts as they naturally arise through the child's selected activities. Children are also active participants and learn through daily routines such as cooking and cleaning.

"The Montessori approach is very much creative, and I love to promote creativity in children," Klancher said. "It lets children develop their amazing little minds. Every kid is a creator - if they're just allowed to express themselves in a healthy way, then I just feel like we're raising better adults."

It's important for Klancher to meet an individual child at the level and moment in which they're ready to learn. That could be in a prolonged art activity, walking on a balance beam, playing with a puzzle, or reading a book.

While activity areas can be found throughout the large family room in the house, there's also a dedicated activity room equipped with many classic Montessori materials that promote both intellectual and physical development. And Klancher sees the outdoors as another great big classroom.

"Their feet need to be in the dirt, their hands need to be in the dirt, they need to be out and doing things," Klancher said. "Kids need to be outside and not in front of a TV or a video game or a phone. Next year we're going to have a garden that we're going to actually eat out of - I want the kids to learn to grow and eat their own vegetables. I'm going to make a foraging forest so that they can learn different berries. This winter, it's going to be a giant winter wonderland out there. I love the snow. We're gonna have fun."

And, of course, the outdoors is also accessible visually through those big picture windows, and an attraction holding the kids attention last week were colorful child-decorated gourd bird feeders hanging from low branches that have attracted a good following of fine feathered friends for the kids to watch.

Another aspect of the Montessori approach is its adaptability for children of differing ages and giving older children the opportunity to act as mentors for younger children. With the mixed ages Klancher is serving, promoting social and emotional develop-

ment is a key for enhancing the learning environment, Klancher said.

"It's really important that kids learn about their emotions and what to do to regulate them," she said. "We'll be doing a lot of studying facial expressions so they can understand what different emotions are. We all get angry, we all get sad, we all get happy. We need to learn to recognize those in other people, how they're feeling and then what to do with different emotions. I think that's a huge part of raising up this generation. Our minds are so important with relating to other people and also with our own struggles."

Klancher referred to a child in her care who hasn't been in a group care environment before.

"Yesterday when I had two of them together, she had a hard time sharing," Klancher said. "Obviously, if you've not been social, if you don't have those interactions, she doesn't know that taking a toy away from a kid because she wants it is the right way. She needs someone to teach her that. It's all simple common-sense stuff, but quality care is hard to find."

Klancher is quick to note that she hasn't been formally trained in the Montessori approach but has picked up what she knows through her past work and online study. It's clear those experiences have paid off when observing Klancher's interactions with children or listening to her speak.

And Klancher said she plans to get additional education in early childhood by obtaining a Child Development Associate credential. The competency-based credential through the Council for Professional Recognition is a rigorous course of study of the basic principles of high quality early childhood education and builds on past experience. A national exam and an on-site observation are required before a credential is awarded.

For more information about Live and Learn with Lora, serving infants through school-age children with full-time and drop-in care, call or text 218-750-8091 or email liveandlearnwithlora@



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BOUNDARY WATERS CARE CENTER

Free, paid certified nursing assistant training offered

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Are you interested in pursuing a rewarding career as a certified nursing assistant, or CNA? The Boundary Waters Care Center is now offering free on-site training and other compensation for those interested in undergoing training to obtain the necessary certification.

In addition to paying for the training, the Boundary Waters Care Center will compensate trainees for their hours spent in training. Once a student has completed the CNA program, BWCC

will cover the cost of the skills and knowledge test that is required by the state of Minnesota for nursing assistant to pass for certification. CNAs are a critical part of any health care team, but are significantly more essential in long-term, skilled care environments. These professionals provide direct, personalized care to patients and residents. CNAs collaborate closely with nurses, therapists, and other departments to provide quality care for those they serve.

The CNA program at BWCC is led by Sally Koski, a registered nurse who holds a Ph.D.

in nursing and is a retired professor of nursing who taught at the College of St. Scholastica. Koski designed the CNA training program at BWCC, which is unique to the Ely area. Koski teaches in-person skills labs to each CNA-in-training along with assigning online courses. She also matches each student with a peer mentor who is one of BWCC's existing CNAs. This mentor provides thorough orientation and on-the-job training to enhance personal skills and competencies.

"I've customized BWCC's program to be self-paced for each person. We keep the schedule

flexible to work around each CNA-in-training's current schedule and family needs," said Koski. "The program typically takes about three to four months, but a very motivated individual can achieve it in less time."

"The CNA training program at Boundary Waters Care Center is a valuable resource for anyone who is interested in a nursing or caregiving career," said BWCC executive director Adam Masloski. "Once certified, our CNAs-in-training qualify for a \$3,000 sign-on bonus and a pay raise. We also have scholarships and tuition reimbursement available and school-friendly schedul-

ing for team members who want to pursue more education."

BWCC is a 503(c)3 non-profit 24-hour skilled nursing, rehabilitation, and hospice facility in Ely which shares the same building complex with the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. The BWCC community serves older adults and their families with short-term rehabilitation services and long-term care designed to ensure residents may safely lead a lifestyle with as much independence as possible. More information about BWCC is available at boundary-waterscc.com or 218-365-8043.

PUMPKINS...Continued from page 1

volunteer help provided by the Tower Firemen's Relief Association (who purchased all the pumpkins) and many other generous community members.

The civic center was expertly prepared for the upcoming mess: piles of pumpkins, bins full of kid-friendly carving tools, stencils, stickers, paints and brushes. Tables were covered with plastic, with garbage bags strategically placed, along with wet wipes to attempt to clean up messy fingers and faces.

There was some Halloween candy, but most families seemed more excited about the raviolis and pasta that came from Valentini's in Chisholm, thanks to an additional cash donation from the Tower Fire Department Relief Association.

The pumpkins ranged from small to medium to large, and were grown on a farm that belonged to a friend of one of the fire department members.

"This year things went easier," said Turnbull, who added she had a lot of help from fellow Scenic Rivers co-worker Brooke Anderson. Tower

Fire Department members, including the department's newest hire Jon Ross, also helped out, along with other family members.

While most of the children brought their pumpkins home, many were strategically placed in front of businesses, up

and down Main Street, creating a festival holiday mood for the upcoming Halloween celebration on Tuesday, which includes

a PTO-sponsored party at the elementary school, trick-or-treating on Main Street after school, and the fire department Halloween

party at the civic center from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. with games, prizes, and food.

