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The **TIMBERJAY**



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\$1⁵⁰

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Winter park access to remain the same this year

Minnesota DNR challenges fed's authority to limit access to frozen lakes

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK- Winter users of frozen lake surfaces here won't have to cope with a new set of rules this season, as implementation of a new Frozen Lake Surface Access

and Use Plan proposed earlier this year by park officials won't be ready to go until at least 2024.

The plan would restrict off-road vehicles, trucks, SUVs and other vehicles to two designated ice roads on Kabetogama and Rainy lakes, although such vehicles would

be allowed to operate within 300 feet of those roads. It also would place restrictions on placement and occupation of ice fishing shelters.

What is available now on the park's dedicated webpage for the plan is analysis of all of the public comments received about the proposal, along with

a second file with the complete comments themselves.

The analysis does not include verbal comments made at public meetings at Kabetogama and International Falls or a virtual meeting alternative. A total of

See...**ACCESS** pg.9



TOWNSHIP POLITICS

ROAD ROW RANKLES OWENS

Resident upset over apparent decision to vacate road without public process

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

OWENS TWP— Dorothy Easterday's official property address is 9175 Derusha Rd. in Owens Township. But whether it is Derusha Rd. or not is a question that has mired this small town outside of Cook in a longstanding battle that shows no sign of easing.

Easterday has been wres-

ting with township officials over the issue for several years, ever since her neighbor, Jerald Koenck, blocked half of the road beyond his driveway by installing a fence. Easterday tore out the fence, which prompted Koenck to call the sheriff. Deputies advised her to contact an attorney and when she did, he advised her to go to the town board for a resolution.

But Easterday's pleas to the

town board to restore the usual road access she enjoyed for years apparently found little traction and the town board has treated the road past her neighbor's as non-existent ever since.

That apparent decision ended the township's previous willingness to maintain the road and pay St. Louis County to plow snow past Koenck's driveway.

See...**ROAD ROW** pg. 10

Above: Looking east from the corner of Dorothy Easterday's driveway, the narrowing of the road from the junk car "fence" along the property line is evident compared to the fully maintained, full-width road in the background.

photo by D. Colburn

CONTROVERSY

Ely RV park battle continues

Public hearing set for Nov. 15 at Ely City Hall

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The battle continues next week over the proposed reopening and expansion of the former Miners Lake RV Park and Campground.

The new owners of the property, Dean and Lee Ann Peterson of AOK Outdoors, applied for a conditional use permit, or CUP, on Aug. 14 but faced stiff opposition in a Sept. 20 public hearing from dozens of residents in the neighborhood. The couple withdrew their application before the continuation of the public hearing on Oct. 11, stating that they wished to redesign their proposal. The couple reapplied with the Planning and Zoning Commission on Oct. 19 and the required public hearing on the new application is now set for Wednesday, Nov. 15, at 5 p.m., before the Ely Board of Adjustment at Ely City Hall.

The public hearing will also consider a zoning variance request by AOK to allow an RV pad on the site of a now-removed mobile home, intended only for the campground host. The site is within the 75-foot setback along the shoreline and the Petersons have requested a variance for a 60-foot setback instead.

History

The former Miners Lake RV Park

See...**RV PARK** pg. 9

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION

High court hears arguments on Trump's access to the ballot

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ST. PAUL— A case heard last Thursday before the state Supreme Court is expected to decide whether former President Donald Trump is qualified to appear on primary ballots in Minnesota this March. And it appears that decision could well hinge on whether justices ultimately agree that Trump engaged

in or incited an insurrection.

The case is one of several currently before high courts in states across the country that seek to block Trump from appearing on presidential ballots under the 14th Amendment's Section 3, which prohibits candidates from holding office who have previously sworn an oath of office and subsequently engaged in or gave comfort to rebellion or insurrection.

Former Minnesota Secretary of State Joan Growe, former Supreme Court Justice Paul H. Anderson, and the national nonprofit Free Speech for People are suing current Secretary of State Steve Simon. They argue that Simon has the authority to disqualify Trump from the ballot for his involvement in the Jan. 6, 2021 uprising during which thousands of Trump supporters stormed and damaged the U.S.

Capitol building and injured more than 100 police officers in an effort to block the ratification of Joe Biden's 2020 election victory over Trump. Simon, for his part, has maintained that any disqualification under the 14th Amendment should come from the courts.

Justices seemed to recognize the fraught legal and political challenges posed by Growe's lawsuit, and they peppered

attorneys on all sides with questions in hopes of finding a path forward. Hudson noted that prior cases on ballot disqualification have offered no clear direction. "Doesn't that suggest we use caution and some judicial restraint and maintain the status quo?" she asked.

Chief Justice Hudson noted the political ramifications of a

See...**HEARING** pg. 9



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Community notices

Ely's State Theater hosts live UFC wrestling and tribute to Lee Greenwood this weekend

ELY – On Saturday, Nov. 11 at 9 p.m., attendees can watch the live match between UFC Mixed Martial Arts light heavyweights Jiri Prochazka and Alex Pereira. A bonus match will feature heavyweight contenders Tom Aspinall and Sergei Pavlovich. That's three hours of LIVE action for \$25.

Does anyone remember "God Bless the USA?" On Sunday, Nov. 12 at 2 p.m., EHST is showing a one-time-only multi-artist concert celebrating the 40-year career of Lee Greenwood. Attendees will see more than a dozen country stars paying tribute to Lee. In addition to this event is \$15. Reservations are recommended and can be made by visiting elystatetheater.org online or stopping by the theater located at 238 E. Sheridan St.

Highways 1 & 169 tree clearing starts Nov. 15

DULUTH – The Minnesota Department of Transportation will be starting tree clearing work on Highway 1/Highway 169 south of Tower on Nov. 15. Motorists should expect shoulder and lane closures in work areas. Clearing work is to prevent ice buildup due to trees shading the roadway.

This work is in addition to completed pavement resurfacing between the Pike River bridge and Highway 135. For more information, please visit the project website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/hwy1-hwy169/index.html>

For more information on projects in northeast Minnesota, follow northeast MNDOT on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/groups/MnDOTnortheast> and Twitter at @mndotnortheast. For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit www.511mn.org.

Cook Thrift Shop announces Christmas bazaar

COOK - The Cook Area Health Care Auxiliary thrift shop will be holding its annual Christmas bazaar on Friday, Nov. 17, from 3 – 7 p.m., and on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Cook Community Center.

There will be crafts, baked goods, new/used quality items, basket raffles, seasonal decorations, and more. Volunteers are always needed. There will be a sign-up sheet at the bazaar, or stop by the thrift shop to find out about volunteer opportunities and become part of the team.

USMC Birthday Ball Nov. 10 at Valentini's

CHISHOLM - The ball will be held at Valentini's in Chisholm Nov. 10 starting at 5:30 p.m. with social, dinner, and a program. This will be the 248th birthday of the Marine Corps which is a day full of tradition that only the "few and the proud" will fully understand. Last year more than 60 Marines attended from 21 to 94 years old. Tickets are \$10 per person, reservations are required. Email magnussonc@yahoo.com or leave a message at 218.969.7137. Semper Fi!

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SHOP LOCAL

Nelimark Homestead Museum opens for Christmas shopping Nov. 9-11 and Dec. 7-9

EMBARRASS - With the holiday season on its way, it is time to find items to fill the stockings. There are many items available at the Embarrass Nelimark for you at reasonable prices, created and crafted by community artisans. Old-time memories can be experienced and captured from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on two weekends, Nov. 9-11 and Dec. 7-9



There's something for shoppers young and old at Nelimark and don't forget to grab something for yourself too!

The list is endless: hand-crafted figures, homemade soap and oils, small tree, mantle and entry decorations, sauna signs, repurposed and recycled items attractively made new again, Finnish glassware, unique children's books, gift books, t-shirts, hats and mittens, baseball caps, aprons, ironing board covers, throw pillows, long-lasting

rag rugs, postcards from olden days, bird feeders, old marbles, games for kids, and local photographs of sites you love.

If you're not in the market for stocking stuffers or collectibles, there will be an amazing selection of freshly baked holiday

goodies available to add to your taste enjoyment. Past year's offerings have included fudge, tea rings, Christmas coffee cakes, potica loaf, cinnamon and braided rolls, wild fruit jams and jellies, variety of relishes, jars of home processed dill and sweet pickles, including beet pickles, spicy salsas, rhubarb preserves, cardamom biscuit (pulla) sprinkled with sugar crystals and other ethnic breads, "limpu" rye bread, artisan breads, and other yummy delicacies.

Come out early and enjoy hot apple cider or coffee 'an on the house and help ring the sleigh bells for the holiday season. It's time to enjoy this wonderful time of the year.

SHOP TIL YOU DROP

MDC and Chisholm Chamber welcome shoppers for Expo and Artisan Market

CHISHOLM - The Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC), in partnership with the Chisholm Area Chamber of Commerce, announced that the Holiday Chamber Expo & Artisan Market will be held Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Minnesota Discovery Center and participating locations in downtown Chisholm. Besides being a fun family event, the Holiday Chamber Expo & Artisan Market aims to promote regional artisans and encourage people to shop locally this holiday season.



No online ordering necessary when everything you need can be found at the Holiday Chamber Expo and Artisan Market.

MDC Sales and Events Manager, Alyssa Niemi said, "We are excited to welcome 30 plus vendors to the Discovery Center for this year's market. Booths range from sewn items, canned goods, herbal remedies, pottery, and more. The market is one of MDC's most anticipated events of the year because it brings in people from across the Northland and features vendor's handmade merchandise."

Admission to the Artisan Market at MDC requires a \$5 donation to the MDC Education Program Fund and/or donating a non-perishable food item(s) in support of the Chisholm Food Shelf. Food items cannot be expired. MDC Discovery Pass Members get free admission to the Artisan Market. If you're visiting the Holiday Expo downtown Chisholm, there is no admission fee to the event.

Participating locations downtown include, Casey Drug & Gifts,

Cherry Greenhouse, Jim's Sports Club Bar & Grill, Healthy Vibes, Tom & Jerry's Bar, Keyboard Liquor, Mary's Lake Street Floral, Rupp Furniture and Carpet, 30 West Fitness & Recreation, & Valentini's Supper Club. Here's what you'll find: jewelry, home decor, products to pamper yourself, improve your health, and entertain in style.

"The chamber is proud to partner with the Discovery Center and excited to welcome many new vendors to this year's expo in downtown Chisholm," said Chisholm Chamber Executive Director Shannon Kishel-Roche. "Not only will visitors be able to shop several local vendor booths, but they can also take full advantage of our wonderful retail businesses and their holiday offerings."



Event attendees will have an opportunity to grow their holiday shopping budget with a chance to win one of five \$100 Chisholm Cash Prizes. To be eligible to win, attendees must visit all participating locations and collect stamps and turn in their completed stamp booklets at any participating location. Winners will be notified by the Chisholm Chamber shortly after the event.

Minnesota Discovery Center is located at 1005 Discovery Drive. MDC is now using the winter museum entrance located in the back parking lot (follow digital navigation signs in parking lot upon arrival).

JUST FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

UWNEMN to hold mental health trainings Jan. 16 and 17

VIRGINIA - United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) is proud to organize a free training for Veterans, military, law enforcement, medical staff, first responders, firefighters, corrections, dispatch, and those providing support and care for them in our region.

"The people who care for our communities work with trauma every single day, and it's important to support them," said

UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay. "Healthier frontline workers mean healthier communities."

Identical Unmasking Mental Health trainings will be held Jan. 16 and 17, at Iron Trail Motors Event Center. The days have been scheduled this way so local departments can send multiple shifts of workers. The training is POST credit approved. Certificates of attendance, outline of objectives, and post-tests will be available

to apply for local CEUs.

UWNEMN has partnered with St. Paul-based Wellness That Fits to bring speakers that have lived experience supporting military, police, first responders, or health care workers through trauma and mental health as well as Veterans, retired law enforcement, and keynote speaker Dan Sundahl – an advanced care paramedic, pre-hospital educator, and retired firefighter. Sundahl is also an international-

ly recognized artist and writer who is passionate about reducing the stigma of PTSD for first responders and uses his art to raise awareness of occupational stress injuries worldwide. Sundahl's artwork will be on display throughout both days of the training.

Learn more/register for Unmasking Mental Health at www.unitedwaynemn.org/unmasking-mentalhealth.

GOD OF CARNAGE

BY YASMINA REZA

NOV 17 & 18 AT 7PM
NOV 19 AT 2PM

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CITY OF ELY

Cost is over \$47,000 to demolish blighted properties

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The Ely City Council continued its war on blight at its Nov. 7 meeting by approving the demolition of two derelict residential structures and deciding to wait for a report on a third.

The city accepted bids on Oct. 19 from contractors for the demolition of the two-story residence divided into apartments at 726 E. Camp St., and the single-family home at 131 S. Central Ave. "This has been on our docket for a couple of years," said Harold Langowski, Ely's clerk-treasurer.

Because of the outcome of the May U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Tyler v. Hennepin County*, governmental entities who confiscate tax-forfeited properties must return excess equity after settling a tax bill. Given the uncertainty over how much equity must be returned, the city is doubtful the money can be recovered for demolishing the derelict properties.

"Because of the Supreme Court decision, the city is responsible for the cost of demolition," said Langowski.

The city council accepted a bid from G-Men Environmental Services for \$47,822. For each property, the contractor has 21 calendar days after work begins to demolish structures and grade the site.

The third blighted property is the home partly owned and formerly occupied by Jason Gillson. County tax records show that Mark Herman of Jacobson is listed as an owner along with Gillson.

Gillson allegedly set fire to the home at 45 E. Boundary St. during an incident on Sept. 13 which resulted in multiple felony charges against him, as covered in the Sept. 15 issue of the *Timberjay*. He is currently out on bail and living in Jacobson.

The home was posted as unsafe to occupy on Sept. 14, with an exception for cleanup and repair activities between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Gillson was served with a violation that the home was not safe to occupy on Oct. 3. Gillson and Vickie Herman of Jacobson were cited on Nov. 1 by Ely's building official, Doug Whitney, for blight and notified that unless the owners mitigated the unsafe conditions, a public

hearing on the blight would be forthcoming.

Included in the Nov. 1 citation was the notification of installing an "unlisted small single wall wood stove on a combustible floor surface. Vented out through the broken-out kitchen window." The stove was observed to be "extremely rusted" with a plastic gas can and a propane tank next to it on the stairs. Gillson was informed at the time of the citation that he had to remove the stove as soon as it was cool enough to move.

"The city just spent \$47,882 on two demolitions and you may be looking at a third," said city attorney Kelly Klun. "Corrective action at this step is usually a public hearing, but we want another inspection by Doug (Whitney)."

Whitney added, "Access is an issue ... The owner is not cooperative."

Klun mentioned that accessing the insides of the fire-damaged home might require a search warrant. Fire Chief David Marshall commented that the right to re-enter under the fire code might apply.

Langowski remarked,

"We're trying to get access next week ... We've not seen any corrective actions."

"No claims have been filed with insurance and no contractor has been hired. The property is just sitting there," Whitney added.

The matter of 45 E. Boundary St. will be on the agenda again at the next city council meeting.

Other business

In other business on Tuesday, the city council:

► Heard the testimony in open forum of Frederica Musgrave, who said she could not find "any code of ethics, standards of conduct, or conflict of interest" statements or policies in the city's code and other documents, and urged the city to adopt some that followed the guidelines and recommendations of the Minnesota League of Cities.

She expressed her distress over "the disturbing behavior" of the chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission toward the city council liaison to the commission at the Oct. 19 meeting, where the chair allegedly chastised the liaison, Angela Camp-

bell. Campbell confirmed that an exchange did happen and told the *Timberjay* that the chair's words for her were "surprising, disappointing and uncalled for."

The Oct. 19 meeting was not recorded on video or audio and the minutes do not reflect the exchange. The details are now lost to anything but eyewitness memories. It was for this reason that Musgrave urged the council to record all of the city's public meetings.

► Approved the recommendation from the Heritage Preservation Commission to issue a request for proposals for videography services for the video and oral histories project to collect stories in celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the Ely Memorial High School building.

► Approved the recommendation of the Telecommunications Advisory Board (TAB) to purchase new equipment for \$12,000 from Cablecast, following the successful demonstration of the equipment to TAB members Todd Crego and Mauro Caruso. The purchase

See ELY...pg. 5

PUBLIC SAFETY

Task force created to address rural ambulance needs

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- When Sen. Grant Hauschild convened a roundtable in Soudan last month to discuss challenges faced by rural ambulance services, he said one of his top goals would be to work with the governor's office to create a statewide task force to address the issue.

