



Early Deadline:
Articles and ads for the Nov. 24 issue need to be submitted by 9 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 20. Watch for our special Thanksgiving issue and North Country Christmas magazine delivered to local readers on Nov. 22

The **TIMBERJAY**



Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 34, ISSUE 45 November 17, 2023 \$1⁵⁰

TOWNSHIP CONTROVERSY

Township annual meeting ends in chaos

Clerk, board chair resign, clerk demands people leave her property which served as town's meeting place

by **DAVID COLBURN**
 Cook/Orr Editor

OWENS TWP – The Owens Township annual town meeting ended in fireworks Tuesday as the town clerk Shirley Woods and town board chair Wally Refsdahl resigned and Woods abruptly ended the meeting by ordering

attendees to leave her property. On hand was a St. Louis County Sheriff's deputy who calmly advised the crowd to do as Woods demanded.

The actions were the exclamation points to a lengthy and often heated debate about the status of Derusha Rd., a long-sim-

Right: The meeting room on Owens Town Clerk Shirley Woods' property was packed for Tuesday's annual town meeting, with many attendees interested in the controversy over Derusha Rd. photo by D. Colburn

mering dispute highlighted in the Nov. 10 *Timberjay*.

Woods' announcement of her resignation was met with scattered cheers and applause from the crowd of nearly 30 people who

packed the small meeting room on David and Shirley Woods' property.

"I leave because I no longer can tolerate the

See...OWENS pg. 9



MINING POLLUTION

MPCA: Birch Lake impaired from sulfate discharges

Listing expected to complicate future mining proposals

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
 Managing Editor

BABBITT— The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has added Birch Lake to its draft list of the state's impaired wild rice waters due to sulfate contamination from nearby mining operations. That list, which is updated every two years, was released in draft form on Tuesday. Pending public comments and approval from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the final list is expected to be approved next April.

This year marks the first time that the MPCA has proposed to list Birch Lake as impaired for its sulfate levels. The agency has resisted calls to do so in the past but was faced this year with an extraordinary amount of water quality testing data gathered over the past four years by Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness. The Ely-based organization undertook initial testing in 2019, which seemed to confirm the group's suspicions that Birch Lake's average sulfate levels were above the state's 10 milligram-per-liter (mg/l) sulfate limit for wild rice waters and many times the

See...BIRCH LAKE pg.10



GOOD TIDINGS

COFFEE AN' SHOPPING

Nelimark Homestead blossoms for the hoilday thanks to local artisans

by **JODI SUMMIT**
 Tower-Soudan Editor

EMBARRASS - Hundred-year-old Hinako Kuwamoto was busy picking out Christmas gifts at the Nelimark Homestead Museum on Saturday. Grandma, as many in Embarrass call her, was shopping with her granddaughter Laura Rosendahl, who herself is a grandmother, looking for gifts for their many

relatives, both near and far and young and old. Still spry and active, Hinako was busy picking out Swedish dishcloth designs that reminded her of her home in Minnesota to mail to faraway relatives, as well as finding books for her many young relatives and neighbors.

The two were among the hundreds who stopped by to visit and to shop last *See...NELIMARK pg.11*



Top: Hinako Kuwamoto and Laura Rosendahl shop for gifts at the Nelimark.

Above: A fresh loaf of Finnish pulla.

Left: Friends gather to enjoy each others' company. photos by J. Summit

CITY OF TOWER

Emergency services top city council agenda, again

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
 Managing Editor

TOWER— Emergency services topped the discussion during the city council meeting here on Monday as councilors took up a request for new equipment from the fire department and a plan to stem financial losses in the ambulance service.

Mayor Dave Setterberg outlined a new tentative proposal that could save the ambulance service about \$27,000 a year in payroll costs, by reducing on-call pay during the nighttime hours, while increasing call time pay during those hours to at least time and a half. City staff, Setterberg, and Councilor Kevin Norby had examined the call patterns for

the ambulance and found that the fewest calls came in the overnight hours, roughly from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m., with only two calls per week on average during that time.

He noted that the overnight hours were the times that most ambulance staff were home and would be least inconvenienced by being on-call. He said that during the day or evenings,

on-call personnel are restricted in what they can do to remain close enough to the hall to respond to calls. "The thought was during the daytime, they're having to sacrifice, especially in the evenings if they have to stick around and not go to dinner with their family or to their kids' games," said Setterberg. "But we thought by 11 o'clock at night until five

in the morning most everybody on the service is in bed sleeping at home and we aren't necessarily inconveniencing them during those time periods." He said the new proposal would push pay for when personnel are actually activated at night to \$42 an hour for EMTs and \$27 an hour for

See...COUNCIL pg. 9



SAVE 40% on Fall Clearance Men's and Women's Clothing!

You'll find it all at Piragis Northwoods Company 105 N Central Ave.
 piragis.com 218-365-6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950
 editor@timberjay.com



Community notices

The "Choralaires" invite music lovers to two Christmas Concerts Dec. 1 and 3

VIRGINIA – The Choralaires will perform two holiday concerts featuring a variety of songs with the full choir as well as small groups and solos. The first of the two performances is Friday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. The second performance is Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

The concerts are directed by Myron Cook and feature accompanists Amanda Spotts and Ginny Ahrlin. A free will offering will be collected to support local churches, community projects and music needs.

Looking to try Lutefisk? Here's your chance!

VIRGINIA - Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church located at 901 South Fourth Street is holding their annual Lutefisk and Meatball dinner Tuesday, Dec. 5 from 3 – 7 p.m. The dinner includes Lutefisk with drawn butter and cream sauce, handmade Swedish meatballs, gravy and potatoes, lefse and bread, vegetable, beet pickles, Coffee, milk, and cupcake. Cost for the dinner is \$20 for adults, \$8 for children 6-12 and children 5 and under eat free.

MSO to present "Music is Nostalgic" on Sunday, Dec. 10

VIRGINIA – As part of the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra 2023-2024 concert season the group will perform their holiday concert entitled "Music is Nostalgic" at the Rock Ridge High School Performing Arts Center on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2:30 p.m. The concert will include orchestral holiday favorites, prizes for most festive/nostalgic attire, games for kids as well as sweet treats and cocoa with Santa. Tickets may be purchased at the door or online at www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org.

SHOP LOCAL

Ely Chamber's "Shine Bright Ely" kicks off holiday shopping season

ELY - The holiday season is nearly here, and the Ely Chamber of Commerce has been busy planning many holiday events. Things will kick off Thanksgiving evening, Nov. 23 with "Shine Bright Ely." Although stores will not be open for shopping, participating businesses will welcome folks to come out for a stroll and enjoy sparkling lights, animation, and holiday themes that turn Ely into a winter wonderland that shines bright.

"Small Town Christmas and Shop Local" weekend begins Friday, Nov. 24, so get ready for some power shopping in Ely's friendly, relaxed, and fully stocked stores. Well known for its locally made, unique products Ely offers a wide array of items for everyone on your gift list, including yourself.

Shoppers will find everything from delicious treats such as tasty granola, Dorothy's root beer, Gene Hicks, and Northern Grounds coffee, to outdoor clothing and winter-specific gear including knives, bags and packs, toboggans, snowshoes, kick sleds, dog harnesses, and collars. Also, be sure to include something for those handy people who build, create, and repair on your shopping list. Ely has two great



One favorite for local shoppers, Mealey's Gift Shop shows their holiday spirit through artistic illumination.

hardware stores, plus an automotive store filled with tools, gear, and gadgets to make all projects a bit easier.

Don't forget the area's artists, crafters, and makers. Area artists are featured at several galleries in Ely, plus at retail stores. Those artists also need supplies and there are several locations to pick up supplies. With holiday gatherings in the planning stages, Ely offers several markets, providing a range of items from prime rib to organic food and drink, liquor stores for holiday toasts and celebrations, and delicious baked goods for breakfast and desserts. Of course, after a day of shopping, stop-

ping by a local restaurant to dine in or take out offers a great break from the holiday rush.

Ely is a one-stop shopping experience with a wide range of products and services for everyone. Shop local this holiday season for unique products other places don't offer. Plus, shopping locally supports the businesses that support our community year-round.

Starting Monday, Nov. 20 watch for the holiday event map available online at www.ely.org or at the Ely Chamber of Commerce office located 1600 E Sheridan St.

County Assessor offers reminder: homestead application deadline is Dec. 31

REGIONAL - The St. Louis County Assessor's Department has an important reminder for anyone who's moved in the last year: the deadline to apply for homestead classification is Dec. 31.

A homestead classification may qualify the property for a reduced classification rate, reduced taxable market value, property tax refund, and/or special program eligibility. The property owner must apply for this classification. It does not

happen automatically at closing.

To be eligible, a property must be occupied as a Minnesota resident's primary residence. It can be occupied either by the property owner or a qualifying relative. Full eligibility rules can be found online at stlouiscountymn.gov/assessor. New this year - homeowners with an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) instead of a Social Security number, may qualify for homestead sta-

tus and potentially claim a refund on Form M1PR, which can be found online at revenue.state.mn.us.

"We want to do what we can ahead of time to make sure people are aware of why they should take action now," said Mary Garness, Director of Public Records and Property Valuation. "Getting the homestead classification will likely reduce the amount they pay in property taxes. But every year, it seems, we get one or two people contacting

us after the deadline, and unfortunately, by then it's too late - there's nothing we can do."

To apply for the homestead classification, people can contact any of the following St. Louis County Assessor's Offices: Duluth, 218-726-2304; Virginia and Cook, 218-471-7147; Hibbing, 218-262-6089; or Ely, 218-365-8208. There's also a toll-free number for people calling long distance from within St. Louis County: 1-800-450-9777.

READ IT HERE

Ignore the risk; try Lutefisk!

9th Annual
Community Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner

Trinity Lutheran Church, Cook
231 2nd St. SE

Saturday, December 2
4 to 6:30 PM
Adults-\$18, Children under 10-\$7
Take out meals available

Join us for a traditional Scandinavian dinner! Lutefisk, white sauce and/or melted butter, meatballs, potatoes and gravy, green beans, rutabaga, lefse, homemade bread, cranberries, pickled herring, desserts and more.

Net proceeds will be donated to Cook Community Food Shelf and Trinity's National Youth gathering Krewe

AG Ellison invites Minnesotans to share stories of social media use and abuse

ST. PAUL - Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison announced that his office is asking Minnesotans to share their stories about the negative effects social media platforms are having on children and teenagers. Minnesotans are encouraged to visit www.ag.state.mn.us/social-media to share their experiences of how platforms like Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and others are affecting the physical and mental health of young people.

"It's my job to protect Minnesotans, and right

now I am deeply concerned that social media companies are preying on children and teenagers," said Attorney General Ellison. "If you have a story about how social media has affected a young person in Minnesota, I am asking you to share that with my office. By sharing your stories, you will help us understand the harm these platforms are causing, so we can better stop that bad behavior moving forward."

This story submission drive is the latest effort by Attorney General El-

lison's office to combat the problems caused by the growing influence of various social media platforms. In late October, Attorney General Ellison joined a bipartisan coalition of 42 attorneys general in suing Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram. The lawsuit alleges that Meta has been harming the physical and mental health of children and teens by deliberately designed features to addict them.

In March of 2022, Attorney General Ellison joined a nationwide in-

vestigation into whether TikTok's efforts to boost engagement and screen time among young people violated consumer protection laws. In May of 2021, Attorney General Ellison joined a bipartisan coalition of 44 attorneys general in urging Facebook to abandon its plans to launch a version of Instagram for children under 13.

Minnesotans can share their stories at www.ag.state.mn.us/social-media

37th Annual
GATHER & GIVE THANKS!
THANKSGIVING DINNER
(Cook, Tower and Orr)

November 23
Noon to 2 PM
St. Mary's Church, Cook

This sit down dinner is made possible by the efforts of local volunteers and generous donations from local merchants, churches and individuals.

If you would like a meal delivered in the Cook area please contact Robyn at 952-412-0576

CITY OF ELY

Ely wastewater treatment upgrade now complete

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- The city of Ely recently declared the completion of its \$8.5 million project to update its waste water treatment facility, (WWTF) allowing the plant to meet stricter federal standards for mercury. In addition, the project also allowed the city to fix how peak stormwater flows transit the facility and added features to make the plant safer for employees. The *Timberjay* toured the plant recently to see the improvements.

Prior to 2021, the facility lacked adequate biosolids storage and had no means to prevent the washout of the phosphorus treatment tank by stormwater. And the sand filtration unit was not up to the task of meeting stricter mercury standards.

The city hired the firm AE2S to design a solution to both of these issues and the company ran a successful pilot study in 2020 using cloth media filtration to remove mercury. The firm then designed a full-scale filtration system using cloth media along with other plant upgrades.

Ely secured four grants which covered 96 percent of the project's price tag. Construction began in April 2022.

What's new

Influent and stormwater flows into the plant, first entering the headworks, where sol-



The new cloth media filtration unit at Ely's waste water treatment facility. The unit replaces an old sand filtration unit which was inadequate to meet stricter federal mercury standards. photo by C. Clark

id materials are removed from the fluids. All the solid stuff like dropped coins, toys, razor blades, and other things you're not supposed to flush down the toilet get removed at the headworks. The headworks has new pumps, screens, and de-gritting equipment.

After the headworks, all water flows to a splitter box. The splitter is designed to divert peak stormwater flows away from the tank where phosphorus is removed by biological

agents. Preventing excess flow to the phosphorus treatment tank "keeps the bugs alive" that remove the phosphorus and other unwanted nutrients, Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski explained.

The plant now has piping to divert peak stormwater flows out of the splitter, plus a new "ship's stair" to access the splitter box, and new gate valves to control the flows out of the splitter.

Before the new equipment around the splitter, employees

had to climb a vertical ladder and stand on a narrow landing to operate the old, difficult-to-open valves. The new access, platform, and valves greatly improve safety.

After flows exit the splitter, they are treated for phosphorus unless the plant is experiencing peak flows. The water then moves through clarifiers, filtration units, and treatment tanks. It is disinfected with chlorine at the filtration step and then dechlorinated before being dis-

charged to Shagawa Lake.

The project removed the old sand filtration unit and replaced it with two cloth media filtration tanks, each of which can filter three million gallons a day. The filters are huge disks on a shaft that runs the length of each tank. The cloth media looks like green shag carpet but is really an engineered synthetic fabric. The water leaving the tank is clear and ready to discharge after dechlorination. According to Langowski, the facility's results for treated water were currently "really good," especially for mercury and total suspended solids.

In addition to the cloth media filtration tanks, the plant also has a new roof, new electrical utilities, and new lighting.

To address the lack of biosolids storage, the project included the construction of a new storage tank outside of the main plant building. Prior to the addition of the new tank, biosolids were stored in offline clarifiers.

Construction on the plant was mostly complete in June, with Langowski informing the city council at its Sept. 8 meeting that the plant was up and operating with all the new improvements online. At the Nov. 7 meeting, he told the city council, "the project is winding down," and was "on its post-inspection and warranty period. The lion's share of work is done," he concluded.

ISD 696

Ely School Board congratulates volleyball, track athletes

by CATIE CLARK
Ely Editor

ELY- Some Ely high school athletes won well-deserved praise from Ely School Board Chair Ray Marsnik at the start of Monday's board meeting.

"The girls volleyball team should be recognized," said Marsnik, for taking the division title and coming home with the state Class A consolation championship after this past weekend's state volleyball tournament at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Marsnik added recognition for Ely's cross-country running standouts, freshman

Molly Brophy and junior Caid Chittum, who qualified and ran in the state cross-country meet earlier this month, placing 46th and 60th respectively.

In other board business, Superintendent Anne Oelke reported that enrollment was currently 534 students, a gain of five since the start of the 2023-24 school year. A total of 536 students were enrolled in the school at the end of the previous school year.

Oelke also reported that negotiations with the school district's employee bargaining units were approaching a mu-

tually acceptable conclusion. "We'll go into a special meeting on the teachers' contract," Oelke remarked, "after the study session on Nov. 27."

In other business, the school board:

- Changed the December study session date from Dec. 25 at 6 p.m. to Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.

- Approved the October financial report, with receipts in the amount of \$682,080 and disbursements totaling \$468,961.

- Approved the professional growth subsidy for fall 2023 in the amount of \$23,400.

- Approved lane change

requests from Madeline Olson (BA +24 Step 5 \$55,481 to MA Step 5 \$57,301), Autumn Boedeker and Megan Wognum (MA Step 6 \$59,123 to MA +17 Step 6 \$60,942), and Cory Lassi (MA Step 11 \$73,018 to MA +17 Step 11 \$74,539).

- Approved Frank Ivancich for a 0.20 FTE Social Studies overload assignment for the 2023-24 school year.

- Approved the following extra-curricular assignment as recommended by Jeff Carey, Memorial High School 6-12 principal: Elyssa Erickson and Tim Hogan, for junior class ad-

visor and junior banquet. The stipend will be split between them.

- Approved a request from Max Gantt, K-12 Physical Education/Health teacher, to extend parental leave from Nov. 6 to Nov. 10 under the Family Medical Leave Act.

- Approved a request from Kelly Chick, K-12 Art Teacher, for a medical leave of absence from Dec. 5 through Jan. 1, 2024, under the Family Medical Leave Act.

See ELY...pg. 5

REAL ESTATE

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

NEW PRICE 6 BR, 1 BA country home located near Cook w/lots of potential! 53 acres w/Rice River frontage and large fields. Home features spacious kitchen, newer roof and maintenance free siding and some newer windows. Numerous outbuildings. **\$249,000 MLS# 145930**

TOWER Updated 3 BR, 1.5 BA home situated on Pike River Flowage near Lake Vermilion. 7 acre lot w/ 1,125 ft frontage. Walkout bsmt, 2 saunas, 2-stall garage and much more. A must see! **\$479,000 MLS# 145324**

VERMILION LAND OFFICE
Real Estate Appraisals

Looking To Buy Or Sell? Give Us A Call!