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SECTION 7A VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

NER falls in straight sets in opening playoff round

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Nighthawks had beat Littlefork-Big Falls in straight sets just the week before

BABBITT—The Section 7A volleyball playoffs ended quickly for the eighth-seeded Nighthawks after they fell in straight sets to ninth-seeded Littlefork-Big Falls here on Monday night. It was the play-in round for the bottom seeds and the Nighthawks should have had the advantage, except for the absence of one of the team's top

performers, Maizy Sundblad, who was out sick.

"It definitely made an impact," said Head Coach Misty Roseth.

Indeed, the Nighthawks had beaten Littlefork-Big Falls in straight sets just last week in Babbitt, so Monday's outcome was a surprise. The Vikings took

the first set 25-23, which was the closest the Nighthawks came to a win on the night and followed up with a 25-17 loss in game two and a 25-20 loss in the final set.

Danica Sundblad filled in at the set position, notching 19 assists and posting 100 percent from the serving line. Else Bee led at the net with 11 kills, while

adding eight digs. Eighth-grader Peyson Roseth posted 11 digs along with three kills and three ace serves. Allison Flug, the team's lone senior, notched seven kills and as many digs, while Kaydence Hancock notched seven kills.

"It was definitely a growing year," said Roseth. "Our consis-

tency will be key for this team in the future. The improvements I'm seeing in each of these girls is outstanding. Once their skills become consistent, this will be a team to watch for in upcoming seasons."

FOOTBALL

Raiders romp twice over Ely

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ISLE—Ely's football season ended quietly this week as the Timberwolves fell to third-seeded Mille Lacs 40-0 to end their season at 1-8.

The Wolves faced the Raiders on Tuesday, just four days after falling to them 36-6 in Ely. While the young Wolves team might have been hoping to even the score, they just couldn't match the weapons and intensity deployed by Mille Lacs, which finished its regular season at 5-3.

"They just play hard, physical football," said Ely Head Coach Louis Gerzin.

But Ely's defense kept the game close through the first half. The Raiders got a fast start and put seven on the board in their opening possession, but the Timberwolves kept them largely contained the rest of the half. Mille Lacs would add seven more to the board before the break, to take a 14-0 lead into halftime.

The Wolves had their chance to narrow that gap late in the second quarter. Starting at their own 40 after a Mille Lacs punt, the Wolves connected on a 30-yard pass play and took advantage of some Raiders' penalties to reach the Mille Lacs two-yard line before handing it over on downs.

It was deflating, but Head Coach Louis Gerzin said the team had the sense a win was still a possibility when they took the field to start the second half.

But the Raiders had other ideas. In the third quarter, they converted back-to-back interceptions to touchdowns, knocking the wind out of the Wolves' cause. "That pretty much buried us," said Gerzin.

Playing last Friday, in Ely, Mille Lacs kept the Wolves penned for much of the game, winning 36-6. The Raiders scored on their opening drive and took a 12-0 lead before the opening quarter was out as the Wolves twice denied their conversion attempts. The Raiders added another touchdown in the second quarter, again without the conversion, to take an 18-0 lead into the break.

Ely got on the board midway through the third quarter, as the Wolves seemed to gather momentum. Ely drove the ball downfield, helped by a couple costly Mille Lacs penalties. With a fourth and goal, senior quarterback Deegan Richards connected with sophomore Jesse Oelke on a bootleg pass play for six. But the boost proved short-lived as the Raiders respond-

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



Right: Grizzlies' senior lineman Noah Westman got the chance to carry the ball late in the game, taking this handoff from Trajen Barto. photo by D. Colburn

SECTION 7 NINE-MAN FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

BLOWOUT! Cherry ends North Woods' season with a 72-0 shellacking

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

CHERRY-The Cherry Tigers have chewed up and spit out every opponent that's dared to set foot on their home turf this season by an average score of 78-6, so no one was expecting a miracle when the 3-5 North Woods Grizzlies came calling Tuesday for a first-round playoff game.

No miracle was observed.

The Tigers put on another machine-like display of gridiron prowess as they thoroughly dominated the youthful Grizzlies 72-0, bringing North Woods' foray into the ranks of nine-man football this season to an end.

Cherry scored early and often, rolling to a 24-0 first quarter lead and a 52-0 margin at the half.

Grizzlies' defenders often made the right reads but didn't have the athleticism to match the Tigers speedsters. That was the case late in the second quarter when the Tigers' Isaac Asuma took a pitch left and was about to be tackled when he smartly lateraled the ball to Mason Heitzman, who cut back across the Grizzlies defense and outraced everyone 50 yards for a touchdown. It was the first

of two scores in the final four minutes of the half that resulted from North Woods turnovers.

After surrendering the ball and another touchdown to open the third quarter, North Woods put together its best drive of the night, a 12-play, 48-yard push from their own 33 to the Cherry 19. Aided by a roughing the passer penalty that negated

See **ROUT...**pg. 2B

Grizzlies fall to Vikings to end regular season

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP-The North Woods football team ran into a buzz saw against Cook County in their final regular season home game Oct. 18, as the Vikings handed the Grizzlies a lopsided 50-0 defeat.

It took all of 11 seconds for the Vikings to grab the lead on an opening kickoff return for a touchdown by Ray Dressely, and the two-point conversion put Cook County up 8-0.

It went from bad to worse when the Vikings picked off a Trajen Barto pass on the Grizzlies' first play from scrimmage, but the North Woods defense turned the tables with a Nick Abramson fumble recovery at the North Woods 47.

Unable to move the ball, the Grizzlies punted to the Cook County 29. Three passes later the

Right: Trajen Barto goes up high for a pass deflection against Cook County last Wednesday. photos by D. Colburn

Vikings were in the end zone again, with Dressely getting his second score on an 18-yard post pattern for a 14-0 lead.

North Woods had a shot to get on the scoreboard early in the second quarter on their first sustained drive of the game, starting at their own 46 and marching to the Vikings 14 in 13 plays with Abramson and Kaden Gornick doing the lion's share of the damage on the ground. But on third-and-eight the Grizzlies went to the air, and Dressely came up with an interception to kill the scoring threat.

After stopping the Grizzlies on fourth-and-12, the Vikings had

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



GOVERNMENT

Low-income energy assistance funding released

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Those who have or plan to apply for low-income housing energy assistance (LIHEAP) this year can rest easier now that the federal government has released \$3.7 billion in funding for the program this week.

LIHEAP was a target of Congressional Republicans during negotiations over a continuing budget resolution in September to avert a government shutdown. Republicans wanted to slash the low-income assistance program by 65 percent, but that

cut was avoided in the final agreement. The resolution that was passed continued government funding through Nov. 17, and the current stalemate over naming a new Speaker of the House of Representatives to replace deposed former Speaker Kevin McCarthy has left the House unable to act on a budget resolution with the deadline looming.