That task force is now a reality and two local lawmakers, Rep. Dave Lislegard (DFL - Aurora) and Sen. Grant Hauschild (DFL - Hermantown) have been appointed to serve on the Legislature's new Joint Task Force on Emergency Medical Services. The panel will be charged with examining new ways the Leg-

islature can strengthen the life-saving services EMS personnel provide, including in rural areas where providers are facing a wide range of challenges.

"We never know when we may need to count on them, but when we do, paramedics, EMTs and first responders are ready to provide care to people at a moment's notice," said Rep. Lislegard. "As legislators, it's our duty and responsibility to ensure these communities and local departments have the funding and personnel necessary to keep people safe and cared for. But right now, especially in greater Minnesota, many departments that provide this essential service are facing an uphill battle to remain in operation."

Sen. Hauschild echoed that

view. "I have been hearing from constituents through my Northland Strong initiative that EMS is a top concern in our rural communities on the Iron Range and in northern Minnesota," Hauschild said. "Just two weeks ago, I held an EMS roundtable in Soudan where I listened to concerned residents who carried a sense of urgency around fixing this issue. I'm happy to be named to this task force to prioritize this issue statewide and bring solutions to the Legislature next session."

At the roundtable in Soudan, Hauschild 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."

"We will be working on a bill to fix the Medicare gap," he said, "and we can look at options for taxing districts." Hauschild said his goal would be to enact some new funding sources that would be simpler to oversee and he talked about options for creating tax districts for ambulance services, which could be either on a per capita or per parcel basis.

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

Minnesota has more than 250 licensed ground ambulance services, which in 2021 responded to approximately 540,000 emergency calls to 911. A February 2022 report by the Office of the Legislative Auditor outlined a variety of concerns about the overall viability of EMS providers and the persistent funding and staffing challenges they've faced in recent years, particularly in greater Minnesota. The report also noted concerns related to the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board's oversight capabilities and authority to set certain standards.

The new task force will convene its first meeting later this fall.

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OPINION

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

Men and violence

American men need more positive role models in society

America has a problem with violence committed by men. That's indisputable, as the front and back pages of newspapers and the nightly news broadcasts across the country attest every single day.

Just this past week, we had two stories in the *Timberjay* of local males now in custody due to horrific outbursts of violence against those closest to them. The week before, we reported on the death of a Tower woman due to the apparent reckless actions of another male. Just weeks before, we had the story of an Ely man who went haywire in a domestic incident and ended up in a high-speed chase with police before being apprehended while fleeing across a field.

While men have always been predisposed to violence, due in part to the higher levels of testosterone, it is clear that the level of violent, reckless, and inappropriate behavior committed by men in America is off the charts, especially compared to other societies. The easy accessibility of guns in the U.S. is one factor, but it is far from the only one. It's worth noting that most of our recent local incidents of male violence did not involved a firearm.

To be clear, we're not talking about most men, the majority of whom are well adjusted and important to the functioning of our society. But the problems that present themselves every day, and the results of many recent surveys, point to a systemic breakdown that has changed our understanding of what it means to be a man in modern America. A number of recent studies have shown that American males from the teenage years to middle-age particularly, report feeling increasingly isolated in their personal lives and fully 40 percent exhibit symptoms of depression, while nearly half reported recent suicidal thoughts. Many seem to have little direction in life or goals for which they're willing to focus and work hard to achieve. What they lack in personal connection with others, they compensate for with frequent exposure to online sources of "community," which too often spread racist, misogynistic, and violent messages under the supposed rubric of "men's rights." They are told that real men are supposed to dominate female partners, use violence to resolve conflict, and never show compassion or express vulnerability. Such messages are not only harmful to others and society at large, they are harmful to the men who fall prey to such twisted teachings.

What many of these sources preach most of all is that men are the real victims in society, which some interpret to mean that men don't need to take responsibility for their own actions. Instead, they can blame their shiftlessness, their addictions, their poor decision-making, and their violence on other factors, like feminists or "woke" policies that they believe put men, particularly white men, at a disadvantage. They're told that returning white males to their former positions of primacy in American society is their birthright and that anyone who stands for equal opportunity is an impediment to their cause. It's a message that has turned far too many men to back groups like the Proud Boys and politicians like Donald Trump, who regularly use violent and abusive language in promoting an authoritarian model of society, dominated by white males.

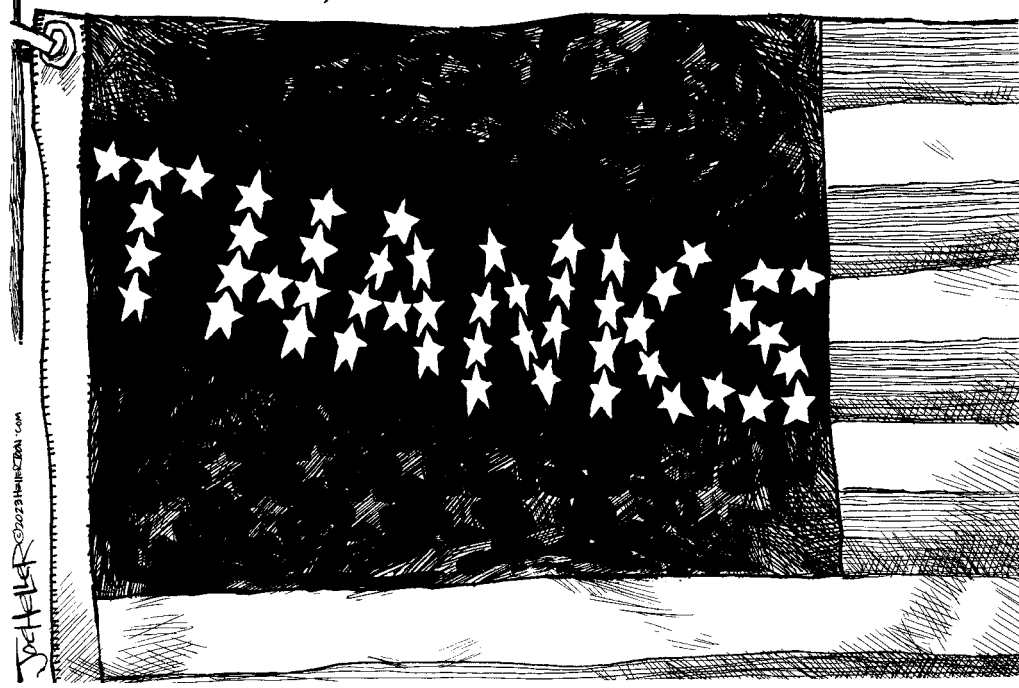
It isn't just white males, of course. Rap culture, which is dominated by African-Americans, often preaches similar messages of violence and male domination of others.

It's tragic for everyone involved and it's warping our society. A recent survey found that more American men found Andrew Tate, a narcissistic influencer who has trafficked hundreds of young women into sex work to enrich himself, a better role model for a male than President Joe Biden. Whatever one might think of Biden's political views, he has always been a devoted family man. That used to be a descriptor that held weight in America, but apparently that's no longer the case.

Such negative influences obscure the fact that there have long been positive and healthy ways for men to express their natures. They can take on roles as protectors, rather than abusers, as caregivers rather than simply disciplinarians. Mr. Rogers, who famously taught young people to harness their positive values, was more of a man than Andrew Tate will ever be. Kindness takes more strength of character than cruelty.

We need new and better influences in society that define what it is to be a man in more positive ways. We need to demonstrate that there is value and meaning in caring for others, not just yourself, and that the truest expression of "being a man" comes from helping, not hurting, others. Only then can we begin to address the violent and reckless behavior of too many American men.

ON VETERANS DAY, THE STATES ARE UNANIMOUS.



RV park proposal is a poor fit for the neighborhood

An RV Park is a commercial business, usually located in a rural area, not in a residential neighborhood. I had high hopes after hearing the neighbors' concerns at the Sept. 20 meeting and the withdrawal of the previous CUP application on Oct. 11 that the applicant would come back with a new plan, greatly reduced in size and scope. Unfortunately, that did not happen.

The Spaulding/Trezona area was long a step-sister to the rest of Ely, located as it was on the northside of the mining area, it has since become a Cinderella story, with many new homes as it became Ely's most desired neighborhood.

The first issue with siting an expanded campground on Pioneer Road is the road itself and the traffic it carries. While the City Clerk, Harold Langowski has stated that Pioneer Road is already one of the most traveled streets in the city, he also admits that the city has no data on that, but speculated that the Grand Ely Lodge (GEL) was the source of increased traffic. I disagree. Use your favorite mapping program on your phone, enter any address in Ely not in the Spaulding/Trezona neighborhood and ask it to route you to or from the GEL. Any address. It will never send you through the east end of the Pioneer Road to get to the GEL. It will send you by the shortest route possible to Central Ave and then onto the GEL.

So why do residents of the neighborhood say traffic has increased so much over the last ten years? The answer is two-fold. First there has been a great increase in the number of residences, both summer and year-round to the northeast of Ely. Along

the Echo Trail, Cloquet Line, Passi Rd., and beyond. These folks used to swing into town on Sheridan Street and then to the west along Hwy. 169 or to the south on Hwy. 21. Then, the move of an expanded Zup's and two liquor stores to the east end of Sheridan has increased traffic congestion as you enter town from the east. Who can blame these folks from taking a shortcut (coming and going) to the west end of town via the Pioneer Road? But Pioneer Road is not a throughfare, it was not designed to be. It is a minor road intended only for local traffic. This plan to put a commercial business, a campground, would add some of the largest vehicles permitted on any road, many towing boats, a car or a trailer full of ATVs right down our winding Pioneer road.

The second issue with the campground is the capacity of the city sewer to handle the increased waste. The system in the neighborhood is old, hasn't been upgraded in over a generation and has a history of overflows. What happens on a Sunday when a number of large RVs with a week's worth of gray and blackwater (often as large as 60 gallons in a single tank) all want to dump their tanks before heading back home? A conditional use permit could potentially mean the need to upgrade the sanitary sewer or result in a costly service or maintenance situation.

A third issue is that the RV park would impair the use and enjoyment of the neighbors, impact the environment and potentially reduce property values. This clearly is the reason that RV parks and campgrounds are normally situated in rural areas. No other neighborhood in Ely has experienced the increased property values and new building permits as seen in this neighborhood. Vacationers in a campground consider having a campfire a

necessary part of the camping experience. So important that Ely outfitters report that a campfire ban will result in cancellations. Forty-five campsites, with fire rings and wood for sale at the camp store. Who could resist? Which way will the wind blow? Should I have to close my windows on a summer's eve due to the smoke?

Do you ever wonder why RV Parks have 50 amp electric service? Air conditioners! And not just one, many larger RVs have two and even three air conditioners. On a hot summer night we could be listening to 50 or more, air conditioners cycling on and off. We don't have air conditioning in our home, we open the windows on summer nights, but if the RV's AC is loud do we have to close our windows and go out and buy an air conditioner?

It is abundantly clear that a 45-site campground does not belong in the Spaulding/Trezona neighborhood. No one, whether they just bought a home or has lived their entire life here ever envisioned a campground of this size and scale next door. Wouldn't you laugh out the door if anyone suggested that Whiteside Park be made into an RV park/campground and claiming it would be a great thing for Ely? Unfortunately, those of us living in this neighborhood aren't in a position to laugh about it. Our very enjoyment of our homes and the values of our properties are at risk.

Thomas Benson
Ely

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COLUMNIST

Fearing those we see as different from us

An important subject has been on my mind for days. It's about the innate fears we carry of people we see as "different" from us—strangers, "outsiders", people who look, sound, or think in ways we don't understand, or just don't like. It could be their color or religion, their last name, what they wear, who they vote for, or who they love. Whatever sets us off, our tendency is to avoid them, to defend our comfort zone. And we find

ways to let them know they don't belong.

I wonder sometimes where our fear, our need for "othering," comes from. When did attitudes of judgment and exclusion first get planted? What lets them continue to grow until they are so much a part of us that we don't question why we think and

feel the way we do about others or if they make any sense in today's world?

The long and painful conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is an example of how fear and hatred take seed inside us and continue to grow out of control, leading to unimaginable destruction and suffering. Our own history of entrenched fear, mistrust, and disrespect between people of different ethnic and racial backgrounds seems almost impossible to move beyond. Our lack of understanding and acceptance has gone

on for so long and runs so deep that it has become for some, "just who we are." These are just two examples of how far our fears can take us down the road of shouting down any and all efforts to understand and accept those we label as "different."

An environment of fear and loathing can develop without our even being aware—infesting our schools, workplaces, and our homes. Our communities suffer because of it. We had a recent experience with this happening right here in our mostly

quiet town of Cook.

The local hospital announced a public presentation they were sponsoring on the issues of "diversity, equity and inclusion," DEI for short. The speaker was Ellie Krug, an accomplished writer, a practicing attorney of thirty years, and a respected educator and trainer in this field. With her professional credentials and personal experience with issues related to discrimination and exclusion, the event sounded like a rare opportunity to learn more on an import-

ant topic of the day. And how often do we have a person with her experience available to speak so close to home? Reviews of her work highlighted her sensitivity, ability to field difficult questions and facilitate safe and open dialogue. I looked forward to an interesting evening out with other members of my community.

As it turned out, Krug's presentation was unexpectedly canceled. Sadly, I heard that she'd received threatening mes-

See **FEAR**...pg. 5



KATHLEEN
MCQUILLAN

Letters from Readers

An open letter to fellow citizens of Ely

We are a group of concerned neighborhood folk, of diverse natures and backgrounds, who have been brought together by a common and just cause. We are unified by our mutual conviction that allowing a commercial, outsized RV park to be developed within the boundaries of our residential neighborhood is neither a sound nor practical idea. We feel our way of life is being threatened by special interests who only seek profit at our expense, be it financial, practical, or emotional.

Not to minimize the negative impact a proj-

ect such as this would have on Miners Lake, the Trezona trail, and local wildlife, we are afraid of its neutralizing effect on our homes and families, our sense of security, our quality of life, and our feeling of tranquility. We have many valid concerns and issues with the proposed RV park on Pioneer Rd. Just to name a few, we worry about increased traffic, objectionable noise and light pollution, local air pollution when 40 or more campfires are burning on a calm summer evening, and overall neighborhood security. We are troubled that the existing neighborhood water and sewer systems will not meet the new demands on it imposed by this project. We also feel

that impact studies on the effects of this project will have on Miners Lake have been side stepped. We feel that there are questions still persistent on how this project will affect property values and tax valuations. The list goes on and all have been presented to Ely before.

We're not folk who want it all. We are regular folk seeking to protect that which we have worked hard to build. We ask all to consider your reaction, if after having worked hard to attain a way of life, or even if you're just beginning that struggle, would you not resist any effort made to take that away? This is the driving force behind our resistance to the RV park proposed for Pioneer Rd.

We are not saying Ely does not warrant or deserve a RV park; it does. We adamantly argue it does not belong in an established residential neighborhood—especially when there is a readily available alternative in the existing RV park for sale on the east end of Camp St.

The advantages to this alternative location are many. It is essentially a turnkey operation containing 23 RV sites with supporting infrastructure already in place and room for another 50 sites. There is an additional option on 12 acres for future development available. There are no zoning or variance issues. The alternative location has easier user access. It is closer to the

Ely commercial district. It does not negatively impact a residential neighborhood, Miner's Lake, or the Trezona Trail.

We further believe that, related to proposed RV park on Pioneer Rd., there are factions within the city of Ely working hand-in-hand with the developer who are not supportive of the folk who live and pay taxes here.

We are not an anti-commercial development group. We do say a large RV park is not proper or sensible if the intent is for it to be placed within a residential neighborhood.

**Joe Pioreschi
Chair, Trezona
Citizens Group**



Your letters

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

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

Bipartisan support for volunteer drivers gains momentum in Congress

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL—Minnesota's U.S. Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, along with Sen. Ted Budd, a North Carolina Republican recently introduced legislation to support volunteer drivers. This bill is a companion to the U.S. House bill, H.R. 3032, introduced last spring by Minnesota Reps. Pete Stauber and Angie Craig to make it easier for volunteer drivers to provide millions of rides and home-delivered meals.

This bill would help eliminate the federal tax penalty, created after a

2017 change in federal law, that meant that volunteer driver mileage reimbursement income above \$600 was taxed like regular employment income.

The Volunteer Driver Tax Appreciation Act of 2023 (S. 3020) would raise the amount of mileage reimbursement that volunteers can claim as exempt from federal taxes from 14 cents per mile to 65.5 cents per mile to match the current business rate.

"We are grateful to Sens. Klobuchar, Budd and Smith for recognizing the critical role volunteer drivers play," says Beverly Sidlo-Tolliver,

transportation coordinator with the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and co-chair of the Volunteer Driver Coalition. "This bill is a simple but powerful way to ensure people in our communities have better access to transportation, meals and healthcare."