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

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

Gheen-\$249,000 3 BR, 3/4 BA, 1,512 sq ft cabin with covered front porch, in-floor hot water heat, A/C and attached 1-car garage/bunk room on 40 acres surrounded by thousands of acres of public land. **MLS#145680**

Orr-\$63,600 Great hunting and recreational property. 52.62 undeveloped, wooded, rolling acres located about 2.5 miles north of Ash Lake. Adjoins public land and timber company lands on all 4 sides. **MLS#145217**

Crane Lake-\$359,900 80-acre boat-access family hunting and fishing camp. Main 912 sq ft log cabin w/ 1 BR, 1 BA, gas lights plus full electric, compliant septic and drilled well. Sleeper cabin new in 2020 is 11'x15' with 3/4 loft for additional family and friends. Both cabins come partially furnished. **MLS#145274**

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

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

NEXT TIME COME HOME!

JANISCH REALTY 218-780-6644

Let's Make Sold Happen For You Too!

OPINION

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

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

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

The immigration challenge

It's time we view immigrants as a resource that can benefit everyone

The United States is facing an unusual convergence of trends that threaten to upend our economy and the nation's ability to fund its priorities, particularly payroll-funded programs like Social Security and Medicare.

For a variety of reasons, which only intensified as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the birth rate in the U.S. has fallen to its lowest level on record the past few years. While there is evidence of a very slight rebound with the pandemic now behind us, it is clear that many more young people are opting not to have children today than in the past. Indeed, according to U.S. Census data, nearly 35 percent of women currently of childbearing age won't have children in their lifetimes. That's basically double the 18 percent of women in the U.S. who remained childless in 1975.

As it stands today, American women are having, on average, 1.7 children during their lifetimes, which is well below what is widely considered to be the replacement rate of 2.1 children per woman.

The U.S. continues to very slowly add population, thanks mostly to legal immigration, which is currently contributing well over half of our net population growth.

The implications of this trend are wide-ranging and significant. While some states, mostly in the Sun Belt, are still experiencing population growth mostly as U.S. residents continue their longstanding internal migration from north to the south, nearly half of U.S. states are experiencing near stagnation in their population. These trends hit some areas harder than others. The Minnesota state demographer, for example, currently projects that St. Louis County will lose 12,400 residents between now and 2050, while the Arrowhead as a whole will lose just under 20,000 residents in that same time frame. That's thousands fewer workers and customers for businesses, hundreds of fewer students in area schools, and fewer taxpayers to pay for government services, or for social insurance programs like Social Security and Medicare. Bringing new people into the workforce is the only way to improve the financial outlook for these programs, upon which so many seniors rely here in the U.S.

At the same time, the U.S. population, including here in northeastern Minnesota, is rapidly aging, which only exacerbates the effects of declining

population. The elderly don't have babies, don't spend as much money on goods as young people, and typically don't contribute to the workforce. They do, however, place demands on care providers, who are already in critically short supply in our region.

Ambulance services, hospitals, and nursing homes in our area are all facing nearly existential workforce shortages, as we've reported recently.

Adding to the problem is the fact that many politicians in the U.S., responding to xenophobic attitudes among far too many Americans, are calling for increasingly Draconian efforts to stem the flow of asylum seekers from Central and South America, the vast majority of whom are fleeing violence, poverty, and political repression in their home countries.

These asylum seekers (who have a legal right under U.S. law to seek asylum) want nothing more than to work here in the U.S. in hopes of earning their own American Dream in a country that's comparatively safe. These aren't people coming to waste away in overcrowded shelters, as has been their experience in recent years. These are families, in many cases, who could bring new workers, new students for schools with declining enrollment, new taxpayers, and new engaged citizens to small towns across the nation's mid-section. Rather than crowding them into urban centers, the Biden administration should begin reaching out to nonprofits that serve places like St. Louis County to develop mechanisms to support bringing immigrants here. Hundreds of rural counties across the country are losing population and have little hope of reversing that dangerous trend without an influx of immigrants. We need changes in immigration laws that give asylum seekers more opportunities to become Americans, if they agree to locate in places where many Americans are no longer willing to reside. And we need to invest in those communities that offer open arms to these new residents, helping to rebuild their economies to create new opportunities for old and new residents alike.

Rather than treating immigrants as a problem, we need to recognize them for what they really are— a potential resource to help maintain strong local economies, fund government services, and bring vitality back to places that have, for too long, been forgotten in Washington.



Leaders must have emotional intelligence

At various times, I've worked as a traveling school counselor, a child/family therapist as well as an educational therapist in mental health facilities. In my career, I was also an elementary teacher and an education professor. In all of these settings, the most difficult and challenging cases were those kids manifesting "oppositional defiant disorders."

These were those kids who presented immense challenges to teachers, therapists and parents. They displayed a pattern of anger, irritability, and defiance against all authority figures. They were spiteful, argumentative, and often sought revenge towards those who expected them to conform to rules. They refused to comply with rules, blamed others for their misbehavior, and said mean and hurtful things when upset, often times even becoming physical. They were obsessed with seeking revenge and "getting even" when crossed. They were a danger to other students, teachers and family members because when they spiraled into their cycle of anger, they lost control or even awareness of what they were saying or doing. In therapy, we worked with them on how to manage their tempers and how to become more rational. Some obviously needed to be on medications.

Today, we watch in horror as a presidential candidate openly displays those same characteristics. He views himself above the law. In court, he attacks the judges. He makes threats against anyone he perceives as against him. He lies. He refuses to follow the rules that guide our nation, the U.S. Constitution. He displays an extremely short attention span and constantly bellows and makes alarming threats. He spins a

false narrative, one which has been proven over and over to be untrue. He is angry, spiteful, and argumentative, promising revenge and retribution. Sadly, his mode of operation has been consistent over his lifetime.

We listen and watch as an adult, an ex-president who refused to concede even yet today, displays delusional thinking and the pattern of an oppositional defiant disorder. I cringe even thinking of this undeveloped human on the world stage. This nation deserves leaders who are emotionally mature as well as knowledgeable. He is not. I think about the fact that one of the most important characteristics of effective leaders is emotional intelligence which means the ability to understand the emotions of others as well as regulating one's own. He lacks both.

The bellowing, the rage, the attacks, the lies, the excuses..... an emotionally mature human being exhibits none of these behaviors. An emotionally mature human being above all displays self-control. An emotionally mature human being does not behave like a toddler throwing a tantrum.

Ellie Larmouth
Tower

Time has come to invest in the good, not the bad

"The day science begins to study non-physical phenomena, it will make more progress in one decade than in all the previous centuries of its existence," according to Nikola Tesla. Scientific discovery leads to understanding the laws that explain how physical nature organizes itself. Both science and spirituality seek truth to explain the basic nature of reality.

Spirit, a Latin word for breath or wind, awakens us to further scientific research into the non-physical reality

of consciousness. Beyond paranormal phenomenon, intangible reality deserves deeper scientific inquiry into human relations. How thoughts lead to understanding; feelings move from fear to compassion and love; and to maximize perception toward the pleasant and beautiful deserves attention.

Human relations, an interdisciplinary study, seeks to understand non-physical reality in our relationship with oneself, others, nature and the world. Fundamental to human possibilities is how we organize ourselves by social networking. Social organization shapes how power and interests affect pursuit of truth, justice, peace, dignity, freedom and equality. Experimenting with social organization is necessary to optimize human relationships for happiness, harmony and cooperation.

Imagination and creativity can free us from the shackles of hierarchy and dominance, ignorance and superstition, intolerance and bigotry, objectifying and monetizing human beings. A fixed, static and dogmatic ideology suffocates possibilities for social invention. Awareness in being allows us to discover our own true nature of oneness within a seamless universe; not as an entity, a noun, but as an activity, a verb.

Human beings are more cooperative than competitive, more caring than indifferent, more alike than different and more altruistic than greedy, and therein lies human salvation. Most research dollars go for marketplace or military hardware and to manipulating behavior, rather than education. Time has come to invest in the good, not the bad; inclusion, not exclusion; peace and harmony, not discord and division.

Harold Honkola
Stillwater

COMMENTARY

"Greatest nation" debates aren't helpful

Is the United States the greatest nation in the world? It's a natural question to ask, given our penchant for displays of patriotism and our debates about American exceptionalism.

But I don't like the question. Talking about how American greatness isn't a very helpful exercise. It doesn't do anything to make our country better or stronger.



LEE
HAMILTON

It plays to the stereotype of the ugly American, the idea that we are proud and boastful, insensitive to the values and accomplishments of others. No one likes to hear someone else talk about how important or powerful they are, whether it's a person or a nation.

We often say that actions speak louder than words. The subject of American great-

ness is a great example of the truth of that old saying.

A recent Pew Research Center survey tried to gauge public opinion on the question, however, and the results are interesting. It asked if the United States "stands above" all other countries; if it's one of the greatest countries, along with others; or if other countries are better than the U.S.

One in five respondents said the U.S. stands above all others, while 52% said it is one of the greatest countries. Another 27% said other coun-

tries are better. The results showed a measurable decline in American self-esteem since Pew asked the same questions four years ago.

Republicans were more likely than Democrats to say America is the greatest country. That might be expected, given the GOP's traditional emphasis on patriotism, but the number of Republicans who take that position has declined: 31% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said the U.S. "stands above" other countries, compared to

40% in 2019. Democrats are also less likely today to say the U.S. is the greatest nation.

There's also a split among age groups. Americans over 65 are most likely to say the U.S. stands above other nations. Many of those under 30 say other nations are better.

What do people elsewhere in the world think? About six in 10 have a generally favorable view of the United States, according to a Pew survey of 23 middle-income nations this year. Respondents were more likely to have

positive views of President Joe Biden than they had of Donald Trump when he was president. Reassuringly, over half said the U.S. contributes to peace and stability in the world.

At the same time, a large majority in the international poll said the U.S. is inclined to interfere in the affairs of other nations. That finding should give us pause. Our efforts to promote peace and stability won't be effective if we're seen as a bully that's pushing other countries

See NATION...pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Walz made an excellent move on the state's workforce

Governor Walz eliminating the requirement of a four-year degree for 75 percent of state jobs was the best move a governor could make. We DFLers have climbed the socioeconomic ladder and closed the gate behind us with our privileges restricted to those who've managed to get those degrees. It takes a lot of economic and personal support to get one. The emotional and financial chaos of poverty drains a lot out of you. Gumption and grit go only so far, especially when you've got people you need to care for.

Since we liberals are closer - and more visible - to the 75 percent of people lower on the ladder, all while declaring our concern for them, their enmity simmers. It should be no surprise when the frustrations and despair

of so many boils over into supporting the disruption that Trump brings. Until we actually provide them with a better future, his snarls and tantrums will continue to draw crowds.

We need to get busy being effective socialists before our country turns fascist. As it is, we're dancing on the fence posts.

**Dave Porter
Minneapolis**

It can happen here

They said: "it can't happen here."

But read below and be afraid. Be very afraid.

On Veteran's Day Trump made a declaration:

"We pledge to you that we will root out the communists, Marxists, fascists, and the radical left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country that lie and steal and cheat on elections."

Vermin.

Hitler and his fellow

Nazis used the words "parasitic vermin" to refer to Jews, people of other races or nationalities, and people who opposed him. Vermin that needed to be eradicated. Vermin that they used the power of the government to root out and exterminate.

When people expressed their shock at Trump's Nazi-like language, campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung responded that people who felt that way were "snowflakes" and would have "their entire existence crushed when President Trump returns to the White House."

Oops, apparently those words didn't get it quite right. Cheung further clarified that rather than their "entire existence," it would be their "sad, miserable existence" that would be eliminated—as if that would make it any better.

According to the U.S. Holocaust Museum:

"While it classified Jews as the priority 'enemy,' the Nazi ideological concept of race targeted

other groups for persecution, imprisonment, and annihilation. These groups included Roma (Gypsies), people with disabilities, Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, and Afro-Germans. The Nazis also identified political dissidents, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, and so-called asocials as enemies and security risks either because they consciously opposed the Nazi regime or some aspect of their behavior did not fit Nazi perceptions of social norms. They sought to eliminate domestic non-conformists and so-called racial threats through a perpetual self-purge of German society. The Nazis pursued a strategic vision of a dominant German race ruling subject peoples, especially the Slavs and the so-called Asiatics (by which they meant the peoples of Soviet Central Asia and the Muslim populations of the Caucasus region), whom they judged to be innately inferior." <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/victims-of-the-nazi-era-na>

zi-racial-ideology

Interesting that Slavs were included as those "innately inferior." Tell that to the Iron Rangers who proudly descend from immigrants from Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Poland, and other Slavic countries.

Please think about the stories you heard from your Finnish or Slavic or Italian ancestors about how tough things were for them as each new immigrant group was considered as something less than the established group.

So, you say, well, Trump meant it's only the vermin who "lie, cheat, and steal elections," he's after.

But be afraid: so far, after over 60 separate failed legal attempts to justify that election fraud occurred, Trump and his enforcers still are looking to retaliate and eradicate their opponents.

It can happen here. And it sure wouldn't make America great.

**Leah Rogne, Ph.D.
Gheen**



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.

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay's* editorial page. We want to know what you think!

STATE SUPREME COURT

Case to keep Trump off primary ballot dismissed

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

ST. PAUL— The Minnesota Supreme Court, in an order issued Nov. 8, denied a petition filed by former Secretary of State Joan Grove and others that sought to disqualify former President Donald Trump from appearing on the Minnesota Republican primary ballot next March.

The justices, in an order signed by Chief Justice Natalie Hudson, denied the request without prejudice, which means the petitioners will have the right to bring their case back to the high court should Donald Trump be the GOP's presidential nominee.

The justices rejected the claim of petitioners that current Secretary of State Steve Simon had erred by not taking steps to remove Trump from the primary ballot as disqualified under the 14th Amendment to the U.S.

Constitution. Section Three of the 14th Amendment bars anyone from serving in public office who previously took an oath of office and later engaged in or provided aid to those engaging in insurrection. Petitioners argue that the Jan. 6, 2021, storming of the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters, incited by Trump, met the definition of insurrection since it was intended to block the transition of power to the rightfully-elected new president, Joe Biden.

The high court declined to rule for now on whether Trump's actions met the definition of "insurrection," which likely would not be made without an evidentiary hearing. But they found, in either case, that the primary election is a function of the political parties and that under Minn. Stat. 204B.44(a), the court has no authority to intercede. The court agreed that the petitioners have standing but disagreed on the timing of their claim as it pertains to the 2024 general

election ballot. "That claim is neither ripe, nor is it "about to occur" as section 204B.44(a) requires," concluded the justices.

If Trump becomes the GOP nominee at the Republican National Convention next July and seeks ballot access in Minnesota after that, the high court could then take the case up again and address the issue of Trump's actions and whether they are disqualifying.

ELY...Continued from page 3

► Accepted the resignation of Catherine Mindel from her para-professional position (6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, student contact days) effective Sept. 26.

► Approved the renewal of winter assistant coaches Tim Omerza, asst. boys basketball; Tom Omerza, asst. girls basketball; Duane Lossing, asst. hockey; and Tyler Fish, asst. Nordic skiing for both boys and girls. The vote was 5-0, with Tom Omerza abstaining.

► Approved winter assistant coaches Pat and Jake Vanderbeek, jr. high boys basketball; Troy Oelke, Jr. high girls basketball; Nate LaFond and Megan Theile, jr. high skiing; Paula Anderson and Carl Skustad, volunteer asst. Nordic skiing coaches; Emmett Penke, Jen Zgonc, and Erin Lowe, volunteer asst. girls basketball coaches; and Heather Hohenstein, Sarah Sponholz, Liz Anderson, Karl Kubiak, Chris Ellerbroek, Beth Ohlhaus-

er, volunteer asst. jr. high skiing coaches. Stipends for the Vanderbeeks and Oelke will be paid by the Ely Hoop Club. The stipends for LaFond and Theile will be paid by the Nordic Wolves Booster Club.

► Approved the Widseth master agreement, effective from Nov. 3, 2023, to Nov. 3, 2024, and the Widseth service order agreement effective Nov. 3, 2023. School district attorney Kelly Klun reviewed the draft contracts as presented at the Oct. 23 school board study session and some changes were made as a result. Hiring Widseth as a general contractor for interior work was covered in the Oct. 27 edition of the *Timberjay*.

► Accepted the bid from Blue Cross Blue Shield for the district's health insurance beginning in 2024, pending bargaining units' approval.

► Approved resolutions supporting a Form A Application and a Form

B Application to Minnesota State High School League Foundation. Athletic director Tom Coombe explained that these applications are for sales tax-funded grant funds. Form A funds are to offset student activity fees. Form B funds are to support athletic and fine arts programs. "Even a few hundred dollars can

help," Coombe explained. "Maybe one place we can put some money into is transportation for some of the kids from the schools we have cooperative agreements (with), even if it is just a Suburban."

► Approved a resolution to accept donations from two different parties. The first is a donation of \$50 in honor of Sharon

Anderson from Lynn and Donna Rogers for the art department. The Ely Educational Foundation was the second donor, with \$24,000 split as follows: \$4,000 for elementary

school STEAM, \$5,000 for the knowledge bowl, \$6,500 for the media center, and \$8,500 for two cafeteria booths.



the TIMBERJAY

Copyright © 2023 by *The Timberjay*. *The Timberjay* (PN 16025) is published weekly on Fridays, 51 weeks per year, by *The Timberjay Inc.*, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Business/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

This award-winning community newspaper published each week serves the communities of Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook/Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Catie Clark
Office Manager	Michelle Toutloff
Staff Writer	Rachel Brophy
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports	Jay Greeney

Official Newspaper:

Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, Kabetogama, Greenwood, ISD 707, City of Orr.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:

St. Louis County: \$45 year Elsewhere: \$59 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover/AmEx. NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$109 year or \$10 per month.

Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details and payment at www.timberjay.com.