But Pat Fisher, public affairs specialist for the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF) confirmed for the Timberjay on Tuesday that the \$3.7 billion authorized under the continuing resolution

has been released to the state departments that administer the program, which in Minnesota is the Department of Commerce.

"LIHEAP is a lifeline for households across the country who need support with their home energy bills," said ACF Acting Assistant Secretary Jeff Hild in a press release accompanying Fisher's response. "Last year alone LIHEAP served more than six million households. By helping to alleviate the burden of home energy costs, LIHEAP advances ACF's mission to promote the economic and social well-being of children, families, and communities."

LIHEAP funds can be used for heating and cooling bill assistance, home energy equipment repair and replacement and minor energy-related home repairs.

The Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) administers the LIHEAP program in St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties. Energy Assistance Manager Jean Pelletier told the Timberjay that they are accepting applications and that they are being processed. However, AEOA has not yet received its current year funding from the state, something not unexpected given the delay in releasing the funding at the federal level until

this week.

The Timberjay also contacted the Department of Commerce for this story, but no comments were provided prior to press time.

An online LIHEAP application is available on the Department of Commerce website at energy-assistance.web.commerce.state.mn.us/. A program description, income guidelines, and a printable application is available on the AEOA website at www.aeo.org/energy-assistance-program.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Bois Forte broadband project close to bidding

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- After a delay in the state's required historical review process, construction bids will soon be sought for the \$19.8 million Bois Forte Band high-speed broadband project serving the south shore of Lake Vermilion and areas around Orr.

Bois Forte Information Technology Director Randy Long said on Tuesday that the detailed engineering for the project, which is being done in partnership with CTC Telecom, is "pretty much wrapped up."

The band had originally hoped to break ground on the project this year, but a mandated review of plans by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has taken far longer than expected.

"We are going on ten months of waiting for the state of

Minnesota SHPO office to complete their work on the project," Long said.

A note on the SHPO webpage indicates that they have received a high volume of federal, state, and local projects, creating a heavier-than-normal workload amid staffing constraints. Broadband projects that are federally funded and which could potentially affect historical resources and archaeological resources must be reviewed in light of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as well as several state laws intended to preserve items and areas of historic significance.

"They have to review every square foot of this plan to make sure that historical preservation is intact," Long said. "I just got off the phone with CTC because they have a concern with (the review process), too. We're going to try to get this expedited in the

upcoming week. But that's been a ten-month process we never anticipated encountering. It's been a bit of a learning curve."

If the project can get the green light from SHPO, then bids can go out and project construction could begin next spring, Long said.

Long noted last fall that the final scope of the deployment could be curtailed somewhat depending on the availability and cost of fiber optic cable and equipment, as well as unanticipated construction costs, which could be likely when dealing with Vermilion's rocky south shore. The original plan was to start just west of Tower, and stretch fiber optic broadband all the way to the west end of Lake Vermilion, wrapping around the whole of Head of the Lakes Bay. The southern border for broadband deployment would be Hwy. 115 up to about Wakely Rd, where it would then taper to the northwest

and Head of the Lakes Bay. The Orr portion of the development would include residential and resort areas along the northwest shore of Pelican Lake and west along Nett Lake Rd. to serve the major areas of residential and commercial properties along the south shore.

The new system will connect with another Band project serving the Vermilion and Nett Lake sectors and Indian Point on Pelican Lake. Sign-ups for those systems have been taking place, and Long said the systems will be coming online soon.

"We have our first customers being lit up on Oct. 30 - that's for the Nett Lake, Palmquist, and Indian Point areas," Long said. "And then Nov. 9 we're doing sign ups for the Vermilion sector and will probably turn them on in mid-November."

Long said the partnership with CTC has worked well.

"They've been great," he said. "They've been working with several other tribes to bring them to the same point. "But our communication with CTC has been great."

And while all of the broadband development Long is involved with is more than what he envisioned when he started delving into possibilities five or six years ago, he's pleased to be a part of bringing the service to such a large swath of the North Country.

"The more fiber we can get into the ground in northern Minnesota the better it's going to be for everyone," he said.

Long said that the Band's website is in the process of being updated, and once that is complete he will see about providing project updates in the information technology section of the site.

ROUT..Continued from page 1B

an interception return for a touchdown, the Grizzlies offense churned out yards on the ground, with Kaden Gornick, Nick Abramson, Talen Jarshaw, and Trajen Barto all contributing. But the drive fizzled out when a Barto flare pass to Jarshaw fell incomplete on fourth-and-six.

It's hard to imagine a team that's down 72-0 having anything to smile about, but Head Coach Joel Anderson found a way

to inject a little joy into the waning minutes of the game when he sent senior lineman Noah Westman in at running back. Westman ran the ball into the line for no gain, but his teammates reacted as if he'd scored a go-ahead touchdown, all happy that Westman's wish to carry the ball once in his career had been fulfilled.

"It was good to see the smile on his face," Anderson said. "It was good to see him get a good

finish and a memory that he won't forget."

While the loss was decisive, Anderson nonetheless had praise for the Grizzlies' play after the game.

"I'm very proud of our effort tonight," he said. "We played our hearts out tonight. Cherry is a fantastic football team and they've proven that time and again. But we made them play hard for a long while when we kept the

ball in our own hands. We needed to limit those turnovers and not give them extra points."

Anderson commented on the Grizzlies' inability to punch the ball into the end zone after long drives that's plagued them the last two games.

"As the field gets shorter, guys get tighter," he said. "We've kind of struggled getting guys open and getting the ball in their hands when we start seeing

eight guys there in the box. That's something we've been working on, and we have to clean some things up. Sometimes you just don't get there when you want to."

Given his squad's youth and inexperience, Anderson noted that the Grizzlies beat and lost to the teams that they should have this season and said the team's experience will pay dividends next year.

"The teams that we

struggled with were junior and senior dominated," he said. "That's indicative of a younger, less experienced group. We've got a lot of guys now with experience who are coming back, and we've got some very good football players."

The Grizzlies' first season back at the nine-man level in five years ended with a record of 3-6.

FOOTBALL...Continued from page 1B

a golden opportunity with 4:44 left in the quarter and the ball at the North Woods 27. Six plays later Dressely

was in the end zone again on an eight-yard TD, and the two-point conversions gave Cook County a 22-0 lead.

Dressely disaster struck again after the Vikings' Rohan Rude picked off another Barto pass and returned it to the North Woods 20. After a one-yard run, Dressely took a swing pass from quarterback Hunter Rex and scampered 19 yards for the score. After the successful conversion, the Vikings took a 30-0 lead

into halftime.