In Minnesota alone, volunteers provide an estimated 168,000 rides for older adults and non-drivers each year, covering more than 9.5 million miles. Organizations with volunteer driver programs are challenged to recruit and retain volunteers due to rising insurance rates and tax requirements.

Increasing the charitable mileage reimbursement rate will more accurately reflect the actual costs of driving a personal vehicle for charitable purposes and keep more volunteer drivers on the road.

"Volunteer drivers are vital to rural communities across our state, helping seniors, people with disabilities, Veterans, and others access necessities like meals and health care," said Klobuchar. "By increasing the charitable mileage tax deduction rate, this legislation will help reduce the financial burden on volunteer drivers and ensure they can continue to serve their communi-

ties."

After the 2017 change in the law, the Arrowhead Transit's volunteer driver program lost about two-thirds of its volunteer drivers, from a high of 300 to a current group of 103. The drivers work for a nonprofit program that transports rural seniors to and from non-emergency medical appointments at no charge.

Advocates assert that, beyond alleviating the tax burden on volunteer drivers, the bill carries wider ramifications for the community at large. By making it easier for individuals to step forward and assist their

neighbors, it has the potential to keep residents in their homes, reducing the necessity for costly assisted living facilities or the necessity of moving to an urban area with better transportation options.

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

ELY...Continued from page 3

would provide new cameras and associated gear for Ely's TV channel available through Midco. "(The equipment) is a third of what we thought it would cost. It is necessary to switch to high definition (TV)," commented Langowski.

► Received the report from library director Rachel Heinrich regarding library hours, prepared for both the library board and city council in response to a letter to an editor regarding the library's hours and other issues. Heinrich reported that out of the 29 libraries in the Arrowhead region, Ely's library was open 47.5 hours every week. "There are only three other libraries who run more hours than that, regardless of the size of

their staff," Heinrich commented.

► Approved a recommendation from Employee Relations to hire both Scott Kochendorfer and Janet Dunnom to be trained to fill in for the police department administrative assistant on an as-needed basis.

► Received a communication from Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital that the annual meeting of the Ely Health and Hospital Foundation will be on Monday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m.

► Approved claims for payment by the city and Ely Utilities Commission for Nov. 7 for \$682,373.

► Approved a Sunday liquor license for Kwazy Wabbit at 11 N. Central

Ave.

► Approved an application by the Ely Igloo Snowmobile Club to conduct lawful charitable gambling at the Kwazy Wabbit bar.

► Approved the nomination of city council member Paul Kess for another term on the Range Association of Municipalities and School Board of Directors.

► Approved a temporary liquor license for the Ely Folk School, for their annual winter beach party on Dec. 5 at Semer's Beach.

► Approved the application by the Knights of Columbus Council 3238 to conduct bingo games at St. Andrew's Catholic Church on Nov. 19 and Dec. 17.

► Approved Resolution 2023-029, which authorizes the city of Ely to apply for and accept funds from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board's fiscal year 2023 Development Infrastructure Grant Program and Community Infrastructure Fund Program.

► Approved the following recommendations from the Ely Utilities Commission (EUC):

► To accept the engineering proposal from AE2S for professional services at the water treatment plant estimated at \$33,000 to be paid by the hour.

► To allow operators and commissioners to attend the Wastewater Operations and Collection Facilities Conference on

Nov. 28-30, in Brooklyn Park.

► To purchase a regular-cab three-quarter ton Ford pick-up from Lundgren's for \$46,652 for the electric department.

► To write off old, uncollectable utility accounts.

► To pay EUC September bills of \$347,225.

► To pay Anthony Gornik \$175 for consulting services.

► To pay AE2S \$14,167 for the wastewater treatment facility improvements project.

► To move forward with AMPTEK flow meter wiring installation at the wastewater treatment plant for \$5,585.

FEAR...Continued from page 4

sages prior to her arrival that undermined her sense of security coming to Cook. My hunch is that a minority of our residents held negative assumptions and judgments about her and what would be discussed. They feared the impact her story and insights might have on us. They thwarted a rare and valuable evening together with someone they deemed "different," a threat to their beliefs or way of life and therefore, took it upon themselves to see that her talk got cancelled. And they succeeded—denying the rest of us the opportunity to engage in an educational event sponsored by our hospital.

With all the strife in the world, I'm always looking for what strategies we can find to help us get along better. The need has never been more important than now with

eight billion of us teeming around the planet, trying to function well enough together to get necessary things done. First step in this endeavor might begin with facing our own fears. Especially the deepest ones that shape the way we feel, think, and behave—in essence, the ones that run our lives and may become something irrelevant or bordering on irrational. Anytime I've looked more closely at my own fears it has most often proven very worthwhile.

Another valuable experience is sitting down with people we normally wouldn't, maybe because folks we'd never had the opportunity or inclination to get to know, maybe because they seemed too strange, or came from "over there," or approaching them just felt too scary. I'm recalling a book title from my past,

"Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway." Good advice.

It's a valuable chance to start to imagine another person's lived reality. Remember that old saying, "Try walking in another man's shoes." It works. The power of imagination can open the door to developing empathy, the ability to identify with another person's experience and discover the many things we have in common. Surprise! Once we go exploring, we realize that our commonalities far outweigh our differences. We finally have a chance to let go of our fears. We might even make a new friend.

Ellie Krug was offering her time to draw us into some new territory. That was probably at the heart of the great upset over her presentation. She was inviting us to get a glimpse of the world from her vantage point

and hear her story including many things she has learned in the course of her life and work. What a missed opportunity!

But we humans make lots of mistakes and for many people it's the best way to learn something new, and different. I just know that I'll be really disappointed if we let this happen again—allowing a handful of anxious and fearful people decide the course for the rest of us. I understand now the meaning of "cancel culture" and the harm it can do. I think I just witnessed it.

After this incident, it's clear. We've got some serious work to do to reclaim the image we wish to display in the colorful flags that line our main street, proclaiming Cook as a welcoming place to live, work and play. And live up to it.



the TIMBERJAY

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Moving? Questions about your subscription? Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.

Week of Nov. 13

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 weekly winner
The Week 15 Winner of the Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Colton Larson of Scottsdale, Ari.

History Tidbit:
Steam Fire Engine "James Tippet" was coal or wood fired and operated at 50-90 psi steam pressure using a double cylinder vertical engine and pump design made of gun metal which was considered state of the art in its time. It was delivered in 1892 and continuously served Tower and surrounding areas until the installation of the city water system in 1928. Tippet weighs around 8,000 pounds and was pulled by a team of two horses which were hired on-call along with a teamster driver from a local livery stable.

On arrival at the fire, the teamster would lead the horses away while the engineer would tend the engine and pump and a stoker would shovel coal into the furnace of the boiler. A 30,000 gallon cistern was dug under the fire hall to supply the water which was sourced from the East Two River.

THE START OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON



St. Martin's held their annual Christmas Bazaar on Nov. 4. There was the famous cookie and candy station where visitors could fill up on their favorite holiday sweets. Pictured are Cathy Wright (left) and Maddie Zupancich (right). Below left: Nicole helped her sons Cole and Caleb at the kids craft table.



Below center: Bradyn Indihar dug into a huge crispy bar (homemade caramel rolls were also available). Below: Evelyn Schultz picked out some gifts in the children's secret shopping area. photos by J. Summit

TIME FOR THANKS

St. Paul's to host a community Thanksgiving dinner

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan will be hosting a free community Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, Nov. 23 from 2 – 6 p.m. The congregation is taking over the tradition started by the Nelson-Jackson Legion Post, and then continued by St. James Presbyterian. The meal will be catered by Chef Chris Glazer, with help

from Vermilion Country School students. RSVPs are appreciated by calling Joan or Greg at 218-753-3047 (leave a message). Take-outs will also be available. The meal is being sponsored by the church, but donations can be made to the Tower Area Food Shelf. All are welcome to attend.

VCS celebrates Day of the Dead

TOWER- The day after Halloween, students at Vermilion Country School celebrated Day of the Dead.

The annual Mexican celebration, Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead), is a time when families gather to honor and remember deceased loved ones. It is believed that the souls of the dead return to visit the living families in homes, businesses, and cemeteries. It is celebrated on Nov. 1 and 2.

Cooking class students prepared a traditional Mexican meal of tamales, mole negro, pozole, Spanish rice, tres leches cake, and Mexican hot chocolate. Other activities included face tattoos, decorating sugar skulls, and creating flowers for the altar.



Volleyball is elementary...

Volunteer coach Paula Barnes, along with assistant coaches Kalee Bjorgo and Tasha Trucano, led a four week volleyball class, sponsored by TS Community Education. The class focused on the basics- bump, set, spike, and serve. Players also got introduced to the basic rules of the game while playing some scrimmages. Nine students participated this year. This is the second year TS Elementary has held a volleyball clinic. submitted photos

COMMUNITY NEWS

Lunch Bunch to meet on Tuesday, Nov. 14
TOWER- The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 12:30 p.m. at Benchwarmers in Tower. Please RSVP to Kathy at 218-753-2530. Anyone that would like to join us are welcome to attend.

Little Church Thanksgiving/Christmas Service on Nov. 19
VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church will be holding a Thanksgiving/Christmas Service on Sunday, Nov. 19 at 4 p.m. A potluck meal will follow. The church always wel-

comes anyone and are looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The church hosts a men's group that meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. for coffee and conversation. All are welcome.

The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Co. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Any questions please contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014 (leave a message).

Tower's Small Business Saturday set for Nov. 25

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board is hosting their first annu-

al Small Business Saturday on Nov. 25 in Tower. Small Business Saturday is a nationwide event, occurring every year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, to promote shoppers buying local for their holiday celebrations. The events board would like to help make this a classic Main Street event to bring the community together and show holiday shoppers all the great gift ideas available right here on Main Street.

Santa Claus will be making a visit (times TBA), there will be a 50/50 raffle, over \$200 of other raffle prizes featuring gift certificates from local businesses, a community get-together

space, and the Tower Farmers Winter Market will be setting up shop at the Pike River Products building.

For more information, contact Amber Zak at amberzak@gmail.com.

Vendors needed for Tower Holiday Craft Sale on Dec. 2

TOWER- Now is the time to make plans for this year's Holiday Craft Show on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Lamma Civic Center. Tables are available for \$25 in advance. The Tower-Soudan Civic Club will be selling cof-

fee and scones in the morning, and then chili, childdogs, hot dogs, chips, cookies and water for lunch. This annual holiday shopping event is sponsored by the Friends of Vermilion Country School.

Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board to meet Nov. 14

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 8:30 a.m. at Good Ol' Days. Funding request should be sent to Tower City Hall, in writing, prior to the meeting.

Meet our students

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

What is your favorite part about VCS?
The amazing staff members. It feels like a family here, very inclusive.

What do you think of the building changes?
They're crazy good. The walls and new rooms are amazing.

What are your plans after high school?
Get a van and travel west. And then go wherever life takes me.

Since November is gratitude month, what are you most grateful for?
I'm grateful to learn amongst such diverse people and mindsets, and for a fresh start.



Ella, senior

Meet our staff



Marjory Wood Special Education

What made you decide to come out of retirement to come work at our school?
It feels like a way to give back in my next chapter. For me personally, education has always been a tool for success and if I can contribute to the students' education in any way I will.

Since coming to VCS what has been the best part?
Actually developing relationships with the students.

What do you teach?
I'm a special education teacher. That can mean teaching young people about self advocacy, or helping them build up skills.

What do you do for fun?
Hiking, running, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and caring for my family.

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COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Ely squeezes sludge to squeeze a buck



A Komline Sanderson belt press in operation on Friday, Nov. 3, at the Ely Waste Water Treatment Facility. Ely tested the unit for four days last week and achieved a six-times reduction in biosolids volume, which could save the city a lot of money in transportation costs alone. photo by C. Clark

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- There is nothing sexy or eye-catching about equipment designed to de-water sewage sludge, but the test last week of dewatering equipment here left the city's clerk-treasurer, Harold Langowski, with a big smile on his face.

"It will pay for itself," Langowski told the *Timberjay*, referring to the Komline-Sanderson belt press the city rented from Fergus Power Pump of Fergus Falls. Langowski's preliminary estimate is that the belt press reduced every gallon of biosolids to one-sixth of that volume.

While discussing the project, Langowski also had some strong words about wording. "It's not

sludge," he stated emphatically, more than once. "It's biosolids, not sludge."

The big deal

Why this is a big deal takes a little explaining. Ely's WWTF separates the influent from its sewers into two final products: biosolids and water. The water discharges to Shagawa Lake but the sludge-like biosolids must go elsewhere.

Ely's biosolids currently land in a large external tank. According to Langowski, the material delivered to the tank is approximately 3 to 5 percent solid and the rest is water. Large tanker trucks must empty the tank of this biosolids slurry before it fills up. Ely currently disposes of its biosolids by spreading them on fields as fertil-

izer.

"We send it off to fields ... in Embarrass, Waasa Township, and some farms west of Cook," Langowski explained. The city must pay for the tanker trucks and their transportation costs to ship the slurry to the farmers' fields. Ely faces an additional problem because fewer farmers are open to using biosolids because of backlash from residential neighbors.

Even after thickening and filtering, the biosolids currently produced by Ely's WWTF are mostly water. Any reduction in water content will reduce the biosolids weight and volume, which means fewer trucks are needed to haul the material. Because the material processed by the belt press is more like a

damp soil, it can be shipped as a solid using smaller dump trucks instead of large tankers. Because it is more solid than not, it can be sent to a sanitary landfill instead of to fields between 30 to 50 miles away. The nearest sanitary landfill which will accept the material is in Virginia, according to Langowski, a distance of 50 miles.

The results of the dewatering test are jaw-droppers: over four days last week, the belt press filled 12 tandem-axle dump trucks with material that would usually occupy seventy tanker trucks. If Ely acquired its own belt press or rented one regularly, the savings in transportation costs would be dramatic.

Cost estimates

Langowski has not yet worked out the least expensive path for Ely to adopt a belt press into its waste processing, whether that may be buying, leasing, renting or sharing the rental cooperatively, which is what Ely did to rent the unit for the test.

"Every year, Mt. Iron, Eveleth and Gilbert get together and share the rental of one of these units," said Langowski. "We got onto their rental this year." Ely's estimated cost for the rental for the test should be between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

To get an idea of the

potential cost savings, the *Timberjay* estimated the savings on diesel fuel. We used the federal minimum fuel economy of 7.2 miles per gallon for large trucks manufactured after 2014 and the current national average of \$4.50 per gallon for diesel fuel.

The round-trip fuel cost of 70 tanker trucks of biosolids to a field 30 miles away in Waasa was \$2,625. Sending those trucks 46 miles to Cook raises the cost to \$4,375. The cost of sending 12 dump trucks of dewatered biosolids 50 miles to the landfill in Virginia was \$750, 3.5 to 5.8 times less than tanker trucks traveling 30 to 50 miles respectively.

We also looked at labor costs, assuming 50 mph highway speeds and \$30/hour labor cost. The cost of drivers for the biosolids was \$4,200 to \$2,520. The 12 trips to the landfill for the biosolids dewatered by the belt press had a labor cost of \$720, again 3.5 to 5.8 times less. These are just simple comparisons but they do verify Langowski's statement that the belt press can deliver significant cost savings on transportation.

Langowski will present his final analysis of the potential cost savings at an Ely City Council meeting in the near future.

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

ELY - The Tuesday Group community educational lunch gathering meets every Tuesday at noon at the Grand Ely Lodge. Participants have an opportunity to order lunch. For those interested in being a host, or who have a speaker suggestion, contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@gmail.com or call her at 218-216-9141.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

►Nov. 14: Meet New Elyites

►Nov. 21: Health Professionals for a Health Climate

►Nov. 28: No meeting. Begin holiday hiatus.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



out on a still lake
12 degrees in a wood boat

netting cold waters

AROUND TOWN



Ely poet John Copp at the mike at the first Northern Lakes Arts Association Call of the Wild Poetry Night on Nov. 2 at the Ely Folk School. The poetry nights are the first Thursday of every month at 5 p.m., November through April. All are welcome to read their own works, poems by others, or just listen. photo by C. Clark



Ely Memorial High School sent five singers to the 2023 Chorifest on Tuesday, Nov. 7 for high school honor choir students. From left-to-right, back row: Colton Bromley (bass) and Matthew Johnson (tenor). Front row: Emily Bialik (alto), Alison Poppler (soprano), Rachel Carter (soprano) submitted photo

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will be closed on Friday, Nov. 10 for Veteran's Day, and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23-24, for Thanksgiving.

The spice for November is sage. The library has a free sage sample and recipe kit to handout while supplies last.