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



See if you qualify for health insurance savings
ONLY THROUGH MNSURE

Get started at MNSure.org



NATION...Continued from page 4

around. Similarly, claiming that America is the greatest nation doesn't accomplish much. It takes time and energy that would be better spent doing whatever we can to make America the prosperous, secure, generous and truly democratic country that we want it to be.

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said the U.S. is the world's "indispensable nation." Trying to play that role may have led us to make some for-

eign policy mistakes, but it has also helped us take on tough challenges, most successfully when we act as part of alliances such as NATO. Our support for Ukraine in resisting Russian aggression is a good example.

Our country has done a lot of good things in the world. We could take credit for it, but it's better if we don't. Our leadership will be more effective if we let our actions speak for themselves.

Week of Nov. 20

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 16 winner of the Charlemagne's 52 Club \$100 cash prize is Patty Dahl of Virginia. Week 12 winner Elaine McGillivray has generously donated her \$100 cash prize to the TSHS fire hall restoration fund.

History Tidbit: Our local historic sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places give us a connection to the past, a sense of continuity and deepens our sense of identity. These important historical landmarks focus attention on and promote knowledge and pride in the rich history in our communities: Soudan Mine (1966), Tower Fire Hall (1980), Stuntz Bay Boathouse District (2007), and Duluth and Iron Range Railroad Company Passenger Station, aka Train Depot, (2013).

Read It HERE

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 avail-

able. The meal is being sponsored by the church, but donations can be made to the Tower Area Food Shelf. All are welcome to attend.



SHOP LOCAL
Small Business Saturday in Tower on Nov. 25

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Area Events Board has been busy preparing for the first annual Small Business Saturday on Nov. 25. Don't miss all the excitement, close to home, one day only. Local businesses are lining up to feature sales on products and services, there will be a Winter Market featuring local producers and artisans to be held within the Pike River Products store, as well as a 50/50 raffle benefiting the Tower Soudan Area Events Board.

The board will also be raffling off over \$200 worth of gift cards. To enter the raffles, simply bring in a receipt from any of



Tower's Main Street businesses dated Nov. 25, 2023. Best of all, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus plan to make a visit to Tower! They will be in the Pike River Products building

Santa will be visiting Tower on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 12:30 - 3 p.m. at the Pike River Products building on Main Street. file photo

from 12:30 – 3 p.m. to meet with kids to hear their Christmas requests and take photos. Katrina B. Photography has volunteered to be on hand to take photos of the kiddos with the Christmas Couple - parents can also take their own photos of their kids as well.

And it's not a visit to Santa without a candy cane! The overall goal of this event is to both bring the community together and focus on supporting our local businesses by buying here in your hometown. By shopping locally, you create jobs for your friends and neighbors, stimulate the local economy which can benefit local schools and charities, and is even beneficial for the environment by reducing carbon footprint. The Tower-Soudan Area Events Board hopes to see you on Nov. 25 on Main Street in Tower.

COMMUNITY GIVING
It's time to start planning for Operation Santa

TOWER- Donations have started to come in for this year's Operation Santa toy drive, but we still have a long way to go to reach our goal.

Operation Santa is a local fundraiser that purchases Christmas gifts (toys, gift cards, and warm winter items) for children whose families use the Tower Food Shelf. Last year's total included 177 children from 56 families who use the Tower Food Shelf, and thanks to everyone's generosity, we also had enough for small gifts for the 53 students at Vermilion Country School.

This year, the Embarrass Region Fair Association will also be collecting gifts and donations for Operation Santa at their Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 8 a.m. – 12 noon.

Take advantage of the great deals, many of which are being offered right now, to bring some joy into a child's life.

We have started to receive some donations, but much more is needed to make sure every child in our community receives gifts and warm clothing this Christmas season.

The effort is organized by the



Timberjay and the Tower-Soudan Civic Club, with help from many area groups, churches, organizations, and individuals. If your group or church is planning to donate this year, please contact Jodi at 218-753-2950. (This helps with planning!)

Lake Country Power's Operation RoundUp® program has once again made a very generous donation to the Tower-Soudan Civic Club to help cover the cost of purchasing warm items for the children.

We are looking for donations of toys, games, art supplies, and

sporting equipment for children, and gift cards to either Target or Walmart for our teenagers (\$10 or \$15). Stocking stuffer type gifts and holiday candy are also appreciated. We are always in need of gifts for infants and babies (must be labeled as safe for children under three). Gift ideas for children include games, action figures, building toys, dolls with accessories, craft sets, art supplies (including crayons and markers), sporting goods (basketballs, footballs, playground balls, sleds), puzzles, cars and trucks, and science kits. Please

don't worry about picking out the right gift; I promise there will be a child on our list who will love whatever you pick out!

If you purchase a toy that uses batteries, please also send a spare set! Donations of batteries (especially AA and AAA) are appreciated.

We also accept gently-used holiday decorations and gifts for the adults who use the food shelf. We do assemble gift bags for the senior citizens who use the food shelf, so small gifts for them are appreciated also, such as boxes of Christmas candy, candles, puzzles and puzzle books, holiday scented lotions and soaps, holiday décor, and warm socks.

Donations can be dropped off at the Timberjay in Tower, and will be distributed at the food shelf on Dec. 19. Families who use the Tower Food Shelf and have not yet signed up, can call Jodi at the Timberjay at 218-753-2950, or email editor@timberjay.com to get your children on the list.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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 welcomes 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 conversa-

tion. 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).

Karate classes in Embarrass

EMBARRASS- Karate North Tae Kwon Do will be holding classes at the Timber Hall Event Center, 4855 Hwy. 21, on Mondays and Wednesdays. Beginner class is from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. and color belt students from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Cost is

\$20 per month per person. Timber Hall will be open those nights for indoor walking on the perimeter from 5 – 7:30 p.m. at no charge, but walkers need to wear indoor shoes.

Children's math club forming

TOWER- Children PreK - sixth grade and their families are invited to a weekly math game club, Tuesdays, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. at Tower's Gathering Gallery.

Children will be able to select their own activities according to their ability and interests.

Some activity options include number exploration, counting, patterns and play store for littles; games like war, cribbage, go fish, Monopoly, Yahtzee; dice rolling, puzzles and an occasional group science experiment.

Whether numbers make your child nervous, or your kid is already a whiz, playing number games and having fun will increase their confidence and help them learn to love math. Parents should come prepared to play with their kids and others. Homework help available too.

The club will be held

on Tuesdays from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. at Tower's Gathering Gallery, 515 Main St., Suite 104 (use the side entrance of Pike River Products). Club dates are Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12 and 19. One-time suggested membership fee of \$10/ family to pay for venue, math supplies and snacks. If popular, orgnaizers plan to keep it going in 2024. Call Stephanie Ukkola for questions, 218-410-6001.

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

Meet our students

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

How long have you been going to VCS? Just about 4 years.

Why did you choose VCS? It has a better learning environment than most of the other schools around here.

What makes that environment? The fact that all of the teachers care about helping you, and not just pushing you through the school.

What do you like to do outside of school? Work with motors. I also like snowmobiling and four wheeling.

What's your favorite subject at VCS? Probably social studies.

Meet our staff



Karin Schmidt

How long have you been with VCS? Since 2014. My daughter was actually one of the first students to be enrolled, and then I came in the next year.

Why do you come to work everyday? I come to work knowing that there is a potential of positively affecting a student's life. It's about the kids.

What's your favorite subject to teach? It depends on who I'm teaching. If I have a group who loves acting, I want to teach theater, if I have a group that loves reading, I want to teach language arts.

Outside of work, what are your favorite activities? Music of any kind and theater.



Kyler, Sophomore

Subscribe to the TIMBERJAY! Call 218-753-2950



DISNEY'S FROZEN—THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

This fundraiser won't leave you frozen

ELY- A production like "Disney's Frozen—The Broadway Musical" is not an undertaking for the faint of heart or anemic of purse. Preparing the multiple changes of costume of the chorus alone is a staggering endeavor and "Frozen" is also notorious for its many scene changes demanding new sets.

Help support Ely Memorial High School's production of "Frozen" at a special musical fundraiser at the First Presbyterian Church, 226 E. Harvey St. in Ely, on Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. where professional baritone Elias Mokole and pianist Linda Turpening perform an evening of music together.

Ely Memorial High School won a nationwide competition where Disney selected one school from each state and gave them the rights to perform the full Broadway version of "Frozen." Before the competition, schools could only perform an abridged version of the musical known euphemistically as "Frozen Jr."

Ely proudly represents Minnesota as the only school in the state to perform the full Broadway version of "Frozen." As the all-student cast prepares to dazzle audiences

with their production of "Frozen" in January, this small rural high school musical still needs the support of the community to fund the costumes, sets, and stage magic needed for get "Frozen" on the stage.

The concert is a fundraiser with all proceeds directly contributing to the costs of staging "Frozen" at Ely Memorial High School.

Elias Mokole is the vocal director for the musical. He shared his excitement for the production, "Music, of course, has the power to bring people together, and it's great to support these wonderful young people who are a marvelous group to work with. They are so excited, and it's a delight to support them in whatever way possible. We're here to enjoy beautiful melodies and, at the same time, to support our local talents in their journey to present 'Frozen' on stage."

Please join Mokole and Turpening on Dec. 2 for an evening of music to support "Frozen" in Ely. The concert is free. Donations of whatever you can afford will be accepted at the door.



Above: Linda Turpening and Elias Mokole in concert. submitted photo
Left: "Frozen" vocal director Elias Mokole rehearsing with Matt Johnson for "Frozen."
Below: Music director Elias Mokole and music teacher Mike Rouse rehearsing with the "Frozen" cast. photos by C. Clark

In Brief

Tuesday Group schedule

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

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

►Nov. 21: Health Professionals for a Health Climate

►Nov. 28: No meeting. Begin holiday hiatus. The holiday hiatus will last through Jan. 1, 2024.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2023



hungry net set out after a chilly lake ride

dream of a full boat

AROUND TOWN

Climate health at Tuesday Group

ELY- The last Tuesday Group meeting for 2023 is a presentation by an organization called Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate (HPHC) who is bringing a trio of public health professionals to talk about their work. The talk will be at noon at the usual Tuesday Group meeting spot, the Grand Ely Lodge at 400 N. Pioneer Rd.

The HPHC presentation is entitled "Tackling Climate Change as a Health Emergency."

Minnesotans are feeling the effects of climate change with extreme weather events and increased air pollution from fossil fuel burning and wildfires. Climate change impacts health, contributing to asthma, heart disease, other chronic illnesses and premature death. It also increases vector-borne

diseases and adverse effects on mental health.

The climate and health emergency must be addressed at all levels to prevent current and future impacts on health, including actions by individuals, communities, government bodies, and health systems. The HPHC presentation will highlight climate and health effects and HPHC's work on public policy solutions. The event will also explain, why it's important for health care systems to reduce their carbon footprint, and will also cover ways for the public to get involved.

Attendees have the option of ordering lunch while attending the presentation. The Tuesday Group meeting is a no-cost event sponsored by Boundary Waters Connect.

Holiday season singers



No, this is not an audition for a horror flick. It's Susan Germek, the talented and enthusiastic conductor of the Northern Lakes Arts Association Ely Community Choir directing the singers at rehearsal on Nov. 8. The choir will perform at the Dec. 9 Hometown Holiday Concert at Ely's Historic State Theater. photo by C. Clark

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NOTICES

Ely Public Library

ELY- The library will be closed on 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.

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 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 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.

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.

Craft Fair

ELY- The Grand Ely Lodge is hosting its second annual holiday craft fair on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with over 25 vendors and crafters.

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. Anthony'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 and will include "treats and mocktails."

Finnish Piikujoulu

ELY- A Finnish Piikujoulu (little Christmas) lunch will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 28, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge. Anyone interested in Finnish heritage and culture is welcome to attend. Attendees can order their own lunch or just join us for friendship. David Kess, local historian and Finnish Kaleva member, will present a program on the Finnish tradition of the Christmas Peace and will share the reflections of an 8-year-old Finnish immigrant on her first American Christmas tree. All are welcome.

List your event

Do you have an upcoming Babbitt, Ely, or Winton event? Email event details, location, time, place and event cost to catie.timberjay@gmail.com by close-of-business on the Tuesday the week before the event takes place for a free notice.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL



Top far left: Corrine Whiteman encourages students during a callback song. Bottom far left: MC Terry Goodsky leads a song. Top left: Men's grass dancer William J. Staples performs during grand entry. Top center: Jingle dress dancers Elaine Villebrun, left, Mavis Drift, center, and Margaret Benner. Top right: North Woods 7th grader and jingle dress dancer Caitlynn Goodbird was a candidate for princess. Right: Powwow royalty were brave Jett Lambert and princess Brynn Chosa. D. Colburn photos

Community powwow is highlight of heritage week at school

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- It's Heritage Week at North Woods School, sponsored by the Native American Student Association, and the big event was the second annual North Woods Community Powwow. This year's edition

had many more dancers than last year. North Woods American Indigenous Academic Assistant Stacy Palmer said that they were able to offer honorariums to dancers through grant money received by the district's Indian Education program.

Drums/singers for the event were the Lake

Vermilion and Bois Forte singers. Terry Goodsky served as master of ceremonies. He provided context for the songs and dances and engaged the students in a callback song and a game of heads or tails.

A new addition to the powwow this year was the selection of powwow roy-

alty, a brave and princess.

"A lot of our students have regalia, so we thought that we'd have school royalty," Palmer said. "They had to write essays explaining how they believe they are good role models for Native youth and what they know or want to learn about their culture, and then

they were judged on their dancing abilities."

The first North Woods brave and princess are Jett Lambert and Brynn Chosa.

Two sessions of the powwow were held in the gymnasium, one for elementary students and one for high school students.

Other events during

the week included a wear red day to recognize missing and murdered Indigenous relatives, a dress your best day where all students were encouraged to dress up, wear orange day to recognize Indigenous boarding schools, and spirit day, where students wore any Native or Grizzly gear.

Orr city council chooses Jirik to fill vacant seat

ORR- At a special meeting on Nov. 8, Orr City Council members interviewed two applicants for a vacant seat on the council last week and voted to appoint John Jirik to the position.

Jirik is a familiar face to Orr residents. He's currently the principal at Tower-Soudan Elementary School and has a history with ISD 2142 dating back to 1991 when he was a social studies teacher and head football coach at Orr High School. He added administration to his resume as dean of students and athletic director at Orr and then North Woods School.

In his application, Jirik noted that he has been in leadership positions for the past 30 years and felt like it was time to work within the community in a non-school-related position.

The second applicant interviewed for the position was James Gray, a 20-plus year resident of Orr. A second item considered

at the special meeting was administrative staffing for city government, in particular the possible elimination of the deputy clerk/treasurer position and the reassignment of financial duties to City Clerk Angela Lindgren.

Lindgren advised the council that she'd spoken with City Auditor Bonnie Sterle about the change, and Sterle recommended that Mayor Robert Antikainen sign the city's checks to provide appropriate financial controls. Strle also recommended that an alternate to Lindgren be chosen to be in charge of payroll should Lindgren become ill at the time payroll is to be processed.

To better facilitate her increased workload, Lindgren asked the council to provide her with a laptop computer and a cordless phone system, as well as additional cleaning help for the Tourist Information Center/city office. Council members suggested that current employee Russ Stokes could add the TIC

to his liquor store cleaning duties. Council member Melissa Wright expressed some concern about having only one person in the office performing all the duties, and the possibility of hiring a seasonal part-timer for the tourist season was discussed.

Eliminating the assistant clerk position would result in salary savings of \$40,560 a year plus addition savings in health insurance premiums. This would provide more than sufficient funding to implement pay raises for liquor store Manager Laura Manai and employee Marie Cloyd that have been delayed over budget concerns. Lindgren also requested a raise of \$5 an hour for assuming the assistant clerk's duties. The council reacted favorably to these adjustments but took no formal action on them.

Bruce Black made the formal motion to eliminate the position, which was seconded by Hannah Manick and passed un-

animously.

Regular meeting

The council reconvened on Monday for their regular monthly meeting, with the first order of business being Jirik taking the oath of office.

A list of rather routine items greeted Jirik for his first meeting, with questions raised about the budget available for various requested items highlighting the need for an agenda item proposing that former clerk Cheri Carter be contracted to perform bank reconciliation activities reaching back to May, when the city auditor found issues that have clouded an accurate assessment of where all departmental budgets currently stand. For example, in a discussion with Ambulance Director Donna Hoffer, the council learned that some revenue growth hasn't been fully reconciled, and an item that was inadvertently paid for twice also need to be resolved and reflected in the budget.

It was recommended that Carter be hired at a rate of \$35/hour to perform the work, and Wright said a formal contract should be drawn up specifying the rate, duties expected to be performed, and number of hours the work is expected to take.

In other business, the council:

►Approved annual liquor and cigarette licenses for Pelican Bay Foods and Norman's One Stop.

►Agreed to again sponsor a citywide Christmas lighting contest, with prizes of \$125, \$75 and \$50 to come from the city's economic development fund. Wright said she will be spearheading the event this year.

►Approved a request from Melissa Rabas to make a \$250 donation for the Orr Snow City Festival to help cover various expenses, including advertising.

►Reviewed and approved an estimate of \$920.20 from Advantage Systems Group to replace

a malfunctioning security camera at the Orr Muni.

►Approved payment of an invoice from Lundgren Motors for \$5,127 for work performed on one of the city's ambulances to repair broken right side manifold studs. It was necessary to remove the engine in order for mechanics to complete the necessary repairs.

►Approved the ambulance service switching its oxygen supplier to M02 Minneapolis Oxygen. The service will save money through buying their tanks rather than paying a monthly rental charge, and can lock in the cost of refills for three years. The new oxygen cylinders will cost \$1,805.

►Approved a request from Manick to move the time for regular council meetings from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. to accommodate potential winter weather issues that could impact her ability to travel from work in time for meetings.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

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.