The Grizzlies looked determined to get on the board after receiving the second half kickoff. Gornick bulled his way for 13 yards and a first down, carrying a hoard of Vikings tacklers with him to the Cook County 45. Barto connected with Talen Jarshaw on a big fourth-and-five

pass that took the ball to the Vikings 12. But in a backbreaking reversal of fortunes, Dressely picked off Barto's next pass at the goal line and ran it back 100 yards for a touchdown and a 38-0 lead after the conversion.

North Woods never threatened again, and the Vikings tacked on two more

touchdowns for the 50-0 beatdown.

North Woods was scheduled to play Cherry in the first round of the Section 7 playoffs on Tuesday. The game report can be found elsewhere in this week's edition of the Timberjay.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

ed on their next possession with a 50-yard strike to push their margin to 24-6.

"That was kind of a dagger," said Gerzin.

The Raiders went on to add two more scores late but failed throughout the game to make the conversion, ultimately leaving as many

as 12 points on the table as Ely denied them the end zone each time.

Ely, as it has all season, struggled offensively

throughout much of the game. Stats were not available as of presstime.

17th Annual FALL AUCTION
Thursday, Nov. 9
The Wilderness at Fortune Bay
5 p.m. Social Hour • 6 p.m. Auction begins
Tickets \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door
A Fun-Filled Evening
Sponsored by the Tower-Soudan Athletic Association

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COUNTY SCHOOLS

School district looks to save on health insurance costs

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Health insurance was on the ISD 2142 school board agenda on Tuesday as board members met at North Woods School. The board heard that circumstances have come together for a rare occurrence in this day and age— a possible decrease in the cost of the district's health insurance.

Aaron Casper of National Insurance Services, an Eden Prairie-based company the district contracted with to solicit and assess health insurance bids for the upcoming two-year cycle that starts in January, delivered the good news.

"The goal was to provide like, similar and/or better benefits to staff at a reduced cost," Casper said. "Typically, when we're talking medical insurance, it's very difficult to provide both of those. This is one of the better results we've seen."

Proposals from the district's current provider, the Minnesota Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP) and six other companies were received in the initial bid phase, and PEIP, Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS), MHC/Northeast Service Cooperative and Sourcewell responded to a request for "best and final responses" with revised proposals.

"What we always do in our process is we have a best and final," Casper said. "It affords us the opportunity to answer questions to help carriers become more competitive for us as a group. About three out of four times carriers actually have a better response."

Casper conducted a clear, thorough review contrasting the various plan projected premiums, deductibles, out-of-pocket expenses, second-year cost increase caps, and overall

savings to the district and its employees, all based on current enrollment of 166 district employees in the PEIP plan.

Casper's recommendation was for the district to switch to Blue Cross Blue Shield, which offered the best combination of overall savings, \$344,192 or 10.3 percent, and a second-year cap of nine percent. The overall cost of the BCBS plan would be \$2,985,359.52. The current cost of the PEIP plan is approximately \$3.3 million. With the nine percent cap in the second year proposed by BCBS, the district would remain slightly below what its paying now for health insurance, Casper said.

The packet provided to the board indicated that the Northeast Service Cooperative quote was competitive, but the second-year cap is six percent greater than BCBS. A quote from Sourcewell was also financially competitive but would include significant changes in plan offerings. And PEIP, while competitive, did not offer a second-year cap on price increases.

The next step in the process is for the recommendation to be referred to the district's insurance committee for consideration. Casper said he would make himself available to meet with the committee and the district's various employee bargaining units to explain the bids and recommendations.

Casper noted that by state law, the teacher's union, as the one with the largest membership, can vote to retain PEIP as its health insurance provider. Casper thought that would be unlikely given the clear advantages of the BCBS bid, but wanted to be certain board members were aware that could happen. If the teachers did remain with PEIP, the board could

still vote to go with BCBS for the rest of its employees, but NIS would have to re-evaluate and recalculate the plan comparisons to determine the potential benefits with a smaller employee pool.

In other business, the board:

► Heard from North Woods Principal Kelly Engman about the various student and staff initiatives going on at the school. Engman presented a six-minute video highlighting school activities before giving a presentation tying what is going on at North Woods to key performance goals of the district's new strategic plan.

► Heard from North Woods Industrial Arts teacher Bruce Black about his concerns with his program budget. Black noted that while his budget has remained the same for years, the cost of construction materials skyrocketed during the pandemic. "Last year if you had divided my numbers up with the budget each student would have received \$39, and I paid \$13 a board. You do the math in your head." Renting one welding tank for a semester would consume one-eighth of his budget, Black said. "If we did not make the dugouts for the little league last year (which provided all the materials) I wouldn't have had any money at all for an entire year's construction class." The budget crunch comes at a time when North Woods is exploring ways to provide more career education options for students. "I just want you to be aware of how some of us are working hard to try to make our budgets stretch," Black said.

► Approved revisions to seven policies recommended by the Minnesota School Boards Association updating the definition of "sexual orientation" to

match state law, adding provision for cannabis testing, and several other minor revisions.

► Approved applications to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation to offset student activity fees and staff training costs associated with extracurricular league-sponsored athletics and fine arts programs.

► Heard about the plans for the Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference to be hosted at Northeast Range School on Oct. 27-28. Eighteen teams from 17 schools, including NER, will compete in the event. Competition will begin on Friday at 12:30 p.m. and is anticipated to last until around 7 p.m. Saturday's session will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end around 12:30

p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

► Hired Shayler Lisle-gard and Hanna Peitso as a part-time paraprofessionals at NER.

► Hired Paige Olson as a Head Start part-time paraprofessional at Tower-Soudan.

► Hired Jani Jordan as a part-time ECFE teacher aide at T-S.

► Hired Jessa Quam as a part-time preschool teaching assistant at North Woods.

► Hired Gregory Rozier as a van driver at NER and Matthew Hannine (Witte) as a bus driver at NW.

► Hired the following coaches at NW – Liz Cheney, head girls basketball, with assistants Mye Buffetta, Becca Bundy, and

Angela Schultz (half-stipend); Andrew Jugovich, head boys basketball, with assistant Dan Squiers.

► Accepted resignations from T-S teacher aide Paula Barnes, NW assistant basketball coaches Tom Burnett and Tate Olson, and NER custodian Barbara Rollie.

► Approved a salary step increase for T-S teaching assistant Jani Jordan.

► Approved increases in weekly hours for paraprofessionals, including 11 at NW, nine at NER, and two at T-S. Paraprofessionals had been reduced to four days a week in 2020, but in 2023-2024 the district has returned to hiring paraprofessionals at five days per week.