The library has take-and-make kits for kids to make a cereal box turkey, while supplies last.

The Friends of the Library Bookclub will meet on Monday, Nov. 13, from 3-4 p.m. The book under discussion is *Being Mortal* by Atal Gawande.

The Friends of the Library monthly board meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 14, from 1-2 p.m.

The November Get Crafty activity will be making diamond dots. This program is for adults. Pre-register in advance so the library can order enough supplies.

A new Kahoot trivia game will begin on Wednesday, Nov. 22, at 3 p.m., and will run until Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 8 a.m. The kahoot will be on the first eight books of the *Junie B. Jones* series by Barbara Parks. Pre-register in advance with an email address so the library can send the link for the game.

The Get Crafty activity will meet on Thursday,

Nov. 30, 3-4 p.m., to make a variety of snowman crafts appropriate for home decoration for the winter holidays. This program is for adults. 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.

Babbitt Public Library

BABBITT- The library will be closed on Friday, Nov. 10 for Veteran's Day.

The library now has children's take-and-make kits to make Thanksgiving turkey art. Pick them up at the library while supplies last.

Preschool Storytime is held every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

All library events are at the Babbitt Public Library at 71 South Drive unless otherwise noted.

NLAA Art Show

ELY- The November Northern Lakes Arts Association (NLAA) art show will run through Nov. 19, in the lobby of Ely's Historic State Theater, when the theater is open. The exhibition this month is on

the theme of self-portraits and features young artists from Ely.

Creative Writing

ELY- The NLAA is hosting a free event entitled "Enhance your creative writing skills with Poet Elizabeth Cade," on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 2 p.m., at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater, 1900 E. Camp St. Those wishing to attend must pre-register online at northernlakesarts.org/programs.

Drag Show

ELY- The Grand Ely Lodge (GEL) will host an 80s versus 90s drag show on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. Tickets for entry to the show are \$20 through etix.com. Attendees must also purchase the GEL breakfast brunch buffet at \$23.99. This event is for those aged 18 and above.

History Happy Hour

ELY- Jess Edberg, director of the Dorothy Molter Museum, will host the first installment of History Happy Hour, a free non-museum-related event at the Boathouse Brewpub, 74 E. Sheridan St. Edberg will relate the story of the building housing the Boathouse in a talk entitled "From Hardware to Hard Drinks: History of the

Boathouse Brewpub & its Rumored Ghost." History Happy Hour will start at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 15. That evening is also trivia night upstairs at the Boathouse.

Abstract Expressions

ELY- The NLAA is hosting a free event entitled "Abstract Expressions with Ian Francis Lah," on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 2 p.m., at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater, 1900 E. Camp St. Those wishing to attend must pre-register online at northernlakesarts.org/programs.

Roaring 20s Mystery Event

ELY- The Ely Public Library is holding another one of its fun solve-the-mystery events, this time with a "Great Gatsby" theme.

The event will be on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Those wishing to participate must pre-register by 6:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 13. The activity is for teens and adults. Participants should plan on staying for the entire three-hour event since leaving early will affect the ability of the attendees to solve the mystery.

The Roaring 20s Mystery event will be held at

the library at 224 E. Chapman St.

Knights of Columbus Bingo

ELY- The Knights of Columbus will hold an evening of bingo on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m., downstairs at St. Andrew's, 231 E. Camp St.

Ginger Bones Concert

ELY- Minnesota's Ginger Bones trio will perform upstairs at The Society Hall, on the second floor above Northern Grounds Café, on Saturday, Nov. 18. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Willow Waters & The Earth Tones will play the opening set starting at 7 p.m., followed by the main act of Ginger Bones. Tickets are \$15 at the door.

NLAA Gathering

ELY- The NLAA will host a Gratitude Gathering on Monday, Nov. 20, from 7-8:30 p.m., at the Vermilion Fine Arts Theater, 1900 E. Camp St. The event will celebrate the 2023 season and launch the upcoming 2024 season which was just announced, and will include "treats and mocktails."

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous

OPEN AA - 7:30

p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.

AA FRIDAYS - 7 p.m.

Fridays, First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Harvey St., Ely.

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN

AA - Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.

BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.

Thursdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church. AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely.

BABBITT AL-ANON -

Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.

CO-DEPENDENTS'

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

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED

Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711.

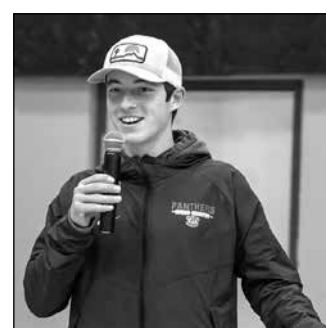
CAREGIVER

SUPPORT GROUPS:

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

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

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL



A Grizzly-sized send-off to state

North Woods School celebrated their boys and girls cross country Class A state meet qualifiers with a huge, raucous pep rally on Thursday. Top left: The Grizzlies mascot. Top center: Cross country dad Brett Brodeen, center, entertains the crowd with fun cross country facts as team members, from left, Alex Burckhardt, Lincoln Antikainen, Kahlil Spears, assistant coach Dan Squires, Corra Brodeen, Zoey Burckhardt, Tatum Barto, Addison Burckhardt and Evelyn Brodeen listen. Middle Left: the gymnasium bleachers packed with boisterous students and staff included a booming Grizzlies pep band that kept excitement levels high. Middle right: No school pep rally would be complete without cheerleaders stirring up the crowd. Right: Alex Burckhardt delivers thanks on behalf of the team.

photos by D. Colburn

Pickleball court gets green light from Cook council

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Friends of the Parks' Jeanne Taylor brought along a quartet of pickleball enthusiasts on Oct. 26 to support her updated pitch to the Cook City Council to resurface the ice skating rink at the community center for pickleball courts.

The research conducted between the prior council meeting and this one paid off for FOTP in ways both figurative and financial.

The current worn concrete surface isn't suitable for playing pickleball, as concrete tends to exact more wear and tear on a player's joints than a softer surface like asphalt. And asphalt can accom-

modate skating ice in the winter.

"There's a man who lives in Cherry that moved up from Arkansas, they call him Pickleball Tony," Taylor said. Tony Nigro has been an ardent promoter of pickleball in communities across the Iron Range.

Perhaps the biggest relief Taylor had to report was the discovery that FOTP will not need to contract for engineering services for the project, which could have been a significant addition to the cost.

"He actually came up to the court and he said playing on concrete is way too hard on people. He said asphalt would be much better. Asphalt's definitely cheaper, so

that's great."

Taylor contacted Dave Clement at KGM Contractors, who was willing to take a look at the court and discuss possible options. The first was straight resurfacing, which could be done for a high-end estimate of \$30,000, Taylor said.

"But he said the chances of it re-cracking would be more likely," Taylor said.

The other option Clement proposed was coming in with a resurfacer and adding a three-inch layer on top of that. That solution, for which Taylor didn't mention a price tag, would be much more durable, she said.

The best financial news came when Taylor started talking about

her contacts to find an engineer for the project, something that had been requested by the council at the prior meeting.

The first engineer she contacted asked if the rink was to be completely torn down for a new start. She told him, no, the plan was to resurface the court.

"He said, 'Well, I don't see why you'd want an engineer for that,'" Taylor said.

A call returned from a soil company got a similar response.

"He said, 'I feel kind of silly turning down business, but I charge \$10,000, and if you're just going to replace yours then I'm taking your money and I would feel guilty,'" Taylor said.

Taylor got an idea of

just how much engineering could cost when she next contacted SHE Engineering.

"He said they just did the courts in Hibbing and he said 'Our engineering fee was \$35,000,'" Taylor said.

Taylor talked about Clement's suggestion with KGM and got a favorable response.

"He said, 'I don't really know why you need an engineer. I would take Dave's advice and just go with it,'" Taylor said.

Taylor also reported on a possible deal for nets for the courts. Nigro mentioned to her that the Virginia Tennis Club is getting new nets for their pickleball courts, and that Cook could possibly get their used portable nets at

a very reasonable price or perhaps even donated.

FOTP will pay for the project through a combination of grant writing and fundraisers. Taylor addressed her request to the council.

"If you would give us a go-ahead we could start doing some grant writing, get some bids over the winter, and then keep going forward and possibly even be able to do it next summer and make these people happy.

The council not only agreed to let FOTP move ahead with the project, but also approved city administrative staff to sign off on FOTP gambling permit applications, which are required to conduct raffles.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Holy Cross Saturday Mass time change

ORR- Holy Cross Catholic Church in Orr will celebrate Mass on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m.

Saturday Mass will return to its regular time the next week.

Thrift shop bazaar will be Nov. 17-18

The Cook Area Healthcare Auxiliary Thrift Shop will be holding its annual Christmas bazaar on Friday, Nov. 17, from 3-7 p.m., and on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Cook Community Center.

There will be crafts, baked goods, basket raffles, new/used quality items, seasonal decorations, and more.

Volunteers are needed at the thrift shop. Consider being a volunteer and join this hardworking team. Inquire at the bazaar, or stop at the thrift shop to see how you can contribute by volunteering.

Book club to meet at library on Tuesday

COOK- Cook Area Book Club will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 1 p.m. at the Cook Library, a change of venue for the

winter months.

The book for discussion will be "A Half-Acre of Hell: A Combat Nurse in WWII" by Avis Schorer.

It is the story of Avis Schorer, a combat nurse in World War II. It tells the story of her tour of duty from March 1942 until January 1946 and how she lived and survived in a combat area. Avis was an Iowa native who lived in Bloomington for the last 32 years of her life.

The book for December will be "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby VanPelt.

Library Friends to host annual holiday raffle and auction

COOK- The holidays are fast approaching and Friends of the Cook Public Library are fostering the holiday spirit by hosting their 4th Annual Holiday Basket Fundraiser.

An array of beautifully decorated baskets, lovingly assembled by volunteers, will be on display at the Cook Public Library from Tuesday, Nov. 14 through Thursday, Dec. 14 and available by silent bid or the purchase of a raffle ticket. Filled with delightful themed contents and

delicious treats, they are just right for gift giving. Visit the library to place a silent auction bid or buy raffle tickets to win a basket.

Bids and ticket sales end at 5 p.m. Dec. 14. Winners will be contacted on Dec. 15.

Proceeds from this event benefit programs sponsored by the Cook Public Library.

Cook Community Thanksgiving coming up Nov. 23

COOK- The 37th annual Cook Community Thanksgiving dinner will be on Thursday, Nov. 23 at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 124 5th St. in Cook from noon to 2 p.m.

Those who are homebound in the Cook area who would like to have a meal delivered should contact Robyn at 952-412-0576.

Dinner theatre show coming up Dec. 1 at Covenant Church

COOK- The 4th Annual Cook Covenant Church Dinner Theatre, entitled "A Wild West Christmas" will be presented on Friday, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. at

the Evangelical Covenant Church at 11 Second Street East in Cook. Good food and great fun will be in store for everyone who attends. Cast members will include members and friends of the church with some big surprises! Keep an eye out for the "Wild West Christmas" flyers at

local establishments.

The Cook Food Shelf always needs everyone's monetary support to obtain food in larger quantities at good prices, so all proceeds from this event will go to the Cook Food Shelf.

Performances in previous years sold out so

you'll want to call in for reservations now.

Reservations will be taken at 218-666-5892, and close at noon on Monday, Nov. 20.

Contact Pastor Linda Freeman at 218-410-1768 with questions.

INSPIRING INSTRUMENTALISTS



Eight North Woods instrumental music students were selected to participate in the UMD Senior High Gold and Maroon Honor Bands this past weekend. UMD limits selection to the Gold band to "only the best musicians in the state." Two days of rehearsals and clinics with highly recognized composers and directors culminated in a Saturday afternoon concert. Participants and the band they played in included, from left, Grace Bundy (maroon), Kate Cheney (maroon), Tori Mathys (maroon), Izzy Pascuzzi (maroon), Paige Stanislawski (Director), Amber Sopoci (gold), Annabelle Calavera (gold), and Susan Aderman (gold).
submitted

ACCESS...Continued from page 1

224 people attended those sessions, with nearly half, 111, at the Kabetogama meeting.

Written comments were analyzed by the park service and broken down into 20 topic areas. The top six topics for comment included socioeconomics, visitor experience, Minnesota state regulations, ORV use, ice road use and location, and accessibility.

Socioeconomics

Commenters raised concerns about the economic impact the proposal would have on area businesses that already struggle in the off-season for tourists. Several commenters noted that the local economy was still struggling from the COVID pandemic and worried that the plan would hinder the area's recovery. Some business owners said the plan could cause them to close.

“The proposed regulations would effectively destroy the business for local (and long-time) ice fishing outfitters, and the trickle-down effect on all the other businesses that benefit from these winter visitors,” one person said.

“It hurts local business who are just trying to survive. It hurts park user experiences, and it makes the park an undesirable destination during the winter. People will go to other lakes where they are free to access those lakes with any means available to them,” another person said.

Commenters noted that many people do not own snowmobiles and that the plan would limit access to lower-income people who cannot afford to purchase or maintain a

snowmobile. Some commenters expressed more general concerns about the plan being discriminatory against lower-income visitors.

Others noted that the proposal would limit the ability of private landowners who access their property through the park to access their cabins. It would also negatively affect private landowners’ ability to maintain their properties because the off-road vehicles used during the winter are the only practical and safe method to transport certain materials to water access properties, commenters said.

Visitor experience

Comments in this category were mixed, with some noting how off-road vehicles enhance visitor experiences and others saying they detract from those experiences.

Those arguing for the value of off-road vehicles highlighted their use for touring, ice fishing, snowshoeing, sightseeing, and viewing the northern lights. Some commenters said that they could not enjoy the park in the winter without the use of ATVs and UTVs and that the plan would significantly alter their access and enjoyment of the park.

On the flip side of the question, many were in favor of the plan’s restrictions on vehicles and ice shelters. They noted the benefits of enjoying time in a quiet environment and explained that their experience is less pleasant when there is noise from adjacent vehicles. One person said that recreational vehicles and large ice shelters could negatively affect activities like cross country skiing

and snowshoeing.

Many were worried about the impact on visitors’ ability to have an enjoyable ice fishing experience, as the restrictions would greatly reduce the area of the lakes accessible to fishing.

“Please continue to allow off road vehicles on the frozen surfaces of the park. My wife, four sons, and I have enjoyed countless days...in the beautiful park by accessing our favorite fishing spots in this manner,” one commenter said.

State regulations

The letter most directly addressing issues in this category came from DNR Northeast Region Director Shelly Patten, who also spoke at the Kabetogama public meeting. In her written comments, Patten tackles one of the biggest concerns head-on, noting that the state of Minnesota did not give up its authority over the waters in Voyageurs National Park when the land was conveyed to the park service. Patten said it is contrary to law for the park to treat frozen lake waters in the same manner as land. She also contends that VNP has no legal authority to strip the state or the riparian owners of their interests, including the right of access to the frozen surfaces.

Patten’s letter concludes with a summary that sets up an outright rejection of the frozen roads plan.

“After review of the Frozen Lake Plan and attending the public comment sessions, the DNR has significant concerns, as detailed above,” Patten said. “The proposed Frozen Lake Plan would have

serious adverse impacts on the state’s property interest in its public waters and our obligations associated with the public waters the state owns within the boundaries of VNP. It would also have adverse impacts on property owners, Minnesotans, businesses, surrounding communities, and visitors to the area. We therefore request that the provisions related to public access and ice shelters be withdrawn.”

Off-road use

Most comments in this category supported the continued use of off-road vehicles on frozen lakes in the park without further restriction or regulation. Commenters indicated that restrictions on ORV use would negatively affect the public’s right to access the park. One commenter pointed out that snowmobiles may not be viable for providing access without adequate snow depths. Others noted that some types of off-road vehicles have less impact on the park than snowmobiles.

The Kabetogama Town Board weighed in on this issue.

“It is the Kabetogama Township Board position that all should be free to travel anywhere on all lake surfaces. UTV’s are used for warmth and comfort for many individuals while traveling on the ice. UTV’s are used for transporting fish houses, and trucks are the only vehicle that can transport larger fishing shelters. ATV and UTV’s are used as a safe mode of travel on the ice surface. As the winter days change, ATV and UTV travel may be the only way to continue to safely travel in the park. There are many residents,

vacationers, etc., to whom access would be limited if the mode of transportation is curtailed by changes to the frozen lake surfaces access that currently exists,” the board wrote.

Ice road use

Numerous commenters argued that creating ice roads is an outdated idea that is too costly and unnecessary because of new ATV technology. Other supporters of this idea said that having no ice roads would reduce crowding and pressure on the lakes, and that the park would be better off spending its money on such things as year-round trails for ATVs and snowmobile and ski trails.