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.

All proceeds from this event will go to the Cook Food Shelf.

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.

Snow City Christmas coming to Orr Dec. 2

ORR - An event that began its life as the Calvary Lutheran Bazaar in the 1960's continues to delight holiday revelers today as Orr's Snow City Christmas, this year scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 2.

The Orr Fire Department will kick off the day at 7 a.m. with a pancake breakfast, and vendors will be selling goods from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The day's biggest event, the Christmas parade, will be at noon, with Santa appearing at Patten's Café from 1-3 p.m.

Food highlights include street tacos by Sugarlicious and More from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; and a chili dinner by North Woods Travels from 4-7 p.m.

New this year is a bean bag tournament from 5-7 p.m., and mu-

sic performers will be at The Dam from 2-5 p.m. and at the Orr Muni from 8 p.m.-midnight.

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.

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.



Orr Lions Club member Tom Antikainen presents a \$1,000 check to North Woods cross country runners, from left, Kahlil Spears, Lincoln Antikainen, Corra Brodeen, Zoey Burckhardt, Alex Burckhardt, Evelyn Brodeen, and Addison Burckhardt to help with their trip to the state cross country meet. Team member Tatum Barto is not pictured. The Orr Lions also made a \$1,000 donation to the North Woods school for the Hudl TV project. submitted

OWENS...Continued from page 1

misuse of power and the abuse of two supervisors who believe they have the right to harass and intimidate to get their way," said Woods in referencing town supervisors Mike Christensen and Doyle Svedberg, who have been arguing against the closure and narrowing of 125 feet of Derusha Rd. leading to Dorothy Easterday's home at 9175 Derusha Rd.

Woods read Refsdal's letter of resignation as he did not attend the meeting due to health issues that Woods claimed have been exacerbated by Christensen's and Svedberg's disruptions to the board.

"He has become a total physical and emotional wreck from what has been going on in this township for the past year," Woods said early in the meeting, then followed up later. "I want to remind you that our township chairman is not here tonight because of what has happened in meetings for the past year, ever since these two guys have gotten on the board." Woods was momentarily drowned out by negative reactions from the crowd, but she tried to continue. "You have not been here, those of you who have not attended do not know this. Just please listen. That's why I have had to have deputy sheriffs at my home and he's sitting back there right now because of what these two guys have done. And Dennis (Carlson) and Kit (Olson). You guys did not come to the board except to be upset and whatever."

The controversial meeting illustrated the polarizing nature of the dispute between those who believe, like Woods, that the road issue should be considered a private property matter because the town never owned the land upon which the disputed portion of the road is located, and those who believe that the road has existed since a township road order in 1925 created it and that Easterday should have full access restored.

Background

The dispute over the status of Derusha Rd. came about after Jerald "J.R." Koenck purchased the property on the south side of the road in 2015. Koenck

had a survey done which reportedly established that his property line ran down the middle of the road, and he erected a fence along that line. Easterday tore out the fence, which prompted Koenck to call the sheriff. Deputies advised Easterday to contact an attorney and when she did, he advised her to go to the town board for a resolution.

Woods clearly related the belief of the board expressed to the parties involved in 2019 that the matter was not their responsibility.

"We did not decide anything as a board back in 2016, that this road was closed," Woods said. "Our obligation as a township board when a situation like this comes up is to notify the Minnesota Association of Townships. We did that. We were told by all of the authorities that we were not to get involved with this because it is not a township road. We've got to stay out of this because we believe this is a dispute between neighbors. We have followed what we have been told by the authorities we are under. Do not blame us for this situation."

Woods also invoked the name of former popular county commissioner Tommy Rukavina.

"We have been told by all of the attorneys and all of the public people including our commissioner, this goes back to when Tommy Rukavina was in office, and Tommy Rukavina was brought this information and he said by no means is this a township situation. This is between neighbors."

Woods appeared to attempt to limit the opportunity for Christensen and Svedberg to talk by referencing the article in the Nov. 10 *Timberjay*.

"Mike and Doyle have already given their statements in the paper," Woods said. "This is what they had to say." "Well, there's more - lots more," Christensen said.

"You go ahead and make your statement, five minutes apiece. That's it, OK? Make those statements," Woods said.

Christensen commented on the need for legal intervention.

"In my talking with people this has come to a point where a lawyer

is needed," he said. "Otherwise, we're going to just keep on kicking this can down the road forever."

Christensen said he contacted Couri and Ruppe, a law firm in St. Michael that specializes in city and township government. He laid out for them the situation and the 1925 road order establishing Derusha Rd., and described the certificate of awards and damages naming the affected landowners.

"When I told him that, this is simple - he said there's a road, period," Christensen said. "There is a road there, that's what they said. The township is obligated to maintain that road, at least as far as Dorothy's, because they have been, right up until the last couple of years."

Christensen said that the position of the former town board also puts the township in violation of state law by landlocking the properties beyond Easterday's house, with the owners having no way to access them.

Based on his assertion that the segment of road leading to Easterday's house is in fact a township road, Christensen said that a motion to reopen the road was necessary, including declaring the portion beyond Easterday's house a minimum maintenance road, and that the town board should set a date for Koenck to remove the "obstructions" in the road.

"If the obstructions are not moved by the date that we set then Couri and Ruppe come with a court order, which the township is not paying for, and after that, that's the way it is," Christensen said.

Svedberg reiterated that no action to close the road is on file with the county recorder, and that the road exists because of the road order. And Svedberg decried the action of not providing full road access to Easterday and the undeveloped property owners.

"Is that what Owens Township is all about?" he said. "We might as well abandon our township if that's the way we treat our people."

Woods restated comments about consulting attorneys and the road not being a township road,

prompting a comment from the audience.

"I'd like to know what your vested interest in this is, why are you so against it," the commenter said. "We have an entire township here and you have been nothing but disrespectful to everybody here tonight because you've been literally yelling at everybody." "Okay, I will talk very quietly, and I'm sorry if the people in the back of the room do not hear me. I apologize," Woods said.

J.R. and Kim Koenck spoke next, describing the situation with the road as they experienced it when they first moved to their property in 2015. The road was obstructed at that time, they said, not by them, but by those living in Easterday's house. Koenck noted that Easterday was not living there at the time.

"When we bought the house originally, they had cars parked on their property where their driveway is now, there were junk cars parked there," J.R. Koenck said. "They were driving around them onto our property, which we didn't have an issue with. In fact, Kit (Olson) came over and complained to us within the first week we were there and said this is an access road, and then went on to complain about the junk cars they had to drive around, the trash, the piled-up stuff on the south side of the garage that they were driving around."

After noting a few incidents of conflict, Koenck suggested Easterday could take action to solve the road issue herself.

"If Dorothy would clear her brush that has overgrown because of all the cars there, her driveway could be opened up another ten feet wider, just by clearing a little bit of brush on her side which she has not tried to do at all," he said.

Lisa Ollikkala, Easterday's daughter who owns the property next to hers, commented on the long-standing nature of the dispute and misunderstandings that have occurred.

"I just wanted to like maybe see where we can go from here because a lot of stuff that they're talking about is like six years old," she said. "I actually would love to know what J.R. wants to do to move

forward."

Kim Koenck said that there has never been a discussion about easements with any of the affected parties.

Svedberg disagreed, addressing J.R. Koenck.

"You stood right here (after a meeting) and told me you would give me an easement of 15 feet but Dennis Carlson and Kit Olson were not allowed on it," Svedberg said. "They're my cousins and if I have an easement they're going to go there."

"You told me that you wanted access to that field but you were going to gate it and be the only one that allowed anybody in that same situation," Koenck said. "I don't know what you were thinking but you wanted to gate my property and control who could go in and out. If you consider that one meeting in 2019 that we actually discussed it, you have not sat down and tried to discuss anything with me."

Woods claimed that Svedberg's involvement was compromised due to his financial interest in the haying fields.

"Doyle, you got on this board with one of the main decisions was to get this road," Woods said. "You have been on this board with a conflict of interest. It is against the law."

Svedberg countered by referencing information in the Minnesota Townships Association manual.

"If there's two people or more on the same subject it's not conflict of interest," he said. "Read it in the manual."

Lois Pajari reinforced prior comments about getting an attorney involved.

"My suggestion, I would make a motion that our township pay for an attorney to sort this out," she said. "Whatever it is, it's not going to happen here. It's the same thing as the Protestants and the Catholics all reading the same book and coming up with a different story. But my suggestion is to get a lawyer that can follow the procedure the whole way through because we go back to it's either a road or it's not a road. It doesn't matter who lives on it."

Travis Smith also sought to take personal con-

flicts out of the equation.

"This is a township deal, period," he said. "It doesn't matter whether it's your junk cars making a fence, or Lisa six years ago, or Dorothy's garage being built. It doesn't matter. The fact of the matter is there's people out there that have landlocked places. That was a road and still is a road. The township board decided amongst themselves to close the road without contacting anybody. Did anybody here get contacted about any thing being closed? There is nothing in the minutes. The township got together and said 'We're going to close it.' That is why we're here today. This is a new era, there is no more neighborly niceness anymore. It seems like everybody's out for themselves. It doesn't matter. The law is the law. This isn't just Dorothy, Doyle and whoever else is landlocked. This is about everyone else in Owens Township, because if it happens to them, it'll happen to you. We are citizens of a township that deserve the right and the respect of the people representing the residents of said township to right the wrong, period."

Shortly thereafter, Woods announced hers and Refsal's resignations and ended the meeting.

"I'm telling you right now so everyone can hear I will turn over all records all equipment at the January meeting," Woods said. "This meeting is done. Please leave my property."

Christensen stepped in.

"No, we're not done. We've got one more thing that we've got to deal with, and maybe a couple of things, but in the first place we've got to move our meeting place," he said. "No, this meeting is closed," Woods said. "You can't officially run this meeting and not have a clerk. It's over and you cannot legally run a meeting."

"You can't close it," Christensen said.

"Out, this is my property," Woods said. At that point the deputy stepped in.

"The owner says she wants everyone off the property," he said. "I'm not causing anybody any trouble, I'm just asking you to leave the property."

COUNCIL...Continued from page 1

EMRs.

Setterberg said he presented the plan along with a frank discussion about the service's financial picture to a recent meeting of ambulance personnel, with mixed reviews. He said he wants to go back and conduct separate interviews with ambulance staff before making any firm decisions on the question.

Setterberg acknowledged that the savings achieved by the proposal would come out of the wages paid to ambulance personnel, particularly those individuals who tend to work the overnight shifts, and he said he wants to talk to each of those individuals privately before adopting any changes. "We don't want to step on toes," he said.

At the same time, the ambulance service continues to lose money, due largely to the enormous jump in payroll costs associated with the 2018 decision to shift to paid on-call staffing with an unusually high wage rate. The service is also hampered financially by a \$1.66 per mile charge assessed by the Ambulance Commission for every mile driven on a transfer. The service is also now tracking

expenses, like depreciation, which it didn't account for in the past, all of which has pushed the service's operations well into the red.

In other emergency services business, the council tabled, pending more information, a request by the city's fire department to approve the purchase of six new SCBAs to replace the department's outdated units, at an estimated cost of about \$36,000. Clerk-treasurer Michael Schultz said the firemen's relief association has about \$12,000 set aside to fund a down payment and that the association would agree to reimburse the city for ongoing payments for the equipment out of the proceeds from its charitable gambling operation.

Schultz noted, however, that the city would be on the hook for the equipment if the relief association were to disband. While there is no sign that's likely to occur imminently, the fire department has suffered from a relative lack of personnel, currently around six members, with very little new recruitment in recent years.

While some on the council were amenable to the request, councilor Bob Anderson expressed reser-

vations. "It seems kind of fast," he said, "and without a lot of information."

He said he'd like to see information about the grant opportunities that might be available to help finance the purchase of the units.

Councilors also expressed some frustration that the matter was only brought to their attention now, when the department's SCBA units have expired. "If this is all of their tanks and they're all expired, we should have been hearing about this a lot sooner," said Norby.

"Yes," responded Setterberg.

In the end, the council opted to establish a new ad hoc committee to explore options and bring a proposal back to the council. Schultz noted the urgency of such a decision, however, given the department's current lack of usable SCBA.

In other business Monday, the council:

► Briefly discussed the bid for the proposed drinking water treatment plant, which came in nearly double the engineer's estimate. For now, the project appears to be on hold but will likely be put out on bids again sometime in the future.

► Set a special meeting

for 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 4, in the city hall council chambers to discuss the 2024 city budget.

► Heard from Schultz that the county has not yet responded to questions regarding the possible city purchase of the county garage which is currently being vacated.

► Heard an update on the city's participation in a recent housing workshop, the second in a series with the Greater Minnesota Housing Partnership. The city was one of several communities selected to take part in a process to develop new housing, with technical help from the housing partnership. The city is currently focusing on a senior housing development on the vacant city lots on Main Street between the *Timberjay* office and The Car Wash. The council also discussed contracting with Maxfield Research to update the city's housing study.

► Approved the 2024 police contract with Breitung at a total cost of approximately \$82,000 including anticipated overtime. Councilors noted that the cost represents about a \$1,200 increase over 2023's contract.

► Authorized the

city clerk and ambulance supervisor to participate in the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital's current regional study to explore solutions to the financial issues plaguing ambulance services around the region.

► Heard a report from Setterberg about the recent roundtable meeting with Sen. Grant Hauschild on how to address funding shortfalls for ambulance services. He noted that the state has since created a task force to explore the issue and develop solutions.

► Discussed but took no immediate action on possible improvements at the Hoodoo Point Campground.

► Appointed councilors Anderson and Norby to work with Breitung to discuss options for completing the "around the horn" trail. There is currently about a mile-long gap in the paved loop trail and Breitung chair Tim Tomsich recently reached out to the city about the possibility of completing the connection. Given private ownership and wetlands in the area, the segment poses a number of challenges, and a solution may be to widen the existing county road to add a bike path alongside.

Councilors agreed that St. Louis County should be brought into the discussions about the trail.

► Approved on a trial basis to close city hall beginning at noon on Fridays to allow city staff to conduct their work without having the steady stream of interruptions at the clerk's window.

► Tabled discussion on the possible sale of the airport courtesy car, a 2004 VW Passat, for further information on the condition of the vehicle. The city recently replaced batteries in the city's GEM electric vehicle and has been making that available as the airport's courtesy car.

► Heard a brief report that Habitat for Humanity is looking for a family to take ownership of the former Presbyterian rectory, which was recently donated to the organization for placement



BIRCH LAKE...Continued from page 1

background level found in northeastern Minnesota waters that are unimpacted by mining discharges.

The group sought advice and field training from experts from the University of Minnesota and developed and launched a comprehensive testing program in 2020. Actual testing of water samples gathered as part of the effort was done by RMB Laboratories, which maintains offices in Bloomington, Detroit Lakes, and Hibbing.

Lisa Pugh, who oversaw the testing program for NMW, holds a BS degree in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation from the University of Minnesota and has four years of experience in water quality sampling. She was certified to conduct sampling through a training program held at the University of Minnesota's Crookston campus in 2020. The results of NMW's sampling is consistent with other testing efforts which have been undertaken by the 1854 Treaty Authority and WICOLA, which have consistently shown elevated sulfate levels in Birch Lake.

Since 2020, NMW staff have gathered over 330 samples from 28 distinct test locations and have shared that data in a 630-page report provided to both the MPCA and the Timberjay.

The group's efforts impressed Dr. Patrick Brezonik, a recently retired University of Minnesota professor and former director of the university's Water Resources Center. He also served as former chair of the MPCA's scientific peer review panel on the wild rice sulfate standard.

"NMW has built a professional water monitoring program that has produced extensive water quality data on the Birch Lake area of the Boundary Waters watershed," said Brezonik. "Its trained monitoring staff followed appropriate sample collection methods, and a state-certified lab analyzed the water samples using accepted analytical methods. As a result, NMW has produced a large quantity of reliable water quality data in and around Birch Lake, which is essential to provide science-based answers to important water quality questions. Indeed, I am impressed with their operation."

The data, which have now been accepted by the MPCA, provide the clearest evidence to date of the impact of mining discharges, emanating from Dunka River and Unnamed Creek, and how it is affecting sulfate levels in the popular, 7,000-acre lake.

Potential impacts of the listing

The listing of Birch Lake as impaired for sulfate is likely to affect the existing mining operations at the Peter Mitchell mine, which discharges sulfates to the Dunka River, although to what extent the mine could be affected won't be known for some time. The listing is also expected to pose a major regulatory challenge for any new mining operation that could be proposed in the Birch Lake watershed.

"The Clean Water Act says agencies are not allowed to issue a permit that would lead to a net increase of a pollutant into a water body already impaired for that pollutant," said Matt Norton, Policy and Science Director with the Campaign to Save the



A Google maps image of a portion of Birch Lake, including the mine-impacted lands on the lake's south side, which are responsible for the recent impaired listing for sulfate. The Peter Mitchell pit is located just west of this image and drains into the Dunka River.

Boundary Waters.

In that sense, NMW's data and the MPCA's listing decision is a potential shot across the bow to Twin Metals, which only recently began intensifying its exploratory drilling around Birch Lake's Bob Bay. That's where NMW found, by far, the highest concentrations of sulfate, reflecting the longstanding effects of discharges from the Dunka Pit, originally developed by LTV Mining back in the 1960s.

The Dunka Pit, which was the subject of the Timberjay's 2015 investigative report, Mining vs. Water, continues to discharge high concentrations of sulfate into Birch Lake's Bob Bay. Test data submitted to the MPCA by Cliffs Natural Resources, which owned the site at the time, showed sulfate discharges at the north end of the pit regularly averaging 1,800 mg/l. Those discharges enter Unnamed Creek just downstream from the pit and wind their way to Bob Bay. NMW's test data found sulfate concentrations as high as 326 mg/l where the creek enters the bay and the effects of that discharge is clearly seen in water quality in the bay itself, where sulfate levels regularly test at several times the 10 mg/l limit for wild rice waters.