How to Get the Most Out of Passive Income in Your Portfolio

Passive income is broadly defined as money that comes from investments rather than employment wages. Examples include dividend income generated by stock investments or rental income derived from property you own. Passive income can play an important role in helping to meet day-to-day expenses and to accumulate wealth for retirement.

According to research from Ameriprise Financial, 40% of investors across multiple generations have some form of passive income, and more than two-thirds (77%) of investors say passive income is important or very important to their retirement strategy.

Having more than one source of income to draw from can be a powerful way to hedge against risk and ensure you have the means to cover your expenses. This is particularly true for retirees who no longer earn a traditional income and need to recreate their paycheck.

Five primary ways to generate passive income: Passive income can originate from a variety of sources. Here are five ways to generate passive income that may be a fit for your financial portfolio:

#1 – Dividend-paying stocks and mutual funds or ETFs: Stocks that generate competitive dividend yields are a prime source of passive income. If choosing individual stocks, pay attention to their track record. Companies with a history of raising dividend payouts consistently over time may offer the best, long-term opportunity. You can also find mutual funds or ETFs that emphasize dividend-paying stocks.

#2 – Bonds and bond index funds or ETFs: Investing in bonds is another way to generate income. Even if you are in the accumulation stage of life, bond income can play an important role in helping you build wealth. Not only do bonds offer a way to diversify a stock portfolio, but in today's market, bond yields are increasingly attractive. Consider that at the end of 2021, the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note was 1.52%. At the end of August 2023, the yield was more than 4%. Bond funds and ETFs are generally offering more competitive payouts today as well.

#3 – Cash instruments: Like bonds, cash-equivalent vehicles such as money market funds and certain certificates of deposit and bank savings accounts pay more attractive yields today. This is in line with changes to the yield environment in the broader bond market. Money put to work in this way generally has the added benefit of protection of principal value. Not only can you earn competitive returns, but you do so in a relatively safe manner.

#4 – Rental property: Some people choose to own property, such as houses or apartments, rent them out and use the income to buffer their nest egg. While this is considered a passive investment, there may still be some sweat equity and ongoing costs involved in maintaining properties and attracting and managing tenants. You'll also want to pay close attention to the state of the real estate market where you invest in properties. Ideally, these properties will appreciate in value over time.

#5 – Real estate investment trusts (REITs): If the idea of generating income from owning properties appeals to you, but you don't feel prepared to tackle the challenge of direct ownership, REITs offer an alternative. REITs are professionally managed like mutual funds, with money invested in properties such as office buildings, apartment complexes, retail spaces, warehouses or hotels. Those who invest in REITs primarily benefit from the income stream generated by the properties held. REITs are subject to market risk and various fees, and dividends are taxed as regular income. Evaluate any investment options carefully to understand how it may impact your situation.

Work within your overall plan: Passive income is most effective when the investment strategy is implemented within the context of your overall financial plan (with the plan itself designed according to your unique goals, timeframe to achieve them, and level of financial risk you want to accept along the way). Work with your financial advisor to determine how best to incorporate passive income strategies. A professional can discuss the advantages and drawbacks of the strategies above in more detail, and point you to other options not listed here. And as a final tip, keep in mind that while passive is in the name, you should regularly review your passive income strategy to make sure it's helping you achieve your financial goals.

The 2023 research was created by Ameriprise Financial Inc. and conducted online by Artemis Strategy Group from January 19 to February 14, 2023 among 3,518 Americans ages 27–77. Millennial respondents have \$25,000 or more in investable assets, and Gen X and boomer respondents have \$100,000 or more. The sample is weighted on region and by generation on age, gender, race/ethnicity, assets, and income based on the Federal Reserve 2021 Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking (SHED). To ensure sufficient response sizes for additional analysis, Ameriprise oversampled investors who identify as millennials. For further information and details about the study, including verification of data that may not be published as part of this report, please contact Ameriprise Financial or go to ameriprise.com/millennials.

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Obituaries and Death Notices

Cathy M. Johnson

Cathy Marjorie Johnson, 61, of Tower, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023. Cathy was born in Cook to Frank and Evelyn (Porter) Dupree. A Traditional Wake was held on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023 starting at 5 p.m. at the Vermilion Wellness Center, Tower. The Traditional Service will be held the next day, Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023 at the Onigum Community Center in Walker, Minn. at 10: a.m. Burial to follow at the Old Agency Catholic Cemetery.

Cathy lived in Vermilion most of her life. She was married at a young age and enjoyed staying home and taking care of her children. She worked as a custodian at the Vermilion Center for numerous years. She liked to garden and watch football. She enjoyed socializing and bringing family and friends together for barbecues, football parties and card games. She was an awesome cribbage player. Cathy loved to spend time with family, but especially loved picking blueberries with her grandchildren.

Cathy is survived by her children: Renee Johnson (Antone), Tara Taylor (Carlos), James (Adriana) Johnson, Robert Johnson, Richard Johnson (Emma); numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her significant other, Dennis Hilmas, and father of her children, Robert Johnson Sr.

Cathy was preceded in death by her parents; son Jerome Johnson Sr; sisters: Vivian Buckana-

ga, Geraldine Hanks, and Donna Dupree; brothers: Francis Dupree, Alvin Dupree, and Terry Dupree; and grandson WhiteCloud Johnson.

Gary G. Dehn

Gary George Dehn, 80, of Cook, died on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023. A visitation will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 27, followed by a 4 p.m. memorial service at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. The celebration will continue immediately after the service at the South Switch in Angola.

Raymond Juntunen

Raymond "Ray" Juntunen, 83, lifelong resident of Cook, passed away on Monday, Oct. 16, 2023, at the Cook Care Center. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 27 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

He is survived by his daughter, Terry; sister-in-law, Bonnie Juntunen; brother-in-law, Gene Noel; many nieces and nephews; and his friends at the log cabin, Theresa Martinson and Ronnie Sutter.

Lana M. Tuthill

Lana Marie Christian Tuthill, 81, lifelong resident of Ely, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Oct. 15 at Carefree Living in Babbitt. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28 at First Lutheran Church in Ely. A gathering time for family and friends will

begin one hour prior to the service at to church. A celebration of life will follow the service at Grand Ely Lodge. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

She is survived by her loving husband of 61 years, Gary Tuthill of Ely; son, Neil (Brenda) Tuthill of Peshtigo, Wis.; daughter, Susan (Mark) Tarvin of Savage; grandchildren, Hope Tuthill, Christian Tarvin, Connor Tuthill and Jacob Tarvin; brothers, Keith (Susie) Christian of Seattle, Wash., and Stan (Kathy) Christian of Chicago, Ill.; cherished nephews, nieces and extended family members.