“The plowed ice roads that VNP has established have been a failure due to the conditions the last few years,” said another commenter. “My opinion is the park doesn’t have adequate staff, time or compassion to maintain these ice roads. So, my suggestion is to not do an ice road at all. Let the people use the park “as is”.

Accessibility

This category focused on how the proposed plan would disproportionately and adversely affect older park users and those with disabilities who are unable to use snowmobiles to access frozen lake surfaces in the park.

“ORVs are becoming more popular because of their multi-season capability. Requiring visitors to only access the lakes with snowmobiles shuts out families that cannot afford to purchase multiple snowmobiles, senior citizens, and those with physical limitations that cannot use snowmobiles safely,” said

one person.

“I have a disability which affects my legs (pain and numbness) and use a tracked side-by-side vehicle for winter access to enjoy ice fishing anywhere on the lake and to support the various resorts anywhere on the lake to get food and/or gas,” wrote another.

“Preventing people like me who do not/cannot snowmobile from enjoying VNP to the fullest extent we can with the methods and equipment we find safe and enjoyable is contrary to the purpose of a national park, and a violation of Minnesota State Law,” said a third.

Altogether, the PDF document of all 182 comment letters submitted is 113 single-spaced pages long.

Moving forward

At the first public meeting, VNP Superintendent Bob DeGross expressed the desire to receive public input into the plan while at the same time noting that federal regulations requires some type of regulations be put in place. In response to feedback at that meeting, DeGross extended the deadline for public comments to be submitted.

Now the park will move forward using a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process that will allow for two more public comment periods before a final plan is developed and implemented. That process will likely begin in the spring or summer of 2024.

RV PARK...Continued from page 1

and Campground is located at 1759 N. Pioneer Rd in the Spaulding neighborhood of Ely, sandwiched between the far east end of Miners Lake on the south and Pioneer Road to the north. The site previously housed a small campground but was more recently used for a commercial woodworking operation.

The property was zoned commercial but was converted to Shoreline Mixed-Use (SMU) in 1994, according to city records. The Miners Lake RV Park developed eight RV pads with water and electric utilities parallel to Pioneer Road. According to AOK’s Dean Peterson, the original owners designed the RV pads as pull-through sites but the creation of the Trezona Trail turned them into back-in sites. A pull-through site is where an RV enters from one end and exits out the other, eliminating the need to back a large travel trailer or self-contained motorhome into the site.

SMU zoning in Ely requires a CUP for any

campground or RV park.

Opposition

The complaints from the residents of the Spaulding neighborhood reflect the concerns of homeowners everywhere in the U.S. when faced with nearby new developments: increased noise, crime, traffic, and unwanted people, all contributing to a decrease in their quality of life and property values.

Since the Sept. 20 board of adjustment meeting, the opposition has kept the pressure on city officials, attending both planning zoning and city council meetings ever since. Some of the opponents have met to talk strategy and signs against the proposal have cropped up around Ely, in the back windows of SUVs, and on the corner of Pioneer and 18th Ave.

Old versus new

The major differences between the September and current applications are the number of RV spaces, the location of RV spaces, and the addition of the vegetation screen between the RV Park and the Trezona Trail.

The number of RV spaces dropped from 35 to 31. The original application showed 18 back-in RV spaces between the Trezona Trail and the north side of the northern interior road of the RV Park, which runs parallel to the Trezona. Four more back-in RV spaces were shown on the south side of the northern interior road.

The new application retains the original eight RV spaces along the Trezona Trail, next to the former Dry Building for the Sibley Mine. The ten additional spaces between the Trezona Trail and the interior road have been removed. Instead, the new application shows 10 back-in RV spaces on the south side of the northern interior road.

The other 13 RV spaces are on either side of the southern interior road of the RV park, which is parallel to the shoreline of Miners Lake. These RV spots are divided between five pull-through and seven back-in spaces. This cluster of 13 spaces is the same on both applications.

The vegetation screen

will occupy the space between the northern interior road and the Trezona Trail. The timeline provided with the new CUP indicates that the original eight RV spaces next to the Sibley Mine Dry Building will not be available for use for three years after the park opens for business, to give the vegetation screen time to grow.

Responding to comments

Some items in the new application appear to address comments made during the Sept. 20 public hearing or by those opposing the RV Park in the area’s two weekly newspapers or on social media. The application also discusses why the proposed RV park is exempt from Minnesota administrative rule 4410.4300 subparts 20 and 20a.

The relevant portion of the rule for the proposed RV park requires an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) if the proposed new construction exceeds 50 new units or sites in a nonsensitive shoreline area where 50

percent or more of the property is open space. The AOK application proposes 23 new RV sites, five new cabins, and nine tent sites. The current proposed layout of the RV park uses less than 50 percent of the property.

Miners Lake, a waterbody created by the collapse of Ely’s abandoned iron mines, is not classified as a sensitive shoreline area according to the list maintained by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which is responsible for shoreline regulations (Minn. rules 6120.2500-6120.3900).

Some comments from the public hearing and afterward showed concern over the potential degradation of the shoreline of Miners Lake. The new CUP appears to target these comments by adding more detailed sections on managing stormwater with the RV park and mitigating erosion along the steep shoreline. Neither the old nor the new CUP proposed development of the north shore other than a picnic area and a dock for canoes.

To address comments

regarding potential noise and nuisance, the new CUP includes the campground’s rules, including quiet hours, limits on the number of people and pets, and permitted activities. It also includes a three-year, three-phase schedule of where and when the expansion of the park will happen. In general, the new RV sites will be built first in phase one, followed by the cabins and tent sites in phase two, and by the rebooting of the original eight RV spaces in phase three.

What’s next

Under Ely’s city ordinances, CUP applications are approved or denied by the board of adjustment which is a committee of the whole of the planning and zoning commission. The board of adjustment is the last word on a CUP unless it denies the application, in which case the applicant may appeal to the Ely City Council.

Dean Peterson did not respond to a *Timberjay* inquiry for more information.

HEARING...Continued from page 1

possible decision to remove Trump from the ballot. “Even if you’re right and we have the authority to remove someone from the ballot, should we?” she asked Ronald Fein, the attorney representing the petitioners.

Hudson picked up on a theme pressed by Trump attorney Nicholas Nelson, who argued that leaving that question to states could leave a patchwork of decisions with some states allowing a candidate on the ballot while others might opt for disqualification.

“This is the way our system is set up,” responded Fein. “For better or worse, different states could adjudicate this differently,” he added, noting that the administration of elections is left to the states to decide

under the U.S. Constitution. Furthermore, he said, a decision by any state to disqualify Trump would likely be taken up on appeal at the U.S. Supreme Court, which would ultimately render a determination that would apply nationwide.

For now, the question before Minnesota’s high court is whether to conduct an evidentiary hearing to better assess what constitutes an insurrection for the purposes of the 14th Amendment. At times, lawyers for the Republican Party of Minnesota and Donald Trump seemed almost to argue for such a hearing even as they urged the high court to dismiss the petition. Attorney Reid Lebeau, representing the party, argued that determining whether a poten-

tial candidate engaged in insurrection would require greater fact-finding than had been done to date. He said determining questions of qualification, such as meeting age or citizenship requirements, are easier to determine than a question of disqualification as spelled out in the 14th Amendment.

“I would agree with you,” said Chief Justice Natalie Hudson. “And doesn’t that go to the petitioners point that we need an evidentiary hearing?”

A similar claim against Trump’s qualification for the ballot in the state of Colorado has already reached the evidentiary stage and has heard a wide range of testimony in recent days.

The arguments at

times delved far back into American history, with discussion of the origins of the 14th Amendment’s Section 3 and how it has been applied since its adoption in the wake of the Civil War. In fact, justices noted that the case law on disqualification is remarkably thin, even as the section’s provision allowing for individual amnesty issued by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress, was regularly used by former members of the Confederacy.

Among the issues the Minnesota justices will need to determine is whether or not the disability provision in Section 3 is “self-enforcing,” which in this context means it requires no determination by Congress. Petitioners argued that the law is self-enforcing,

which means the high court could make a determination on Trump’s qualification without congressional action. Trump’s attorney argued that it would be up to Congress to determine whether Trump engaged in insurrection and could be barred from future office.

Justice Gordon Moore noted that a bipartisan House of Representatives found Trump guilty of inciting insurrection as part of his second impeachment. “Does that have any bearing on this case?” asked Moore.

“I think the Senate’s acquittal on the charge would also inform that decision,” responded Trump attorney Nelson. In fact, 57 of the 100 members of the Senate, including seven Republicans, voted to convict Trump, a clear

majority although short of the two-thirds requirement in the Constitution.

While the arguments focused primarily on the language of the 14th Amendment, a state law that authorizes the Supreme Court to hear such a case in a question involving eligibility for a federal office, did come in for some questioning. Fein argued that Minnesota Stat. 204B.44 specifically authorizes individuals to file petitions seeking redress in the case of an error by the Secretary of State, such as placing the name of an ineligible candidate on an election ballot.

The high court offered no immediate timeline for deciding whether to dismiss the case, or ordering an evidentiary hearing.

ROAD ROW...Continued from page 1

Meanwhile, Koenck has since replaced his former fence with a lineup of old cars and logs, which has significantly narrowed the roadway, limiting access particularly in the winter.

The details of the dispute, including when the town board made key decisions in the matter, are obscured by the fact that the township clerk, Shirley Woods, has refused to provide the *Timberjay* with access to town board minutes or other records. Woods did provide a statement to the *Timberjay*, which states that the town board heard an opinion from the township attorney on Sept. 10, 2019, that she said confirmed that the south half of the road is private property, belonging to Koenck, who purchased the property in 2015. But Woods did not provide the opinion and refused to provide the name of the attorney.

In addition, Woods has not provided records that might explain how or exactly when the town board determined that Derusha Rd. would no longer exist past Koenck's driveway.

Easterday said the full-width road used to extend just past her garage, and school buses used her driveway as a turnaround point. In the winter, county plows would come past her house.

"The township used to take care of it," she said. "The plow would come all the way up and plow right by my garage and then back down. As a matter of fact, they used to make a couple of swipes."

Easterday now has to hire someone to clear the snow from the narrowed section of the road leading to her house. Easterday also said there used to be a school on her property, which she suggested supports the claim that the road extended to her property.

"How else did they get the kids up there?" she said.

Located southeast of the city of Cook, Derusha Rd. extends west from the 90-degree turn where Johnson Rd. turns from a north-south route to east-west. Recent aerial photography shows Derusha Rd. at a standard two-lane width until about 125 feet east of Easterday's driveway, where it now narrows to a single lane. Beyond Easterday's garage, the roadway appears unmaintained but has provided access to about 70 acres of pasture land that was, until recently, cut for hay. Easterday said Derusha Rd. used to continue another mile to the west where it once connected to Olson Rd. "Olson Rd. and Derusha Road used to be connected because the number on both of those roads is the same number," she said.

The *Timberjay* checked St. Louis County's website for an Owens Township map and confirmed that the

two roads share the same numerical designation, 4505.

It appears the dispute arose sometime after Koenck purchased his property. According to Easterday, he had the land surveyed, which he apparently believes gives him ownership of the south half of the road and justification for blocking his half of it, beginning just beyond his driveway. Easterday acknowledges that Koenck's roadblock does not appear to go over his property line, but it would likely be within the road right-of-way if the road was created, as county records indicate.

According to Woods, the township attorney was present at the 2019 meeting acting as legal assistance for the township. "He told the constituents that the land involved in the dispute was not township land and that the residents must work the dispute out among themselves. He suggested a meeting of the parties to discuss easements. All parties were in favor of this and indicated they would meet as soon as possible," Woods said.

Easterday said she's heard an even more direct statement about the status of the road from the township.

"Now they're saying it wasn't a road," Easterday said. "But nobody seems to be able to find the proof of that."

"I really wouldn't care if he wanted to pile his garbage there," Easterday continued, referencing her neighbor. "Just move it over five feet so I can have the road there. In the winter-time, it gets kind of tough because of the snow and because of the vehicles."

"The township is not extending the end of that dead end to engulf my property, which is only about 100 feet," Easterday said. "I live off the end of that road and they cut me off. That's my complaint."

Documentation?

Easterday isn't the only one affected by the situation. Doyle Svedberg, who was elected to the town board in 2022 said he's in the process of buying the pasture land beyond Easterday's house from a cousin, and the current narrow road configuration won't allow large farm equipment or semi-trucks needed to harvest and haul the hay to pass through.

"There's no way I can get to it, I just can't," Svedberg said.

Both Easterday and Svedberg said they'd talked with Koenck about getting an easement but were unable to secure an agreement.

However, Svedberg's research into the issue has turned up a document filed with the county that he says proves Derusha Rd. was officially established by the township back in 1925. Titled "Supervisors'

Road Order and Award of Damages," the order was filed by the Owens Town Clerk with the county auditor and contains a legal description that corresponds with the layout of Derusha Rd. and connecting with Olson Rd.

"My knowledge of road orders is that they're like a birth certificate. It lays out the road," Svedberg said.

Svedberg said he consulted an attorney who told him that if the process described in law for closing a road has not been done, "the road order stands."

Svedberg suggested the assertion that the road didn't exist runs counter to the fact that it continues to be maintained and reaches the properties of Koenck and Lisa Ollikkala, Easterday's daughter, who lives next door to her.

"If there was no road, then why did you let (Koenck) have a road but not Dorothy?" Svedberg said. "And why are you maintaining that road? That's my big question. Why is the road there if there was no road? Is that fair to Dorothy? That's total discrimination if (Koenck) can have the road but Dorothy can't."

Operating under the premise that the road did not exist, as implied in Woods's statement, a previous town board apparently believed that no formal road vacation process was necessary to terminate Derusha Rd. short of Easterday's property.

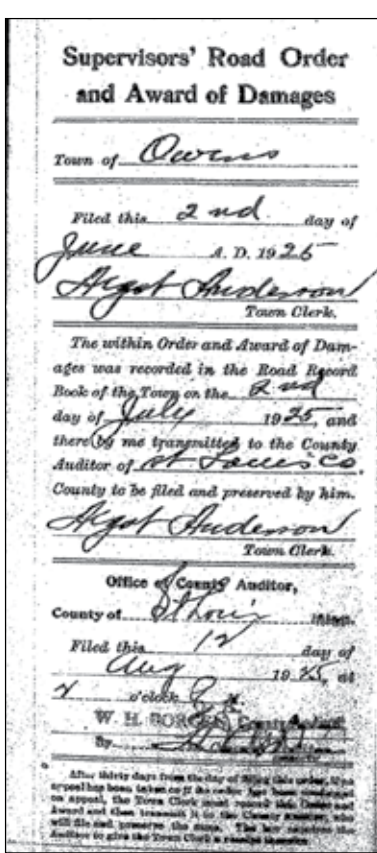
Svedberg said that the unmaintained portion of the road has a solid roadbed, as evidenced by its past use for hauling hay. He said it could be opened with a minimum maintenance designation, which would relieve the township from any associated costs.

"What I'm anchoring this all on is a road order that was written in 1925," Svedberg said. "Nothing has been laid on top of it. Now if there was a vacating order on it, it would definitely be at the recorder's office. But there's nothing."

The *Timberjay* contacted St. Louis County Deputy Recorder requesting a copy of any closure order for Derusha Rd., required by law to be filed by the township with her office, but none was found in county records.

Another possible ally for Easterday in her battle is current town supervisor Mike Christensen, who was appointed last year to fill a vacancy on the board. Christensen said he was asked to talk to Easterday about the issue.

"They wanted me to go talk to Dorothy and calm her down about this, because they thought she was going to call the newspaper or a lawyer," Christensen said. "They told me to tell her this was a done deal, just tell her that what is done is done and



Left: An image of the Supervisors' Road Order approved by Owens Township in 1925, creating Derusha Road.

township where the other one is pretty easy."

Use makes it a road?

It's possible, given a particular set of circumstances, that the mere existence and use of the full-width roadway to Easterday's house is sufficient enough to formally establish it as an extension of Derusha Rd., according

to information from the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) discovered online by the *Timberjay*.

"An Overview of the Creation and Extinguishment of Town Roads," a 14-page document written for MAT by attorney Troy J. Gilchrist, contains a section on how roads are created simply through continuous use and maintenance, as authorized by state law.

Minnesota Statute 160.05 reads in part:

"When any road or portion of a road has been used and kept in repair and worked for at least six years continuously as a public highway by a road authority, it shall be deemed dedicated to the public to the width of actual use and be and remain, until lawfully vacated, a public highway whether it has ever been established as a public highway or not."

Gilchrist wrote, "The amount of public use required is relatively small. In one case, the court placed emphasis on the fact that a road was open for use by the public rather than on the amount the public actually used the road."