Twin Metals's wholly-owned subsidiary Franconia Minerals, now controls the Dunka Pit site according to county records.

The Dunka River, which enters Birch Lake about three miles west of Bob Bay, receives discharges from the Peter Mitchell mine, which have pushed sulfate levels in the river well above background levels, as much as three times above the sulfate limit for wild rice waters.

Pinpointing the sources

The sulfate inflows from both the Dunka River and Unnamed Creek appear to be responsible for elevated sulfate levels on the west end of Birch Lake, where NMW's testing shows that average sulfate levels are above the 10 mg/l threshold for impairment as a wild rice water. Their testing further confirms the highest levels of sulfate are found within Bob Bay and in the immediate vicinity of the outflow from Dunka River.

Birch Lake does receive inflow from other significant streams, including the Stony River, but NMW has undertaken testing upstream of Birch Lake on several of its tributaries that are unimpacted by mining discharges. Those test data show sulfate levels

ranging from about 0.6-1.5 mg/l, which is typical of sulfate readings found in natural waters within the Rainy River watershed. Those data provide further evidence that the higher sulfate levels within Birch Lake are the result of discharges from mining locations. Outside of streams impacted by mining, the Rainy River watershed is known to contain some of the highest water quality of any watershed in the lower 48 states and much of it flows through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The waters from Birch Lake feed into the BWCAW as they pass through the White Iron chain of lakes and enter the wilderness at the north end of Fall Lake.

The data suggests that water quality improves in Birch Lake near the mouths of streams entering the lake from areas unaffected by mining discharges. A lake sampling site closest to the entrance of the Stony River, for example, consistently showed sulfate levels in the 1.5-3 mg/l range, which would be considered only marginally above background levels. The impact of dilution from the inflow of a major tributary, like the Stony River, is evident elsewhere on the lake, where testing data shows sulfate levels in Birch Lake waters averaging 5-8 mg/l at sampling sites located downstream from the entrance of the Stony River.

Norton notes that the mining industry is, in effect, benefitting from the pristine quality of so much of the water in the Rainy River watershed that is unaffected by mining discharges. "The mining companies are dumping

all this sulfate and relying on the dilutionary effects of one of the cleanest watersheds in the state," he said. "It is stunning the degree to which the state has been willing to look the other way."

While sulfate levels slowly decline further downstream, recent testing by NMW has found sulfate readings as far downstream as the north end of Farm Lake above 4 mg/l, a level that's at least three times the typical background level in the Rainy River watershed. That's over 20 miles down-

stream from the sources of the sulfate pollution.

NMW plans to continue its existing testing and to expand it in the near future, to try to rule out other sources of elevated sulfate within the White Iron chain. For now, it's keeping some of the locations of that testing to themselves.

EPA involvement

NMW's testing program would have been for naught if not for the 2021 decision by the Environmental Protection Agency to overrule the MPCA's decision not to list wild rice waters as impaired. Minnesota's strict wild rice standard for sulfate was originally passed in 1973, but has not been enforced since its adoption until recently, due mostly to opposition from the state's mining industry. Instead of limiting discharges of sulfate, the Legislature passed a series of laws beginning in 2015 that prohibited the MPCA from regulating sulfate pollution until it can create a new, looser standard. In objecting to the MPCA's failure to list impaired wild rice waters, the EPA contended that those laws enacted by the Legislature violate the Clean Water Act, which prohibits states from weakening or refusing to enforce water quality standards unless there's

a scientific basis. The Legislature, back in 2015, funded additional research on the subject in hopes of disproving the validity of the 10 mg/l standard, but the results mostly supported the limit. Without the means to weaken the standard, the Legislature passed a law prohibiting the MPCA from requiring compliance with the law. The MPCA, citing the Legislature's action, had determined that it could not list wild rice waters as impaired even if sulfate levels required doing so. By overruling that decision, the EPA left the MPCA no choice but to add wild rice lakes with sulfate levels above 10 mg/l to the impaired waters list.

Sulfate, even at relatively low levels, has been shown to lead to the loss of wild rice in many cases. Minnesota is home to much of the wild rice found naturally in North America, which prompted state officials in the 1970s to adopt a strict wild rice standard for sulfate pollution in order to protect the unique resource.

Sulfate, at even lower levels, is known to facilitate the methylation of mercury, which can convert elemental mercury into far more toxic methyl mercury, which is known to bioaccumulate into fish tissues.

Ely CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ELY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

SMALL TOWN CHRISTMAS

Support the businesses that support our community.

NOVEMBER 24 - NOVEMBER 26

MAPS AVAILABLE AT:
ELY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ELY.ORG

ELY IS WELL KNOWN FOR ITS MANY LOCALLY MADE PRODUCTS, AND OUR STORES ARE FILLED WITH NORTHWOODS-STYLE GIFTS, CLOTHING, OUTDOOR GEAR, ARTWORK, AND ARTIST-MADE CARDS. THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR SHOPPING LIST.

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE A DRIVE TO LOOK AT ALL THE STORE LIGHTS WITH SHINE BRIGHT ELY STARTING NOVEMBER 23

SHOP LOCAL-ELY

ACE
The helpful place.

Merhar's Ace Hardware
48 E. Chapman St., Ely • 218-365-3129

YOUR CHOICE SALE \$19.99 each
Milwaukee® Hand Tools & Accessories
2802843, 2030481, 2365443, 2029229, 2811811, 2097442

YOUR CHOICE SALE \$5.99 each
CRAFTSMAN® and Stanley® Tools & Accessories
2295830, 2116564, 2033243, 2391753, 25426, 2020233

YOUR CHOICE SALE \$12.99 - \$3 ACE REWARDS EXCLUSIVE \$9.99 each
CRAFTSMAN® Tools & Accessories™
2297786, 2029746, 2031996, 2033197, 2033255, 2004118, 2301232, 2004114
Limit 4 each at this price.

YOUR CHOICE SALE \$24.99 - \$5 ACE REWARDS EXCLUSIVE \$19.99 each
DEWALT® Power Tool Accessories™
2137305, 2033376, 2029737, 2294346, 2392447, 2029736
Limit 6 each at this price.

YOUR CHOICE SALE \$19.99 each
300 Ct. LED Light Sets
N45380, S407321, N45378, S405321

YOUR CHOICE SALE \$89.99 each
5 Color-Changing LED Christmas Tree or 6 LED Dancing Tree Yard Decor
N081102, N081049

GREAT GIFTS UNDER \$20

READ THE TIMBERJAY!

PRICES GOOD THRU NOVEMBER 30, 2023

NELIMARK...Continued from page 1

weekend. The Nelimark, which is open weekends in the summer, reopens for two long weekends in preparation for the holiday season. The Nelimark will open again Dec. 7, 8, and 9, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day.

“It is so fun to see people come back year after year,” said Jeanine Bjornrud, who is part of the Farmstead Artisans group that sponsors the holiday event.

“It is fun to come to the old house,” she said. “And it’s an easy, low-pressure, place to shop.” The coffee and hot cider, along with a nice selection of home-baked treats set out on trays for visitors, is also a draw. Folks settled in with their coffee at two large tables, visiting with neighbors and making new friends.

“People just seem to like the atmosphere here,” Bjornrud said.

The Nelimark homestead sauna is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was one of the first buildings restored by the Embarrass historic preservation group Sisu Heritage. The house itself was run as a consignment shop, Sisu Tori, for several years. After that closed, a group of local crafters decided to see if Sisu Heritage would be interested in allowing them to sell handcrafted items, in keeping with the home’s history, in exchange for keeping the building open on weekends in the summer.

“We would provide hospitality in exchange for selling goods,” said one of the group’s founding members Verna Sutton. “We would keep up the spirit of the homestead.”

The home was a gathering spot for local residents in its early days. “Mrs. Nelimark always had fresh-baked pulla (Finnish cardamom bread, also called Finnish biscuit) and coffee for visitors. According to Nelimark family members, women were often dropped off at Nelimark’s house while the husbands did the weekly shopping at Lamppa’s and the coop store just a little way down the road.

“This is why we wanted to sell pulla, breads, jams

and jellies,” said Verna Sutton, another of the artisans’ founding members.

The house is now part museum, part social center, and part craft shop. Visitors can learn about sauna history, rag rug weaving, the Lamppa General Store, and more while exploring the small two-story structure.

Artisan members Jeanette Mellesmoen and Cindy Scherer were busy checking out happy customers, who were purchasing items handmade by the approximately 20 members of the artisan group. The shop also stocks Scandinavian-themed books and gifts.

“We sell lots of books,” said Bjornrud. “Carol Knuti does a great job selecting

titles that people want to buy.”

Many who stop by are coming for the fresh-baked breads and sweets. The most popular, both in summer and winter, is the pulla, baked by Sutton. She figures she brought over almost 80 loaves during the three days, and all of them sold. She also baked cinnamon rolls, a Norwegian specialty called Julekake, potica, and tea rings.

“It’s always hard to gauge how much to make,” she said. “I just guess.”

Her cranberry-wild rice bread has also become very popular. One of the artisans working at the event said she had put some away for herself as soon as she got there, because it always sells out.

Sutton learned to make pulla from the late Esther Norha, who taught a class at Ironworld (Minnesota Discovery Center) many years ago.

“I use her recipe,” she said. “I had never made a braided bread before.”

“The Finns love their pulla,” she said, “and it’s not just for holidays, but for every weekend.”

Sutton is not Finnish, but her mother’s family comes from the northern part of Norway, and her mother baked Norwegian specialties.

Sutton learned to bake from her own mother, whose specialty was Julekake, another cardamom-scented yeasted bread. She also makes her own jams and jellies that

she uses in her baked goods.

“I get up at 3 a.m. to finish my baking,” she said, “so I can get it to the Nelimark by 9 a.m.”

Sutton will be baking again for the Dec. 7-9 event at the Nelimark, and said people are encouraged to call her to place any special orders at 218-984-2302.

Sutton is not the only baker with goods at the Nelimark. There is rye bread and a wide assortment of cookies and other sweet treats available.

The Nelimark sauna

The most characteristic feature of the Finnish homestead is the sauna, a place for the family and friends to share what they considered to be the “well-spring” of life and health. To the Finnish homestead-

ers, the sauna was more than a bath house. It was also used for washing and drying clothes, baking and cooking, butchering and smoking meat, and even as a spare bedroom for guests. The sauna was typically the first building built on the farmstead where the family lived until the “big house” was built.

The log sauna of Erick and Kristina Elizabeth Nelimark, built in the 1930s, was the largest sauna in the Embarrass community. It was a simple little structure, easy to build with poplar or pine logs, readily available in the surrounding forests.

HUNTING FOR A GREAT DEAL!!

CHECK OUT THESE HOT DEALS AT FORD OF HIBBING!

<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>2023 F150 4X4 CREW CAB SPORT</h3> <p>#25556 \$59,910.00 MSRP -\$2,000.00 SPORT DISC -\$3,629.00 FOH DISC</p> <p>\$54,281 +TTL EVERYONE'S PRICE \$1,500* PLUS 3.9% @ 60 MOS*</p> <p>\$52,781 +TTL CONDITIONAL PRICE <small>*Must Finance Thru Ford Credit OAC</small></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Sport Appearance Pkg Ecoboost Heated Seats Trailer Hitch</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>2023 BRONCO SPORT BIG BEND AWD</h3> <p>11 Available**</p> <p>#25678 \$33,695 MSRP -\$698 FOH DISC</p> <p>\$32,997 +TTL EVERYONE'S PRICE -\$1,000 FLEX BUY BONUS CASH +2.9% @ 66 MOS * OAC -\$500 LOW APR CUSTOMER CASH</p> <p>\$31,497 +TTL CONDITIONAL PRICE <small>*Must Finance Thru Ford Motor Credit **Price Will Vary Between Models & Optional Equipment</small></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>\$1500 + 2.9% @ 66 MOS *</p> <p>Trailer Tow PKG Ecoboost GOAT Modes</p> </div>
---	---

SO MANY FRESH TRADES!!

<p>2018 TAURUS AWD LIMITED 36K MI</p> <p>\$25,390 #8042</p>	<p>2018 CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK V6</p> <p>\$21,748 #8078</p>	<p>2016 JOURNEY AWD R/T ONLY 53K MI</p> <p>\$18,741 #8056</p>	<p>2018 ESCAPE SEL AWD</p> <p>\$19,980 #8074</p>	<p>2013 TAHOE LT</p> <p>\$14,312 #8006A</p>
<p>2020 ESCAPE AWD SE 31K MI</p> <p>\$22,721 #25672A</p>	<p>2020 F150 XL CREW 30K MI</p> <p>\$35,978 #25625A</p>	<p>2019 ESCAPE SEL AWD</p> <p>\$18,471 #25316B</p>	<p>2018 F150 KING RANCH</p> <p>\$35,978 #25615A</p>	<p>2003 CROWN VIC ONLY 50K MI</p> <p>\$6,500 #25490C</p>
<p>2020 RAPTOR 33K MI</p> <p>\$59,978 #25627A</p>	<p>2008 FORD MUSTANG CALIFORNIA SPECIAL</p> <p>\$19,980 #9557C</p>	<p>2017 YUKON XL DENALI</p> <p>\$32,475 #8034A</p>	<p>2017 EXPLORER AWD XLT</p> <p>\$20,788 #25645B</p>	<p>2022 F150 XLT REG. CAB W/PLOW PREP</p> <p>\$38,742 #25573A</p>
<p>2015 FUSION SE</p> <p>\$10,980 #25647B</p>	<p>2017 ESCAPE SEL 56K MI</p> <p>\$15,980 #8084</p>	<p>2019 FIESTA SE 4 DR</p> <p>\$12,478 #8068</p>	<p>2019 EXPLORER SPORT AWD</p> <p>\$31,980 #8083</p>	<p>2023 RENEGADE LATITUDE 3K MI</p> <p>\$24,980 #25663A</p>
<p>2017 RENEGADE LATITUDE 80K MI</p> <p>\$16,980 #8062A</p>	<p>2022 COMPASS LATITUDE ONLY 5K MI</p> <p>\$28,978 #25457B</p>	<p>2021 ESCAPE SEL AWD</p> <p>\$22,980 #25639A</p>	<p>2018 EDGE SEL AWD</p> <p>\$22,980 #25570A</p>	<p>2021 MACH-E PREMIUM EXT RANGE</p> <p>\$33,984 #25531A</p>
<p>2010 TOWN & COUNTRY</p> <p>\$3,500 #8082A</p>	<p>2020 ESCAPE AWD SEL</p> <p>\$17,980 #25677A</p>	<p>2018 RAPTOR 55K MI</p> <p>\$51,980 #25171A</p>	<p>2014 SIERRA REG CAB 4X4</p> <p>\$15,980 #25674A</p>	<p>2021 VOYAGER LXI</p> <p>\$23,721 #805</p>
<p>2020 RAM 1500 LARAMIE</p> <p>\$35,471 #7976A</p>	<p>2016 PATRIOT HIGH ALTITUDE</p> <p>\$13,741 #8079</p>	<p>2012 200 LIMITED V6</p> <p>\$8,972 #25513A</p>	<p>2013 ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD</p> <p>\$11,980 #25649A</p>	<p>2008 TAURUS SEL</p> <p>\$3,472 #8054</p>

Cook VFW

POST 1757

(218)666-0500

Open: Wed-Mon:
Noon to Closing
(Closed Tuesday)

HAPPY HOUR 3:30-6:30 PM

Pull Tabs (Lic #00390)

Thursday: BINGO
Opens: 5 PM
Games Start: 6:30 PM

FRIDAY
BURGER NIGHT • 4:30-7 PM

1/3 LB BURGER - \$6

206 1st St SW, Cook, MN

Ritchie Automatic

Livestock Waterers
and Parts

HIBBING

FEED and SEED

262-3049

Subscribe to the
THE TIMBERJAY!

Call
218-753-2950

LEIGH LONSON
218-212-7202

TIM CARRUTH
218-293-4606

RYAN AULTMAN
218-293-4636

JAMI HENDRIX
218-293-4636

ERIC GRAFF
218-293-4627

MIKE DAY
218-293-4637

TEIGAN BOSARGE
218-293-4596

RANDY ROY
218-293-4625

2627 Hwy 169
218-262-3881

GREENWOOD

Township wants to assess for cost of road improvements

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Greenwood Township Road 4136 needs blacktop repair, brushing, widening

GREENWOOD TWP- The Greenwood Town Board will work with their attorney to determine if the township can assess property owners for the costs of major road improvements needed to bring Township Rd. 4136, also known as Birch Point Extension, up to standards necessary to qualify for state and federal road dollars as well as county plowing.

Township officials agreed that the effort will be complicated and expensive.

“It is going to take some major re-engineering to do this work,” said Supervisor Rick Stoehr. “We need to see where the road should be, and probably will need to use some of the interior land to widen the road.” At previous meetings, township officials discussed whether or not to revert the road surface to gravel, or try to rebuild the blacktop.

The vote to work with their attorney on the issue was 3-0, with supervisors John Bassing and Barb Lofquist abstaining from the vote and discussion, because both are property owners on the road.

The narrow and hilly end of Birch Point Road, which stretches about 1.5 miles, became a township road by default after the township paid for plowing and some basic road maintenance starting back in the early days of the township’s founding in the 1970s. The main

roads in the township, including Birch Point Road, are county roads, and maintained by St. Louis County. And while Greenwood Township is home to dozens of these small, often gravel, roads leading to homes and cabins along the many contours of the lakeshore, these roads are maintained by private road associations and have not been built or maintained to county standards. Birch Point Extension is the only one of these smaller roads that is “owned” by the township, a frequent sore point brought up by some vocal residents of other privately-maintained roads who feel the township shouldn’t be paying to maintain one road while ignoring the others.