James A. Pluth

James A. "Moots" Pluth, 84, lifelong resident of Ely, passed peacefully on Friday, Oct. 20, 2023, in his home with his family by his side. A celebration of life will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 27 at Grand Ely Lodge. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Mary Morton Pluth; brother, Richard Pluth of Chicago, Ill.; children, Greg (Jackie) Pluth of Ely, Alicia (Bill) Ladd of Grand Forks, N.D., and William (Christine) Pluth of East Grand Forks; nieces and nephews, Katie, Patrick and Chrissy Pluth of Chicago, Jason and Kevin Dargontina of Minneapolis; and grandchildren, Amelia, Alexander and Madison Pluth.

Tales of the Unknown

Editor's Note: The following are stories of mysterious encounters in the area as told to Timberjay staff by the people who experienced them.

A portal to another world?

SOUDAN—It was a stormy December evening several years ago when Victoria Ranua and her family arrived at their Soudan residence. Snow had been falling for hours and there was nearly a foot of new accumulation on the in-town roads. But after unloading the car, Victoria decided she wanted to take a walk in the snow and headed up the back way to the state park figuring she'd head down to Stuntz Bay as she often did in all kinds of weather in the evening.

The depth of the snow made the travel difficult, having to high-step in order to move forward. Her older son had started the walk with her, but quickly turned around once he realized his high-top tennis shoes were filling with snow.

But V.R. continued on down the road, illuminated only by the fading

reflected light from the streetlamps in Soudan. She had always enjoyed walking during snowstorms and her mood was excited as she reached the top of the hill near the park entrance and began the long descent to Stuntz Bay. Moments later, she reached the portion of the road where guard rails protect travelers from the steep cliffs on both sides of the road. It's a land bridge, of sorts, that threads the needle between two of the early former mine pits, dug in the late 1800s. Work in the pits was extremely dangerous and many men had died from falling rocks in the early years before the work shifted underground.

“I told myself that there was nothing out here to fear.”

Victoria Ranua

See **PORTAL**...pg. 5B

Talking to the other side

Editor's note: This is from a current resident of Soudan, recalling her experiences growing up.

When I was kid, I lived in the country, in a big house, on a hill. I didn't have any siblings to play with and the house was very quiet. I had older parents. They didn't have many friends and neither did I. We didn't have TV. We didn't even have fans. It was so quiet. When I was six-years-old, my grandmother died. She lived a couple hours away and I saw her infrequently but I loved her dearly and I know she really loved me. Despite that, I was never really sad that she died.

In fact, after she died I spent more time with her than ever before. I talked to her, a lot. I clearly remember talking to her in my parents' garage. I would talk to her on the early morning bus ride to school, she would be seated there with me. I'd talk to my still-born sister and my deceased cats, too. I never knew my grandpa since he died before I was born. "I love you grandma, say hi to grandpa for me," I would often tell my grandmother.

I would also surprise my mom by knowing which presents she had bought me before she gave them to me. She says, "children are more connected to the other side."

I don't talk to ghosts anymore and my tarot reading is really subpar. I have, however, had several people tell me I have a strong aura. I had a massage therapist tell me at the end of a session, "I usually wouldn't say this, but your aura is really powerful!" I went back to see her again, and she had quit. I hope my escaping other-worldly vibes didn't scare her!



An unexpected visitor on the midnight shift

NORTHSHORE MINE—Soudan resident, Nate Dostert got the scare of a lifetime back in about 2009 when he was working for Cleveland Cliffs-Northshore at the Peter Mitchell Mine near Babbitt. He was employed in the Railroad Operations Department. Part of his job was to load train cars with coarse taconite rock then transport the rock to Silver Bay for crushing, processing and shipping from the port. On this particular fall night he was working a midnight shift and was alone at the loading site. "It was around ten or eleven p.m. and I had just pulled my train in to be filled," he said. The loading site has a wide dirt stockpile about forty feet high with a train track on each side with a large loading bin. After pulling his train into the bin he got out of the cab and looked towards the loading platform. He could not believe what he was seeing. Slowly and silently rising from behind it was a large, triangle shaped UFO. "I know I wasn't dreaming and I was immediately scared to death," Nate said. He froze in



his footsteps unable to move or speak as he watched the ominous craft slowly rising up skyward with its lights starting to strobe. He recalls seeing a glass dome at the top center of the craft and could see figures moving inside. Fearing for his life, he was finally able to engage his legs and run towards the shelter of the loading bin office where he could get inside to make a phone call to the pit dispatcher to see if anyone else had seen what he just saw. He immediately called a couple other co-workers in the crusher to see if any of them had seen it and they had not. Nate then stepped back outside and discovered the craft was no longer there. Within moments a couple of co-workers arrived at the site and they all stood studying the

night sky where they could see the lights of the craft zigzagging away from them and finally disappearing from view. "It was really a scary experience and my voice was shaking when I called my girlfriend to tell her what had happened." He recalled talking to his male co-worker the next day and learned the man's wife had also seen the same craft at their home in Embarrass that night. Nate said he got some flack from some of his co-workers who teased him about imagining the entire thing. However, one offered the comment, "but if you really know Nate, he's not one to make up stories or lie."

Nate said he had a hard time working night shift for a long while afterward.

Unsettling events on James

ELY—In 2001, I moved to Ely from Hayward, Wis. with my son who was four years old at the time. I was single back then and had rented a house for us on James St. With the help of a girlfriend, we moved in on Halloween, timing that certainly set the tone for the next 16 years I lived in the house with my son and, later, with a man from Robinson Lake who I married.

I was lying down to rest in an extra upstairs bedroom when one the first unsettling events occurred. I was facing the wall, just beginning to relax when there was a hard slap on the mattress right behind my head and I immediately jolted up only to find nobody was there.

On another occasion, my husband was awakened from sleep upstairs when he heard his name loudly spoken, prompting him to get up and search for whoever was there, only to find the place empty.

Events continued over the years, perhaps the most frightening at around 11 p.m. one night. My husband and I



Left: The kitchen door at the James St. house where a wispy apparition appeared. It was one of many unsettling events experienced at the house.

having been a fan of psychic, Sylvia Brown, sat up and in my loudest voice invoked the entire holy family! I told whatever it was that it was MY house and that it had to leave. My hollering caused my husband to jolt up in bed nearly having a heart attack, wondering what the heck was going on. My command didn't seem to convince the stubborn house guest and these antics kept occurring.