Maintenance of the road by the township comparable to that for similar types of roads over a period of six years must be demonstrated for the law to apply. Gilchrist cited a court case which found that "It is not necessary that every part of a road be worked at government expense or that any particular part receive attention every year of this six-year period."

"If the character of the road is such that infrequent maintenance during the year is all that is necessary to maintain the road for the purposes for which it

there is no road there. Well, I started digging into it and I talked to her and then I saw, well, there's another side to this story."

"I came to find out the way they closed this road was they just decreed between township board members that there was never a road there," Christensen said. "That's what they told me, and so basically there was nothing to close. The public was never notified that this was happening. They just did it. The landowners should have been told."

Christensen also discussed the road order, noting that it specifies a width of four rods, or 66 feet, and it lists six landowners that were due "damages," or compensation for the land used for the road.

"If you're paying for right-of-way, the only reason you pay for right-of-way is if you're putting in a road," Christensen said.

The listing indicates that the "advantages and benefits said road will confer upon them are equal to all damages sustained by them," so no money was paid out to the landowners.

Christensen noted the road issue also affects another piece of property west of Easterday, one county records show is owned by Daniel and Harold Baumgartner. "This Baumgartner who owns this property, he's cut off, too," Christensen said. "He would like to sell that property, and he's kind of screwed right now because he doesn't have access to it anymore."

The only option to access the properties to the west of Easterday other than to reopen Derusha Rd. would be for the township to take steps to clear and make roadworthy the southern part of Olson Rd., Christensen said.

"It would cost the township a lot more money to open that up, and it's not a rich township," Christensen said. "I just kind of hate to do that to the people in the

is used (e.g. access to a cultivated field), the infrequent maintenance over at least six years will likely be found to satisfy the timing element," Gilchrist wrote.

While the statute may be relevant to the Derusha Rd. controversy, litigation would likely be necessary to determine if it would apply in this specific situation.

Both Christensen and Svedberg said that having the process done correctly is a major concern.

"Mike and I are on the same page - let's do it right," Svedberg said.

In another wrinkle to the story, Svedberg alleged that Easterday was turned away from the town board's May meeting.

"She made a request to be at the meeting. When I was on my way there, Dorothy was pulling out. A day or two later I asked Dorothy 'How come you left the meeting?'" Svedberg said. "She says well, the chairman came out and told her you're not allowed to come inside, you're going to have to leave. You're not allowed at the meeting. I talked to the attorneys, and they said that's a violation of the Open Meeting Law."

Svedberg said he'd like to see the issue resolved soon.

"We have to put the past behind us," he said. "I'm not here to point fingers at the old board. I just want to move ahead and do things proper. If the previous board made a mistake, they made a mistake. We're not going to get anywhere grinding up this thing over and over. Let's make sure Dorothy has access. Let's get the access for those other properties."

"What's been done is not right," Christensen said. "And we still have two owners on the road with no access to their property. We're mostly concerned for the immediate time now in getting the road open for Dorothy, because this is a horrible thing."

Editor's note: The *Timberjay* called Owens Town Clerk Shirley Woods twice trying to obtain information about the township's position regarding the Derusha Rd. issue, but Woods refused to comment for the record, instead providing only the statement reported above. The *Timberjay* also tried to find a phone number to contact Mr. Koenck, but the number listed as current for him on the USPhoneBook website belonged to another individual. The *Timberjay* did not try using any of several numbers listed as previous numbers.

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MINNESOTA STATE CROSS COUNTRY

Burckhardt lands all-state honors at state meet

Area runners perform well on soggy course

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- North Woods junior cross country runner Alex Burckhardt turned in an all-state level performance last Saturday in the Class A State Championship at the University of Minnesota's Les Bolstad Golf Course in Falcon Heights.

With 960 runners in three classes, 160 per race, toeing the start line and thousands of cheering spectators crowding the white-pennant-lined course, the atmosphere was electric. Sunshine and temperatures in the low-to-mid 40s were ideal, but the course not quite so much. For the first state meet run at Bolstad in 30 years, an early week snowfall had melted away, leaving the undulating hilly course soft

Left: North Woods junior and South Ridge runner Alex Burckhardt (bib number 549) finished in 20th place to make the all-state team at this year's state cross country meet.

photo by V. Ranua

Right: Freshman Molly Brophy, of Ely, who topped the Section 7 girls finals, finished in 40th place at the state meet.

photo by D. Colburn

and in some spots wet and muddy. The winding layout afforded spectators multiple views of races in progress, particularly for those willing to dash across greens, fairways, and roughs to different vantage points. The crowds

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



SECTION 7A VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

SECTION CHAMPS, AGAIN

Ely overpowers Floodwood, draws Mayer Lutheran in first round of state tourney

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- A jubilant celebration erupted at Rock Ridge High School on Saturday as the Ely Timberwolves and their fans rejoiced after earning a repeat trip to the Class A state volleyball tournament with a 3-1 win over Floodwood in the Section 7A final.

While the Polar Bears got a do-or-die 26-24 win in the third set, the loss was a mere blip in Ely's overall dominance of the match. The Wolves breezed through the opening set 25-13, handily controlled the second 25-18, and ran away with the match in the fourth set, winning 25-10.

It was déjà vu for the Wolves, who thumped the Polar Bears 3-1 in last year's sectional final for their first trip to state.

Above: Ely players and coaches give a cheer as they pose with their Section 7A championship trophy.

Right: Ely senior Hannah Penke goes up for a kill against a Floodwood defender.

photos by D. Colburn

For Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum, the outcome was something the Wolves have been pointing toward all season.

"We always wanted to get here, but it was no easy feat," she said. "On Wednesday (against South Ridge) we had to really battle. Three of the first four sets were 25-23, so it wasn't easy, it really wasn't."

The Panthers gave the Wolves their sternest test of the tournament, and one of

See **CHAMPS...**pg. 2B



VOLLEYBALL



The Grizzlies' Addy Hartway gets the ball past a Floodwood defender in their semi-final tilt last Wednesday night.

photo by D. Colburn

Grizzlies rocked, then rolled

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

VIRGINIA- The North Woods volleyball season came to an abrupt end last week in the 7A sectional semifinals at Rock Ridge High School when the Floodwood Polar Bears came storming back from a 2-0 set deficit to defeat the Grizzlies 3-2 and move on to the sectional finals.

The Grizzlies knew they'd have their hands full in this match, as the Polar Bears won their regular season match at North Woods 3-2.

The Grizzlies wasted no time taking control from an opening service ace by Tori Olson. North Woods quickly zoomed to a 7-1 lead, with Lauren Burnett getting the Grizzlies second ace of the set in a 5-0 run. But the Grizzlies leveled their biggest blow of the set after Madison Dantes scored on a well placed pop over the net. With Dantes serving, the Grizzlies went from an 8-6 lead to 17-6, with setter Talise Goodsky scoring on a couple of quick flips and a block as North Woods had the Polar Bears completely out of sync. North Woods closed out a dominant performance with an 8-3 run to win the first set 25-10.

The Grizzlies played from behind in the first part of the second set, but used kills by Addy Hartway and Isabel Pascuzzi to forge multiple ties. With Hartway serving at 14-14, North Woods reeling off six consecutive points that included kills by Pascuzzi and River Cheney to take a 20-14 lead. Cheney picked up the set winner

See **GRIZZLIES...**pg. 2B

CHAMPS...Continued from page 1B

their toughest matches of the season. Ely led almost the entire first set before a South Ridge block gave the Panthers a 23-22 lead on the way to a 25-23 win. It was much the same in the second, with South Ridge pulling even at 23-23 late, but solid defensive play set up two Panthers' errors and a Wolves win, 25-23.

The teams traded the lead early in the third, with Ely going up to stay at 11-10 on a block by Audrey Kallberg and Clare Thomas. Ely got big kills from Lilli Rechichi, Thomas and Kallberg down the stretch, with Kallberg notching the set-winning kill for the 25-20 win. South Ridge led for most of the fourth set, forcing the match to a fifth set with a 25-23 win. Ely's poise came to the fore in the fifth as the Wolves built a five-point lead before taking the match with a 15-11 win.

With the Panthers out of the way and their sights set on a return to state, the 20-7 Wolves weren't about to let Floodwood stand in their way. A trio of Thomas kills sparked a run that gave Ely a 15-9 lead, and the Wolves breezed to a 25-13 first set win.

Floodwood's inability to land shots inside the stripes factored mightily in



Ely teammates celebrate moments after their championship win on Saturday.
photo by D. Colburn

the Wolves' 25-18 second set win, with Hannah Penke getting the set-winning kill.

Ely couldn't pull away in the third set, and Floodwood broke a 24-24 tie when Kenzie Kiminski dunked the ball at the net and then won the set 26-24 on a Kiminski block.

Rather than deflating the Wolves, the loss seemed to energize them, as they immediately took a 2-0 lead behind the serve of Sarah Visser. The Wolves were up by two, 9-7, when a soft pop shot by Kallberg and stingy defense ignited a

run that staked Ely to a 16-7 advantage. Fully in charge, the Wolves steamrolled through the rest of the set on a 9-3 run to win the set and match 25-10.

Key to the Wolves' dominance was the fact that Floodwood could not key up to stop any one Ely hitter, because Sarah Visser, with 39 set assists, spread the ball around effectively. Rechichi led the Wolves with 14 kills, Kallberg and Penke had ten each, and Thomas knocked down eight. Visser led the team in digs with 18, Thomas

had 17, and Kallberg and Penke again had ten each.

Wognum called out the entire team's versatility when talking about the win.

"We're very sound offensively and we have a lot to offer," she said. "We have a lot of different kinds of sets that we can use and different types of hitters that we can utilize for situations where we're getting blocked or shut down. It's really nice to be able to be versatile like that. We got a little stuck and kind of in our heads a little bit, but then we kind of shook out

of it and we finished with a good game."

Wognum said her team was eager and excited for the return to the state tourney, particularly after competitive performances against some of the top Class A teams in the state at the Minnesota Class A Showcase Tournament in Burnsville. Five of the teams at that tournament, including Ely, qualified for the state tournament, and while the Wolves dropped all five matches they played that weekend, they were without the services of senior Hannah Penke.

The Wolves head into the state tourney at full strength, and they'll need everyone to be at the top of their games against first-round opponent Mayer Lutheran, a rematch of last year's opening round match that the Wolves lost 3-1. Three-time state champion and state runner-up last year, the Crusaders are seeded second and ranked second in Class A, compiling a 26-6 record with a schedule loaded with 20 matches against Class AA and higher schools. As one of the three lowest-ranked teams in the tourney, the Wolves were paired against Mayer Lutheran by luck of the draw.

The Wolves lost seven

seniors from last year's squad, but those on the team who made the trip last year will be a steadying force this year, Wognum said.

"There's a lot of girls on our team that haven't experienced state, but for the ones that did I definitely think it made them want to go even more, now that they know what to expect," Wognum said.

And at this point in the season, Ely will stick with what's brought them success thus far.

"We have to kind of stick with what we are doing because it's working for us," Wognum said. "Every now and then if we run into a situation where there's an error or we have consistent errors we'll try to switch it up a little bit. But we're going to go forward with what we've been working on all season."

Thursday's quarterfinal against Mayer Lutheran was scheduled to tip at 7 p.m. at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. The tournament was scheduled to run through Saturday. The *Timberjay* will post updates on the Wolves' matches on its webpage and Facebook page.

RUNNERS...Continued from page 1B

were largest and loudest around the long downhill finish chute.

Burckhardt, running as part of the South Ridge Panthers team, entered the race as the 20th fastest qualifier, and that's exactly where he ended up, clocking a time of 16:47.3. His top-25 finish, 24 places higher than last year's state meet, earned him an all-state award certificate.

"Alex really closed in on the competition over the last mile," said South Ridge Head Coach Jeremy Polson. "It was definitely a great race for a junior. He returns as the number ten (runner) in the state for next season."

Qualifying for state as a team by virtue of their 7A sectional runner-up finish, the South Ridge boys featured two other North Woods runners on Saturday, seventh-grader Khalil Spears and sophomore Lincoln Antikainen. Spears, the only seventh grader to qualify for the race, turned in a time of 17:57.8, good enough for 103rd. Antikainen placed 134th with a time of 18:38.9.



Left: Ely junior Caid Chittum works through a crowd of runners.

Right: North Woods' seventh-grader Khalil Spears was one of the only seventh-graders competing.

Far right: North Woods senior Evelyn Brodeen recovered from a leg injury this season to finish 84th at state.



this year as the Section 7A champion. She was hampered by a side ache that dogged her most of the race, Ely Head Coach Jayne Dusich said, but still managed to improve on last year's performance. Her time of 20:17.15, about a minute slower than sectionals, was good enough for 46th place, eight spots better and four seconds faster than in 2022. Had she been able to reproduce her sectional performance of 19:12, Brophy would have finished in the top ten. Junior Caid Chittum was intent on improving from his 100th-place finish in 2022, and he made a huge leap up the leaderboard on Saturday, coming in 60th with a time of 17:16.5.

"The first mile was crowded and got narrow in some places," said Dusich. "Caid ran well -- 17:16 is close to his best time and faster than last year's time of 17:49, moving up 40 places, so it was a good ending to this season."

"Khalil ran well for a seventh grader in his first state meet ever," Polson said. "There aren't many seventh graders in the country running at the level he is at. It is going to be exciting to see what the future holds for him."

And the future looks promising overall for the South Ridge boys team, Polson noted.

"The boys team returns all of the scoring runners, so finishing 12th in our first-ever state meet was a huge accomplishment for the team," he said.

The South Ridge girls

won the 7A sectional title, and three North Woods runners led the way for the Panthers on Saturday.

Eighth grader Zoey Burckhardt emerged as a team leader after senior Evelyn Brodeen went down early in the season with an injury, and Burckhardt was the fastest Panther around the course on Saturday, finishing 54th with a time of 20:26.1.

That Brodeen made a return to the state meet after last year's 16th-place finish was remarkable, given her six-week layoff from running due to her

leg injury. In a gutsy performance, Brodeen turned in the second-best time for South Ridge, clocking in at 19:30.3 and 84th place.

"Evelyn stepped up and really ran well considering how little she has trained over the last couple of weeks," Polson said.

Junior Addison Burckhardt ran shoulder-to-shoulder with Brodeen for much of the race and finished 87th with a time of 21:10.4.

The North Woods trio were the top finishers for the South Ridge team, which placed 13th. Thanks

to their sectional win, the girls will get one more run this coming Sunday at the Nike Heartland Regional Championships in Sioux Falls, S.D., which features the best teams from a seven-state region.

Ely runners

Ely returned two veterans to state competition this year, and both improved on last year's performances.

It's hard to look at the youthful Molly Brophy and think "veteran," but the freshman phenom cracked the state field last year as an eighth-grader and returned

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

on a kill for a 25-17 win and a 2-0 lead in the match.

North Woods got off to a quick 5-1 lead in the third, but Floodwood came back to make it a slugfest. The Polar Bears took the lead for good at 11-10 and led by as many as eight before the Grizzlies pulled back to within 23-20. But a North Woods block sailed wide and Floodwood's Logan Hart gave the Polar Bears their first win of the night, 25-20, with an ace.

Like the Grizzlies in the first set, the Polar Bears in the fourth looked like they might run away at the outset, forcing North Woods Head Coach Kandi Olson to call timeout at 8-2. A Floodwood error at 11-3 gave the ball back to the Grizzlies, and with Hartway getting a big block and a pair of Pascuzzi kills North Woods was right back into it trailing just 11-9. Another Floodwood run put the Polar Bears up 18-11, but North Woods clawed back to a 20-20 tie on smart scores by Burnett and Goodsky. But the Grizzlies didn't have enough left in the tank to complete the drive, with Floodwood taking a 25-21 win to even the match 2-2.

The Polar Bears looked confident coming back out on the floor for the fifth set, and Floodwood's Kenzie Kiminiski, the team's big hitter, instead used deception to

pop over three quick shots to holes in the Grizzlies defense for scores. North Woods took a time out trailing 7-4, then had to take another with Floodwood forging a 10-5 advantage. North Woods was down 14-9 when Hartway staved off elimination with a block on Kiminiski, and after Floodwood mishandled a set Pascuzzi slammed a kill to get the Grizzlies within two, 14-12. But the Grizzlies dreams of reaching the sectional final went up in smoke when Floodwood angled a shot across the front of the North Woods defense that fell just inside the opposite sideline for 15-12 win and comeback match victory.

Olson commented on the play of both squads after the match.

"We practiced so well this week and we came out so hot," Olson said. "That's exactly what I was expecting out of them, but we had to expect Floodwood was going to pour on the steam and fight for their lives, and they came back at us hard in that third game. But I have to give props to my kids because they just kept fighting hard throughout, and a I feel like they did a great job."