The condition of Birch Point Extension came to the board earlier this year after St. Louis County announced they won’t be plowing the road this coming winter, citing the poor condition of the blacktop, as well as the width of the road and lack of clearing on the road’s ditches. County-owned plows are now larger and wider, and even though the township offered to sign documents limiting the county’s liability for damaging the road, the county refused. The township paid the county \$1,755 for last winter’s plowing but that figure is likely to climb dramatically if a private service has to be retained.

This section of town-

ship road is home to about 100 households, said resident Nancy Eichholz, who attended the meeting with her husband Charles to make sure the issue was being addressed now, instead of waiting until spring when road contractors might already have their summer season work lined up.

The township does have a responsibility to maintain the road, but what this responsibility entails, and who will bear the costs, has yet to be determined. The board had previously decided to address the most urgent needs of filling the large potholes and brushing the roadside.

Supervisor Paul Skubic explained the town board had hired a contractor to fill potholes this summer, but the work was never completed.

“This was not a big enough project for the two blacktop contractors in our area,” he said. The township had found a smaller operator willing to do the pothole repair, but they were unable to get “cold-mix” blacktop this summer, and Skubic said while he heard that “cold-mix” did become available this fall, he never heard back from the operator, even after leaving multiple messages.

The township was also unable to get a contractor to do the brushing, and some at the meeting claimed this was because a former contractor hired to brush was harassed by

some of the road’s property owners, who did not want brush and trees removed on their property line.

This winter, the township has contracted with Vermilion Property Services for plowing. Owner T.J. Kladivo also told the town board he is looking at purchasing a sander unit for his truck, so he can sand problem areas on the road in addition to plowing. Initial requests for quotes for plowing did not yield any responses, so the board had contacted Kladivo, who also provides plowing services for the town hall parking lots.

Fire department

Fire Chief Jeff Maus told the board the department is in the process of adding its second new member this fall. This person has already completed firefighter and EMR training and has recently moved to the area.

Maus reported the fire department had undergone pump testing, and while the equipment all passed, the testing showed some minor issues on engine 1, which will be repaired this winter. Department members have both fire boats stored indoors and winterized. Members also have the wintertime equipment, such as the snowmobile, ready.

The town board approved returning the department’s airboat to the DNR. The airboat, which

is used for ice rescues, is in need of repair but parts are no longer available. Maus explained that the St. Louis County Rescue Squad, as well as the Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade, can provide an airboat if needed for any rescues.

The board gave permission to sell old excess hose to the Solway Fire Department, as long as a bid process is not required. The hose in question would sell for \$1,100. The board also gave approval to donate expired/old wildland firefighting gear to Minnesota North College- Vermilion for use in their training program.

Maus said that department member Brian Trancheff attended a week-long wildfire training school at Vermilion, and that training was offered at no charge. Maus is looking into possible grant opportunities through a wildfire grant awarded to St. Louis County.

Other business

In other business the town board:

► Hired a person to do cleaning at the town hall, at a rate of \$30 per hour, and will start at two times a month.

► Is still waiting to hear if the Minnesota Association of Townships insurance group will take over the township’s Errors and Omissions insurance policy. MATIT dropped the township’s policy

several years ago after a series of claims, forcing the township to purchase a secondary policy.

► Heard that Chairman John Bassing and Lee Peterson had spoken with Sen. Grant Hauschild about the ambulance issue, making sure Hauschild understood the township’s concerns about level of service and response times. Bassing also said the township was not interested in any taxing district plans that would be linked to property values.

► Heard that the broadband installation in Greenwood Township is being delayed due to a new state law that requires a review by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MSHPO). This is due to a new state law, according to Bassing, which requires a state official to “walk every foot” of the proposed line. SHPO staff is required to review state and federal projects for their potential to affect historic resources; provide technical assistance to local, state, and federal agencies; and ensure the state’s historic resources are considered as part of project planning and development.

► Reminded township property owners to contact the town hall to get updated fire number signs if their sign is not easily visible or readable.

Briefly

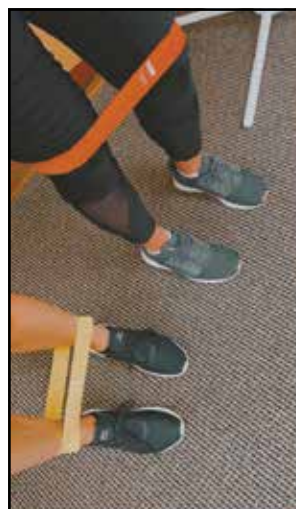
Highway 1/Highway 169 tree clearing work underway near Tower

REGIONAL— The Minnesota Department of Transportation has starting tree clearing work on Hwy. 1/Hwy. 169 south of

Tower. 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 the recently completed pavement resurfacing between the Pike River

Bridge and Hwy. 135 and is part of that overall \$3.4 million project. For more information, please visit the project website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/hwy1-hwy169/index.html>



Physical Therapy Clinics in Floodwood, Tower & Duluth

Poor balance, falls and limited activity are common issues facing older adults. We will work with you to create an individual program to address your specific areas of concern.

Most falls are preventable. The staff at Living Well Physical Therapy can help you restore your mobility and live your best life.

PHONE: 218-481-7605

WEBSITE: living-well-therapy.com

FALL PREVENTION

The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra & Northern Lakes Arts Association Present

DEC. 31, 2023
AT ELY'S HISTORIC STATE THEATER

6 PM
RECEPTION

7 PM
CONCERT

\$50
PER TICKET

New Year's Eve With TONY AND FRANK
Featuring IAN FRANCIS LAH & MSO POPS ORCHESTRA

Prepare to be swept away by an evening that pays homage to the legendary Tony Bennett and Frank Sinatra.

Experience the charm and charisma of two of music's greatest icons as their melodies fill the air. Our stage will come alive with the enchanting sounds that made Tony Bennett and Frank Sinatra legendary.

Join us at Ely's Historic State Theater for a night of music, culinary delights, and New Year's celebrations that promise to be nothing short of spectacular. Reserve your spot now and make memories that will last a lifetime.

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

Reserve Your Spot

Tickets are \$50 and only available at www.mesabisymphonyorchestra.org

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

YOUR CHOICE SALE

\$9.99 each

Sherpa Fleece Throw or Muk Luks Assorted Winter Accessories

6037534, 9055870, 6065143, 6065144, 9055871, 6030795

Mens/Womens Heat Retainer Socks, 9024396...SALE 1/2 OFF

COZY GIFTS UNDER \$10

SEE YOUR HELPFUL HARDWARE FOLKS

ACE
The helpful place.

PRICES GOOD THRU NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Merhar's Ace Hardware
48 E. Chapman St., Ely • 218-365-3129



SPORTS

Serving northern
St. Louis County
since 1989



STATE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

THAT'S SOME CONSOLATION

Ely wins Class A consolation round title; Penke named to All-Tournament Team

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- With senior Hannah Penke making the all-tourney team, the Ely Timberwolves claimed the consolation bracket trophy Saturday at the Class A state volleyball championships in St. Paul.

It was the second straight trip to the state tournament for Ely and they likely benefitted from their previous experience.

The unseeded Wolves took down the fifth-seeded West Central Area School Knights in straight sets for the consolation title on Saturday, topping last year's trip to state where they lost in the consolation final to Badger-Greenbush-Middle River 3-1.

The Wolves dropped into the consolation round after an opening round 3-0 loss on Thursday to No. 2 seed Mayer Lutheran, then

bounced back to avenge last year's loss to the Gators of Badger/GB-MR with a 3-1 victory on Friday to reach the final.

The first set against the Knights featured eight ties through 13-13 before Ely took the lead for good on a WCA attack error. Penke followed that up with two big kills on sets from Sarah Visser to go up 16-13. A service ace by Penke upped the margin to 18-14. WCA closed the gap to 20-19, but Lilli Rechichi ignited a four-point Wolves run with a kill and Charlotte Hegman put down the set winner for a 25-20 win.

The Wolves took advantage of their momentum in the second set, grabbing control early and never letting up in a 25-15 win. From a 14-12 lead the Wolves closed out the set with an 11-2 run featuring kills by Penke, Visser, Rechichi, Clare Thomas and Audrey Kallberg.

The Wolves raced to a 7-1 lead in the third set, but the Knights wouldn't go away, coming back to tie the set 8-8. Fighting for their lives, WCA appeared to have taken control as they forged a 17-13 lead, but consecutive kills by Thomas, Rechichi and Hegman and an attack error by WCA evened the score at 17-17. Visser gave Ely the lead with a service ace, and Thomas followed up with a kill and an ace to put the Wolves up 21-18. Hegman and Penke had kills to put the Wolves on the brink of victory at 24-21, and Thomas completed the 3-0 sweep for Ely with a kill for the 25-21 win.

Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum said she was impressed at the caliber of play from her team in the title match.

"After being away from home for five days, the girls pushed through and showed up to play their best

Above: The Ely Timberwolves pose with their consolation bracket trophy on Saturday at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

photo courtesy of Neighborhood Sports Network

Right: Senior team captain Hannah Penke, seen here receiving the Section 7A championship plaque, was named to the Class A state All-Tournament Team.

photo by D. Colburn

game of the season. Once again, our defense was the best I've seen from us. We have worked our tails off this year to improve our defense this season and it showed that all that hard work was worth it."

Penke was the big gun for the Wolves in the match,

See CHAMPS...pg. 2B



CROSS COUNTRY

Grizzlies girls compete at Heartland championships

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Last week's Class A state championship wasn't the end of the road for the South Ridge Panthers girls cross country team this season. The 7A Sectional champions made the trek to Sioux Falls, S.D. last Saturday for the Nike Heartland Regional Championships, testing themselves against the best teams in a seven-state region.

The girls competition

featured five races with a total of 1561 runners comprising 136 teams, with many larger schools entering multiple teams in the event. As a team the Panthers placed 53rd, led by a trio of North Woods runners.

"This was a huge, amazing event," said Panthers Head Coach Jeremy Polson. "A great experience, for sure."

Senior Evelyn Brodeen returned to the top of the South Ridge pack this meet, placing 77th out of 338

runners in her race with a time of 20:31.2. She was pushed by freshman Zoey Burckhardt, who was the Panthers' top runner for the bulk of the season after Brodeen suffered a leg injury that kept her out of competition for six weeks. Burckhardt was just two-and-a-half seconds behind Brodeen in 78th place with a time of 20:33.7. A third North Woods runner, Addison Burckhardt, finished 104th with a time of 21:09.5.



Left: The South Ridge girls cross country team competed in the Nike Heartland Regional Championships in Sioux Falls, S.D. last weekend. Members of the team included, from left, Zoey Burckhardt, Scarlett Vanderscheuren, Regan Klemetsen, Addison Burckhardt, Madison Ellefson, and Evelyn Brodeen.

photo by S. Burckhardt

GOVERNMENT

Hauschild promotes child care assistance for middle class

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- District 3 state Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, knows more about the child care shortage in Minnesota than what he's learned from three child care roundtables he's attended throughout the district.

"More important than my public service is my personal commitment as a father," Hauschild said Monday in a House committee hearing on the issue. "I have a three-year-old and a one-year-old. My wife is a nurse, which is a very busy professional commitment for being on call and working long hours. Her job is not one with flexibility. And given my own service, our reliance on child care is critical."

Hauschild was appearing before the committee to talk about his work with Rep. Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn (DFL-Eden Prairie) on a proposal to make child care more affordable for middle-income Minnesotans.

"I continue to hear about the struggle families are facing with child care," Hauschild said. "It's by far in the top three issues that I hear about on a day-to-day basis. In addition, we have prospective employers that I'm aware of who are trying to open pretty large businesses from industry and manufacturing, to mining adjacent industries that are facing big challenges in opening because of housing and child care."

"Our families are spending more on child care than their mortgages," he continued. "That's unsustainable and we have to address it. My wife and I have considered having a third child and talked about it openly. We have decided not to do that at this time because of child care costs. And I know that there are many families around Minnesota who are in the same boat. While we did a lot for child care this last session, especially as it relates to child care center stability and support for families and children most in need, we also need to support middle class families who are

struggling to make ends meet." Information presented during the meeting noted that a family with an infant and a four-year-old making the median income in Minnesota would have to pay 37 percent of their income on childcare costs, or over \$38,000 a year. The average cost for infant care is \$16,087 annually, and the cost for preschool-age care is \$12,252. The average cost of infant care is almost 31 percent more than average rent.

Kotyza-Witthuhn noted that the federal Department of Health and Human Services has set an ideal target of seven percent of family income going for child care costs.

"You'd have to go all the way up to \$297,000 for a family to not spend more than seven percent of their income in a rural area," she said. "It's \$340,000 annually in the urban areas. Minnesotans don't make that much money, so we really have to get creative here."

The U.S. Census reported the median household income in

Minnesota in 2021 was \$77,706. But a family of four can make no more than \$59,053 to be eligible for the state's child care assistance program.

Hauschild and Kotyza-Witthuhn's Great Start Affordability proposal, which is still being drafted, would create a child care subsidy program for families earning up to 150 percent of the state's median income, providing much needed aid to middle-income families.

Payments, scaled by income, would go directly to a family's child care provider, who would then credit them that amount on their bill. The system would piggyback on the framework of the current low-income assistance program, meaning that the program could begin in the fall of 2024 if enacted in the next legislative session.

"As a mom of four kids nine and under, when it comes to the cost of child care and early childhood education, I know that the struggle is real," Kotyza-Witthuhn said.

"If we want Minnesota to be the best place to raise a family and support businesses, workforce and our economy, we must address the child care affordability crisis," Hauschild said.

The House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee also heard testimony from parents and child care professionals talking about the financial challenge they face.

"We pay more for child care than we do for our mortgage," revealed Brittany Kjenaas, a parent from Mt. Iron. "There's no way we could double that and still afford to live. There are a lot of factors that go into a family's decisions about how and when to grow their family, but I never thought that child care costs would end up being the one that overrode every other one. Every Minnesota family deserves to afford their lives, and making child care affordable is a concrete and necessary step to making that possible."

CHAMPS..Continued from page 1B

notching 17 kills on 46 attack attempts. Thomas scored 10 kills and Rechichi kicked in nine. Visser put up 34 set assists.

Badger/GB-MR

Penke's presence loomed even larger against the Gators, where she hammered 19 kills and had a team-leading five blocks in the 3-1 win. Thomas was also on fire, matching Penke with 19 kills.

The first set was everything true volleyball fans would want in a state championship tourney matchup, a battle from beginning to end. The contest featured 12 ties and ten lead changes, with Ely getting a late 3-0 run on kills by Hegman and Penke and an ace from Visser to go up 23-22. But the Gators responded in

kind with kills from Sierra Westberg and Kenzie Dahl and a set-ending ace by Ada Lee to win 25-23.

But from there, the match belonged to Ely.

With Penke and Thomas leading the way, Ely shook loose from a 10-10 tie on four consecutive errors by the Gators and a pair of kills by Thomas and an ace from Kallberg to go up 18-10. The Wolves closed out the 25-17 win with a pair of Penke kills and a set-winner by Hegman.

Ely went up 7-6 in the third on a Gators service error and never looked back. With Visser at the service line the Wolves scored six consecutive points to go up by nine, 16-7. A six-point run by the Gators cut Ely's lead

to 16-13, but the Wolves righted the ship, pulling away for a 25-18 win to take the match lead 2-1.

The Gators stayed close in the early going of set four, leading four times on the way to a 7-7 tie. But then the Wolves took charge with Kallberg at serve, reeling off eight consecutive points with three kills by Thomas and one by Rechichi to take a 15-7 lead. Confident and solidly in control, the Wolves closed out the match win on a 10-6 run featuring kills by Penke and Thomas for the dominant 25-13 win.

"We knew going into that game that we were going to need to show up to play or we weren't going to play on Saturday," said Wognum. "We decided as a team that we needed to

leave it all on the floor and they did! I was so impressed with the way we played defense."

Mayer Lutheran

For a second year in a row, Ely drew the No. 2 seed and perennial volleyball powerhouse Mayer Lutheran for their opening round match. Last year the Wolves eked out a set win against the Crusaders, but couldn't repeat that in a 3-0 defeat.

"We came out a little cold in the first game against Mayer Lutheran," recalls Wognum. "We knew they were there to compete and we knew the experience for them was something they have experienced many times. We struggled to get some solid swings in and our defense was just a

step behind the ball. We gave them a good run but in the end, we just couldn't get ahead."

Ely actually took control of the first set early on with Amanda Penke at the service line. A kill by Kallberg, a pair of errors by the Crusaders, and a Hannah Penke kill put the Wolves up 9-5, a lead they would hold throughout most of the set. But Mayer Lutheran worked the score back to a tie at 21-21, and an Ely error and a service ace by the Crusaders' Mari Buhr gave Mayer Lutheran a 23-21 lead. Mayer Lutheran hitter Marly Martin hammered a pair of kills to complete the come-from-behind 25-23 win for the Crusaders.

Mayer Lutheran revved up their quest for a fifth

state title in the second set, taking the lead at the outset on a kill by Martin and never trailing in a dominant 25-13 win.

Thomas gave Ely a boost with a kill to open the third set, and the Wolves showed no fear as they bolted to an 11-4 lead with three kills and an ace from Penke fueling their run. But a four-point Crusaders run trimmed Ely's lead to 11-8. Mayer Lutheran was trailing 13-9 when it delivered the haymaker, a devastating 10-point run including four aces that put them up 19-13. Rechichi stopped the blitz with a kill, but the match was essentially over at that point, with the Crusaders riding the wave of momentum to a 25-16 win.