Another annoying event was when I brought in tall branches for Easter decorating and had them anchored in a heavy floor vase in a corner of the upstairs hallway. I hung the needlework eggs my mother had made on the branches by their delicate thread loops. All of the eggs were hung up high and yet I kept finding them on the floor

See **EVENTS**...pg. 5B

Ghost in the house



BABBITT—Having grown up in Babbitt, with a long Finnish lineage, Brittney Tuura was in no rush to move away from her family. In about 2012, at age 25, she and her husband and two children, Hayden age two and Kyler age five, moved into a rental house on Fir Circle in Babbitt.

After settling in and getting on with their busy lives she began hearing her son Kyler talking about his indoor playmate, who said her name was "Big Girl" in his conversations describing her brown hair and yellow dress.

"As a young mother I just figured his imagination was starting to develop and didn't take it more seriously than that at the time." She recalls one evening, while setting the table for four, her son got upset because she had not set a place for his best friend, Big Girl. She and her husband went along with it for a while, seeing no real reason to worry.

She recalled that Kyler really loved to play in the basement with his Dora The Explorer ride-on-cart with its lights and musical horn, but apparently he was not the only one. On several occasions when Kyler hadn't been in the basement the lights of the car would turn on and the car would be found in a different place than where Kyler had parked it.

Later, as time passed, things got even stranger. One day Kyler was standing in front of his potty unwilling to do his duty and Brittney said, "Go on and pee!" He said he couldn't because Big Girl was sitting on the potty.

At other times, electrical appliances like the microwave and the clock on the electric stove would oddly keep working if the power went out in the rest of the house, so it started to occur to them that there was something more to Big Girl than they originally thought.

One day when they were remodeling Kyler's bedroom they removed a baseboard to discover the words, "Jenny's room" having been written on a wall by an adult. Following this discovery, Brittney then asked an older lady from Babbitt if there had ever been a girl named Jenny who had lived in the house. The woman nodded yes, and told her a young girl named Jenny who had brown hair and often wore a yellow dress had indeed lived in the house but had passed away at a young age.

During the years they

See **BIG GIRL**...pg. 5B

When a ghost rings the bell on the William A. Irvin

Stephanie Ukkola once worked as a manager on the SS William A. Irvin, a retired US Steel ore carrier that sailed the Great Lakes from 1938 until its retirement in 1978. The vessel now resides in the Minnesota Slip in Duluth serving as an educational tourist destination and, during

the month of October, a unique haunted attraction.

Most of the frights you'll experience on a haunted tour are fictional, but not everything that happens on the ship can be explained.

The gift shop has a doorbell button that connects to the break

room and dings so the cashier can call up a tour guide when needed. One night, I was alone with a co-worker on the ship. I was in the office closing out the financials while my coworker was waiting for me in the break room after locking all the ship's exterior doors. Suddenly, "Ding-dong!"

My coworker heard the bell. He went out to the gift shop to see who was there, but he had locked the door and, to no surprise, found the shop empty.

He ran back to my office, frightened.

"Did you ring the bell?" he asked.

"Uh...no, I've been here, what are you talking about?"

He explained and, needless to say, we made a hasty retreat, preferring not to spend any more time with a ghost on the ship.

EVENTS...Continued from page 4B

but the hanging loops were always intact. If it were cat play, the entire scene would have been a mess so what was gently lifting them down off the branches? Finally, I just took the ornament tree down because it got too creepy.

Strange occurrences happened on the main floor too. Both me and my son's friend had a similar experience in the living room on separate occasions when we had been sleeping on the couch. We each awoke in a very groggy state, unable to move our bodies or speak for several moments while we rode out this temporary frightening paralysis. Another spooky encounter took place in the kitchen one morning. My son who was about ten by that time, had his breakfast interrupted when he became aware of a transparent figure in the doorway on the other side of the room that immediately disappeared when he looked at it. Over the course of the years there were also sightings of another quickly moving,

wispy transparent figure in the house on the main level. On one such occasion after coming out of the bathroom, my husband stepped into very cold air in the short hallway to the kitchen and as he rounded the corner the string of beads hanging from the doorway started moving back and forth upon his approach as if someone had rushed by ahead of him.

At one point, after the haunting experiences began I asked a neighbor about the history of the house and if he knew if anyone had died there, but he said he hadn't heard of any such event. I later learned the house had been moved from Spaulding Mine Location years prior and was occupied by one family for many years but who knows what the house had witnessed prior to that. It was unsettling and annoying to me because at that time in my life I just wanted a peaceful place to raise my son. I don't miss that house, except for its lovely flower gardens.

BIG GIRL...Continued from page 4B

lived in the house, Kyler never had any nightmares or experiences that scared him, but his experiences with Big Girl continued until circumstances provided the young family an exit from the rental property when the home's owner

went into foreclosure and lost the residence. Kyler was sad to move but never talked about his imaginary friend again, while on the other hand Brittney and her husband felt a great sense of relief.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday						Saturday						Sunday						Monday						Tuesday																									
38 21						32 18						30 18						30 18						30 19																									
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.																									
10/16	54	34	0.00		10/16	59	29	0.00		10/16	57	34	0.00		10/16	na	28	0.00		10/16	58	32	0.00																										
10/17	51	34	0.00		10/17	49	23	0.00		10/17	48	31	0.00		10/17	63	na	0.00		10/17	50	24	0.00																										
10/18	60	38	0.02		10/18	60	22	0.15		10/18	59	30	0.09		10/18	46	57	0.16		10/18	60	24	0.12																										
10/19	54	37	0.01		10/19	55	45	0.00		10/19	53	45	0.02		10/19	na	48	0.12		10/19	55	45	0.00																										
10/20	50	38	0.12		10/20	55	30	0.05		10/20	54	38	0.08		10/20	52	na	0.00		10/20	56	30	0.00																										
10/21	54	43	0.16		10/21	55	36	0.09		10/21	60	40	0.05		10/21	52	43	0.00		10/21	57	37	0.14																										
10/22	47	37	0.03		10/22	52	38	0.05		10/22	53	39	0.23		10/22	50	43	0.00		10/22	52	36	0.08																										
YTD Total					21.06					YTD Total					22.94					YTD Total					17.72					YTD Total					NA					YTD Total					21.64				

PORTAL...Continued from page 4B

But none of that was on V.R.'s mind, at least not at first. "But as I reached the guard rail, I started to feel an immense sense of dread," she recalls. Every cell of her body was telling her to "Turn Back!" It was so odd and so sudden that she at first tried to ignore it. "But with each step, it got worse," she remembers. And so began a brief but intense battle between her rational brain, which told her there was nothing to fear, and her body that was telling her to run.