Olson noted that it was tough for the Grizzlies to counter Floodwood's momentum as the match progressed.

"We had a lot of times where Floodwood had runs of a few points

and it was really a battle to get those points back," Olson said. "But once we realized we could do it we were able to pull back up again."

Olson agreed that Floodwood got better at finding holes in the Grizzlies defense.

"I feel like it was probably a little bit of us being a little tight and tense because we really knew we were going to have to pour it on them, and them just looking at things and seeing where our holes were."

North Woods finished the season with a record of 20-6 and was rated the 26th best team in Class A out of 152 schools. It was the best season for a Grizzlies squad since finishing 24-4 in 2018.

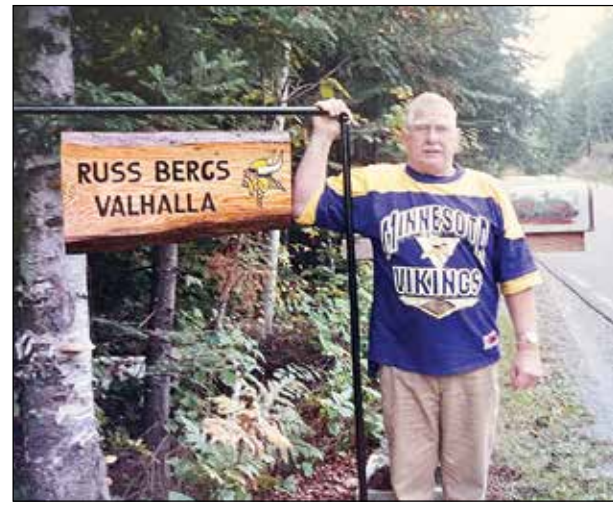
"Honestly, from the beginning to the end of the season they grew so much," Olson said. "Even at the end here, I felt like the growth was exponential. They were just learning new things and working hard every day and coming out with a better and better attitude every day to want to go as far as they could."

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Obituaries and Death Notices



ter retiring, they spent half the year in each location. Russ always considered Minnesota home; there was no place he would rather be than Valhalla, the name of the mythological Viking heaven that he gave to his home on Eagles Nest Lake. It was an appropriate reflection of his Scandinavian heritage and love of the Minnesota Vikings.

Valhalla is truly the "house that Russ built" along with Theresa and his brother Ray. They poured the cement foundation by hand, sawed every board, hammered every nail, and miraculously lifted the heavy roof beams into place. They installed the plumbing and electricity lying on their backs in a small crawl space. Theresa stained every board while also raising three children and hosting the extended family who came to visit in the summertime.

Russ was devoted to his community, attending church every Sunday at Holy Family Church in Rockford or St. Martin's in Tower, where he and Theresa were members of the choir. He had a standing table after Mass at the Tower Cafe where he generously paid the bill for whomever joined. Russ was a member of the Rockford Elks Club, Tower Lions Club and Eagles Nest Seniors.

As a longtime American Legion member, Russ assisted with bingo and the Fourth of July pancake breakfast. Leading the parade with the Color Guard was Russ's biggest goal and honor of the year. He did so until age 90 and the arrival of COVID. He would prepare by walking on Walsh Road in Eagles Nest, surprising many by his determination and by choosing to walk down the center of the road.

Like most boys growing up on the Iron Range, Russ learned to hunt and fish yet it wasn't until he retired that he was able to enjoy doing so again, with his nephew Bob and brother Don. Bob and wife Jane were the kind caretakers of Valhalla when

Russ was in Illinois. In his final years, Russ shifted from duck hunter to duck feeder with over 80 ducks in his yard at times.

Russ enjoyed playing cards, especially the Range favorites, cribbage and schmeer. His primary enjoyment was sports; he played sports, taught sports, and worked as a referee and umpire. Each day before dinner he would play football, baseball or basketball with his three children. Russ also made sure they were exposed to activities like karate, gymnastics and swimming at the YMCA.

In later years Russ shifted from playing to watching sports on television. He enjoyed watching tennis, the Twins, the Cubs, and his favorite, the Vikings. A few times he had the thrill of viewing them from the Metrodome press box with his lifelong friend from Tower, Marsh Nelson, who was the Vikings game announcer from 1965-96.

Russ was known for expressing his disappointment in the Vikings' performance yet he always remained a faithful fan. He watched his last game on Sunday, Sept. 10, dressed in a Vikings T-shirt and pants, covered by his Vikings blanket. He died in the same proud purple attire.

Russ is survived by his wife, Theresa Pavlich Berg of Rockford and Eagles Nest; his caregiver daughter, Michele "Mica" Berg Cascarano of Milwaukee, Wis.; son, Dan (Cathy) Berg of Rockford; daughter-in-law, Nancy Berg of Machesney Park, Ill.; grandchildren, Ben (Rachel) Berg and great-grandchildren Anna and Cameron of Machesney Park, Ill., Samantha (Bryan) Bem of Cottage Grove, Dan (Mary Ann) Berg of Lakewood, Colo., and Abby Berg of Rockford; brothers, Ray and Darrell, both of Tower-Soudan; sister, Darlene Mesojedec of Virginia; and sister-in-law, Aggie (Tony) Yapel of St. Paul.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Christian and Virginia Bruneau Berg; son, Mitchell; brother, Don (Mary Ann) Berg; sisters-in-law, Lorraine Berg and Carol Berg; sister, Christine (David) Parks; and brother-in-law, Paul Mesojedec.

**Mark D. Duame**

Mark Doyle "Muk" Duame, 61, of Mt. Iron, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Lunch and fellowship will follow at the VFW in Cook.

Mark was born on June 6, 1962, in Virginia, to Dennis and Jill Menelli Duame. He grew up and lived on Lake Vermilion beside Duame's Marina. After high school, Mark's adventurous and fearless love to travel led him to take a construction job at Larsen Bay Lodge on Kodiak Island in Alaska. When he returned home, he continued his carpenter career; he had been a member of Carpenters Local 606 since 1998 and most recently working for Alesch Construction.

Mark never gave up his love of traveling and considered himself a "wanderer". Among his other adventures, he was able to return to Kodiak Island a few times during his life. Another of his memorable trips was taking the Amtrak to California with his grandpa Russell.

In his younger years, Mark enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a naturally talented artist; he could pick up anything and draw it. He also painted and was an excellent woodworker. He made many items that he loved to give to other people, including a rocking chair for his niece Kayla. Mark was a history buff and enjoyed anything to do with old military memorabilia. If he was watching TV, it was usually a war history show.

Mark enjoyed getting together with family and friends and also enjoyed going to different functions. Mark had a great sense of humor; he enjoyed razzing people and drawing some questionable, but humorous, birthday cards for his family. He mischievously enjoyed being sarcastic, but in

good form. Mark's family lovingly remembers him as "a really good guy with a kind heart". He will be dearly missed by all.

Mark is survived by his wife, Tammy Duame; daughter, Ashley (Alex) St. Clair and their children Rian and Brooks; stepson, Kyle Aune; siblings, Mike (Kathy) Duame, Lisa Holter and Brian Duame; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dennis and Jill Duame; aunt, Susan Mattson; and two brothers-in-law, Gary Bamberg and James "Ding" Holter.

**Luvern Sauerbry**

Luvern "Dutch" Sauerbry, 96, longtime Lake Vermilion summer resident, passed away on Monday, Oct. 23, 2023, to reunite with his beloved best friend, Lois. Memorial donations can be made in honor of Dutch to the Fisher House Foundation, part of the Minneapolis VA.

Dutch and Lois bought a tiny cabin on Pine Island in 1969, later building a new cabin in the same bay. Lake Vermilion was truly their happy place. They found great joy in entertaining family and friends at the lake. If you knew them, please raise a glass to toast their wonderful life together. Dutch will raise a Manhattan back to you!

Dutch is survived by his daughter, Jane (Mike) Travis; sons, Steve (Laurie) Sauerbry and Jim (Sarah) Sauerbry; eight grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

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**Clifford L. and Christine L. Johnson**

Clifford Leonard Johnson, 78, and Christine Louise Karkinen Johnson, 78, of Babbitt, died tragically at their residence on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16 at Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

They are survived by their daughter, Errin; granddaughter, Falen (Quincy); great-granddaughter, Vinnie; Clifford's brothers, Waino W. Johnson of Ironwood, Mich., Edward E. (Sharon) Johnson Jr. of Duluth and Timothy Lee Johnson of Ontonagan, Mich.; Christine's brothers, Eric (Cozette) of Oak Grove and Les (Mary Lou) Karkinen of Gilbert; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lois Warren

Lois Jenno Warren, 84, of Ely, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023, at her home.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at Grace Lutheran Church in Ely. Arrangements were with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Terrence J. Bosch

Terrence "Terry" Jul Bosch, 71, of Ely, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, surrounded by his loving family after a courageous hard-fought battle with cancer. A Funeral Mass was held on Monday, Nov. 6 at St. Anthony's Church in Ely. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Joni Schwab Bosch; four children, Kelly (George)

Rajkovich and their children Autum, Layla and Addison, Jami (Robert) Stepec and their children Cole and Jace, Casey (Mike) Vieau and their children Emma, Scarlett, Brian and Clare, and Dan (Kelsey Velcheff) Bosch; sisters, Valerie LaRocque, Deb (Dale) Sedlezky, Pam (Mark) Anderson, Sandy (Randy) Weishaar and Kathy (Jeff) Miller; mother-in-law, Dolores (Heit) Schwab; sisters-in-law, Kristi (Doug) Vang, Shirley (Steve) Brock, Debbie Adahl and Julie (Vern Church) Schwab; and many nieces and nephews.

Elizabeth J. Erickson

Elizabeth "Betty" Joan Niemi Erickson, 80, lifelong resident of Ely, passed away at Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. There will not be a public

memorial at this time, but there will be a celebration of life for close family and friends in the summer of 2024. Memorial donations may be made to Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. Betty fought vigilantly for the survival of the center and the work done there was always close to her heart. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her son, Bernie Erickson; granddaughters, Rachel Thunde (Sam), Emily, Madeline and Isabel Erickson; great-grandson, Noah Thunde; and many colleagues, family and friends.

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THANK YOU!

Kugler Township would like to thank Eric and Carol Norberg, and their company Vermilion Energy Advisors, who raised and donated all the funds needed for the construction of the new pickleball court at Kugler Town Hall. The community will be using this recreation area for years to come.

Kugler Township Board of Supervisors



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

WILDLIFE RESEARCH

Study: Human impacts may be helping wolves hunt

Finds that roads, trails, and logging are making fawns more susceptible to predation

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Humans have significantly altered the landscape of northeastern Minnesota and those changes appear to be helping wolves prey more effectively on whitetailed deer and their fawns. That’s the conclusion of new research from the Voyageurs Wolf Project which was recently published in the journal *Ecological Applications*.

“The premise is really quite simple,” said Dr. Thomas Gable, a postdoctoral researcher at the

University of Minnesota and co-lead author of the study. “Human activities change where deer are on the landscape, and wolves go where the deer are. Plus, humans have done an excellent job of creating and maintaining a diverse, well-connected web of roads, trails, and other cleared linear features that are ideal corridors for wolves to hunt deer,” said Gable.

From logging to the creation of roads and trails and other infrastructure, like power lines, humans have fundamentally reshaped where wolves hunt and kill deer fawns, according to the research.

Right: A composite image showing a female wolf carrying a dead whitetailed deer fawn back to her pups near Voyageurs National Park.

photo courtesy NRRI

Most logging in northern Minnesota involves clear-cutting forests. After forests have been cleared, dense stands of young saplings provide prime food for deer and provide excellent hiding spots for newborn fawns. However, wolves seem to know that these

See **STUDY**, pg. 5B



2023 REGULAR FIREARMS DEER SEASON

Harvest slips again

Area deer registrations show hunters are having a bit more success than last year

REGIONAL— Hunters in the North Country mostly struggled to find deer during the opening weekend of the regular firearms deer season, even as there were pockets of relatively good success. Overall, however, deer registrations across northeastern Minnesota were down 19 percent over last year’s disappointing numbers and were off a whopping 40 percent over the five-year average.

Not surprisingly, hunter complaints were widespread. “The reports have been coming in,” said Jess Holmes, the DNR’s Tower area wildlife manager. “We’re hearing from camps with eight hunters and just one deer,” she said.

The numbers come as no surprise, said Holmes, who predicted the harvest would be down after last winter’s extended deep snow cover. “What we’re hearing is spot-on with what we expected,” said Holmes, who noted that a string of moderate-to-severe winters has clearly depleted the region’s deer population.

Holmes said she’s heard plenty of complaints from hunters about wolves, and said many hunters reported seeing

Above: Chessica Reichert, of Lake Vermilion, and her son Jace Olson, pose with the eight-point buck Chessica shot in central Minnesota. It was the first buck Chessica shot in ten years of hunting on the property. For the first time in years, the Timberjay received no photos from successful hunters locally.

submitted photo

wolves from their stands. She said the low deer density is likely a factor that’s keeping wolves on the move so they’re more likely to be spotted. “They’re hard-pressed to find food themselves,” she said.

An incident reported by Babbitt-area CO Anthony Bernel suggests that the wolves are taking unusual risks in their quest for food. “One hunter had an encounter with three wolves that ran to his deer shortly after the shot,” stated Bernel in his weekly report. “After getting his deer back from the wolves and field dressing it, the wolves made quick work of the gut pile and then ran down the power line toward the sound of another gun shot.”

While most hunters strug-



Area Deer Harvest

Results through Monday, Nov. 6

Year	Bucks	Antlerless	Total
2019	1,730	648	2,378
2020	NA	NA	NA
2021	1,684	488	2,172
2022	1,188	323	1,509
2023	1,326	398	1,724

Preliminary harvest totals for permit areas in northern St. Louis and Lake counties, including 107, 109, 117, 118, 119, 130, 176, 177, and 178.

gled to find deer, those in the border country near International Falls and those hunting south of the Iron Range reported the most success. Both International Falls-based COs reported some deer camps were reporting a good harvest to date, while others had yet to see deer. That success was evident in the 302 deer registered in PA 107 through Monday, the second highest number of registrations in any of the nine permit areas tracked by the *Timberjay*. Hunters in PA 178, located south of the Iron Range in central St. Louis County, registered 549 deer through the first three days of the season, the highest of any local permit areas. Those two permit areas accounted for half of the deer registered within the permit

areas covered by the *Timberjay*.

The connection between winter severity and hunter success seems apparent in those results. Both PA 107 and 178 saw some of the lowest snow totals in the region last winter, which likely boosted deer survival in those areas. Indeed, the western half of PA 107 never exceeded a winter severity index, or WSI, of 75, which is indicative of a mild-to-moderate winter. Likewise, the vast majority of PA 178 finished last winter with a WSI reading of under 105, indicating a moderate winter.

Holmes said hunter success has matched up perfectly so far with the WSI maps from last winter. “That’s where you

See **OPENER**, pg. 5B

TRAILS

Rail authority postpones decision on Vermilion trail request

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Rail Authority has postponed a decision that could determine the future of the proposed Lake Vermilion bike trail. The authority board took no action at their meeting last week on a request by Lake Vermilion Trail Joint Powers Board to assume responsibility for development of the proposed 40-mile trail, extending from Tower to Cook.

The joint powers board had made that request in a letter to the rail authority last month.

“They’re receptive to it,” said Bob Manzoline, in the wake of the meeting of the rail authority board. The rail authority has overseen development of the 140-mile-long Mesabi Trail for the past two decades and is close

See **TRAIL**, pg. 5B

Outdoors briefly

Webinar to focus on preparations for a BWCAW trip

REGIONAL— Next Wednesday, Nov. 15, join Jess Edberg, executive director of the Dorothy Molter Museum, and the DNR’s Benji Kohen in a webinar focusing on how to prepare for a canoe trip to the Boundary Waters.

It’s part of a series of Wednesday webinars hosted by the DNR for people interested in learning about Minnesota wildlife and outdoor skills.

The Nov. 15 webinar will include discussion of possible trip itineraries, campsites, maps, portages, permits and new tools to help in deciding on routes, whether it’s a “I want to relax” trip or a “I want to put on some miles and explore” trip.

The Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series webinars are free and offered year-round, though registration is required. Visit the Outdoor Skills and Stewardship webpage of the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/discover) for the registration portal, more information about upcoming webinars and recordings of past webinars.

OPENER...Continued from page 4B

cannot just focus on one thing," she said. "Our deer population is impacted by winter severity, habitat, and predation."

Indeed, those areas hit hardest by the conditions last winter were showing lower registration numbers. Hunters in PA 130, which runs from Tower to the south and east, had registered just 48 deer through the first three days. Virtually the entire permit area experienced months of deep snow and ended with a WSI reading well into the "severe" category.