Memories of the Early Days

A fascinating look back at the early history of the Lake Vermilion area

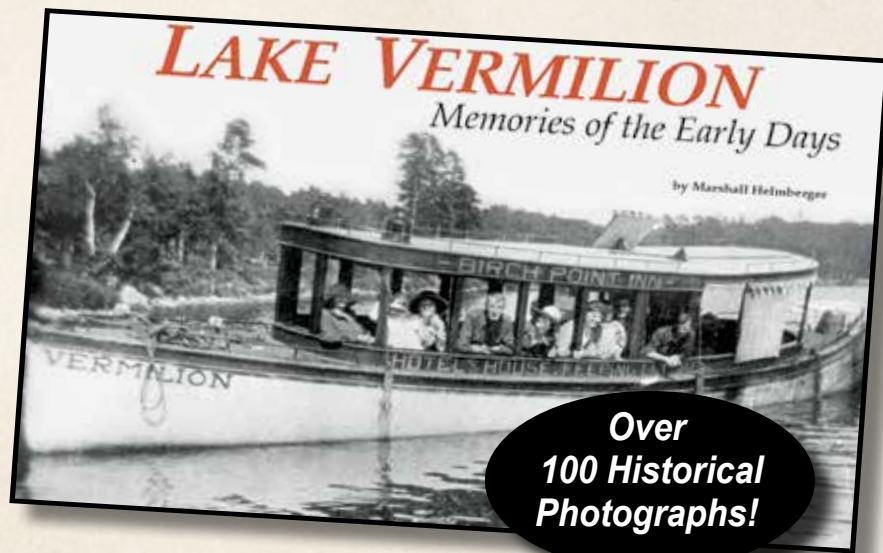
Written by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay

A Regional Favorite

STOP IN TODAY OR CALL...


Just \$29.95 + Tax

Don't miss your chance to own Lake Vermilion's most definitive history!



Over 100 Historical Photographs!

Pick up book(s) at Timberjay office in Tower or have book(s) mailed, for \$39.95 each.

 **The Timberjay**
P.O. Box 636, 414 Main St
Tower, MN 55790 • 218-753-2950

BOOK ORDER FORM

Quantity of Books _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____ Tel.# _____

Credit Card Information VISA MC DISCOVER

_____/____/____ Exp. Date ____/____/____ CVV _____

Billing address if different from above _____

Book Total - Pick Up \$29.95 + tax (\$32.16) **Book Total - Mail \$39.95**

Total charged to credit card \$ _____ Paid by check \$ _____ Check # _____

Pick Up Mail

Obituaries and Death Notices

Robert G. Thomas

Robert George Thomas, 84, of Cook, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023. The family is grateful for the compassionate care he received at Carefree Living and Cook Hospital. A visitation will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19, with a prayer service at 4 p.m., at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Interment will be at Willow Valley Cemetery at a later date. Memorials are preferred to Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook or the St. Louis County Rescue Squad.

He is survived by his wife, Norma Nieters Thomas; daughter,

Debra (Randy) Bradt of Ely; daughter-in-law, Susan Thomas of Cook; grandsons, Erik (Raya Aspinwall) Thomas and Nathan (Isabelle Benson) Bradt.

Dorothy Pelto

Dorothy Zaic Pelto, 84, originally of Ely, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, at Eden Prairie Senior Living with family present. A private family burial will be held at the Ely Cemetery. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her children, David Pelto, Sheryl

Pelto and Kristen (Jerry) Arntson; many nieces and nephews; brother-in-law, Mike Pelto; and good friends, especially those from her early years in Ely.

Kathleen Iverson

Kathleen "Kathy" Iverson, 68, longtime resident of Tower and Virginia, died on Friday, Oct. 27, 2023, at Hilltop Healthcare Facility in Duluth. A celebration of life will be held next summer at Lake Vermilion. Arrangements are with Affordable Cremation of Duluth.

She is survived by her nieces, Sharon Tawyea (David

Antikainen, Michelle Iverson, Maria Tawyea and Bobbie Vaudrin (Jim) Adamiak; nephew, Michael J. Tawyea; grand-nephews, Joshua Antikainen, Michael J. (Chrissy Stone) Tawyea, Steven R. Tawyea and Andrew Antikainen; great-great-niece, Trinity Tawyea; stepsisters, Kathy Liukkonen (Jim) Sarff and Kay Liukkonen (Bob) Trevena; stepbrother, Kevin (Jamie) Liukkonen; many step and great-step nieces and nephews; and special friends, Mary Alice Johnson, David and Sandy Wallin, and the Schleppegrell family.

Raymond Marolt


Raymond Marolt, 78, originally of Ely and Babbitt, departed this world on Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, in Ocala, Fla. Arrangements are with Baldwin Brothers Funeral and Cremation Society in Ocala.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Carol; children, Scott (Amikko) Marolt, Danielle (Eric) Hunt and Todd (Vanessa) Marolt; eleven grandchildren; sisters, Marcia (Bob) Tholen and Monna (Tony) Marolt-Garvey, and many more friends and family.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2023 • ELY TIMBERWOLVES

Section 7A High School Volleyball Champions & State Consolation Champions

MEALEY'S
GIFT & SAUNA SHOP
ELY, MINNESOTA
CONGRATULATIONS!
218.365.3639
124 N. Central Ave., Ely



EBCH
Ely-Bloomenson
Community Hospital
GOOD JOB!
218-365-3271
24 HR. EMERGENCY ROOM



FRANSEN BANK & TRUST
Your Bridge to Financial Success for Life
GREAT EFFORTS!
218-753-6100
415 Main St, Tower

2023 Ely Timberwolves Varsity Roster

Name	Pos.	Grade	Name	Pos.	Grade
Sarah Visser	S/RH	12	Lilli Rechichi	MH	11
Hannah Penke	OH	12	Amelia Penke	S/RH	9
Aubree Gerlovich	S/RH	12	Charlotte Hegman	MH	9
Clare Thomas	OH	11	Sadie Rechichi	L/DS	10
Audrey Kallberg	MH	9	Ruby Lowe	OH	9
Janae Murphy	OH	11	Rylee Larsen	S/RH	11
Maija Mattson	MH	11			

Season Record: Wins-28 Losses-6

Coaches/Managers

Head Coach: Megan Wognum **Assistant Coach:** Randi Walker



Merhar's Ace Hardware
48 E. Chapman St., Ely
365-3129



GRAND ELY LODGE
RESORT & EVENT CENTER
GREAT TEAM WORK!
400 N Pioneer Rd, Ely
218-365-6565


These Area Businesses Support Your Success!



PIRAGIS
NORTHWOODS CONSUMERS
piragis.com
Congratulations!
105 N CAMP ST., ELY
218-365-6745

FOREST CONCRETE
GREAT TEAM WORK!
218-365-4030
1715 E SHERIDAN, ELY


STEGER MUKLUKS
GREAT TEAM WORK!
218-365-6634
Ely, MN



• CONGRATULATIONS •
218-753-2333
30 Center St., Soudan




ELY FLOWER & SEED
You All Did A Fine Job!
145 Camp St, Ely • 218-365-6555



NorthRidge
Community Credit Union
Virginia, Ely, Hoyt Lakes, Hibbing, Biwabik
1-877-672-2848



Gmen
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Congratulations!
218-365-5587
Ely • MN



The Timberjay
414 Main Street, Tower
218-753-2950



ELY SURPLUS
and Outdoor
We are very proud of you!
129 N Central Ave.
Ely • 218-365-4653



ARROWHEAD OUTDOORS
1810 E Sheridan, Ely
218-365-5358
arrowheadoutdoorselymn.com



Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

2023 REGULAR FIREARMS DEER SEASON

Registrations down dramatically over five years ago

Hunters put the blame on wolves, but weather also a factor

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— “More wolves than deer.” That’s been a common refrain from hunters across northern St. Louis County, where the pace of the regular firearms deer season is running about seven percent behind last year’s disappointing numbers. Back-to-back winters with deep snow has also affected deer numbers in some areas, adding to the problems facing hunters in the region.

The latest pace of registrations has actually improved since opening weekend, when registrations were off by 19 percent. Wildlife managers say the recent mild weather has likely prompted hunters to spend more time in the field.

Overall, deer registrations are down nine percent over the five-year average across northeastern Minnesota, but that obscures the fact that numbers have fallen steadily over the past five years.

The results aren’t a surprise to area wildlife managers, who had predicted lower hunter success after last winter, which set snowfall records in some areas, particularly in eastern parts of the Arrowhead and along the North Shore. While snowfall is certainly a factor driving lower registrations in the Arrowhead, the decline in deer hunter success in the region has been building for the past several years.

As recently as 2018, hunters in Permit Area (PA) 177, which encompasses Lake Vermilion west

Right: Former state Sen. Tom Bakk reports that the crew at his hunting camp just south of Lake Vermilion has seen more wolves than deer so far this season. But he reports his 12-year-old grandson, Cooper, pictured at right, bagged this hefty eight point buck last Saturday while on post with his uncle Mark.

submitted photo

into the farm country of the Littlefork Valley west of Cook, registered 1,459 deer. Through the second weekend of the 16-day deer season this year, hunters had registered just 413 deer. While the hunt runs through Sunday, Nov. 19, hunters typically register

See DEER...pg. 5B



THE NEIGHBORS

The stink about mink

They’re amazingly effective predators and pack one heck of an odor

I was about nine years old the day my father sent me running in shock over a smell I had never imagined possible. We were both in the basement and I was watching him skin a mink that he had shot while we were ice fishing the day before.

He had trapped, mostly muskrats, for several years as a young man and had made good money doing it so this wasn’t the first time he had skinned something in our basement. It was the first time I could recall him skinning a mink.

It was all going well until he nicked the mink’s anal gland, which instantly released a smell so powerful it seemed almost supernatural. It’s been reported as among the worst odors produced by an animal and is widely described as being significantly worse than a skunk and being capable of inducing nausea.

I recall fleeing the back corner of the basement, where the mink was hanging from a nail on a floor joist and running upstairs. My mother, to this day, recalls my screaming, “Daddy

cut the stink on the mink!”

There was, of course, no escape. The mink stink was like a silent explosion and as fast as I ran, the smell beat me to the top of the stairs. Within seconds, the smell permeated the entire house, filling every corner with a stink that seemed almost malevolent. I don’t recall how many days it took to air out the place, but it was an experience that left its mark on all of us. The mink’s fur, of course, was ruined.

It was one of only a few experiences I’ve had with mink in my life, which is somewhat surprising considering they’re considered the most common mammal predator associated with water in the state, according to the DNR. Their generally nocturnal nature, of course, means that we humans rarely encounter more than their tracks.

The mink is a remarkably effective, even voracious predator that can be incredibly quick when pursuing prey on land. I once watched a mink chase a snowshoe hare right through our yard and was amazed at its speed. While I think the hare got

away, it was definitely running for its life.

Mink mostly hunt near water, where they are known to catch fish, frogs, and crayfish, as well as ducks, muskrats, and just about anything else it can catch. They most often hunt the edges of streams and wetlands but are also remarkably proficient divers that can dive to depths of ten feet and remain underwater for many minutes. While diving, their heart rate slows, which allows them to use less oxygen. According to Wikipedia, they can also climb trees in pursuit of prey, which means there are few places to hide from a hungry mink.

The mink is a mid-sized mustelid, which means it’s a member of the weasel family. With the sole exception of the sea otter, which is one of the largest members of this family of carnivores, the mustelids are distinguished by, among other things, the powerful smelling secretions of their anal glands, which they normally use to mark their territories. Other mustelids in Minnesota include badgers, river otters, fishers, pine martens, and the three species of native weasels.

Mink, like other mustelids, used to be highly desired for their pelts and millions of mink were

Above: Julie Grahn, of rural Cook, captured this image of a mink who was recently hunting along the icy edges of the ice-covered Sturgeon River. Grahn, who posted the photo on the Ely Field Naturalists listserv reported that the mink seemed as curious about her as she was about it, which gave her the chance to put her photography skills to use.

photo by J. Grahn

raised in captivity, particularly in Europe, as a more reliable method of supplying the fur trade. Through selective breeding, farmed mink fur now comes in multiple colors, although wild mink in Minnesota are typically dark brown with a small bib on its chest and a white underbelly. Adults are about a foot and a half long and weigh just two-to-four pounds, but that is two-to-four pounds you wouldn’t want to tangle with.

Mink are very solitary and seem generally disagreeable with other mink, even when mating, an act which could be easily mistaken for one mink attacking the other. Reports are it’s not a pretty sight. It’s probably pretty smelly as well.

FORESTS

USFS adopts plan to help forests move

Assisted migration plan a response to climate change

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST— Forest planners here are taking steps now to help the national forest adapt to the changing climate through a new pilot project that includes a wide range of partners.

It’s known as an Assisted Migration Pilot Plan and it’s the first of its kind on a U.S. national forest. Yet the 3.9 million-acre Superior National Forest sits at a unique location at the transition zone at the southern edge of the boreal forest, which means it could see some of the most dramatic forest changes of any national forest over the next several decades as the climate continues to warm.

Modeling on the impact of climate change has consistently projected that boreal tree species that currently dominate the Superior National Forest, such as balsam fir, white and black spruce, paper birch, and quaking aspen will decline. What will take their place is the key question being asked by forest planners on the Superior. According to the forest service, the new assisted migration pilot plan is an effort to ensure that its efforts are scientifically-based and implemented in a consistent and coordinated manner on the national forest.

As part of their ongoing reforestation efforts, forest planners here oversee the planting of about 1.2 million trees annually, which is enough to affect changes in the future makeup of the forest simply by changing where some of its seed stock comes from.

“Our policy has long been that local sources [of seed] are best for reforestation work,” said Kyle Stover, chief forester on the Tofte District. But as part of its new assisted migration plan, foresters are beginning to seek seed sources from more southerly locations, where the genetic makeup of the seeds may be more amenable to warmer conditions.

For the next 15 years or so, that means seed sources from

See PLAN...pg. 5B

PLAN...Continued from page 4B

places like Carlton and Pine counties in Minnesota, or Douglas County in northwestern Wisconsin. After 2040, forest planners are likely to look even further south, such as central Wisconsin, for seed sources for the species of trees, such as red and white pine, paper birch, and aspen, found in both locations.

The change in seed sourcing isn't intended to fully replace local seed sources, which will still remain on the landscape for decades to come. Rather, said Stover, "it's intended to inject those more southerly genetics into the population." Natural selection, which will be heavily influenced by climatic changes, will help determine which genetics survive in the longer term.

But shifting seed sourcing to more southerly locations is just one tool in the toolbox when it comes to assisted migration, notes Stover. Forest planners are also beginning to look at favoring several tree species that are currently on the northern fringes of their range on the Superior. That's species such as white and bur oak, basswood, and silver maple, all of which are currently uncommon to



A view of Superior National Forest from an overlook on the Secret-Blackstone Trail east of Ely. Located in a transition zone between the boreal forests to the north and temperate hardwood forests to the south, the Superior offers a mosaic of conifers and deciduous species. Timberjay file photo

rare on the Superior but are much more common just to the south.

These species could

begin to become components in future tree planting operations on the Superior, which would

help to gradually expand their ranges to the north as the climate warms. While trees can naturally expand their ranges over time in response to climate fluctuations, the warming as a result of the buildup of carbon in the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels is happening on a much shorter time scale than natural fluctuations seen in the past, making it less likely that trees will be able to move across the landscape quickly enough.

For now, forest planners on the Superior are not proposing the most dramatic method of assisted migration, planting tree species not currently found in the region. "We're not looking at that," said Stover.

Partnerships important

The assisted migration pilot plan has involved participation from two dozen distinct entities, including the Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, and Grand Portage Ojibwe bands, as well as other tribal entities, such as the 1854 Treaty Authority and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

The Chippewa, Ottawa, and Chequamegon-Nicolet national forests as well

as other research arms of the forest service, along with Departments of Natural Resources from Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin, timber industry groups, the University of Minnesota, and the Nature Conservancy, were all involved in the development of the plan.

"During the development of the plan, it has been fully demonstrated that a cross-disciplinary team is crucial," says Katie Frerker, a climate adaptation specialist who has spearheaded much of the work. "We have over 20 organizations and over 100 individuals involved on our voluntary team. The integration of scientific, social, operational, and cultural considerations and discussion has been amazing."

The partnerships will also assist staff of the Superior to access seed sources that they normally would have gathered locally. In the future, the Superior could be relying on national forests or tribal entities in places like northern Wisconsin, or the DNR central portions of Minnesota, for seeds from more southerly locations.

Risks vs benefits

Officials on the Superior acknowledge that their plan does pose some risks. Many of the changes they're seeking to implement are based on climatic projections decades in the future and while those projections are becoming more accurate as time goes on, future climatic conditions could be impacted by other factors. "There certainly are risks," acknowledged Stover. "And that's amplified by the fact that trees are relatively long-lived. The climate could be much different 60-80 years down the road."

Bringing seeds or seedlings from outside the forest also heightens the risk of new diseases or insects. "Moving seeds can also introduce invasives," said Stover.

Yet, there are risks in doing nothing as well. "It's a matter of weighing the risks with the benefits," said Stover. "For a silviculturist like me the objective is to plant trees that are best adapted to the site."

Determining that in an era of rapid climate change makes that determination a bigger challenge than ever.

DEER...Continued from page 4B

the vast majority of deer in the first ten days of the season. Other permit areas have seen similarly steep declines in deer registrations.

Hunters in PA 176, located just south of 177, registered 1,709 deer just five years ago. So far this year, hunters had registered just 410 deer as of Tuesday with just five more days of hunting yet to go.