But as a trained scientist, her mind kept resisting. "I told myself that there was nothing out here to fear. There were no bears, wolves, or even people ahead, just a bunch of deep newly fallen snow. There was no apparent reason for the strong warning my body was giving my mind," she said as she soon reached the middle of land bridge. There

were no tracks in the snow ahead. "For some reason, to show my body that there was nothing to be afraid of, I turned around to prove that nothing was following me, either." That's when she saw the flash of a bright green light in the bottom of the pit to her left.

"That's when my body took over," she said. "I bolted straight back the way I had come through the deep snow, and once I got back to the other side of the bridge, my sense of dread disappeared but my heart was still racing." She could not figure out what had just happened. "What was that green light at the bottom of the pit? What had the body sensed that caused such fear before I saw the green light?" She arrived home earlier than her family expected and she couldn't find the words to explain why she did not go all the way to Stuntz Bay. That

night she mulled over the experience trying to make sense of it and find a way to put it into words that others could understand.

She has since traversed that land bridge during other snowstorms and has never again experienced the fear and dread that permeated her to the core on that strange evening. "I felt whatever it was, didn't want me to cross the bridge." She said she still has no idea what it was she encountered during that December snowstorm but wonders if something terrible had happened in that mine pit on that same evening more than a century ago. "I wonder if I was seeing some sort of portal that was opening at that moment," she said. "All I know for sure is that I never experienced anything like that ever again. "I was literally scared to my core."

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2022 Chevrolet Equinox LT 4x4

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2021 Buick Enclave Premium 4x4

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2020 Chevrolet Equinox LT 4x4

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The End of the Road Archers is a nonprofit volunteer-run organization that provides a proper and safe environment to help youth in the Ely area in grades 4-12 to develop and grow archery as a lifelong skill.

Their program relies on support from our community to keep their growing team successful. They would not be able to do what they do without us!

Visit endoftheroadarchers.com to learn more and see how you can support this youth program.

CONTENTED CRITTERS SPOOKTACULAR EVENT

at Ely Flower & Seed

Saturday, Oct. 28 · Noon to 4 PM

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(For all ages & pumpkins must be purchased at store event)

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

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

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

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



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See www.irpsmn.org for details. 11/3

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Closes: 11/14/2023

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



OPEN POSITIONS

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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)

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www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/

More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220

humanresources@cookhospital.org

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Ely Police Department • Ely, MN

Full-time Patrol Officer

Deadline: Open until Filled

The Ely Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of a full-time Patrol Officer. Our department consists of 7 fulltime licensed peace officers and 1 administrative assistant. Starting base salary for 2023 is \$29.95, with pay increases at 6 months, 1 year, and reaching top pay at year 2 (\$33.58). Longevity steps on top of base pay. Employees also shall receive 4 % wage shift differential for all hours worked between 3:00pm and 7:00 am. Benefits include, health, dental, health savings, uniform allowance, 14 paid holidays, 2 personal days, vacation and sick leave.

Applicants must be P.O.S.T. licensed or eligible for licensing at the time of hire. Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen, possess a valid MN driver's license, pass a background check, physical fitness exam, and psychologic examination prior to appointment. To be considered, you must submit a City of Ely application. Lateral transfers are encouraged to apply; pay and benefits may be evaluated based on years of service and experience.

Contact Sandy at Ely Police Department at 218-504-5146 to obtain an application or go to the City of Ely website at www.ely.mn.us

The City of Ely is an equal opportunity employer.

Ely Police Department
209 E. Chapman Street, Ely, MN 55731
(218) 504-5146

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: Jane Dough Baking Co.
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 2214 E 41st St. Hibbing MN 55746
NAMEHOLDER: Ashley Sage Snyder, 2214 E 41st St., Hibbing, MN 55746 United States
By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.
SIGNED BY: Ashley S. Snyder
MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided
DATED: Oct. 20, 2023

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

SEEKING BIDS FOR SNOW REMOVAL AT 10689 HWY 23 GARAGE.

The Orr Ambulance Service, 4429 Hwy 53, Box 237, Orr, MN 55771, is in the process of accepting sealed bids for the 2023-2024 school year for snow plowing/removal.

WHERE: GARAGE LOCATED AT 10689 HWY 23, ORR, MN 55771
The garage parking lot needs to be completed by 5:30 a.m.

SPECIFICATION/REQUIREMENTS:

- Snow removal shall occur when two (2) inches or more of snow/sleet, etc. accumulates on the ground surfaces.
- The Orr Ambulance Service reserves the right to request additional snow removal as needed.
- All snow removal services must be available at the Contractor's pricing between November 18, 2023, and April 30, 2024.
- The contractor must be insured.

Please respond by 3 p.m., Friday, November 17, 2023, with your sealed bid. Please include your name, address, phone number, telephone, and your signature. Marked the sealed envelope "ORR AMBULANCE SNOW PLOWING REMOVAL SERVICES".

If you have any questions, contact Patrick at 218-780-6535. Thank you.

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 27, 2023

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.

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.

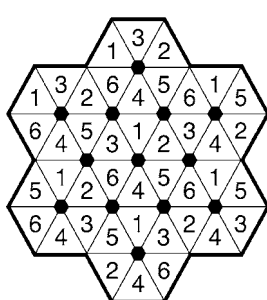
A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: October 9, 2023

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

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

solution



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Answers

S	A	R	A	H	F	O	B	O	F	F	N	B	A	G	A	M	E	S	
P	R	E	G	O	U	S	U	R	E	R	E	L	D	O	R	A	D	O	
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

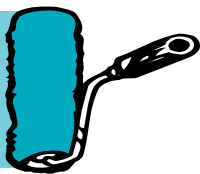
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Service Bay-90' L x 48' W with three 14' x 14' overhead doors, an office, oil changing pit and used oil heater "free heat"

North Bay-48' L x 60' W with four 12' W x 11' H overhead doors

Middle Bay-48' L x 15' W one 12' W x 11' H overhead door

South Bay-48' L x 25' W, two 12' W x 11' H overhead doors

South Building 23' W x 100' L with one 14' W x 16' H overhead door on each end.

Office area 15' x 36'

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: T equals K

OGYO TZFA ZP PD NFLDHHDFWR

ICFCUDWCFO OGYO CUCJRIDER

ICAYF LYWWZFA GZH

"RDNJ JDRYW TZFEFCPP."

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

KX FJZ NSM EZCAKAT NSWGKMR

VKLP EJWTJMT, FJZ EPJZIO

WSCCF LPTW JM LPT VSF PJWT.

— FAJMMT GCKMQ

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