Further north, in PA 119, hunters had registered just 87 deer as of Tuesday morning, a far cry from the registrations that used to come in from that zone, which extends from Lake Vermilion to the border generally east of Hwy. 53 and west of the Vermilion River. That zone used to be home to numerous deer camps, but hunter interest in the area has fallen along with deer numbers in recent years. DNR wildlife managers have pointed to habitat fragmentation from heavy logging as one of the factors limiting deer recovery in that permit area.

Orr area CO Troy Fondie reported many former camps in the area were vacant this year,

with the fewest number of hunters he had seen in his career. He reported fielding numerous complaints about the lack of deer and the abundance of wolves.

Hunters in PA 177, which encompasses the Lake Vermilion area west to Hwy. 65, registered 241 deer. That's fewer than in most recent years, since PA 177, which includes farm country and considerable private land in the Little Fork valley, typically maintains a healthy deer population. But most of the permit area experienced a severe winter in 2022-23, which likely impacted deer survival. Hunters, meanwhile, registered a total of 144 deer in PA 118, and 227 deer in PA 176.

With only spotty, light snowcover for opening weekend, visibility was not as good hunters as in some years. A little more snow fell earlier this week, but milder temperatures could chip away at snowcover in the area ahead of the weekend.

Deer are likely to have little moonlight overnight for the second weekend, as the new moon arrives on Monday. That should limit most deer activity to the daylight hours, which could aid hunters.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
32 21					34 24					40 28					44 33					47 35				
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.
10/30	29	16	0.00		10/30	29	11	0.00		10/30	29	14	0.00		10/30	28	14	0.03		10/30	29	10	0.00	
10/31	27	17	0.12	3.5"	10/31	28	10	0.11	1.4"	10/31	29	14	0.14	2.4"	10/31	28	16	0.20	2.0"	10/31	28	14	0.16	1.8"
11/01	27	12	0.00		11/01	29	5	0.00		11/01	28	13	0.00		11/01	30	12	0.00		11/01	29	6	0.00	
11/02	28	14	0.00		11/02	30	7	0.00		11/02	29	12	0.00		11/02	36	25	0.00		11/02	29	9	0.00	
11/03	33	25	0.00		11/03	38	20	0.00		11/03	35	24	0.00		11/03	39	23	0.00		11/03	36	24	0.00	
11/04	37	15	0.00		11/04	38	7	0.00		11/04	37	17	0.00		11/04	28	12	0.00		11/04	38	10	0.00	
11/05	27	17	tr	0.2"	11/05	30	24	tr	tr	11/05	28	16	0.02	0.2"	11/05	39	19	0.00		11/05	29	10	tr	tr
YTD Total			21.99	3.7"	YTD Total			23.73	1.4"	YTD Total			18.72	3.0"	YTD Total			NA		YTD Total			22.43	1.8"

STUDY...Continued from page 4B

recently-logged areas are good hunting spots, turning these nursery grounds into risky areas for deer fawns during summer, according to the research.

"Our work indicates wolves disproportionately hunt and kill deer fawns around recently logged areas — those that have been logged within the past five years," said Gable, "but not areas that have been logged more than five years ago. This is likely because clear-cut forests are much better deer habitat for the first few years, when new growth is available for browsing, than several years later when most potential browse has grown out of reach.

However, it's not just logging that influences where wolves hunt and kill deer fawns.

"Surprisingly, wolves tend to kill deer fawns closer to human infrastructure, like cabins, year-round residences, and barns, than expected," said Sean Johnson-Bice, a PhD candidate from the University of Manitoba and co-lead author of the study. Because wolves are afraid of people, prey in some areas have learned to congregate around humans to avoid the predators.

But it appears wolves are more willing to come into more human-dominated areas to hunt fawns. And the congregation of deer around people might have less to do

with avoiding predators and more to do with getting food. Supplemental feeding of deer is common in the region, and this likely congregates deer near human-developed areas.

"Although the high concentration of deer near human development attracts wolves to areas near people, wolves still definitely avoid encountering people when hunting fawns around human infrastructure," said Austin Homkes, a researcher for the Voyageurs Wolf Project and co-lead author of the study. "Wolves spend substantial time in close proximity to occupied cabins and residences, and yet almost no one sees them."

In a related study, the researchers also found that roads, powerlines, ATV trails, and hunting lanes in rural areas often act as hunting highways for wolves. Wolves can travel faster and farther along these linear features compared to traveling in the dense forests of northern Minnesota. In turn, these features appear to increase wolf hunting efficiency by allowing wolves to cover a larger area more effectively while burning fewer calories.

"Wolves face the same general issues that people do when traveling in the woods, and just like humans, wolves often prefer to travel on linear corridors like roads and trails rather than bushwhacking through the dense forest," said Dr. John

Bruggink, a professor at Northern Michigan University, and a co-author of the study.

Thus, it came as no surprise to the research team that wolves preferentially hunted fawns from these linear features and disproportionately killed fawns closer to these features than would be expected.

"When we put all of the pieces together, it is pretty clear that the cumulative effects of all major aspects of human activity in the Northwoods — logging, infrastructure development, and road/trail development — have fundamentally changed where and how wolves hunt deer fawns here," adds Johnson-Bice. "The rules of this predator-prey game change when people alter ecosystems, and it's possible we have created conditions that may have tipped the scales in the predators' favor."

The study was conducted by a collaborative team of researchers from the University of Minnesota, Northern Michigan University, Voyageurs National Park, and the University of Manitoba.

The Voyageurs Wolf Project is funded, in part, by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

TRAIL...Continued from page 4B

to final completion of the trail. Manzoline has served as Mesabi Trail director since the beginning of the trail project.

While willing to explore the joint powers board's request, Manzoline said the authority board wants to discuss the proposal in the context of several spur requests that the Mesabi Trail has received from different communities in the area. At 40 miles, the Lake Vermilion spur would be by far the longest. Most requested spurs are in the

range of a few miles at most.

Manzoline said the board wants a recap of all those requests before deciding whether to add the Lake Vermilion proposal to its list. "The question was set aside until that meeting," said Manzoline. The meeting is set for early December.

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7 PM CONCERT

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Let's welcome the New Year with an elegance and grace that only the classics can provide. We look forward to celebrating with you.

Admission includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, and a champagne toast

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This activity is made possible in part by a grant from Ely's Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust

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EMPLOYMENT

OPENINGS



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

- 1 FT Paraprofessional (full-time, benefits eligible) High school diploma required.
 - 1 Van Driver (part time - 15-19 hours per week) Current Driver's License Required, CDL not required)
- For inquiries, contact info@vermilioncountry.org and/or 218-248-2485

Tribal Police Officer

Closes: 11/14/2023

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

Excellent Benefits:

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

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

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

POSITION OPENING

Ely Public Schools High School Paraprofessional

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

Qualifications include:

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

Benefits include:

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

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

A complete application must include the following:

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

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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$17.23/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: November 13, 2023; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 3 & 10, 2023

POSITION OPENING

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Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 3 & 10, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD NOTICE

This will affect your 2024 property taxes & eligibility for Property Tax Refund

Have you purchased or moved into a property in the past year?
Contact your county assessor to file a homestead application if you or a qualifying relative occupy the property as a homestead on or before December 31, 2023. You must apply for homestead; it does not happen automatically or at closing.

What is a qualifying relative?

For residential or agricultural property, a qualifying relative includes the child, grandchild, sibling, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece, parent of the owner or of the owner's spouse.

When do I apply?

You must apply on or before December 31, 2023.

Contact the assessor by December 31, 2023 if the occupancy or use of the property you homestead has changed in the past year.

If you sell, move, or for any reason no longer qualify for the homestead classification, you are required to notify the county assessor within 30 days of the change in homestead status.

Are you a homeowner with an ITIN instead of a Social Security Number?
Starting this year, you may qualify for homestead status for your residence and claim a refund on Form M1PR. www.revenue.state.mn.us

For information, contact one of the following County Assessor's Offices:
Duluth Offices...218-726-2304 Virginia & Cook Offices...218-749-7147
Hibbing Office...218-262-6089 Ely Office...218-365-8236
Long distance (within St. Louis County) 1-800-450-9777

Published in the Timberjay, November 10, 2023

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Angelic ring
- 5 Little rascal
- 8 Burlap fiber
- 12 Switchboard worker
- 14 Barak of Israel
- 15 Longtime CBS News anchor Walter
- 16 Chinese secret society
- 17 Aachen article
- 18 Glide
- 20 Long
- 23 Pack of cards
- 24 Wan
- 25 Wood eater
- 28 1959 Kingston Trio hit
- 29 Relinquish
- 30 Flamenco cheer
- 32 "Charlotte's Web" author
- 34 Boring
- 35 Unctuous
- 36 Test versions
- 37 Catch some Z's
- 40 Flow out
- 41 Young cow
- 42 Almost
- 47 Leer at
- 48 Acts altruistically

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

- 49 Despot
- 50 "Mayday!"
- 51 Phoenix cagers
- 10 Casserole base
- 11 Jittery
- 13 Related
- 19 Summit
- 20 Orange veggie
- 21 Noble Italian family
- 22 Pequod captain
- 23 God
- 25 Hindmost parts
- 26 Talk up
- 27 First lady of scat
- 29 Brainiac
- 31 Golfer Ernie
- 33 Stereo component
- 34 Fixes, as software
- 36 Cookouts, briefly
- 37 Highlander
- 38 Kvetches
- 39 Stewpot
- 40 Summers in Paris
- 43 Tic-tac-toe win
- 44 Debtor's note
- 45 Heavy weight
- 46 Mag. staff

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Program Accountant

Closes: 12/04/2023

Position Purpose: The Program Accountant is responsible for setting up, maintaining, and monitoring all general ledger accounts, funds, and budgets in the accounting system relative to State, Federal and Tribal contract/programs including preparing adjusting journal entries under the direction of the Program Accounting Supervisor. Also monitors contracts/programs by providing requests, reporting and documentation under the direction of the Program Accounting Supervisor (Supervisory Program Accountant).

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Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 10, 17, 24 & Dec. 1, 2023

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: B equals M

MVFM-IORZVRF BVEVPOIN
UAAVLJI POZVRF SOIP VR O
BCEPV-FOBJ GSUIPG LURPJGP:
O PUCIRJN FJRJIOE.

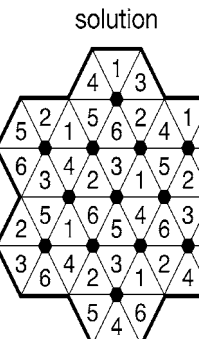
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Answers

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

SNOWFLAKES

solution



Legal notices are online each week at timberjay.com
www.mnpublicnotice.com/

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

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

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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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

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SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SNOWFLAKES
 by Japheth Light

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

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

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CryptoQuip answer
 High-ranking military officer taking part in a multi-game sports contest:
 A tourney general.

Even Exchange answers
 1. Hurdle, Huddle 6. Convex, Convey
 2. Forge, Force 7. Mound, Mount
 3. Danny, Donny 8. Dover, Diver
 4. Model, Motel 9. Insect, Insert
 5. Austin, Justin 10. Baron, Balon

CryptoQuote answer
 I always had the ability to say no. That's how I called my own shots.
 — Sidney Poitier

Weekly SUDOKU
 Answer

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

Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Requested
 6 Mass helpers
 15 Foil maker
 20 Empathetic declaration
 21 Steak lover, e.g.
 22 Lounges idly
 23 Italian developer of an educational method
 25 Third month
 26 "Two Years Before the Mast" star
 27 Film director Craven
 28 Family-style Chinese dish
 29 Body design, in brief
 30 The new girl on "New Girl"
 32 French painter of "The Horse Fair"
 36 Commotion
 38 The "N" of USNA: Abbr.
 40 "— never believe me!"
 41 Rap's "Dr."
 42 She played Abby Parker on HBO's "The Deuce"
 48 Cut with a light beam

49 Continuously
 50 Cruel emperor
 51 Troop's group
 52 Partners
 53 Scenes
 54 Title sorority in a 1985 film
 56 Turkish cap
 57 French friends
 58 Smithereens
 59 Onetime rival of Steffi Graf
 65 Swimmer Thorpe
 66 Farm female
 67 Disfigure
 68 Calculus, e.g.
 69 Made in the manner of
 70 American Red Cross founder
 73 Therefore
 74 Fix, as a pet
 75 Frigid
 76 House pests
 78 Spirited
 79 Flub up
 82 Sense by touch
 84 Zeus' wife
 85 Singer Della
 86 Fencing sword
 87 She played Miss Ellie Ewing on "Dallas"

90 Gore — (rainwear fabric)
 91 Herb in pesto
 92 Farm female
 93 FedEx competitor
 94 1996-2002 "Saturday Night Live" cast member
 97 Agra apparel
 100 Band's job of guarantee
 104 The, to Henri
 106 "Velvet Fog" vocalist
 109 Actor Falk
 110 Comedian with the 1990 HBO special "Cats, Cops and Stuff"
 114 Bel — (Italian cheese)
 115 Resistance to alternating current
 116 Hunter constellation
 117 RBIs, e.g.
 118 Engulfed by fire
 119 It can precede eight first names in this puzzle to form the names of California cities

DOWN

1 Get a lock on
 2 Milan's La —
 3 Gold purity unit
 4 St. Pat's land
 5 Bargain buy
 6 Home
 7 Advances, as money
 8 Vietnamese New Year
 9 Several
 10 Lay away
 11 Deep-voiced singer
 12 Siouan tribesperson
 13 "— out!"
 14 — Lankan
 15 Kind of nut
 16 Averse
 17 Criticized petulantly
 18 "No question"
 19 Some hardwoods
 24 Part of MLB
 28 Boxer Oscar de la —
 31 Curs' sounds
 33 Add while mixing
 34 Throat-clearing noise
 35 Flock of quail
 36 Dancer de Mille

37 Puppies
 39 Boatloads
 42 Piece of tile art
 43 Zoo dweller
 44 Eyeball part
 45 India's Gandhi
 46 Be wobbly
 47 Fog or steam
 48 Lounge around
 52 Fishnet stuff
 55 Oven brand
 56 "Good" or "bad" dietary intake
 58 Bundle of joy
 60 Cry upon arriving
 61 Leading to something
 62 Drank like a dog or cat
 63 Go by
 64 Gives assent
 66 Speed-of-sound ratio
 67 Green stuff
 71 Paddy crop
 72 Like a tinny recording
 73 City of ancient Egypt
 74 Plants-to-be
 77 Tobacco plug
 78 Get set for surgery

79 Test versions of smartphone programs, e.g.
 80 Vacant political position
 81 Oil, in slang
 82 High-speed
 83 A Great Lake
 87 Military post
 88 Scans again
 89 Artisans' club
 91 Rails in ballet
 95 Invited one
 96 Actress Page
 98 "Duck —" (Warner Bros. short)
 99 Zellweger of the screen
 100 Body part often pulled by an athlete
 101 "— buying it"
 102 "Hero" actress Davis
 105 Emailed junk
 107 General — chicken
 108 Other, in Oviedo
 110 More, in a music score
 111 Band blaster
 112 News svc.
 113 Vocalist Yoko

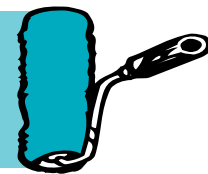
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20						21								22					
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			36	37				38	39			40					41		
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70			71					72			73						74		
					75				76		77					78			
79	80	81				82	83			84						85			
86						87				88				89					
90						91				92				93					
94			95						96		97	98	99				100	101	102
103									104		105	106				107	108		
109									110	111	112		113						
114									115								116		
117									118										119

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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.

P TAZTBU JTN FJH TSPAPFB FY

UTB VY. FJTF'U JYZ P LTAHN

RB YZV UJYFU.

— UPNVHB KYPPHC

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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Race obstacle | ___ R ___ | Football meeting | ___ D ___ |
| 2. Falsify a signature | ___ G ___ | Potency | ___ C ___ |
| 3. Actor DeVito | ___ A ___ | Performer Osmond | ___ O ___ |
| 4. Runway participant | ___ D ___ | Traveler's rest stop | ___ T ___ |
| 5. Lone Star capital | A ___ | Timberlake or Bieber | J ___ |
| 6. Reverse of concave | ___ X ___ | Carry goods | ___ Y ___ |
| 7. Baseball hill | ___ D ___ | Sinai or Vesuvius | ___ T ___ |
| 8. White cliffs port | ___ O ___ | Frogman | ___ I ___ |
| 9. Fly or beetle | ___ C ___ | Loose page | ___ R ___ |
| 10. Noble title | ___ R ___ | Twirler's wand | ___ T ___ |