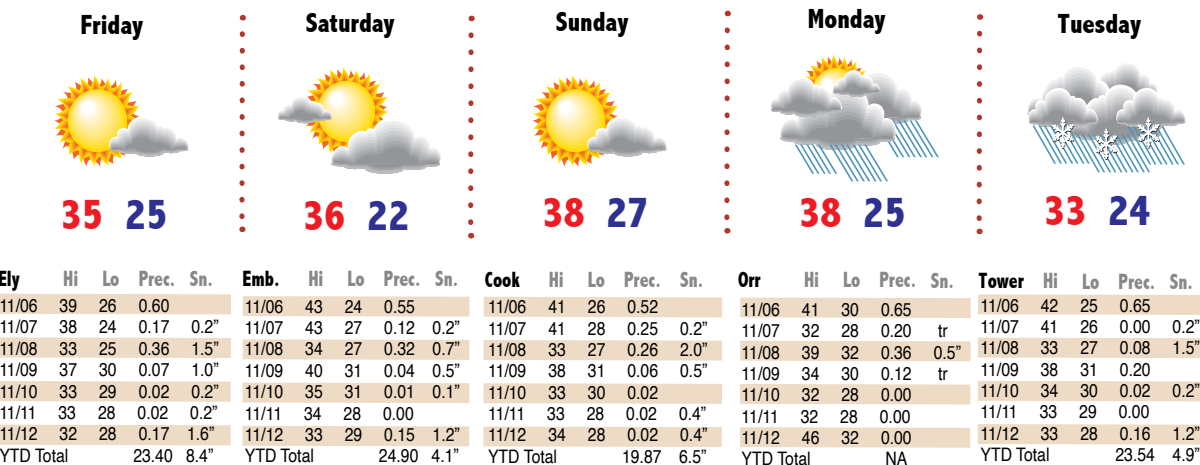
In PA 130, which begins just south of Tower and runs southeast nearly to the North Shore, hunters

registered 420 deer in 2018. So far this year, hunters have registered just 81 deer. In PA 119, hunters registered 457 deer in 2018, but only 178 so far this season.

The DNR has issued fewer antlerless permits in recent years, which accounts for some of the difference in registrations since more hunters are limited this year to bucks only. Even so, the buck harvest appears to be down sharply across the board compared to five years ago.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



IRON RANGE RESEARCH CENTER
AT THE MINNESOTA DISCOVERY CENTER

YOUR ROOTS GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS

Interested in genealogy? Looking to discover your family roots? Join us for our new genealogy workshop series, "Your Roots", hosted by professional genealogist Cathi Weber in the education room at the Iron Range Research Center on the Minnesota Discovery Center campus.

NOV 18TH: Family Tree Maker software - (10:30am-12:30pm)
NOV 30TH: Organizing your family research - (6:00pm-7:00pm)
DEC 9TH: Displaying, sharing and publishing your family history - (10:30am-11:30am)

DISCOVER MORE PROGRAMMING

"I'm New Here" Research Center Orientation Tour
2nd Saturday of Every Month - FREE
 Late Night In The Research Center (10am-8pm)
 Last Thursday of Every Month - FREE

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

CALL TO REGISTER 218-254-7959
 PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
 \$15 PER WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGIST CATHI WEBER

1005 Discovery Drive Chisholm, Mn | MnDiscoveryCenter.com

Scenic Rivers
HEALTH SERVICES

MEDICAL • DENTAL • BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

1-877-541-2817

WWW.SCENICRIVERSHEALTH.ORG

READ THE TIMBERJAY!

GOD OF CARNAGE

BY YASMINA REZA

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

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

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

Contract and Procurement Manager

Closes: 12/04/2023

Position Purpose: The Contract Manager will be responsible for overseeing contracts and agreements made by the Tribal Government with other entities. The successful candidate will manage the Tribal Government's contracting with vendors and contracted employees, ensure that contracts are in place when needed, and develop and implement a comprehensive contract development and tracking system to promote Tribal Government compliance with all relevant laws, regulations, and procurement policies.

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, Nov. 10, 17, 24 & Dec. 1, 2023

COME JOIN OUR TEAM!
Waschke Family Chevrolet is currently seeking an Auto Body Technician and an Automotive Detailer. Stop in and apply in person at 126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, or inquire by phone at 218-666-5901, or send resume to Dgrecinger@waschke.com.

WANTED!

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

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).

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, Nov. 10, 17, 24 & Dec. 1, 2023

Assistant St. Louis County Attorney – Hibbing, MN

Assistant St. Louis County Attorney, Criminal Division, Hibbing, Minnesota. Duties include charging and preparing all levels of adult criminal offenses for trial or resolution in the interest of justice. Seeking an attorney with excellent communication skills and the ability to successfully handle the challenges of daily litigation. Courtroom advocacy experience, demonstrated commitment to public service, integrity and passion for justice are highly desired attributes. Salary is commensurate with experience.

St. Louis County is an equal opportunity employer that recognizes the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The St. Louis County Attorney strongly encourages all interested candidates to apply.

Please submit a resume and letter of interest to Wade Backstrom, St. Louis County Attorney's Office, 100 N. 5th Avenue West, #501, Duluth, MN 55802-1298; backstromw@stlouiscountymn.gov.

Resumes will be accepted if emailed or post-marked by November 27, 2023.

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 17 & 24, 2023

Subscribe
(218) 753-2950

PUBLIC NOTICE

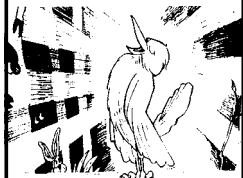
NOTICE OF BOARD APPOINTMENT TOWN OF CRANE LAKE

The Crane Lake Town Board of Supervisors will be making one appointment to the Crane Lake Water & Sanitary District Board of Managers for a three-year term that will commence on January 1, 2024 and expire on December 31, 2026. Application Forms are available at the Clerk's office. A completed application, current resume and cover letter stating qualifications and experience to serve must be filed with the Clerk of the Town of Crane Lake by December 4, prior to the Board of Supervisors' Meeting on December 12, 2023.

Jo Ann Pohlman, Clerk, Town of Crane Lake
218-993-1303
info@cranelaketwp.com

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 17 & 24, 2023

Get Results!



Advertise in the Timberjay!

Subscribe Today
(218) 753-2950
timberjay.com

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Mausoleum
- 5 "Born Free" lioness
- 9 Branch
- 12 Ornamental jug
- 13 Jupiter counterpart
- 14 Sheepish remark
- 15 Famed diarist
- 17 Squeak stopper
- 18 Historic times
- 19 Grown-up
- 21 Town square
- 24 Tizzy
- 25 Occupy the throne
- 26 Imaginary
- 30 Right angle
- 31 Count with an orchestra
- 32 Simile center
- 33 Bloated, in a way
- 35 Computer brand
- 36 Literary Jane
- 37 Puccini work
- 38 Curry spice
- 40 Roundish do
- 42 Palindromic constellation
- 43 Yearly charge
- 48 Up to
- 49 Oboe insert
- 50 Cupid's realm
- 51 Compass dir.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13				14		
15				16					17		
			18				19	20			
21	22	23				24					
25				26	27				28	29	
30				31					32		
33			34					35			
		36					37				
38	39				40	41					
42				43	44				45	46	47
48								49		50	
51				52					53		

- 52 Columnist Maureen
- 53 Milky gem
- 11 Beer ingredient
- 16 Monk's title
- 20 Cato's 502
- 21 Get ready, briefly
- 22 Humdinger
- 23 Like the Supremes and the Pointer Sisters
- 24 Use scissors
- 26 Lose color
- 27 Tempe sch.
- 28 Addict
- 29 Zhivago's love
- 31 Novelist Malamud
- 34 Memo letters
- 35 Lunar program
- 37 Mouths (Lat.)
- 38 Felines
- 39 "The Haj" author
- 40 From the start
- 41 Elmer of cartoons
- 44 "The Matrix" role
- 45 Dandy guy
- 46 Actress Mendes
- 47 Moray, for one

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	-		x		18
÷		x		÷	
	+		x		18
x		-		x	
	x		-		28
28		19		21	

2 3 4 5 6 7 7 8 9

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

AJ GAAD, LCAZJPN QGANYATF

XANCYQ. XLDPF XP FYID!

- KYCYVNPE FLCEPNFAC

©2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

FUNERAL SERVICES

Range Funeral Home



Virginia 741-1481 Hibbing 263-3276
"Friends Helping Friends"

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

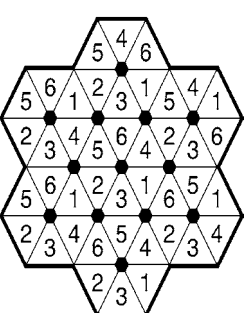
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

SNOWFLAKES

solution



Subscribe to the
TIMBERJAY!
Call
218-753-2950



Legal notices are online
each week at timberjay.com

www.mnpublicnotice.com/



TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

MARINE

Centrally Located On Lake Vermilion

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

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

BUILDING SERVICES

EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC

"Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota In Your Home"

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

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

HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

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

PET CREMATION

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AL-ANON MEETING IN COOK - 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.

Go Figure!
 answers

8	-	6	x	9	18
÷	x	÷			
2	+	4	x	3	18
x	-	x			
7	x	5	-	7	28
28	19	21			

WANTED

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

SEWING

ALTERATION & CREATION- Zippers, alterations, mending. 30+ years experience. Speedy Service. Robin Lautunen, 6189 Hwy. 21, Embarrass. Call 218-404-9488. 12/8

MARINE

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

ARONSON BOAT WORKS
LAKE VERMILION, TOWER
 Located two miles southwest of Tower on Hwy. 169
 NEW Fall Hours:
 Mon-Sat: 8:30 AM-5 PM
 Sun: 9 AM-4 PM

MOCCASIN POINT MARINE
 4655 Moccasin Point Rd
 Lake Vermilion
218-753-3319
 Storage, Boat Rentals, Service/Repairs/Sales
 Mechanic on Duty
 moccasinpointmarine.com

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

Don't Miss a Single Issue
SUBSCRIBE TODAY
(218) 753-2950
timberjay.com

Advertise Here

One Low Price

Total Coverage

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

SNOWFLAKES
 by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:
 ♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

CryptoQuip
 answer

A bleary-eyed rancher walked up to his still-awake cow and proclaimed "It's pasture bedtime."

CryptoQuote
 answer

Oh look, another glorious morning. Makes me sick!
 - Winifred Sanderson

King Crossword
 Answers
 Solution time: 23 mins.

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

Weekly SUDOKU
 Answer

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

Super Crossword **WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS**

ACROSS

1 Golf tourney
 7 "Nonsense!"
 12 Wordplay bits
 16 Jump
 19 Tiny country in Europe
 20 Similar
 21 Woodwind instrument
 22 Spring mo.
 23 Prima ballerina who received the Kennedy Center Honors in 1989
 26 Winning sign
 27 Sinuous
 28 2003 Tony winner for "Movin' Out" choreography
 30 Vamp player in "Singin' in the Rain"
 36 Choose
 37 Writer Jaffe
 38 Vast period
 39 Doggy doc
 40 Part of TNT
 42 "The Wedding Singer" director Frank
 44 Magical land of C.S. Lewis
 46 Noted performer in a Greek tunic and bare feet

50 "Honest" prez
51 Southwestern grassy plain
54 Feature of "Christmas"
55 Raises
56 San — Zoo
58 Soda holders
60 Inflict on
61 "Su-u-ure"
62 1947 Tony winner for "Brigadoon" choreography
66 Suture
67 Throng
68 Zodiac cat
69 "Water" star Michael
71 Greek vowel
73 Imitated
76 Camera type, in brief
79 "Top Hat" co-star
85 Fishing aids
86 Take to heart
88 "Horrors!"
89 Rival of U.S. Grant
90 Rink surface
91 Laundromat dryers, e.g.
94 Radio booth notification
96 Golf standard
97 Royal Ballet legend awarded the 1977 Shakespeare Prize

100 City due west of Chicago
102 Historical records
103 Birthday topic
104 Ascot, e.g.
106 — Spumante
107 Sauce brand
108 Doctrine
111 Prima ballerina famous for her "Dying Swan"
114 Courtesan whom King Ludwig I made Countess of Landsfeld
117 Bush replacer
118 Yale alum
119 "The Twelve Days of Christmas" gift (and what this puzzle features)
126 Mtn. statistic
127 Yemen locale
128 Cocooned stages
129 Many a web surfer
130 Mind-related, in combinations
131 Smell bad
132 Deficient
133 "— Fi" (Marines' motto)

DOWN

1 Thurman of Hollywood
 2 Fa follower
 3 Undivided
 4 — Romana (peace)
 5 Digital money
 6 Unrelated to maritime armed forces
 7 Sit down, slangily
 8 Makes laugh loudly
 9 Shrouded
 10 Nickname lead-in
 11 Preceded
 12 Coral colony member
 13 Curved fastening bar
 14 — Scotia
 15 Marine fish of the western Atlantic
 16 West Indies' largest city
 17 Outerwear for some high-culture shows
 18 Get ready
 24 Have the gall
 25 — Jima
 29 Tooting thing
 30 Trudeau's country
 31 "About this large," informally

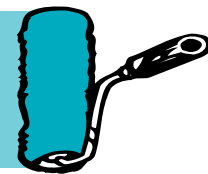
32 Original Mouseketeer — Tracey
33 Channel for Wolf Blitzer
34 Parts of city grids: Abbr.
35 Noted times
41 Tyrant Amin
42 Structure for storing music
43 Some ctrs. of learning
45 "You win"
46 Charged, as particles
47 From long ago
48 Autos from long ago
49 Kitty chip
52 Maven
53 "Rambo" war zone, in brief
57 Neuters, as a stallion
59 Smelting junk
61 GIF or JPEG
63 Throw a few back in a bar
64 52, to Livia
65 Kin of -ess
70 Goad
72 Baseball executive Joe
73 Jungian inner personality
74 Sticky, nutty treats
75 Endlessness
77 Onetime teen idol Garrett

78 Nevada city
80 Suffix with Caesar
81 Nutrition amt.
82 Texas city
83 1990s "caught on tape" series
84 Belgrade site
87 Dress in structure
91 In a pillared structure
92 Educ. org.
93 Onetime rival of Atari
95 Diagrams for brainstorming
98 Infatuated
99 Deep longing
101 — Kan (classic dog food brand)
104 Typewriter formatting aid
105 Apple tablet
108 Kind of navel
109 T-bone, e.g.
110 Brooks of film
112 A lack of musical skill
113 Actress Vivian
114 Jump
115 French river
116 Electric jolts
120 "OB-viously!"
121 NYSE event
122 — laude
123 Enabler of web access
124 Once named
125 Mutt's noise

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
19						20					21					22				
23					24					25					26					
				27					28					29						
30	31	32	33					34	35		36			37						
38					39				40	41			42				43			
44				45				46			47	48	49							
50				51		52	53			54						55				
56			57			58			59			60				61				
62					63				64	65		66			67					
					68				69			70			71	72				
73	74	75			76	77	78		79			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					120	121					122	123	124	125
126						127					128					129				
130						131					132					133				



HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



Your Source For Roofing

- METAL ROOFING
- ARCHITECTURAL SHINGLES

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

Licensed • Insured BC# 785662

VermillionRoofing.com | VermillionRoofing@gmail.com



LAST WEEKEND OF DEER CAMP!
GOOD LUCK!

We will be CLOSED
on November 23 and 24 for
Thanksgiving

Closed Saturdays for the Winter



Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344
Hours: Mon-Fri: 7-5, Closed Wknds
info@cookbuildingcenter.com



THE LAST WEEK
OF DEER CAMP!
Good Luck Hunters!

All furniture may not be as shown.

ANDERSON
FURNITURE & KITCHENS
AndersonFurnitureCompany.com
214 2nd Ave. S, Virginia, MN • 218-741-9356

INTEREST FREE
FINANCING
AND
LAYAWAY
AVAILABLE

PLUMBING & HEATING SOLUTIONS. INC.

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

Brandon Stone • 218-590-5294

Your All-Season Project Headquarters

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING
from us to you!

CLOSED
Wed., Nov. 22
at Noon and
Nov. 23-25

VERMILION LUMBER

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

Tekautz Mechanical

Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration
Repair & Install

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



Let these experts help
with your next project



Call Us For All Your
LP Gas Needs!

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

24 Hour
Emergency
Service

• Toll Free •
1-800-862-8628



- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700

Spring Park Rd.
Mt. Iron, MN 55768

**BIG enough to serve you
small enough to know you**



HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO YOU!

LAW OFFICE

KELLY KLUN Attorney At Law

- Estate Planning
- General Questions
 - Wills
 - Trusts
 - Power of Attorney
 - Health Care Declaration
 - Cabin Succession Planning

Complimentary 15 Minute Consultation



Minnesota State Bar Association
Certified Specialist
Real Property Law



KLUN LAW FIRM
Direction. Guidance. Results.

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



Solid Saxony
Carpet



Level Loop
Commercial Carpets
installed with pad



Area Rugs
• Braids • Hand Knotted • Woven/Flatweave
• Hand Hooked/Loop Hooked
• Oriental Reproductions

SPECIAL PRICING ON IN-STOCK CARPETS
HUNDREDS OF REMNANTS • 10% OFF FOR CASH

WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED!

Flooring • Cabinets • Countertops • Window Treatments
Tile & Stone • Plumbing Fixtures • Home Decor & More



BIG Enough to Serve you; small Enough to Know You

FLOOR to CEILING
INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWROOM

8401 Enterprise Drive N., Virginia/Mt. Iron
(1/2 Mile West on Highway 169) • 741-6690



HOURS: 8-5:30 M-F



floortoceiling.com/virginia

AUTOMOTIVE

Great NEW Vehicles

2024 Chevrolet Equinox LT AWD

SALE PRICE

\$31,840



2023 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LT AWD

SALE PRICE

\$41,370



View Our Full Inventory at www.waschke.com

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

Your local source for news,
music and entertainment!



91.7fm - Grand Rapids
90.5fm - Bemidji
89.9fm - Brainerd
kaxe.org

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: L equals Y

Z KJWZPL-WLWY PZGVTWP

QZJMWY CD AN TXE EAXJJ-

ZQZMW VNQ ZGY DPNVJZXOWY

“XA'E DZEACPW KWAYXOW.”

©2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

POWER UP FROM ANYWHERE

DURACELL
M150 Portable
Power Station

ONLY
\$199



From Duracell, the #1 trusted battery brand, the M150 Portable Power Station enables you to work and have fun from anywhere.

Laptop	Phone	Tablet
1 Charge	6 Charges	3 Charges



Order by December 15th for Christmas delivery. portablepower.info/offer153